

St. John's Episcopal Church
401 West County Road *P.O. Box 3346
Odessa, Texas *79760-3346
Telephone: 432/333-6022 Fax: 432/333-5972
website: www.stjohnsodessa.org

Bishop of Northwest Texas: The Right Reverend J. Scott Mayer
Priest-in-Charge: The Reverend Les Jackson

Staff

Parish Secretary: Cheri Stull
Treasurer: Cathy Figert
Sextons: Daniel Ramos and Ray Stull
Choir Director: James Caddell
Organist: Bro. Don Godlevski, CSM
Chancellor: Lilly Plummer
St. John's Episcopal School Principal: LaRue Moore
Seabury Nursing Centre Administrator: Kelly Sewell

Vestry

Senior Warden: Bruce Shearer
Junior Warden: Bill Cleaver, Jr.
Clerk: Emma Hudgins
Jim Caddell, Charles Chambers, Bill King,
Michael Morris, Leola Rutledge and Phillip Zeeck

Organizations and Ministries

St. John's Episcopal School
Seabury Nursing Centre
Episcopal Church Women
Eucharistic Ministers/Visitors
Altar Guild
St. John's Youth Group -- EYC
Christian Formation and Nursery
Acolyte Corps
Usher Corps
Parish Food Pantry



At the top of my 2013 resolutions list is a commitment to reexamine what it means to be and live as a person of faith within the inevitable opportunities, challenges and uncertainty that the future may bring. Part of this re-examination is because we in the church so often confuse faith with a set of certain beliefs. We might say that a person has strong faith if they demonstrate a belief beyond all doubt in the certainty of creeds, doctrines and traditions of the Church. Historically, the church has used such claims to compete, to see whose right and to make authoritative

determination about who the “true believers are”, while excluding a loving God and without loving each other sacrificially or giving each other the benefit of the doubt. Religious and political arguments based in competition and conflict result in winners and losers, not in spirit led participation and cooperation that seeks trusting and restorative relationships - where wholeness and healing are the desired outcome for everyone. Like the Pharisees of Jesus’ day, we have made it a goal to be right as opposed to being loving and gracious. By the way, the Pharisees were not bad people. They were just trying to be right by following the law. Attempts at legalism or being right are simply inadequate in describing the grace filled life that Christians are called to embrace. Beliefs are not a checklist of claims that assure eternal well-being in some future realm any more than faith can be absence of doubt, struggle and uncertainty in this present life. When Jesus asked people to believe, he was not referring to a creed, doctrine, or traditions that makes one certain of anything but, instead, was inviting us to engage in a relationship with the God of mystery and divine love, who is the source of goodness, life, healing and restoration. We see this clearly in the way Jesus handles the death of Jairus’ daughter. Telling Jairus not to react out of fear, but to “only believe, and she will be saved”. Believe in what? Believe in God who created humanity in His image, who loves unconditionally and seeks to heal and restore life. As Christians, we may not agree about doctrinal issues or politics but, hopefully, we do agree that God is interested in healing and restoring His creation, that peace is better than war, that life is better than death, and that children and the most vulnerable need to be protected. Loving our neighbor, not our opinion of the neighbor, is closer to the heart of God.

If belief is about having a relationship with God then faith is about embodying trust and taking trustworthy action based on and mirroring this relationship. Faith is born in doubts, struggles, and the uncertainty of life and is where we must “embody trust” and take “trustworthy actions” that invest in hopeful restoration and love beyond reason. Human beings act like God through trust and forgiveness and are formed to be humble, slow to judge, eager to listen and to give others the benefit of the doubt. Grace would have no meaning or context without doubt, struggles and uncertainties. Within that context the final work of grace is to make a person gracious, and the final act of trust is to make ourselves and others trustworthy. In trusting in God as revealed in His Son Jesus we will create a community in which the primary relationship (divine trust) will be mysteriously demonstrated by ways in which we trust one another. Yes, the world will know that we are Christian by our trust and love for each other.

Blessings

Fr. Les

2013 Stewardship Report

Your faithful and generous support of the ongoing ministry of St John's Episcopal Church is greatly appreciated. As of this date, we have 26 pledges cards for a total of \$172,536.00. This is a decrease in pledged income of approximately \$20,772.00 from 2012 pledges.

There is still time to pledge if you have not done so already. If you did not receive a pledge card or if you've misplaced your, please notify Cheri and we'll mail you one. A complete stewardship report and 2013 budget will be presented at the Annual Parish Meeting.

St. John's also has a "Monthly Draft" plan available to our parishioners. This is similar to the "Automatic Bill Pay" that several financial institutions offer. A draft deposit is made on the 15th of each month and your monthly pledge amount is drafted from your bank account. If you are interested in fulfilling your pledge by monthly draft or would like more information on this service, please call the parish office (333-6022) and speak with Cheri.

Income & Expenses through December 31, 2012

INCOME:	Budgeted	Actual
Plate	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 6,888.40
Pledges	193,308.00	186,687.60
Other	27,788.68	20,756.68
Total Income:	\$ 226,096.68	\$ 214,332.68
Expenses:	237,358.56	231,116.37
Balance: Inc-Exp.	-11,261.88	-16,783.69

Men's Prayer Breakfast

*As for you man of God...pursue Righteousness, Godliness,
Faith, Love, Endurance, Gentleness*

I Timothy 6:11

Saturday, January 12, 2013

8:30 AM

Angel Hall

RSVP 333-6022



Annual Parish Meeting

Sunday, January 27th

Our Annual Parish Meeting and covered dish luncheon will be held in Angel Hall January 27th following the Holy Eucharist. During the meeting, we will prayerfully discuss St. John's life and ministry,

fulfill our canonical responsibility to elect new lay leaders and adopt a budget for this new year. The Vestry Nominating Committee will present three nominees to replace outgoing members Senior Warden Bruce Shearer, Michael Morris and Leola Rutledge. Nominees will be presented at the meeting. Nominations may also be made from the floor if the person being nominated consents. All nominees must be confirmed members of St. John's, regular in Sunday attendance and be faithful in working, praying and giving for the spread of the Kingdom of God. Whether you are a longtime member or a newcomer, we hope that you will bring a dish to share and join us for this annual gathering in the life of St. John's.

A Prayer for a Church Meeting

"Almighty and everliving God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with those who take counsel in St. John's for the renewal and mission of your Church. Teach us in all things to seek first your honor and glory. Guide us to perceive what is right, and grant us both the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

A Prayer for the Mission of the Church

"O God of all the nations of the earth: Remember the multitudes who have been created in your image but have not known the redeeming work of our Savior Jesus Christ; and grant that, by the prayers and labors of your holy Church, they may be brought to know and worship you as you have been revealed in your Son; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen."

A Prayer for the Parish

"Almighty and everliving God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

St. John's Ministry Schedule

January 13th, First Sunday after Epiphany: Baptism of Our Lord

Readings: Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29;
Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
EMs: Lilly Plummer and Amanda Demers
Acolyte: John Plummer
Vestry: Emma Hudgins
Ushers: D'on Paquette and Marcus Hudgins
Altar Guild: D'Alice Belanger

January 20th, Second Sunday after Epiphany

Readings: Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10;
Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11
EMs: Leola Rutledge and Phillip Zeeck
Acolyte: Julius Gomez
Vestry: Bill King
Ushers: Frank Deaderick and Bill Cleaver
Altar Guild: Joan Soehnlein and Gloria King

January 27th, Third Sunday after Epiphany

Readings: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19;
1 Corinthians 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21
EMs: Candy Morris and Warren Koepp
Acolyte: Bethany Ontiveroz
Vestry: Bruce Shearer
Ushers: Don Reaves and Ray Hudgins
Altar Guild: Valinda Jackson



***When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky
is gone, when the kings and princes are home, when shepherds are back
with their flocks, the work of Christmas begins:***

To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the Nations,
To bring peace among people,
To make music in the heart.

*The Rev. Howard Thurman,
Civil Rights Activist, Spiritual Advisor -
The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

Appointed Readings for Wednesday Evening Services

Wednesday, January 9, 2013

Julia Chester Emery, Missionary, 1922

EM:

Isaiah 61: 1-3

Psalm 67 (BCP Pg. 675)

Romans 12: 6-13

Mark 10: 42-45

Wednesday, January 16, 2013

Richard Meux Benson & Charles Gore

Religious, 1915 Bishop of Worcester, of Birmingham, and of Oxford

EM:

I Kings 19:9-12

Psalm 27: 5-11 (BCP Pg. 617)

I John 4:7-12

John 17: 6-11

Wednesday, January 23, 2013

Phillips Brooks, Bishop of Massachusetts, 1893

EM:

Jonah 3:1-10

Psalm 33: 1-5, 20-21 (BCP Pg. 626)

Ephesians 3: 14-21

Matthew 24:24-27

Wednesday, January 30, 2013

Andrei Rublev, Monk and Iconographer, 1430

EM:

Genesis: 28:10-17

Psalm 62: 6-9 (BCP Pg.669)

II Corinthians 2: 14-17

Matthew 6: 19-23

** BCP-Book Of Common Prayer*

ANGLICAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

This month we GIVE THANKS and PRAY for:

January 6 – Kwoi - (Abuja, Nigeria)

January 13 – Lake Malawi - (Central Africa)

January 20 – Liberia - (West Africa)

January 27 – Lokoja - (Lokoja, Nigeria)

ST. JOHN'S PARISH PANTRY

Saturdays: January 5th and 19th

Please join us to serve food to those in need.

Pantry begins at 8:00 a.m.

*The monthly food truck delivery will be
Friday, January 4th.*

HAPPY NEW YEAR! and Happy Birthday

1 st	Kimberly Meyers
2 nd	Kendall Meyers
8 th	Karen Morris
9 th	Peggy McIntyre
14 th	Ryan Edgmon
18 th	Elizabeth Ontiveroz
20 th	Warren Koeppe
21 st	Tara Wein
	Danci Demel
	Valinda Jackson

If you or yours have inadvertently been left off the birthday list or reported incorrectly, we apologize! Please phone the Parish Office and we will correct the mistake as well as St. John's Canonical Records.



Gertrude Terrell

Immediately following the service on Sunday, January 13th (Baptism of Our Lord) we will inurn Gertrude Terrell in the columbarium. Mrs. Terrell along with her husband, LaVern were the founders of St. John's Parish Pantry. They worked at the pantry unloading food trucks, distributing food and loving those in need until 2007 or 2008. The Terrell's were long time devoted members of St. John's. Mrs. Terrell served at various times, as a member of the Altar Guild, Sunday school teacher, Lay Reader and an energetic volunteer for anything the church needed a hand with. She sang in the St. John's choir most of her adult life, and looked forward to it every Sunday.

Following the inurnment in St. Francis Chapel we'll gather in Angel Hall for our second Sunday luncheon. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend as we honor Gertrude Terrell.

New Vestments and Altar Hangings

On Christmas Eve, new vestments and altar hangings, given by Cathy Figert were dedicated in loving memory of her father, William J. Michalka, Jr.

The beautiful hangings and vestments are made with White Agnus Dei silk, lined with ivory satin and trimmed with complimenting gold galloon and fringe. These magnificent furnishings will adorn the altar for various special services.

St. John's extends our deepest gratitude for this wonderful gift that will enhance the beauty of our worship for many years to come.

Notes of Thanksgiving...

Dear St. John's,

The care package was incredible! Thank you all so very much. It was just what I needed during finals week! Thank you so much for thinking of me. I truly appreciate it.

Love,

Kendall Meyers



These beautiful poinsettias arrived with the following note:

We would like to share this lovely arrangement with our St. John's family in memory of all departed family and friends and in thanksgiving for children, grandchildren and each other. From Joe and Betty Dodd

Seabury Christmas Party a Great Success!

Many thanks to all who bought gifts and provided cookies for the Seabury Christmas party! It was wonderful. Wish everyone from the church could have been there to see the dancing to music played by a real DJ and to see him, Santa dance and the relatives and staff dance with residents – even those who are in wheel chairs plus a couple who are on rolling beds. One little lady in a wheel chair danced to almost every song played. Staff members were probably very tired and sore the first few days after the party, but seemed to have a great time during the dancing.

Residents really appreciated their gifts, and there were enough cookies and drinks for everyone in attendance.



With Thanksgiving!

At the close of the Christmas season, we are thankful to all who contributed in many different ways to make this year's worship a blessing to all. Many thanks to those who worked behind the scenes preparing the church and to everyone who stayed following the Holy Eucharist on the last Sunday in Advent to make certain that every detail of the Church was perfect for the Christmas celebration! We thank the members of the Choir as well as their faithful leader, Jim Caddell and to our devoted Organist, Bro. Don Godlevski for the beautiful music that filled the church during all of the Advent and Christmas services. We thank all of you who came and celebrated with us and we thank all who helped to complete the joy of Advent and Christmas worship, and our outreach to the community!



St. John's First Las Posadas

The bilingual service led by Fathers Jackson and Moreno (San Miguel) and the condensed Las Posadas reenactment that was followed by festivities provided great insight into the tradition's meaning as practiced in Mexico. Having bilingual booklets as well as both English and Spanish-speaking people in each group helped greatly in the reenactment as Mary and Joseph's

group requested lodging and the other group first turned them away but, finally, welcomed them and gave them a place to stay.

Festivities included singing Spanish Christmas songs, feasting on snacks and sweets provided by attendees, and the breaking of a piñata. Many of us were introduced to strawberry "tamales dulce" (sweet tamales) provided by the Gonzalez family).

As Las Posadas was breaking up, one St. John's member noted that "They (those already familiar with the traditional festivities) sure know how to put on a party." Hope this can become an annual tradition that



continues to include St. John's, San Miguel and St. Barnabus.



Brief history of Las Posadas ("lodgings" or "inns")

Las Posadas is traditionally a 9-day celebration that lasts from Dec 16th to Christmas Eve. Each night, children and adults reenact Mary, Joseph, shepherds and others as they traveled from house to house in Bethlehem trying to find a place to stay and

were turned away many times before finally being welcomed and allowed to spend the night with the animals. Once Mary and Joseph's group are welcomed in, everyone involved in the reenactment participates in the fiesta.

The seven points on the piñata stand for the seven deadly sins and represent humanity's struggle against temptation. Blindfolding the person with the stick is a representation of faith. Beating the piñata represents our struggles against temptation and evil, and the treats that spill from the piñata after it is broken represent the rewards of keeping the faith.



***In commemoration of the Feast of the Holy Nativity poinsettias were given
to the greater glory of God and in loving memory of:***

James E. and Brian Blakely
by Caryl Blakley
Vesta Bridges and Alice Cooper
by John and Doris Cooper
Ann Roden Deaderick, William Bawden Deaderick and Ted G. Roden
by Frank Deaderick
Weldon and Erma Chambers, Floyd Howell and Gretchen Flegal
by Charles and Penni Chambers
Mark Christopher Figert
by Cathy M. Figert and Christopher A. Figert
William J. Michalka Jr., Patricia F. Michalka and Cheryl F. Michalka McAllister
by Cathy Michalka Figert
Brenda Mercer and Gertrude Terrell
by Cathy M. Figert
Harry Sullenger, Jr., Billie Jo Sullenger and Hazel Mae Sullenger
by Johnny Sullinger and Cathy Figert



***In commemoration of the Feast of the Holy Nativity, poinsettias were given
to the greater glory of God and in thanksgiving for:***

Children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren, Maddie and Blakleigh
by Caryl Blakely
St. John's Episcopal Church and School and Seabury Retirement Center
by The Reverend Les and Mrs. Valinda Jackson
Jennifer Riggs, Margaret Chambers, Karin, Alexander, Peter
and Maggie MacPhail
by Charles and Penni Chambers

The people of St. John's extend prayer and sympathy to:

~~the family of Gertrude Terrell who died on December 7th in Austin, Texas.

~~the family of Peggy Johnson who died on December 20th in San Antonio, Texas.

~~Gary and the Ganter family in the death of Gary's father, Robert Ganter who died on December 29th in Odessa.

~~All casualties of war, terrorism and natural disasters throughout the world.



Rest eternal, grant unto them, O Lord. And may light perpetual shine upon them. May their souls, and the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Prayer is at the heart of our life in Christ. This month, prayer has been requested for: Don, Laurel, Bob, John, Roberta and the Caffrey family, Gloria, Bill and the King and Adame families, Gertrude, Bill, Sandie, Laura, Jon, Nancy, Amanda, the Waldies family, Elizabeth, Sophia, David, Richard, Shelby, Marshal, Dorothy, Gianna, Johnny, Sue, Cathy, Barbara, Theresa, Peggy, Doris, Yolanda, Ramona, Britt, David, Alex, Jimmie, Charles, Odella, and for all who have no one to pray for them. Are there others?

for Katharine, Rowan and Scott, bishops;

for Les and Charles, Priests;

for Ingrid, Deacon.

for Lilly and for all who seek to discern a call to ordained ministry in the church

for Evan, Fred, Christopher, Danci, Reagan, Karyn, Kendall, Brittany, Isaiah, Monica, Hope, Shelby, Annie, Eleanor, Cathy and Ryan, college students; and for the students, staff and faculty of St. John's Episcopal School.

In light of national, worldwide and Church-related concerns, we remember before God: the suffering and those who minister to them; American Armed Forces and their families, especially Trevor Nichols, Canyon Shearer, Richard Hancock, Jesus Mendoza, Dillon Walker, Blas Manzanares, Megan Sterling, Steven Womochel, Luke Brown, Eric Crettenden and the Baeza family; and for peace between the Israelites and the Palestinians.

Prayer requests may be made through the Parish Office (333-6022) or via the Church e-mail address cstull@stjohnsodessa.org. The St. John's community will remember your request in prayer.