

The Good News – February 2017

A Word from the Rector

Dear Friends,

Thanks to all who participated in our great Annual Parish Meeting on January 29 (yesterday, as I write this)! We had the usual elections, reports, etc., which you can read more about elsewhere in this Good News. I want to think a bit more about the Planning Team report, highlighting a new outreach focus for St. John's.



A little background will help us be clear about what is being accomplished here. As I have pointed out on several occasions, St. John's has seen a slow decline in both Sunday attendance and financial support for the last several years. While we might point to any number of contributing factors, both societal and internal, I believe the most important is that, as a parish, we have lacked clear vision and drive. We have "done church," but today that simply is not enough. In my reading, study and praying on sabbatical last summer, I became even more convinced of this need and returned absolutely determined to see this happen.

To begin this work, the vestry sought interested volunteers and appointed a planning team made up of Anneke Bertsch, Kathy Hoffman, Hope Johnson, Sarah Kendall, Steve Manzer, Lee Steininger and myself. It was quickly clear to us that a new outreach program would be the most effective and beneficial way to bring vision and drive back into the life of the parish. So, we embarked on a search for a local ministry that meets a real need in the community, that would have a good role for St. John's, and where we could encourage lots of hands on involvement from the membership.

Of course, St. John's and our members are already involved in a number of ministries both through financial support and providing teams of volunteers. These range from local ministries like Daily Bread to international ministries like Solar Light for Africa. I do not want us to pull back on these ministries, but none of these have provided the parish wide vision for ministry that we are seeking.

(Continued on page 3)

Our Mission

*St. John's is a worshipping
community, obedient to scripture,
growing as servants of Christ, and
sharing His love in word and
deed.*

For more information on our Mission and Vision, visit www.stjohnsmlb.org

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St. John's Episcopal Church

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Phone 321.254.3365

Web Site: www.stjohnsmlb.org

Church email: office@stjohnsmlb.org

Bishop Gregory O. Brewer

Rector Fr. Eric Turner

eric@stjohnsmlb.org

Cell: 321.615.0205

Deacon Elizabeth Murray

yarrumea@gmail.com

Cell: 321.777.0168

Weekly Schedule

Sunday

7:45 a.m. - Holy Eucharist, Rite I

9:00 a.m. - Adult Christian Education

9:00 a.m. - Children's Chapel and King's Kids

10:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist, Rite II
Nursery is available

Monday

2:00 p.m. Bible Study (location varies-
See Hope Johnson)

7:00-8:00 p.m. Bible Study Fr. Eric's
Office

7:00-8:00 p.m.-A.A.(Big Book Study)

Tuesday

5:30-7:00 p.m. - Bible Study Fr. Eric's
Office

7:00 p.m. - Bible Study, Fr. Eric's home

Wednesday

10:00 a.m. Holy Communion, Victoria
Landing (first week of each month)

11:00 p.m. - Bible Study at home of
Cindy Marshall (Suntree)

7:00 p.m. - Choir practice in the
Sanctuary

Friday

8:00 - 9:15 a.m. TGIF Men's Breakfast
and Bible Study at Memaw's

6:30 - 7:30 p.m. - A.A. Beginner, Open
Meeting

7:30 - 8:30 p.m. - A.A. Open Meeting

Saturday

8:30 - 9:30 a.m. - 1st and 3rd Saturday
each month, Mary's Circle Women's
Bible Study

Outreach Focus

For the month of February, the Outreach offering has been designated to go to Solar Light for Africa's spring Medical Mission. Elizabeth Turner has recruited a team of nurses (and 1 EMT) who will travel to Uganda for a Medical Mission serving with doctors in country and in clinics that SLA has lit on previous trips. The travelers have covered their personal costs so all funds will go toward medical supplies, drugs, etc. Elizabeth Turner will speak about this at both services on Feb. 12. Everything in the lavender envelopes or marked for outreach in the month of January will go for these medical supplies. Thank you!



To our Vestry members who served us well To Steve Bradley, Hope Johnson, and Ian Johnson, Vestry members who are rolling off, thank you for your service to St. John's. The time and insight your brought made a difference. We appreciate you!

To our Vestry members entering service To Steve Bradley (not gone too long), Hal Martin, Kathy Oas, and Anneke Bertsch, thank you for saying "yes" when asked to serve St. John's. We know your participation will be vital to our future.

Pastoral Care

If you find yourself needing emergency pastoral care, or are checking into a health care facility (i.e., hospital, nursing home, rehab center), please call the church office, or you may call Fr. Eric or Dcn. Elizabeth directly at the numbers to the left.

St. John's Email Prayer Chain

office@stjohnsmlb.org

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Another way to think about this is if your friend were to ask, "What does your church do?" most would probably list off the normal kinds of things (Sunday services, pastoral care, Daily Bread, Bible studies, etc.) but would likely not identify a clear, driving outreach to the community. We want to change that. We believe that having a clear outreach identity in the community will not only allow us to meet a real need in the community, but also bring energy and vitality to St. John's, and, ultimately, better health and growth.

Our search led us to Family Promise of Brevard, a ministry serving homeless families and working to get them back into permanent housing. There are currently 13 Brevard County agencies that seek to address homelessness in some way. Only Family Promise accepts intact families (the others do not accept men, or do not keep families together). This is a real and great need. The average stay with Family Promise is 34 days and 86% of the families have been able to get and maintain permanent housing since they began operations in Brevard in 2013. This an amazing success rate!

Our role would be to serve as a Host Congregation, having families come and stay here for one week at a time, four times per year. We would provide a safe place, three meals a day, bedding (FP provides the beds) and a warm welcome. Family Promise takes care of screening, selection, transportation, counseling, problems, etc.

They currently have 12 host congregations and are seeking a 13th which will allow a consistent schedule of four sessions per year. We would become the 13th. In addition, there are several

Support Congregations that for various reasons are unable to host, but are ready to assist with volunteers and other resources when needed.

In late February or early March (date to be determined), we will have representatives from Family Promise at both worship services to talk more about this ministry and what it would mean for St. John's. The vestry has already discussed this at some length and will take it up again at the February meeting. It is my hope and prayer that you will each engage this new ministry opportunity with enthusiasm and love! If you have thoughts or questions, please speak with a member of the planning team, or the vestry, or me. And please

commit in prayer for this new venture in the life of St. John's!

"Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me." Matthew 25:34-35

In Christ



Fr. Eric Turner

Notes from the Diocesan Convention

At the annual Parish meeting on January 29, Hope Johnson presented items from the convention. St. John's delegates were Anneke Bertsch, Kathy Oas, Hope Johnson, and Fr. Eric Turner.

The Bishop's address centered on the Great Commission. People meet Jesus through us and we are called to turn to Jesus as our center.

The importance and role of missions was presented. This is were Holy Trinity's Julie Brown and Charlene Turner brought this message to a local level.

Anneke Bertsch was honored for her twelve years of service to the Diocese, serving on the Diocesan Board, the Standing Committee, the Commission on Ministry, and four times as deputy to General Convention.

St. John's Rummage Sale is scheduled for Saturday, February 18th. Now is the time to begin gathering items to donate to the Sale. These will be stored in the Flower House - call Teresa Chernault at 321-254-6733 to coordinate your time/date of drop off. This effort takes many willing volunteers. Please notify Teresa of your willingness to help. Watch for more information in upcoming bulletins.



Keeping up with St. John's Online

St. John's Chat is an email "list" that allows you to keep up with the latest news at St. John's, prayer list updates, etc. You can also share things with others at St. John's. To subscribe, please just send your email address to Fr. Eric at eric@stjohnsmlb.org.

If you are on **Facebook**, you can also search "St. John's Episcopal Church" and like the page. Then you will get updates in your newsfeed, which you can respond to, or share with your friends.

St. John's **Weekly eNews** is a weekly (clever, huh?) email newsletter giving information on upcoming activities, what will be happening on Sunday, and other things. It includes some reflections from Fr. Eric on the lessons for the coming Sunday along with links and other information. This comes out every Thursday afternoon at 4 p.m. To subscribe, please send your email address to Fr. Eric at eric@stjohnsmlb.org.

And, of course, there is **St. John's website** at stjohnsmlb.org. You will find a wide variety of information there including schedules, the church calendar, archives of the "Good News", Sunday Ministry schedules, the latest eNews and much more. Poke around!

UPCOMING SERVICES OF INTEREST

Victoria Landing: The service will be on the second (note new schedule) Wednesday of the month, 10 a.m. in the Queen Palms Room (ask at the front desk). This is targeted primarily for the residents of Victoria Landing, but all are welcome! February's service will be on February 8 at 10 a.m.

Ash Wednesday services will be Wednesday, March 1 at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. Both services will include Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes.

SERMONS FOR FEBRUARY

As part of the vestry's desire to get our recently updated Vision, Mission and Values statement more integrated into the life of the congregation, and to increase awareness, Fr. Eric will be preaching on them for the first three weeks in February.

St. John's Book Club will continue after Easter. We are planning to read "The Great Divorce" by C. S. Lewis. This classic was originally published as a serial

in an Anglican periodical in 1944-45, then published in book form in 1945. In less than 150 pages, this book tells the imaginative story of a bus trip from hell to heaven, the various characters met along the way and, ultimately, the 'great divorce' between the two. C. S. Lewis writes in the book 'There are only two kinds of people in the end: those who say to God, 'Thy will be done,' and those to whom God says, in the end, 'Thy will be done.'" Watch for the date, following Easter.

St. John's Good News March 2017 issue will be published at the end of February. Please get your information to Katie Wilson at kcodlinwilson@cfl.rr.com by Tuesday, February 21.

Seaside Stitchers now meets at St. John's. Church members are welcome to join! The schedule varies, so please contact Shirley Muzzy (321-254-2206 or shirleymuzzy@aol.com).

Adult Christian Education meets every Sunday at 9 – 9:45 a.m. in the Parish Hall. We are studying the "letters to the seven churches" which is found in Revelation 2-3. At the beginning of the Book of Revelation, John brings Jesus' message to seven churches located around Asia Minor. Even though written almost 2000 years ago, the churches' strengths and problems are remarkably like those we face today. Join us on Sunday mornings as we see what we can learn about our life today!

Coffee Hour is a part of the Sunday morning experience that enjoyed by many, but it takes volunteers to make it happen. Please take a turn by signing up in the parish hall for a Sunday. And remember – you do not need to provide a full feast! Just put on the coffee, mix up the cold drinks, put out whatever food people bring in, and take care of the clean-up. If you enjoy coffee hour, sign up to help!

Converge: Our Joint Youth Ministry

Three Episcopal Churches in the area have teamed up to launch an exciting ministry for middle and high school churches: St. John's, along with Holy Apostles, Satellite Beach and St. David's, Cocoa Beach. The group is called "Converge" and meets every Sunday at 5:30 p.m. at the Schechter Community Center, 1089 S. Patrick Dr., Satellite Beach (corner of S. Patrick and Jackson).

For more information, visit cbey.weebly.com or go to Facebook and search for "Converge Brevard Episcopal Youth."

January Vestry Notes

The January 19, 2017 meeting was called to order by Father Eric with prayers and remembrances for friends and loved ones of the Vestry and the congregation.

Vestry Secretary: The Vestry elected Katie Wilson to fill the position. Katie is not a voting member of the Vestry, but that is not required for service as Secretary.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Steve Bradley presented the Summary report for the month and year ending December 31, 2016. December total income was \$19,724 against a monthly budgeted \$22,201. Total monthly expenses were \$17,926 against a budget of \$18,962. Total annual income was \$195,820 against a budget of \$211,486. Total 2016 annual expenses were \$205,493 against a budget amount of \$211,486. The 2016 deficit for the year is \$9,673. More detailed financial reports are available upon request from the church office.

2017 Budget: Treasurer Steve Bradley presented 2017 budget expense assumptions, pledge values, plate collections, and other receipts. Of note, no revenue is associated with 'Growth' income and all is based on 2017 pledges and documented giving in 2016. For 2017, there is no amount categorized in 'Risk Reduction' for those who fall short of pledges. Historically this amount was approximately \$3,000. 2017 budgeted collections are \$207,318 and budgeted expenses are \$214,542 resulting in a \$7,224 deficit. Ideas for overcoming the deficit were discussed and will be presented at the annual Parish meeting on Sunday, January 29, 2017. The Vestry voted to approve the 2017 budget as presented.

Planning Team : Family Promise of Brevard, a local nonprofit organization whose mission is to address family homelessness in our community - one family at a time - using existing resources, has risen to the top of the Planning Team list for St. John's involvement. This ministry, would be a challenging but doable endeavor. It aligns with the revised/ approved vision for St. John's. Brochures about Family Promise of Brevard were distributed to the Vestry for review. The ministry is large and about 25 community churches are involved. It has a clear outreach identity and resonated with the Planning Team. After discussion, all Vestry members agreed that St. John's support of the ministry was in order. The details about the ministry will be presented at the annual Parish meeting on Sunday, February 29, 2017,

Increasing my church contributions: Thoughts from a Vestry Member

Linda Fletcher is a Vestry member and oversees a single income household. As such, she is mindful of all her spending. She understands the need to be generous and fiscally responsible. She also understands the hardship a deficit can bring if not addressed. She prayed and reflected on this and has offered these ideas which she has used in the past and intends to continue in the future:

- When there a upward change in my income, am I able to tap into it?
- As tax season approaches I have, for the past 2 years, given 10% of my refund to the general fund above my normal pledge.
- I sold my car last year and gave 10% of my proceeds as an "extra".
- Consider times when you have non-fixed income that could be used to supplement your pledge
- My personal budget is based on 2 pay periods a month. There are 2 months with 3 pay periods. I plan to give 10% of the net pay of those 2 pay checks as an additional contribution

Important Information about Family Promise of Brevard

Family Promise of Brevard bills itself as “a community response of help and hope for homeless families of Brevard. It is a local, non-profit organization whose mission is to address family homelessness in our community, one family at a time, using existing resources. It’s one thing for a program to say what it does, quite another to demonstrate its effectiveness. What follows are a summary of benefits and the 2016 service report which speaks to how solidly they met their mission.

Summary of Program Benefits

For Guests

- Safe, homelike shelter where families can stay together
- Guests cite the caring of volunteers as one of the most important benefits
- Intensive case management to assist in finding housing and jobs and meeting other needs
- Guest families secure long-term housing

For Volunteers

- Opportunities to help homeless families directly; to make a difference
- Opportunity to do outreach within their own congregation or nearby location
- Wide range of volunteer activities to vary schedules and levels of commitment
- Opportunity for families to volunteer together

For Congregations

- Opportunity for outreach (within the congregation’s own facilities) focusing on the needs of people in the community
- Opportunity for participation in the community interfaith project
- Increased sense of community among members as they share the effort

For Community

- Cost-efficient mobilization of community resources
- Does not duplicate services already in the community; works with social service

agencies to provide counseling, job training, help with housing search, etc.

- Does not institutionalize shelter as a solution to homelessness
- Becomes a catalyst for other community initiatives, such as job counseling, parenting workshops, transitional housing, etc.

2016 Program Service Report

Total individuals served 83 (25 families)

Percent of guests who are children 51%

Percent of children under 5 44%

Average length of stay (days) 34

Status at Exit

Percent of families securing housing 86%

Percent of families exiting with employment 91%

Percent remaining in housing after a year 87%

Family Composition

Two-Parent Families 60%

Female Headed Single Parent Families 20%

Male Headed Single Parent Families 20%

Bible Studies

We hope that you are able to find one that meets with your regular schedule!

MONDAY AFTERNOON, 2 P.M. led by Hope Johnson,/ Location varies, so please contact Hope Johnson at 321.431.1048 for more information.

MONDAY EVENING, 7 P.M in Fr. Eric's office, led by Deacon Elizabeth... Contact Deacon Elizabeth at 321.777.0618 for details.

Tuesday evening, 5:30 p.m. in Fr. Eric's office there is a Bible study lead by Anneke Bertsch, coordinated by Katie Wilson. All are welcome! Please email Katie at kcodlinwilson@cfl.rr.com or leave a message at 321.213.4250. .

TUESDAY EVENING, 7 P.M. at Fr. Eric's home, 4581 Bellaluna Dr, W. Melbourne. Currently studying 2 Timothy.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, 1 P.M.: Bible study, led by Anneke Bertsch at the home of Cindy Marshall, 857 Oakwood Dr., Suntree. Call Cindy at 537-7907 for more information.

TGIF: Men's breakfast and Bible study, Fridays, 8 a.m. at Memaw's, beachside, 600 E. Eau Gallie Blvd. 254-3365. In addition to solving all the world's problems, we are studying the book of Hebrews..

MARY'S CIRCLE, a women's Bible Study, studying the Apostle Paul in the book of Acts, gathers on the first Saturday of the month in the Parish Hall at 8:30 a.m. February gathering will be February 11 (NOTE change from normal schedule). Contact Deacon Elizabeth Murray at 321-777-0168 for more information.

Military Prayer List

Almighty God, we commend to your gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces...

The Book of Common Prayer

Andrew, David, Daniel, Luke, Brandon, Matt, Zachary, Jeremy, Craig, Tripp, Austin, Dobson, Murray, Josh, Joel, Tyler, Abby, Stephen, Preston, Jarrett, Adam, Nate, Sergio, Justin, Ryan, Jimmy, Michael, Ted, Mikala, Carl Jr., Matthew, Julian, Andrew, Mike, Smith

Daily Bread - St. John's has two teams! We provide food serving teams for fourth Thursday (as we always have) and the third Sunday (new), 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Regarding the third Sunday team, please contact Doug Ludwig (321-243-3686 or ludwig.murray@att.net) and for the fourth Thursday team, please contact Ian Johnson (321-674-0932 or johnsoni051075@gmail.com) The duty days for February are Sunday, February 19 and Thursday, February 23. Your help is greatly appreciated!

Happy_Birthday

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year.

The Book of Common Prayer

02/02 Dallas Smith	02/02 Tyler Heusinkveld	02/03 Anne Scruggs
02/08 Bill Chernault	02/08 Pam Jarvela	02/09 Pam Davis 02/12 Linda Janse
02/13 Randy Evans	02/14 Chuck Strissel	02/18 Hope Johnson
02/19 Angie Brown	02/19 John Campbell	02/22 Elizabeth Turner
02/26 Dick Martin	02/26 Gloria Kenworthy	
	02/27 Bob Scruggs	

BirthDay Card Ministry

January —February: Carol Yackulics

March — April: Roberta Ardinger-Smith

May — June: Anneke Bertsch

July — August: Angie Brown

Sept — October: Linda Fletcher

November —December: Rosie Scheunemann

A Eucharist Minister's Prayer

The following was provided by Tessa Scarboro, one of our beloved LEMs at the 7:45 a.m. service. We are reminded that LEMs not only perform tasks, they are serving at the altar, with reverence and love.

From Psalm 26

Give judgment for me, O Lord; for I walk the path of perfection. I trust in the Lord, I have not wavered.

Examine me, Lord, and try me, O test my heart and mind, for your love is before my eyes and I walk according to your truth.

to prove my innocence, I wash my hands and take my place at your altar, singing a song of thanksgiving, proclaiming all your wonders.

O Lord, I love the house where you dwell, the place where your glory abides. My foot stands on level ground: I will bless the Lord in the assembly.

Date	Feb 05	Feb 12	Feb 19	Feb 26
10:00 A.M. Service				
Greeters	A. Bertsch A. Weeks	I. and M. Johnson	L. Fletcher J. Miller	A. Weeks J. Lester
Ushers	J. Miller	F. Scheunemann R. Scheunemann	S. & G. Bradley	D. Ludwig P. McRee
Lector	A. Weeks	C. Turner	G. Dunbar	A. Lester
LEM	A. Hoffman	S. Manzer	I. Johnson	C. Marshall
Acolytes	A. Campbell	W. Lester	R. Crane	J. Lester
Nursery	R. Scheunemann D. Crane	L. Calvert R. Crane	S. Tuten M. Schexnayder	C. Tuten TBD
King's Kids	J. Miller E. Murray	T. Chernault E. Murray	J. Miller E. Murray	T. Chernault E. Murray
Counter	A. Sykes	V. Crane	A. Hoffman	K. Wilson
Sound	A. Lester	S. Bradley	A. Lester	S. Bradley
V. LEM	H. Johnson	C. Marshall	S. Kendall	S. & S. Manzer
Prayers	TBD	C. Turner	H. Johnson	A. Bertsch
7:30 A.M. Service				
Greeter	E. & R. Huffman	A. Brown	D. Disney	T. Greene
Usher	S. Hayes	B. Baumgardt	S. Hayes	B. Baumgardt
Lector	P. Jarvela	H. Martin	P. Perian	L. Miller
LEM	T. Scarboro	R. Huffman	T. Scarboro	R. Huffman
<i>Please arrange a substitute if you are unable to serve as scheduled. The published schedule will not necessarily reflect those changes.</i>				

Ministers Needed for Ash Wednesday

If you are a greeter, usher, lector, LEM, or acolyte, please consider serving at one or both of the Ash Wednesday services. Please email Fr. Eric, eric@stjohnsmlb.org, and copy Katie Wilson kcodlinwilson@cfl.rr.com, so you can be added to the schedule. Thanks so much!

Date	Mar 01 Ash Wednesday	Mar 05	Mar 12	Mar 19	Mar 26
	7:00 P.M.	10:00 A.M. Service			
Greeters		A. Bertsch A. Weeks	I. and M. Johnson	L. Fletcher J. Miller	A. Weeks J. Lester
Ushers		B. Chernault	J. Miller	F. Scheunemann R. Scheunemann	D. Ludwig P. McRee
Lector		J. Roddan	A. Weeks	B. Chernault	C. Turner
LEM		A. Hoffman	A. Bertsch	K. Oas	H. Johnson
Acolytes		A. Campbell	W. Lester	R. Crane	J. Lester
Nursery		R. Scheunemann D. Crane	L. Calvert R. Crane	S. Tuten M. Schexnayder	C. Tuten TBD
King's Kids		J. Miller E. Murray	T. Chernault E. Murray	J. Miller E. Murray	T. Chernault E. Murray
Counter		V. Crane	G. Bradley	A. Sykes	A. Hoffman
Sound		A. Lester	S. Bradley	A. Lester	S. Bradley
V.LEM		A. Hoffman	H. Johnson	C. Marshall	S. Kendall
Prayers		TBD	C. Turner	H. Johnson	A. Bertsch
	11:A.M.	7:30 A.M. Service			
Greeter		H. Martin	E. & R. Huffman	A. Brown	T. Greene
Usher		S. Hayes	B. Baumgardt	S. Hayes	B. Baumgardt
Lector		P. Jarvela	H. Martin	P. Perian	L. Miller
LEM		T. Scarboro	R. Huffman	T. Scarboro	R. Huffman
<i>Please arrange a substitute if you are unable to serve as scheduled. The published schedule will not necessarily reflect those changes.</i>					

February

2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29 7:45 AM_Holy Eucharist Rite I 9 AM_Annual Parish Meeting 10 AM_Holy Eucharist Rite II	30 Office Closed 2 PM_Bible Study 7 PM_Bible Study	31 6:30 PM_Cub Scouts	1 1 PM__Bible Study 7 PM_Choir Practice	2	3 8 AM_TGIF	4
5 Scout Sunday 7:45 AM_Holy Eucharist Rite I 9 AM_Adult Christian Ed 10 AM_Holy Eucharist Rite II 5:30 PM_Converge	6 Office Closed 2 PM_Bible Study 7 PM_Bible Study	7 5:30 PM_Bible Study 6:30 PM_Cub Scouts	8 11 AM_Holy Communion & Healing Service 1 PM__Bible Study 7 PM_Choir Practice	9	10 8 AM_TGIF	11 8:30 AM_Mary's Circle
12 7:45 AM_Holy Eucharist Rite I 9 AM_Adult Christian Ed 10 AM_Holy Eucharist Rite II 5:30 PM_Converge	13 Office Closed 2 PM_Bible Study 7 PM_Bible Study	14 5:30 PM_Bible Study 6:30 PM_Cub Scouts	15 1 PM_Bible Study 7 PM_Choir Practice	16 7 PM_Vestry	17 8 AM_TGIF	18 8 AM_Yard Sale
19 7:45 AM_Holy Eucharist Rite I 9 AM_Adult Christian Ed 10 AM_Holy Eucharist Rite II 10:30 AM_Daily Bread 5:30 PM_Converge	20 Office Closed 2 PM_Bible Study 7 PM_Bible Study	21 5:30 PM_Bible Study 6:30 PM_Cub Scouts	22 1 PM_Bible Study 7 PM_Choir Practice	23 10:30 AM Daily Bread Duty	24 8 AM_TGIF	25
26 7:45 AM_Holy Eucharist Rite I 9 AM_Adult Christian Ed 10 AM_Holy Eucharist Rite II 5:30 PM_Converge	27 Office Closed 2 PM_Bible Study 7 PM_Bible Study	28 5:30 PM_Bible Study 6:30 PM_Cub Scouts	1 1 PM__Bible Study 7 PM__Choir Practice	2	3 8 AM_TGIF	4

A Long Obedience in the Same Direction is a long title for both a great book and a great concept. Eugene Peterson, translator of “The Message” paraphrase Bible translation and author of many books, is that combination that is all too rare today – a scholar and pastor. This means that what he writes is rooted in sound scholarship, but is also accessible and practical for today’s Christian. Christian faith is not a “once and done” thing, but is, in fact, a life-long obedience in the same direction.

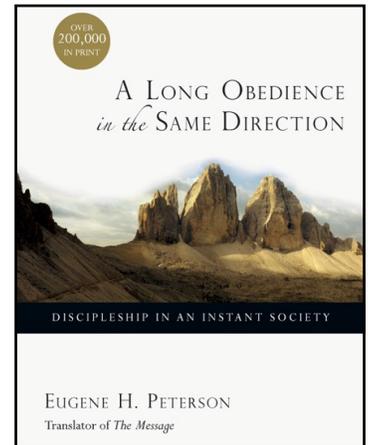
We will begin this study at the beginning of Lent and will carry through the season of Easter. Working through Psalms 120 – 135, we will join the pilgrims of ancient Israel as they sing the “Psalms of Ascents” on their pilgrimage to Jerusalem and in doing so, we will find the essentials of the life of faith expressed in a fresh way for us to hear today.

The Sunday morning classes and sermons will all follow the themes of the book, and I am preparing study guides which our small group Bible studies can also use as we walk with the ancient Israelites and our fellow sojourners today.

This study will be our Lenten program, so it is hoped that those not currently involved in one of our small group Bible studies will take this opportunity to join one. A signup sheet will be available in the Parish Hall.

I would encourage folks to purchase a copy of the book which is widely available in both print and digital formats. Or, if you sign up in the Parish Hall, I will order a batch and you can pick them up here for \$15 each.

Fr. Eric Turner



St. John’s Episcopal Church
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