



*Cares, Prayers  
and Current Affairs*

June 2022

**Welcome Back Newsletter,**

Greetings to all in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! Christ has Risen indeed! To God be the Glory for our return. I do apologize for our absence. It is a good and wonderful thing to be back in the active sense, in the service of the Lord. For when we become a follower of the way, we are more so expected to show for whom we stand so as to draw others into his presence. Have you ever been called out by a total stranger?

A former pastor from a different denomination, during his sermon, told of his attempt to run from God's calling. He was

taking a shortcut to his destination along the railroad track here in Fayetteville. He happened upon a drunk who was staggering along the tracks, stopping ever so often to take a sip from a bottle disguised by a brown paper bag. So as to not be accosted by the drunk, he moved to the other side of the tracks. When they passed each other the man stooped low and began yelling at him. "Hey" he shouted, "Hey you... Preacher! Come out from under that cap! " The young man took his cap off and began to run from the drunk and towards the call of God. He became a great preacher. That story made an impression on me. Remember the story of Jonah? He tried to run from God because he did not want to go to Nineveh. God wanted the people to repent of their sins and to return to the ways of God. It was Jonah's duty to preach the good news to His people. It has been said many times, you can run from God but you cannot hide.



Many things have come to pass since our last newsletter. When Russia invaded Ukraine, a prayer vigil was held at St. Josephs. Ministers from many denominations came together in community assembled together at St. Josephs' to pray for the countries and the victims of war.

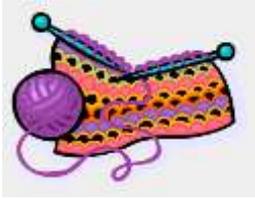


Mothering Sunday was celebrated this year. St. Joseph was honored to have Deacon Mary Shields as our speaker.



On Easter Sunday we began what I hope to be a new tradition. We gathered on the front lawn in song. A fire was lit in a fire pit and was blessed. The Christ Candle (The Paschal Candle) was lit from this fire and the congregation was led in, following the Light of Christ. We all renewed

our Baptismal vows during the course of the service. It was a heartwarming service.



The Crafters Guild of St. Josephs. have been diligently working on crafts that can be sold. All proceeds will go toward the 150 Anniversary

on May 26-28, 2023.

Some of the crafts include table runners, place mats, dish cozies, coasters, scissor holders and baby blankets. Other items are yet to come.



There was a time when there were no babies at St. Joseph's. We are so pleased to now have six all under the age of 3 years. Our newest infant was born to Akiel and Tiffany Lettsome. Baby Trinity rang in at 7lbs. Baby and parents are doing fine! What a joyful noise it is to hear a baby cry and a toddler sing out loud and out of tune! We all just smile.

The Annual Convention of 2022 will be in session June 3-4 in Wilmington and will end on Saturday at 4:00



The Brotherhood of St. Andrews will soon be adopting a new school. Their mission is to aid

children who are experiencing food insecurities. These are children who only depend on the meals served during school hours. They collect non-perishable foods and then present these items to the school. These are the children who qualify for free meals based on the income of the parents. The brotherhood meets on Saturdays at 11:00 to hold bible study.



Now that COVID is no longer a Pandemic and most people have been vaccinated and boosted; we have let our guards down and no longer require a mask. However, if you are uncomfortable with this decision, you may

still worship masked. People are still contracting the virus but those who have been vaccinated and boosted only experience cold or flu like symptoms, generally without a fever. This may vary from person to person.



Juneteenth Service: We are preparing for our annual Juneteenth service. This is not something new. When I was a child in Kentucky a similar celebration was held every year in the black ball park across the railroad tracks. We would dress up and party from sunup to sundown and into the night if you were grown. It was like a homecoming for everyone in the community. My father's people migrated to Indiana for work and this was the time that they all came back home. It was a three day celebration and everyone attended church that Sunday morning. The only difference in Kentucky was that it was not held in June. Our Emancipation was August 8. People who profited from slavery and were against freeing

slaves simply withheld the information. If you would like to know more about the history of Juneteenth please join us on Sunday June 19 at 4:00. There will be no morning service at 10:00.



Happy Birthday to all whose birthday was not properly toasted. It is our prayer that we will get another chance next year.

## June Birthdays

2 <sup>nd</sup>	Chaylee Flores
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Akeebo Francis
6 <sup>th</sup>	Mae Butler
9 <sup>th</sup>	James Francis
10 <sup>th</sup>	Tyrone Francis Jr.
15 <sup>th</sup>	Margaret Wood
15 <sup>th</sup>	Bernice Motley
20 <sup>th</sup>	Bo Nebolisa
20 <sup>th</sup>	Delores Fowler
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Xenia Phillips



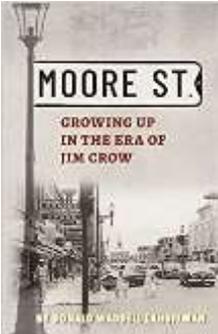
A few Sundays ago, Rev. Ralph Clark announced his resignation at St.

Joseph's. He is not abandoning the church but is taking the summer off after June. He expressed the desire to work on his Doctorate studies and his counseling business. After the summer he will be our supply priest. We wish him well in all his endeavors.



We are preparing for our 150 Anniversary next May, 2023. It will be a grand celebration. Save the date invitations have gone out.

If you have time or a talent for the crafters or wish to help with the preliminaries, please tell our Senior or Junior Warden, Mr. Tyrone Francis or Mr. Carlos Flores.



We have an **Author**, amongst us. Mr. Donald Waddell LaHuffman has written his memoirs on "Moore St. Growing Up In The Era of Jim Crow" in Fayetteville. The book can be ordered from Barnes and Nobles and Amazon for 14.95



### **Bible Trivia**

Remind believers to submit the \_\_\_\_\_ and its officers.

- A. Army
- B. President
- C. Government
- D. Authority

**Answer:** (C. Government / Titus 3:1)  
**Bible Humor**

Why couldn't any one play cards on the ark?

**Answer:** The animals were on the deck!

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