



The Messenger

St. John's Episcopal Church, Springfield, Missouri

October 2025, Issue 141, No. 10



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Outreach Ministry Group

Outreach Annual Chili Cook-Off

Our annual Chili Cook-Off is coming up! Join us on October 19 for fundraising and fellowship. This year we will be raising funds for Women's Medical Respite, which provides a safe place to recover for women who are unsheltered and medically vulnerable. The Outreach Ministry Group is suggesting a donation of \$5.00 to attend.

Please sign up if you would like to bring a pot of chili! We want to have plenty of options to vote on with our dollars. Hot dogs, drinks, and desserts will be provided. We will also have a silent auction beginning on October 4 and continuing until the day of the Cook-Off. Please consider donating a gift basket or other item to the auction, or making a bid—the more we raise, the better our friends at Women's Medical Respite can serve our most vulnerable neighbors.

St. John's Episcopal Church

Rector

The Rev. Benjamin George-Thoms

Senior Warden

Victor Matthews

Junior Warden

Linda Robertson

Director of Music

Kevin Grice

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From the Senior Warden

It is with great joy that St. John's welcomes Fr. Benjamin George-Thoms as its new Rector. He assumed that position on October 1st and will celebrate his first mass on Saturday, October 4th. He is also available from this point to provide pastoral care to the parish. Please introduce yourself to him and make him feel welcome. It is essential that he gets to know us and our needs in worship and individually.

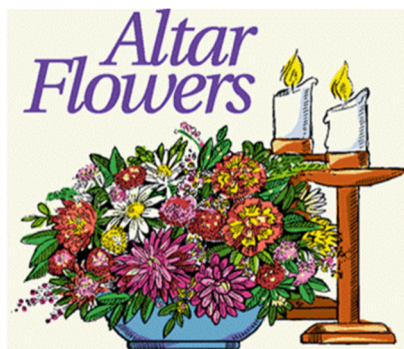
What lead us to this point is the hard work of the search committee who created an exemplary search profile that was posted on the diocesan website and our own website. Once they had created a short list of applicants, the search committee conducted interviews by ZOOM and in person. Once they had determined their choice of candidate, they presented their findings to the Vestry and that elected group agreed to offer the position of Rector to Fr. Ben. I also must thank the congregation for their assistance in their process. Your prayers at home and during every Mass were an encouragement and ultimately those prayers were answered. If you have any questions about the process, feel free to contact me or any member of the Vestry.

Vic Matthews



Numerous parishioners have donated money for rectory improvements and appliances or time and talent for cleaning and painting. Many have recently provided delicious food for dinners and special coffee hours. Some have worked (sometimes repeatedly) on set up and clean up for events. And that's stewardship!

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 your full name as submitter. Place the list in the alms basin or submit it to the church office no later than Sunday, October 26th. The names will be read during the All Saints/All Souls' Day Mass.

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Requested by:

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

Return Service Requested

The Messenger
a Newsletter of
St. John's Church

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
Alex Newman
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 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 Saltsgaver