



The Messenger

St. John's Episcopal Church Springfield, Missouri

February 2025, Issue 141, No. 2

February

In This Issue

- † From the Interim
- † Relationship Hydration
- † Native plant sale
- † Women's Medical Respite
- † Outreach continues to help where most needed
- † Tell Out My Soul
- † Remembering Special Dates and People

St. John's Episcopal Church

Bishop Provisional
The Right Reverend Diane M. Jardine Bruce

Interim Rector
The Reverend Ron Keel

Director of Music
Kevin Grice

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February 9, 5:00 p.m.
in the parish hall!

**Come cheer on your favorite team
and enjoy food, fellowship & fun!**

Kick off is at 5:30 p.m.
**Please bring a snack to share
and your drinks.**

Maybe a cushion or comfy lawn chair too.



Breakfast Club Brunch

**Join us March 2nd
for brunch after the
10:30 a.m. Mass.**



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

**March 4, 2025
5 - 6:30 p.m.**



Ash Wednesday Mass

**March 5, 2025
12 & 6:00 p.m.**
(FBL/Self-imposition of blessed
ashes)

St. John's beautiful Stations of the Cross
on Wednesday night during Lent.



LENT

Recycle your Palms

If you have palms from last
year or previous Palm Sundays,
please bring them to church so
they can be burnt for Ash
Wednesday. Please drop off
your palms at the church by
February 23.

From the Interim

Living with Hope and Faith in a Changing World

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." — Hebrews 13:8

We live in a world of constant change. Each day brings new challenges, unexpected shifts, and sometimes uncertainty about what lies ahead. Yet, as Christians, we are called not to be overwhelmed by change but to meet it with faith, hope, and love.

Throughout Scripture, we see that God's people have always faced times of transition. The Israelites journeyed through the wilderness, trusting in God's provision. The early church navigated a world that was often resistant to their message. Yet in every season of change, God remained faithful, guiding, strengthening, and renewing His people.

Change, while sometimes unsettling, is also an opportunity. It invites us to deepen our trust in God, to grow in love for one another, and to witness to the unchanging hope we have in Christ. The words of Hebrews 13:8 remind us that while the world may shift around us, Jesus remains our steady foundation.

As St. John's church community, we are called to reflect this hope in tangible ways. We can reach out to those who feel isolated, listen with compassion to those struggling with uncertainty, and encourage one another with words of faith. Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians 16:14, *"Let all that you do be done in love."* In a time when division and fear can so easily take root, we have a profound opportunity to be bearers of Christ's love.

How can we respond faithfully to the changes around us? First, through prayer—seeking God's wisdom and peace in all circumstances. Second, by being present—showing up for one another in fellowship and service. And finally, by remembering that our ultimate hope is not in the shifting sands of the world but in the firm foundation of God's promises.

As we move forward together, may we embrace the future not with fear, but with faith. May we be a people who shine the light of Christ into every new moment, trusting that He is with us always.

The Reverend Ron Keel

Relationship Hydration

While the topic of New Year's resolutions is complicated, and it's often difficult to know where to start, we have one very simple suggestion—a small resolution that is almost 100% guaranteed to succeed, and that will benefit not only yourself but also those around you as well.

Choose one relationship that is important to you. Make it a priority to nurture that relationship with positive thoughts, positive words, and positive actions. Offer encouragement, praise, and gratitude. Water the other person's self-esteem. Put some air in their tires. Tell them how important they are to you. Prioritize spending time with them. If you do this regularly, you will undoubtedly see a growth in positivity and connection in that relationship.

A friend shared with us this week that their resolution for the new year after having learned from their doctor that they were chronically dehydrated was to drink more water. The doctor explained that a simple act of drinking more water would have enormous health benefits and would actually make them feel more perky and energetic as well. Thinking in analogies, as we tend to do, we thought of how relationships can also be energized or perked up when we give them more attention or “water them.” All living things need water to grow and flourish, and relationships are certainly living things, growing or wilting, depending on their environment.

Don't just take our word for it. Try watering a relationship and see if it makes a difference. We are confident it will and that everyone involved will appreciate the difference your efforts will make.

By Holly Hughes Stoner, LMFT, and Scott Stoner, LMFT, reprinted with permission from <https://www.wellnesscompass.org/column/relationship-hydration>



Green Team will organize our third annual native plant sale beginning the third week of February through April 1. Plant pick-up will be available April 5.

What is Women's Medical Respite and its mission?

Women's Medical Respite is a small non-profit organization in Springfield, MO. Its mission is to provide homeless women with a temporary home 24/7 in which to recover from illness, injury, or surgery.

It bridges the gap between the hospital and life on the streets at no cost to the patient. The Springfield recovery housing accommodates a maximum of six patients.

St. John's Outreach has been providing the facility with one meal a month on the third Sunday since 2017. We are the only group that has faithfully delivered on their obligation for the last seven years. The last few months the recovery house has stayed full, with new referrals being received frequently. We are always looking for willing volunteers to help prepare a dish or donate funds to feed up to six patients per month on our Sunday.

If interested, please see Mary Newman or call 427-496-4645

Outreach Continues to Help Where Most Needed

Through your generosity, we were able to collect \$1,328 for communion wine for Father Jesse's four parishes in rural Kenya!

During February, we're collecting new socks in all sizes and colors. This is an ongoing need for folks receiving services through Rare Breed, Safe to Sleep, Crosslines and Harmony House. You can see why socks are so important when you consider that vulnerable people may walk miles a day, are affected by weather conditions and may have health concerns like blisters or infections. We're also collecting HOTHANDS hand warmers for cold weather use. Please help us gather lots of socks for those in need.

We've chosen "Nurture & Nourish The Earliest Learners" as our Episcopal Relief & Development Lenten project this year. This program helps children develop thinking, communication, social, emotional and motor skills through caregiver support and learning groups. A gift of \$15 provides services for one infant or child.

Thank you for your compassion and support for those in need!





Tell Out My Soul

Bursting Forth: An Epiphany Reflection

Because of when Easter falls in 2025, we get all eight Sundays of Epiphany this year: Eight opportunities to read and learn how the spirit of the law, the new life that Jesus came to proclaim, spreads throughout the world. This Epiphany is all about the Truth being revealed. It is a Truth that not everyone welcomes the same way - when Jesus reveals the wisdom of the scrolls, or when he tells us we must love those who wish us harm - these are hard truths to accept. It's not all wedding wine and divine blessings in the Temple - Truth settles on each of us.

The thing about the Truth that Jesus brings is that it is so wonderful, so different, so transformative, that it needs to be shared. It can barely be contained. Our hearts, our mouths, our souls cannot hold back. "Tell out my soul," Mary sang to the Angel. It is as if to say, I have learned something so beautiful that I simply must share it, it is impossible to keep to myself.

The Epiphany asks much of us. It asks us to reflect on an internal moment of awareness, of spiritual awakening, and find the words and ways to share it with the world. As Christ is made manifest to the whole world, unbound by social convention, religious authority, or political geography, we too are called to seek the neighbor beyond our immediate vicinity to accompany, to teach, to love.

The theological mystery of the Epiphany calls us to have one foot in the spiritual, deeply personal realm of revelation and the other foot in the world, learning how to seek and serve those who most need our help. We learn about the movement of the Spirit through Jesus and are motivated into ministering with him to the outcast, the stranger, and to those who most need to feel the warmth and light of His love. tens.org



Questions for Reflection:

What are some ways that ministering to others has helped you leave your comfort zone?



Cn. J. Davey Gerhard serves as Executive Director of TENS: The Episcopal Network for Stewardship and has a particular fondness for the season of light and love.



THE EPISCOPAL
NETWORK FOR
STEWARDSHIP

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

Return Service Requested

The Messenger
a Newsletter of
St. John's Church

Reminder

When Springfield Public Schools are closed due to inclement weather, the Wednesday Night Program and other groups will also be cancelled. Mass will also be cancelled.

Remembering Special Dates & People

Birthdays

Feb. 1 Doris Plaster
Feb. 3 Becky Jones
Feb. 4 Debi Davolt
Feb. 5 Ross Chaffin
Sabrina K. Ollis
Feb. 6 Andy Anderson
Feb. 9 Virginia Woolery
Feb. 10 Rod Buckner
Kenneth Herren
Cline Herren
Stephen Olson
Feb. 16 Chris Daniel
Judith Lohman
Feb. 19 Alice Barber
Bridget Close
Feb. 21 Carol Rolufs
Feb. 22 Gregory Iott
Riley Mays
Eric Valhdick
Feb. 23 Debra Abel
Feb. 24 James F. Anderson
Lawrence Ollis
Collin Robertson
Feb. 26 Nathan Gamel
John Wren
Feb. 28 Dalton Allen
Feb. 29 Ronald Ollis

Faithful Departed

Feb. 1 Francis Cozad
Feb. 2 Edward Baker
Elaine Wright Agur
Feb. 3 John S. Cogswell
John Miles
Feb. 4 Edward Schulke
Feb. 5 Bob Westervelt
Feb. 6 Robert O. Cravens
Feb. 8 Helen Keller
Feb. 11 Dorothy Busse
Feb. 12 Fern Young
Feb. 13 John A. Simons
Feb. 14 Jack Drussa
Billie Ann Swenson
Feb. 15 Bessie F. Bostwick
Elin Kussmaul
Feb. 16 Lon Iott
James Napper
Feb. 17 Alfred M. Ollis
Jesse Seaton
Feb. 18 Theodore L. Achord
Kenneth Powell
Feb. 19 Rachel Cadanau
Ina Morgan
Rush Wilhoit
Feb. 20 William I. Fendlason
Fred Haszelbart
Tonie Leigh
Ann Mason
Gordon Robertson
Feb. 21 Earl Bowman
Gordon F. Lines

Feb. 21 Gladys Tegarden
Feb. 22 Mary Armour
James Costello
Bea Wadley
Feb. 24 Maurice Bostwick
Feb. 25 Medora Beall
Louis L. Coover
Donald J. Ketchmark
Betty Moore
Feb. 26 Carl J. Benning
Dorothy Wilkinson
Feb. 28 Alexander Bennoch
Catherine Leigh
Feb. 29 George W. Kumleh