



The Eagle's Nest

St. John's Episcopal Church

August 2015

Diocese of Springfield

Bishop

The Rt. Rev. Daniel H. Martins

Staff

Rector

Rev. Richard Swan

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Deacon

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Parish Nurse

Susan Currie, RN

Vestry

John Byler

Betsy Curlin

Bob Ellison

Chris Gregory

Ken Jordan - Parish Warden

Tyler Kitchens

Kathy Phillips

Melissa Rhodes - Rector's Warden

Charla Robb

Padre's Pen

These are the summer days to keep in mind when it is near zero degrees and we wish that winter would end and we could enjoy the summer months! Marv and I can rejoice that we are getting closer to our permanent home here in Decatur, truly an answer to months of daily prayer.

During the month of August our Sunday Collects bid us to pray that God will "protect and govern" this (his) Church. We ask that God give us the grace to "show forth God's power" to those around us. We will admit that "we cannot exist" without God and we ask God to help us to "receive the fruits of his redeeming works". As we pray these Collects we will hear a recurring theme of Jesus as the "Bread of Life" in the Gospels.

How much attention do we pay to the words of the Collect as we join other Episcopalians and Anglicans in our common worship on the Lord's Day? That set of prayers is one thing that binds our Church together as we seek to be one in Christ. The intent of the Collect for the Sunday of the Church calendar is that it will be prayed each day of the following week, when not superseded by a Saint's day or major feast. If you look at the daily office in your prayer book (pages 55, 68, 98, 107, or 122) you will see the "Collect of the day". That is meant to be either the Saint's day collect, Major Feast Collect, or the Collect for the previous Lord's Day. It is not a title for the collects that follow on those next pages. Thus the intent that the Collect is prayed (at least) most days of the week appointed.

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Many of the Orders of Service for Sunday are discarded on the way out the door. Recycling is important, but the reason for having the collect and the lessons printed is not so that they can be read in the pew at the same time that they are read during the service, but so that we can take them home as an aid to prayer and study during the coming week.

As we will see in the lessons for August, there have always been times when God's people were unhappy with their perception of just where they were being lead. We will see that sometimes even God's ministers question what God has in mind (Elijah gets really depressed after God's victory over the prophets of Baal). Yet we will be reminded that it is the Father who calls us to our relationship with Jesus Christ and that it is through our faith, our belief, that we are saved. We can always echo St. Peter in the troubling times and say, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life."

May you find that your daily reading of Holy Scripture and your daily prayer life can serve to lift you up as on the wings of eagles.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer!

In Christ's love, Fr. Swan.

Next Vestry Meeting

We will recess until August 19th, and Father Swan will continue to meet with the Wardens as needed during the recess.

Favorite Recipe

EASY MEXICAN CROCK POT CHICKEN

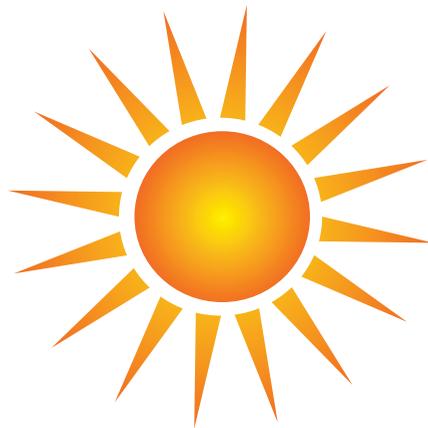
4 boneless, skinless chicken breasts
 1 package of Fiesta Ranch dressing
 1 can of black beans (drained)
 1 can of whole kernel corn (not drained)
 1 can of Rotel
 1 8 oz. Block of cream cheese

Lay the chicken breasts in the bottom of the crock pot; add the other ingredients in the same order as above. Cook on high in the slow cooker for 4 hours or for 6 hours on low. Serve with rice or tortillas.

News Flash & Updates

New adult study will begin on August 23rd led by Chris Gregory! Watch your order of service for details.

Confirmation – when the Bishop makes his annual Homecoming visit. His visit has been changed from April 12th to September 13th – the same day as our ice cream social!



Mark Your Calendars

There is a calendar of events listed on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall for the month. The sign-up sheet for flowers and the Sanctuary Candle is on the bulletin Board outside the Nave in the Cloister.

August 23rd – First Day of 2015-2016 Sunday School. Please think about children you can invite or help attend. St. John's has many resources for children and more children would allow greater opportunities for all.

August 29th – Mix and Mingle - Megan Jordan and Marv Swan co-chairs. We will have this at St. John's again with a little twist of menu and mix! Cost will be \$10.00 per person for appetizers, beverages, main course and dessert. The usual suspects – Dizzerene and Marv will take reservations.

September 13th – Ice Cream Social and the Bishop's Homecoming visit and Confirmation

September 26th (Saturday) – Brats Party from 4PM until 7PM at Pat Hunter's.

October – Scavenger Hunt – date to be determined the Peters and Hawleys co-chairs

Fall Evensong – date to be determined with a light reception

December 13th - Lessons and Carols – with a pot luck reception

December 20th – Chili Cook Off – Kathy Phillips and Chris Gregory co-chairs

January 24th 2016 – Annual Meeting

February 9th 2016 – Shrove Tuesday

Serving Opportunities

Any interested youth or adult over the age of ten interested in becoming an Acolyte, please contact James Keith or Father Swan.

Holy Days in August

Every Wednesday at 6:00 pm and Saturday at 7:30 am we meet for Eucharist. It is our custom to honor a memorable figure in the life of the Church down through the ages. For August, we will give thanks to God for these faithful servants:

Saints Days for August:

Wednesdays

August	5	Eve of the Transfiguration
	12	Clare of Assisi
	19	William Porcher Dubose
	26	St. Bartholomew, Apostle

Saturdays

August	1	Joseph of Arimathea
	8	Dominic, Priest & Friar
	15	St. Mary the Virgin
	22	Bernard of Clairvaux
	29	Augustine of Hippo



Outreach

REMINDERS

Internal: There are several members who have signed up to cook meals for those who are sick or have someone they are caring for and could use the extra help. They are:

Celeste Ames, Babbs Hazelrigg, Ken Hawley, Megan Jordan, Marv Swan and Anni Watts.

External: We are still gathering food items on Sunday for NE Community Fund. Please remember to bring an item with you. It is so easy if you just throw an extra item in your cart when shopping for yourself. Items most needed are: peanut butter, cereal, canned meats, canned “meals”, cereal, rice, beans (there are many kids on their own this time of year!)

CHILDREN’S SHOEBOX MINISTRY

“Since 1990, more than 100 million boys and girls in over 130 countries have experienced God’s love through the power of simple shoe box gifts from Operation Christmas Child. Samaritan’s Purse works with local churches and ministry partners to deliver the gifts and share the life-changing Good News of Jesus Christ. We always give shoeboxes to children based on need, regardless of their background or religious beliefs. It’s an unconditional gift of love.

Where appropriate, with each shoebox, our church partners will offer a little booklet of Bible stories. They may also invite children receiving shoeboxes to join a discipleship course called The Greatest Journey. This is a “no strings attached” program and participation is with the consent of their parent or guardian.

With the Back to School sales in full swing, don’t forget about the Christmas Child. We will

focus on boys 10-14 again this year. Our goal is 100 boxes! Here is the list that the Christmas Child committee determined would be the best supplies. These will fit in the shoeboxes easily. No shoeboxes need to be donated just the supplies. The focus for August, September and October are listed below as well. If you see a great deal for those items before then, grab them!

Colored pencils (8-16 count box)	100
Colored markers (8-16 count box)	100
Steno paper pads (6x9, easy to fit in box)	100
Regular pencils	
Sharpeners	100
Ink pens	
Eraser	
Solar calculators	100
Glue sticks	

August- hats, sunglasses, deflated soccer balls, small handheld ball pumps, t-shirts

September- personal hygiene -wash cloths, mild bar soap, stick deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes

October- flashlights w/enough batteries for a refill, small toolkits, scissors, playing cards

November- finish up and a packing day to be announced later



Education Opportunities

ADULT STUDY

Friday Bible Study continues at 10 AM in the Guild Room. We are currently studying the Book of Isaiah.

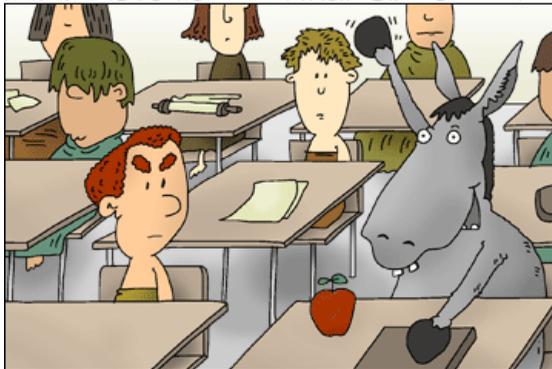
Chris Gregory will lead a new adult study beginning on August 23rd at the same time of the children's Sunday school. Watch your order of service for more details!

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

First Day of Sunday School August 23rd, 2015

First Day of 2015-2016 Sunday School & Children's Choir will be August 23rd, 2015. Please think about children you can invite or help attend. St. John's has many resources for children and more children would allow greater opportunities for all.

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Thanks to Nick Hengeveld (See Numbers 22:22-34) 08-22-2014

**BALAAM'S DONKEY QUICKLY BECAME
TEACHER'S PET**

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Birthdays



- 2nd- Grafton Barrows
- 3rd- James Keith
Harvey Phillips
- 4th- Robert Munsie
- 9th- John Byler
Gary Rhodes
- 10th- Samantha Ferguson
- 11th- Robert Ellison
- 15th- Emily Cole
Roger Hunt
- 16th- Harley Hicks
- 18th- Alex Peters
Claire Peters
- 20th- Kathy Weidner
- 24th- Willow Pilger
- 25th- Wilbur Lancaster
- 28th- Dorell Hawley
- 30th- Celeste Ames

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Thanks to Ron Nunnelee (See 1Samuel 17) 08-15-2014

**IT'S NOT SO MUCH THAT I'M BRINGING A
SLING TO A SWORD FIGHT AS IT IS YOU
BRINGING A SWORD TO A GOD FIGHT**

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Renewal Works

In September, St. John's will be joining with four other parishes in the Diocese of Springfield to experience a program called "RenewalWorks"

What is RenewalWorks and why is it important?

A lawyer approached Jesus, putting him to the test with this question: "Which is the greatest commandment?" Jesus' response was simple, if not easy. He said it was about love of God (with all your heart and soul and mind) and love of neighbor as self.

That singular emphasis on love of God and neighbor provides the foundation for Renewal Works, a ministry in the Episcopal Church that focuses on spiritual growth by deepening love of God and neighbor in the lives of congregations, in the lives of ministries that animate those congregations, and in the lives of the individuals who bring life to those ministries.

When the details of life press in, parishes, like individuals, can inadvertently move away from this singular, simple focus on discipleship to the more mundane but necessary actions of running a church: property and building upkeep, annual stewardship campaigns and recruiting volunteers.

RenewalWorks is a catalyst for refocusing parishes (and the individuals in them) on spiritual vitality. It has been tailored to the Episcopal tradition, adapting 10 years of research that has uncovered key characteristics of nourishing congregations. It will inspire your congregation and leadership to rediscover who Jesus is, and what it means to follow him. Through a guided methodology of self-reflection, sharing and workshop discussion, RenewalWorks challenges

parishes to refocus on spiritual growth and to identify ways that God is calling them to grow.

Specific outcomes of the RenewalWorks process are unique to each parish, reflecting that community's specific challenges and opportunities. They lead to the creation of specific congregation-wide growth initiatives which clarify and elevate expectations for clergy, lay leaders and individuals.

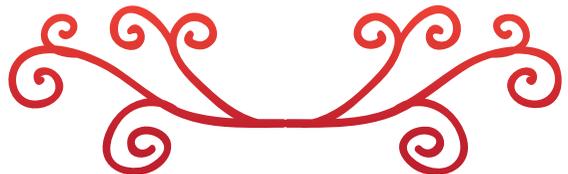
How the Program Works:

The RenewalWorks process begins with an anonymous, confidential, online survey (Episcopal Spiritual Life Inventory) taken by congregants, exploring that individual's spiritual life. When the responses are viewed as a group, the survey provides a snapshot of the spiritual vitality of the congregation. The data is supported by additional research information from more than 1,800 churches (of all denominations) and almost 500,000 congregants.

A congregation leadership team is gathered to delve into the specifics of the survey data over four guided workshops. This group contemplates the following questions, one at each workshop:

- Where have we been?
- Where are we now?
- Where do we feel called to go?
- How will we get there?

There will be more information in the September Newsletter.



Our Presiding Bishop-Elect

At our recent General Convention in Salt Lake City, the Rt. Rev. Michael Bruce Curry, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina, was elected the 27th Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church.

Bishop Curry, 62, is the first African-American to be elected Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church. He was elected on the first ballot – a very unusual occurrence, with past elections requiring six, seven or more ballots! Of the 174 votes tallied, Bishop Curry received 121 (89 were needed to elect). Following Bishop Curry's election in the House of Bishops, it was overwhelmingly confirmed by the House of Deputies, 800 for, 12 against.

Bishop Curry will serve a nine year term, beginning the end of October.

He holds a Bachelors of Arts with High Honors from Hobart and William Smith College; a Masters of Divinity from Berkeley Divinity School at Yale; Continuing Studies at The College of Preachers, Princeton Theological Seminary, Wake Forest University, The Ecumenical Institute of St. Mary's Seminary and Institute of Jewish Christian Studies; and D.D., honors causa, from Sewanee The University of the South, Berkeley Divinity School at Yale, Virginia Theological Seminary, and The Episcopal Divinity School. Bishop Curry was ordained Deacon in June 1978 and priest in December 1978. Prior to his election as Bishop of North Carolina in 2000, he served as rector at churches in Maryland, Ohio, and North Carolina. He has served on a number of Episcopal Committees, Commissions, Agencies, and Boards, and is currently serving as Chair of the Board of Directors for Episcopal Relief &

Development, on the Board of Trustees of Saint Augustine's University in North Carolina, and as Chair of the Advisory Committee of Office of Black Ministries.

An author, his publications include *Songs My Grandmother Sang* (Morehouse Publishing, spring 2015) and *Crazy Christians: a Call to Follow Jesus* (Morehouse Publishing, 2013), several articles, essays, sermons, and "Abyssinian Annals," a weekly column in *The Baltimore Times*.

He is married to the former Sharon Clement, they are the parents of two adult daughters.

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08-25-2014

CAN YOU HELP SET ME UP SO I CAN FRIEND AND LIKE JESUS, TEXT HIM MY PRAYERS, AND SHARE ALL HIS TWEETS?

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Photos

Xander's (Nathaniel Johnson) Baptism

