



# The Messenger

St. John's Episcopal Church, Springfield, Missouri

October 2024, Issue 140, No. 10



## Chili Cook-off

To benefit  
Harmony House of Springfield

Sunday, October 20, 2024  
5:00 pm in the Parish Hall

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## Outreach Ministry Group

### Outreach Organizes Annual Chili Cook-Off

This year, on October 20, the annual Chili Cook-Off (from 5 to 7 p.m.) will benefit Harmony House.

In preparation, we will again have a silent basket auction starting two weeks in advance on Oct. 5. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board, and we hope many parishioners will decide to contribute a basket. There is also a sign-up sheet for chili contestants. Do think about submitting an entry! In addition to sampling the excellent chilis, there will be hot dogs, cornbread and desserts to satisfy all! Entry will be a \$5 contribution to Harmony House. The funds raised from the basket auction and the money in jars for the votes for "best chili" will all go to support Harmony House's community efforts.

Please plan to bid on the baskets and vote generously for your favorite chili!

### St. John's Episcopal Church

**Interim Rector**  
The Rev. Ronald Keel

**Senior Warden**  
Victor Matthews

**Junior Warden**  
Jan Rorrer

**Director of Music**  
Kevin Grice

**Parish Office:** (417) 869-6351

**website:** [www.stjohnsspringfield.diowestmo.org](http://www.stjohnsspringfield.diowestmo.org)

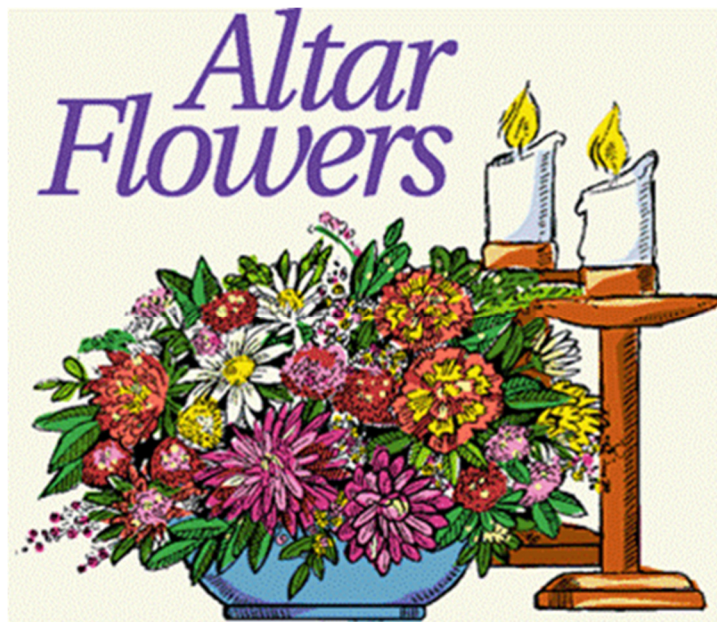
**e-mail:** [stjohns-spgfld@sbcglobal.net](mailto:stjohns-spgfld@sbcglobal.net)



## From the Senior Warden

St. John's welcomes Fr. Ronald Keel as its Interim Rector while we search for our new Rector. He assumes that position on October 1<sup>st</sup> and will allow us to have a seamless transition with a priest in place to celebrate the mass and provide pastoral care to the parish. Please introduce yourself to him and make him feel welcome.

With that step in place, we have now entered the first phase of our search for a new Rector. The search committee is being advised by a consultant from Holy Cow, Inc. using the data from the congregational survey. The search committee will then create a search profile that will be posted on the diocesan website and our own website. What follows is a period in which applications or nominations will be received, reviewed by the diocesan office and the search committee. Once a short list of applicants has been created, the search committee will deliberate, conduct interviews by ZOOM, and ultimately determine the best candidate to be brought to St. John's for an on-site interview. All of this will take time. It is the hope of the Vestry that we have a new Rector in place by fall of 2025. You can assist us with your prayers and encouragement. Please continue in your faithfulness. If you have questions feel free to contact me or any member of the Vestry.



### OPPORTUNITIES BEFORE ADVENT

Now that summer and vacations are ending, your thoughts may turn to giving special thanks for a joy in your life or to particularly remembering an individual who is now among our dear departed. A gift of altar flowers is an especially good way to put those thoughts into action. There are a few Sundays that have not yet been reserved before we enter Advent. Each Sunday, beautiful arrangements of flowers for the two vases cost a total of \$50. It is also possible to arrange with another family to share a particular Sunday by each funding one vase for \$25. There are sign-up sheets on the bulletin board in the hall near the glass doors. Please be sure to pay for your altar flowers before the Sunday you have requested. Altar flowers are a wonderful contribution to our worship!

## Demonstrating our Faithfulness

We show our faithfulness to the Lord by responsibly managing the resources, opportunities, and gifts he entrusts to us. The Apostle Paul wrote, “Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy” (1 Corinthians 4:2). We are to be faithful in our witnessing (Philemon 6), in expressing love to others (Galatians 6:10), in prayer (Romans 12:12), in our giving (1 Corinthians 16:2), and in all things. The First Letter of Peter states, “Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received” (4:10). The writer of Hebrews tells us that only what we do in faith is pleasing to God (Hebrews 11:6). Our actions mean little to God unless they come from loving and faithful hearts. Faithfully managing all that God has entrusted to us demonstrates our faith and is pleasing to God.



**Prayer:** Dear Father, Almighty God, I thank you for my faith. I pray that my faith will be evident in all that I do and say. In Jesus’ name I pray. Amen.

### Faithful Departed

To be remembered at the Altar  
on All Souls’ Day.

Please print the full names and the submitter’s last name. Place the list in the alms basin or submit it to the church office no later than Sunday, October 28<sup>th</sup>. The names will be read during the All Saints/All Souls’ Day Mass.

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Requested by:

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## FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT (PART 3)

In this issue of St. John's *The Messenger*, we are going to finish our discussion of St. Paul's 9 Fruit (Gifts) of the Spirit. We previously discussed the first six Fruits – **love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, and goodness**. We each have different ways of addressing these in our lives. In this article, we will look at the last 3 Fruits: **faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control** and how they may touch our lives and hearts.

A Bible Study friend of mine described **faithfulness** as follows: "If the fruit of the Spirit were a beautiful quilt that my mother made, faithfulness would be the stitches that hold it all together." Faithfulness involves loyalty, steadfastness, and being true to our word. But it is not just being faithful to others and to God. It is all about experiencing God's faithfulness toward us. And we can mirror God's faithfulness to each other as we pursue our lives.

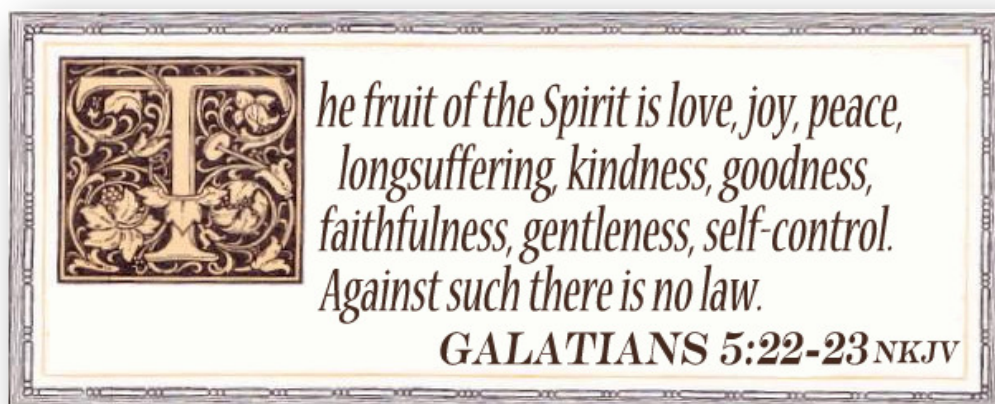
**Gentleness:** we often think of Jesus welcoming little children into His arms or speaking words of comfort to the weary. However, our society often values strength and assertiveness over gentleness. We must remember that gentleness is not a weakness but rather a strength. Gentleness is about seeing people as they are - beloved children of God, worthy of love and dignity. "Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love" (Ephesians 4:2).

"For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control" (2 Timothy 1:7). Studying this scripture helped me realize that **self-control** is not just saying no to the things that might harm us. "It is about stepping into the fullness of who God created us to be: confident, empowered, and filled with His love and Spirit." (*Illustrated Faith*, "Living a Fruitful Life," 2024) Another way of thinking about this is to consider self-control related to God-control. Instead of reacting immediately out of our own emotions, we could pause with a prayer to God and then respond with a prayerful response.

In conclusion, I would like to repeat Galatians 5:22-26 in which St. Paul further expands on the 9 Fruits of the Spirit. I find this particularly meaningful to us at this time in the life of our Parish. Father David very intentionally left us with a message to love one another, approach our communications with patience, kindness and goodness, approach our duties with joy, and, above all, remember that we are being led by our Lord in gentleness and faithfulness.

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. The law is not against such things. Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another" (Galatians 5:22-26).

Carol Matthews, DNP



## Necessary Attachments and Losses

We begin this life as helpless infants who will only survive if we develop an attachment with a parental figure who will feed us, clothe us, bathe us, and help us survive and grow. As we grow, we develop attachments to things and people; hopefully, these are positive attachments that further our growth emotionally and spiritually. We grow close to others who we respect and want to emulate. Over time, we may fall in love and begin a life with a significant other that adds meaning, purpose, and growth in a way we cannot achieve otherwise. Along this path, we experience varying losses of things and people. The loss of a loved one, the end of a relationship, or a significant life change can leave us feeling lost and unsure of who we are. When we lose someone close to us, we often feel we have lost a part of ourselves, as our identity is closely tied to our relationship with the deceased. Grief is a deeply personal journey that over time can profoundly shape our identity. By allowing ourselves to grieve, seeking support, and engaging in self-reflection, we can navigate the challenges of grief and emerge with a deeper understanding of ourselves and the world around us. Grief often prompts individuals to confront existential questions about the meaning of life, the nature of death, and the afterlife. Exploring these questions through a spiritual lens can help make sense of the loss and provide a framework for understanding one's place in the world. Engaging in meditation, journaling, or discussions with others about spiritual matters can facilitate this process of meaning-making. While grief is a universal human experience, each individual's journey is unique. Incorporating one's spiritual beliefs and practices into their grieving process provides a powerful source of comfort, meaning, and resilience.

When we think of losses, there are many types throughout our lives: our attachments to others, friends, independence, ways of doing things, routines, health, etc.

“When we think of loss we think of the loss, through death, of people we love. But loss is a far more encompassing theme in our life. For we lose not only through death, but also by leaving and being left, by changing and letting go and moving on. And our losses include not only our separations and departures from those we love, but our conscious and unconscious losses of romantic dreams, impossible expectations, illusions of freedom and power, illusions of safety — and the loss of our own younger self, the self that thought it always would be un-wrinkled and invulnerable and immortal.”\*

These losses are universal, unavoidable, and necessary because we grow by losing, leaving, and letting go. Just like the attachments we make, we become fully developed human beings through our losses.

*\*Necessary Losses: The Loves, Illusions, Dependencies, and Impossible Expectations That All of Us Have to Give Up in Order to Grow* by Judith Viorst

Philip Mothersead



**St. John's Episcopal Church**  
**515 E. Division St.**  
**Springfield, MO 65803**

**Return Service Requested**

## *The Messenger*

**a Newsletter of  
St. John's Church**

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### Remembering Special Dates & People

#### **Birthdays**

Oct. 2 Trinity Roop  
Oct. 5 Amanda Junod  
Oct. 6 Michael Becker  
Oct. 9 Elizabeth Walstrand  
Jennifer Wilkinson  
Oct. 11 Keith Chaffin  
Champ Herren  
Thomas P. Richardson  
Oct. 12 James Hancock  
Oct. 13 Dennis Blevins  
Oct. 14 Loeta Bradley  
Oct. 15 James Mauk II  
Sherri Olson  
Michael Richerson  
Oct. 17 Mary Marshall  
Oct. 21 Ashley Patton  
Oct. 22 Ben Schultz  
Oct. 23 Tanya Roop  
Oct. 24 Thomas Arnall  
Robert Ratcliff  
Oct. 27 Samantha Tellatin  
Oct. 29 Deborah Jones  
Buena Esther

#### **Anniversaries**

Oct. 8 Bruce & Vicki Ratcliff  
Oct. 19 David & Janice Jones  
Oct. 22 Steve & Sherri Olson  
Todd & Jennifer Wilkinson

#### **Faithful Departed**

Oct. 1 William Price  
Oct. 2 Claude M. Bradley, Sr.  
Paul Davolt  
Oct. 3 Patricia Baker  
Oct. 5 Roy Earl Newton  
Oct. 6 Ruby V. Aldridge  
Oct. 7 Lena Burns  
Belinda Twitty  
Rachael White  
Oct. 9 Allie B. Nickelson  
Oct. 10 Ilah Dixon  
Frances Wilke  
Oct. 11 Henry Guthrie  
Oct. 12 Mary B. Robertson  
Jack Vanderhoof  
Oct. 14 Thomas Doran  
Felix Grant Kinnaird  
Kermit Clark Kynion  
Oct. 15 Catherine L. Birkenbaugh  
Oct. 17 Jerry Lee Birkenbaugh  
Herman Busse  
Oct. 18 George F. James  
Honey Vanderhoof  
Oct. 23 Albert B. Cutting  
Oct. 24 Ella C. Morris  
Oct. 25 Marjorie Leonard  
Oct. 28 John David Achord  
Oct. 29 John L. Braig  
Oct. 30 Oney Armstrong  
Oct. 31 Marie Ruth Price  
Charles Saltgaver