



Cares, Prayers and Current Affairs

February 2022

Greetings Church Family and Friends,

Today is the eve of Ground Hog Day! The sun is shining, the mid-morning air is crisp and cold. Whether or not the groundhog sees his shadow, one thing is certain...life goes on! Will there be six more weeks of winter weather or will spring come early?

Either way, we give thanks for the gift of life and reasonably good health. If you are reading this Newsletter, it means the open sky is not the roof over your head. God's green earth is not the floorboards beneath your feet. A meal is most likely just a room or two from your grasp. A friendly voice is just a phone call away. Many of us even have a furry friend that loves us unconditionally. So much for which to be thankful.

At St. Joseph's we each have family not by blood but by choice that we call brother and sister. For that which we are most thankful.

By the blood of Jesus, we are members of the adopted Royal Family of God, the Father Almighty. We are therefore heirs to the throne and benefactors of eternal life. The beautiful thing about being adopted is that "WE" are the chosen ones!

Every now and then a friend will send me a reading that is heart-warming. This was about sisterhood and how important it is to remember our sisters. We have sisters by birth and sisters by choice. A true sister will always be there for you. Sisters are always there for you.

As we journey through life: time goes by; life happens; children grow up; distance separates us; passion decreases; the heartbreaks, our parents die, favors are forgotten, jobs come and go, and careers do end but sisters are never too far to reach out to you. Sisters in our lives will be around to encourage you, to pray for you, push you and to intervene for you. Your sister will be standing at the end of the road for you with open arms. They will walk by your side or even carry the load for you. Grandmothers, mothers, daughters, nieces, cousins, mothers-in-law, sisters-in law, daughters in-law and friends. They are all your sisters, and they are God's blessings in life. Call a sister today. Let her know how much she has blessed your life just for being there.

St. Joseph's also has a brotherhood aside from the organization of St. Andrew's. The love they share is visible when they greet one another.

What's been Happening at St. Joseph's

Weather Debunks Bishop

Last month we were expecting our annual visitation by Bishop Skirving. The weather had other plans. Though we did not get much freezing precipitation ...the roadways were too bad to take the risk in travel. We were disappointed but blessed to plan for another day.

Surprise Visitors

On January six, St Joseph had three special visitors on the Day of Epiphany from the far east. They were wise and distinguished men and woman in search for the Infant King of Kings! They were adorned in gowns and crowns clad in jewels befitting their station. Each were baring gifts, one of gold, a symbol of kingship, frankincense, a symbol of deity and myrrh, an oil used in embalming the dead. After reverently placing their gifts to the sound of "We Three Kings", they exited the sanctuary as quietly as they came. (I'm told the camels were creating quite a traffic jam at the corner of Ramsey and Moore street.)

A special thanks to, Mr. Donald LaHuffman, Ms. Eleanor Alexander and Mr. Olu-Orondava Mumford for their participation and our talented Deacon Mary Mac Shields for her costume building skills.



New Vestry Member

I failed to announce last month that we have a new vestry member! Mrs. Ann Marie Smith answered the call to serve by becoming the newest member of our Vestry. She has been a long-time member. She is head of our Altar Guild, a member of the worship committee, ECW and DOK. She will serve a three year term. We are blessed to have her on board.

Pledge Cards

Since October 2221 the vestry has petitioned for all members to submit their monetary pledge cards. Without the pledge cards, we cannot set a budget for the 2022 church year. Now that the pandemic seems to be the driving force preventing safe gatherings, and fundraisers, it has become paramount that we know how much funds we have coming in to meet our obligations. Our church of worship is much like a business. It is no different from our own households. We must pay 3 salaries...the priest, our musician and our sexton. We have utility bills, waste management, and security. There is a

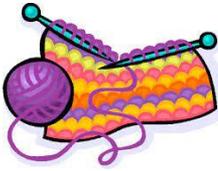
cost to run the copy machine for the bulletins and programs. We also are responsible for paying a yearly apportionment to the diocese. There are those who tithe but do not pledge and there are those who give but do not pledge. We are grateful for all that is freely given, however the finance committee cannot base the budget on hopes. Please search your hearts and fill out a pledge card. Thank you in advance.

Absalom Jones Service

On the 20th of February, St. Joseph's is hosting this annual diocese-wide service at 4:00 pm. Much planning goes into this celebration. All of the Historically Black Churches take turns hosting this event. We are blessed to have Rev. Michal Brickhouse as our guest speaker. He is a graduate of Duke Divinity and majored in history. Dinner will be served following service in the Butler Parish Hall. We plan to take all the necessary precautions to ensure sanitation and follow CDC guidelines. Those uncomfortable attending the service in person may view the service on Facebook.

The Annual Convention, generally held in February has been postponed due to the surging numbers of Covid and it's variant. The Convention will be held in June 2022.

Placement for all who registered in advance will be secured. No further steps will be necessary.



St. Joseph's Crafter's Guild

St. Joseph's has formed a Crafters Guild that meet on Wednesday at noon and

Fridays at 1:00. Anyone who enjoys a craft are welcomed to join. We sew, quilt, crochet, and cross stitch! No craft is off limits. The fun is in the gathering and helping and learning from one another. one another. All gifts are given by God and it is a blessing to share them with each other.



DOK

Please remember to donate \$5 monthly that we may be able to pay our yearly obligation to the Chapter.



ECW

Our DOK and ECW work hand in hand in that all members of the DOK are also members of ECW. The women of the church who are members of the Crafters

Guild are preparing to make and share our crafts for the yearly Mothering Sunday which for this year will hopefully be a weekend event.



Brotherhood of St Andrew

The Brotherhood are missing Brother Gene Graham. He is currently residing in

Highland House Nursing Care on Pamalee Drive in Fayetteville. As you visit, please take caution in using hand sanitizer and wearing the recommended face mask. He is being well taken care of.



Hacks for vinegar by Bernice Motley

- * No Drains: use vinegar and baking soda !/2 cup baking soda, 1 cup vinegar followed by hot water
- * Smelly garbage can: Pour vinegar on a slice of bread, put in bottom of can for over night
- * All Purpose cleaner: Vinegar and a drop of dish washing liquid in spray bottle
- * Fruit flies: Apple cider vinegar in a cup, cover with saran wrap, poke of hole in top
- * Wrinkle release: hang garment spray half bottle of vinegar and half water, let dry
- * Cats off furniture: Spray with vinegar, Cats hate it
- * Liven fresh cut flowers: put half water and half vinegar. flowers last longer
- * Dirty Smudges on Glasses: Clean with white vinegar
- * Hard to clean pots: Boil 1 cup of water and 1 cup of vinegar on stove



Bible Trivia

Where is this found in the Bible?

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

A. Matthew 5:3

B. Proverbs 3:16

C. Luke 6:18

D. Acts 2:11

Answer (a. Matthew 5:3)

Bible Humor

Be fishers of men...

You catch 'em. He'll clean 'em!



Chandra's Prayer Corner

Dear God, we are often so afraid! Help us to keep our eyes on You, our good Father, knowing that You will always be with us, no matter what happens in this precious life. Remind us that where God's presence is, there is fullness of joy. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

When you are not sure what to do or where to go I will give you direction and wisdom. Quiet your thoughts and emotions, and allow Me to reveal the next step in your progression. I will by

no means lead you astray. James 3:17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.



Health News by Dr. Stella Nebolisa

Is the Covid-19 vaccine safe for children and teenagers?

Children (ages 5 and older) are now eligible for a vaccination against COVID-19. The Pfizer vaccine received full FDA approval for people ages 16 and older and continues to be available for ages 12-15 (and now ages 5-11) under the FDA's emergency use authorization.

Vaccine programs are available at schools, community clinics, Pharmacies, and other approved centers. Vaccination provides the best opportunity to further protect your child from COVID-19.

According to the Centers for Disease and Control (CDC), for the United States to reach herd immunity and control the spread of COVID-19, almost all the population – including children – needs to be immunized against the virus. While most infected children usually experience minimal symptoms, some can

develop severe illnesses. According to the CDC data, Children now account for over 25% of all the Covid-19 cases. Even asymptomatic infections can spread the virus through schools and sports teams, affecting not only other children but also the more at-risk adults they interact with.

Like many parents, you may have questions about vaccine safety and wonder if vaccination is the right choice for your child. The answer is yes

Vaccination gets our kids back to the programs, activities, and social interactions they desperately need for appropriate academic, social-emotional, and physical development. The sooner all eligible Americans are vaccinated, the sooner we can get our kids' lives and our lives back to normal.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stella C. Nebolisa, PharmD, RPH

Pod Cast on Faith by Laverne Collins (Executive Producer)

About the Author: Mrs. Collins is the mother of McAllister Collins. She is a great woman of faith and is very active in her home church in Florida. When visiting her son, she always attends St. Joseph's. We are always elated to have her in our presence. It is her desire to share this

podcast with us. We are thankful for her work and support of people of faith.

“Musings on Faith” is a series of podcasts from St. George’s Episcopal Church, The Villages, FL. The podcasts are designed to help you grow in Christ and explore Jesus’ message of love and unity as it relates to today’s world. To date we have 4 series:

The Parables;

The Daily Office: Morning Prayer and Compline

Musings from the Pulpit – Clergy homilies;
and

Getting to know the Episcopal Church

The podcases can be found on any mobile device on Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, Overcast, RadioPublic and Anchor. When you subscribe to our podcasts, you automatically are notified when a new one is available.

We encourage you to try our podcasts and would enjoy your comments and questions. For more information, contact musingsonfaith@gmail.com.



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

7th Robert Hamilton
13th Michael Akrofi-Ayeh, Jr.
22nd Whitney Nebolisa

25th Fredrick Ferguson
Vikki Clark



Thoughts from our Senior Warden, Mr. Tyrone Francis

Whatever we are waiting for - peace of mind, contentment, grace, the inner awareness of simple abundance - it will surely come to us, but only when we are ready to receive it with an open and grateful heart.

[Sarah Ban Breathnach](#)

We shall never know all the good that a simple smile can do.

[Mother Teresa](#)

We are constituted so that simple acts of kindness, such as giving to charity or expressing gratitude, have a positive effect on our long-term moods. The key to the happy life, it seems, is the good life: a life with sustained relationships, challenging work, and connections to community.

[Paul Bloom](#)



From Deacon Shields

Deacon's Notes

The Episcopal church for the last two years has had to ponder what the future will hold. The pandemic has brought

new ways of worshipping and changed the focus of whether we can return to the ways “we have always done things. This phenomenon is affecting all denominations.

Kaitlin B. Curtice in her new book, *Native: Identity, Belonging, and Rediscovering God*, presents a different way of thinking about the Eucharist.

We live in an era in which priests and other church leaders can almost immediately receive criticism for what they preach or say via social media outlets like Twitter. While this can be intimidating, and I can't imagine leading people in such a space, there are so many in this world who are asking to be heard, who have been ignored for far too long. If we cannot solve all the world's problems, we can at least make sure that as leaders we are actively speaking and working to dismantle systems that oppress..This means the communion table is a table set for those no one else wants to serve. The communion table is a table for all bodies and souls and all people seeking to know what it might mean to feel the sacred pulse of the Mystery around us and in us.

The Church is changing. Change is hard for most people. I always admit I like change except when the change is something I don't like. As

God's family we need to talk about what changes might need to be made at St. Joseph's. Please join me in prayer to ask for God's guidance in how the parish will move forward.



From Donald LaHuffman

The Prophet Samuel is known for his ability to influence God's behavior towards Israel through the

power of his fervent prayer to God.

Everything that we as people of God pray for should be preceded by prayer to God for his guidance and direction.

Remember that God's time is not the same as man's time. Do not think that God is merely an order taker for us.

We must prayer fervently and sincerely to God not always asking for something, but praising Him and thanking Him for all of the blessings He has provided us.

God bless this Country and your Church.

Donald W. LaHuffman, EFM

Senior Warden Emeritus



Rev. Ralph's Corner

So much of what religion is and how we practice it is a deeply

personal choice. The deep, personal, heartfelt thoughts and feelings about our faith are why many of the wars this world has experienced have had religion at the center of their beginning. These feelings are so deeply engrained into us that when our religious organizations change direction, we believe that some how we know better, and it is the religious organization that has gotten it wrong. This tendency manifests itself in a different way also; the way we pick and chose which tenants of the faith tradition we will follow and which tenants we ignore.

A tenant of our faith which we tend to ignore is stewardship. We tend to want a good preacher and well done liturgy. We think it is important to have a building that looks nice, is climate controlled, and is well maintained. But what seems to escape us is that all these things cost real money. I do not know if it is common knowledge, but churches have only one income stream: money it receives from the people. Giving to the church is deeply rooted in the theology of Christianity.

The term stewardship traces its root to the word steward which is defined in the first century as a household servant who managed the household

affairs for the head of the family. The acts of the steward involved delegation, discipline, encouragement, and, most important, accountability to the head of the household. Seeing this idea through the lens of the Christian tradition, we see many the parables told by Jesus have to do with being a good steward. The lessons of stewardship involve all of us and how we support our local church.

The vestry of St. Joseph which this parish community elected is charged with managing the finances of the parish among other things. After the pledges have come in there is not enough monthly pledge income to pay the monthly bills. Think about what that would mean for your home budget. There is not enough money coming in to cover the money going out. What are we to do?

As anyone who has managed a budget knows, there are really only two options: increase income and/or decrease spending. We have some hard choices ahead of us this year. I'm hopeful we all are prayerful about our stewardship.