



ST. JOHN'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE GOOD NEWS

March - April 2025

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

SUNDAY

9:00 a.m. - Christian Formation

10:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist, Rite II
(In-person and Livestream)

MONDAY

5:30 p.m. - AA. Parish Hall

TUESDAY

5:30 p.m. - Scouts in the Parish Hall

WEDNESDAY

7:00 p.m. - Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY

9:00 a.m. - Staff meeting
6:00 p.m. - Evening Prayer
6:30 p.m. - AA Ladies

FRIDAY

8:00 a.m. - TGIF (Men's Breakfast and Bible study), La Loma Coney Island, 1180 Aurora Road, Melbourne

Visit Stjohnsmlb.org for links and more info.

FROM THE INTERIM RECTOR:

Dear Friends,

This newsletter covers all of Lent and the beginning of Easter - the period which is at the very center of our life of faith, as followers of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 5, with services at Noon (recited) and at 7 pm (with Choir).

The season of Lent has its own character, with its own sights and sounds. LENT is an old Anglo-Saxon word for "Spring," derived from the lengthening of the daylight hours. (Appropriately, the first Sunday in Lent this year brings us the beginning of Daylight-Saving Time!) Lent is a sparse and seasonal fast of 40 days which leads to and prepares us for the glorious feast of Easter. It is also, traditionally, the time for the Church to prepare persons for Baptism or the renewal of their Baptismal promises. On the First Sunday in Lent, we begin with The Great Litany, created by Archbishop of Canterbury Thomas Cranmer in 1544, five years before his publication of the first Book of Common Prayer (1549). The Great Litany is a prayer for the exorcism of all the imaginable evils in our lives. The color of the season is purple, which symbolizes both royalty and penance; no flowers adorn the altar; and there are no organ preludes or postludes. The word "alleluia" is omitted, as is the Gloria in Excelsis. All of this is a sort of liturgical "fast" for the soul, which erupts into joyful resurrection abandon at Easter. Elsewhere in this issue, you will see the schedule for Holy Week and Easter (April 20th this year). In the meantime, in the words of the Ash Wednesday Liturgy: "I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's Holy Word."

In Christ,

Mother Susan Davidson
Interim Rector



Thank You!!

The publication date of the last “Good News” was too early for this, but Jerry and I both wish to thank all in the congregation for the most generous gifts given to us from “The Parson’s Purse” in December. We are humbled by and grateful for your generosity of friendship, support, and material resources. And thanks so much for the great surprise birthday party!



“GOOD NEWS”

May - June 2025

Schedule & Deadline

The deadline for the next issue of “The Good News” will be **Tuesday, April 15**. Please email or deliver your submissions to office@stjohnsmlb.org by **April 15, 2025**.



From the Senior Warden’s Desk

The annual meeting on 1-26-25 was well attended and many positive comments were made. A statement was made that it was the most up-beat meeting in a long time! I have spoken to Canon Ellis and within the next 30 days we should receive names of clergy candidates to consider. It is possible this could be a part time position due to our finances but this is not cast in stone! Please keep the search team and the vestry in your prayers. – Kathy Oas



Fellowship Coffee Hour

To continue this much enjoyed ministry a sign-up sheet is in the Parish Hall for volunteers as they are needed every week to set-up, serve, and clean-up.



Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday worship, with the imposition of Ashes, will be on March 5 at 12 noon (without music) and 7 p.m. (with music).



Lenten Soup Suppers: Inquirer’s Class

The program for the Lenten Wednesday Soup Suppers will be an “Inquirer’s Class” – preparation for those interested in Confirmation or Reception into the Episcopal Church, and for Reaffirmation, for those returning to the church after a period of being away. This also will be an opportunity for lifelong Episcopalians just to “brush up” on what it means to be an Episcopalian!

Lenten Soup Suppers will begin Wednesday, March 12 and will continue through April 10. Soup’s on at 5:30 p.m., program begins at 6 and we will be done by 7 p.m. As in the past years, we will ask certain groups around church to make a special effort to provide soup on certain Wednesdays.



Here is the schedule for the church groups who will provide the soup:

March 12	March 19	March 26	April 3	April 10
Lay Readers, LEMS, Altar Guild, Flowers	Ushers and Greeters	Daughters of the King	Vestry	Choir

We will make this available via Zoom for those who cannot attend, but in-person participation is encouraged.

A Worshiping Community

Looking Ahead to Holy Week and Easter



Passion/Palm Sunday, April 13

We will begin our 10 a.m. worship in the park, weather permitting, with the Liturgy of the Palms, then into the Sanctuary for the continuation of the Liturgy.



Maundy Thursday, April 17

Worship will be at 7 p.m. with foot washing and stripping of the altar.

Good Friday, April 18

Liturgy will be held at 12 noon and 7 p.m.



Easter Sunrise, April 20

Worship will be at 7 p.m. with foot washing and stripping of the altar.

Easter Service, April 20

Celebration will be at 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

Choral Evensong

Sunday, March 10



EVENSONG
A GATHERING OF
WORSHIP & PRAYER

We will again offer Evensong on Sunday, March 16th at 7:00 PM. Simply put, this is Evening prayer with music, presented in our beautiful worship space by candlelight. Once again, we will have a choir made up of members of a number of choirs from other churches in the area.

One change this year is that unfortunately we will not be offering dinner before the service. Invite your friends and neighbors and plan to join us for one of our most beautiful worship offerings. We think you will be glad you did.

Evening Prayer at St. John's

We look forward to seeing you at our weekly Evening Prayer (Vespers) service on Thursdays, 6 p.m. This brief gathering will be an opportunity for renewal of focus in the course of our lives. If you would care to assist as a reader for these services, please email me at mailjbh@gmail.com or speak with Mother Susan.

- Jamie Hamilton

Prayer at the Altar

Prayer is available at the altar after Sunday service. If you need prayer, we encourage you to come to the altar. If anyone in the congregation would like to be an intercessor in prayer at the altar after the service, please see Mother Susan.

Guided by Scripture



Daughters of the King

The Daughters of the King have volunteered to share Coffee Hour hosting duties with other parishioners after the Sunday service. Our chapter recently sponsored the luncheon for the Annual Meeting. Special thanks to Sallie Razor for donating the turkey, Gail Dunbar for providing the ham, and Laure Bennett for setting up the tables. We are grateful to the entire St. John's congregation for contributing the wonderful array of side dishes and desserts.

Following the recent flood at New Life Mission, Christ Episcopal Church, Suntree, reached out to them to assess their needs. NLM currently houses 55 children and they urgently require diapers and wipes. Christ Church has asked our Chapter to join with them for a "March Madness Diaper Drive," and ask each congregation to participate in the collection. Items may be brought to the DOK table in the Parish Hall, or left in the office.

The Chapter meetings are the first Sunday of every month, and we always welcome new members.

Prayer Request Box in the Sanctuary

A prayer request box is available in the Sanctuary beside the Daughters of the King banner. The Daughters have taken a vow to pray for others and we take this vow seriously. All prayer requests are strictly confidential, and we, as Daughters, honor that confidentiality.

Tending to your Spiritual Life

Let us resist the temptation to believe that we are all too busy to make time for prayer and devotion in our lives. I encourage you – even urge you – to set aside just a few minutes each day to sit (or walk) in quiet contemplation of the beauty and wonder of this world which God has created for us and given to us to enjoy and maintain. I encourage you to **use the Daily Office as it is given us in the Book of Common Prayer** in both the language of Rite I and Rite II: Morning Prayer, Noonday Prayer; Evening Prayer, and Compline (bedtime prayer) are all published in the BCP, both in their formal version and in a shorter version for Individuals and Families (beginning on p. 136). If you wish to join others around the world in the Daily Office, try going to missionstclare.com and you will find the services complete with hymns. It's a delightful way to begin or end the day! **The devotional booklet "Forward Day by Day,"** published by the Episcopal Church is available for daily reading online. I hope you will find them helpful in strengthening your prayer life!

TGIF Men's Breakfast and Bible Study

Dear Brothers in Christ, We warmly invite you to join us for our Men's Bible Study at LaLoma Restaurant on Friday mornings. Our gathering takes place from 7:30 AM to 9:00 AM, with breakfast served at 8:00 AM.

This is a wonderful opportunity to deepen our faith, share fellowship, and support one another in our spiritual journeys. As we break bread together and delve into God's Word, we strengthen the bonds that unite us as a community of believers.



Whether you are a long-time member or new to our church, we welcome you to be a part of this enriching experience. Let's grow in faith and friendship as we seek to live out God's will in our daily lives. We look forward to seeing you there! In Christ's love, Paul A. Burleson, (321) 271-1636.

Outreach Focus – Sharing His Love

March

Our Focus this month is Life Recaptured. Refuge & Freedom

Life Recaptured is a local program that assists girls to escape the nightmare of sex trafficking. Their residential safe homes provide refuge and freedom for their residents, and they work closely with local law enforcement as well as contacts in other areas. This vile trade operates right under our noses here in Brevard County, and we are delighted that God has opened a way for us to support this rescue. Florida is #3 in the nation for sex trafficking.

Their gift shop and beauty boutique are open Monday through Saturday at 5515 N. Courtney Parkway, Merritt Island, and well worth the visit. Their Connections Café, 3757 N.U.S. 1, open Wednesday through Saturday and offers delicious food. On Saturday they also hold a farmer's market. Visit liferecaptured.org for more information.

April

Our Outreach partner this month is Nana's House whose mission is to provide a safe, secure, loving home where neglected, abused, needy or abandoned children can experience God's love and healing. Nana's House is 100% community funded and every penny donated goes directly to caring for the children. They do not accept State funding. They are 100% volunteers – no paid staff. They are in partnership with the organization One More Child, and all the foster families are licensed and trained by them to care for children in the state foster system. They are governed by a Board of Directors who meet quarterly to oversee our activities and finances. Their indicators for progress are measured by the number of children they can help, the number of qualified foster parents they can recruit, and the devotion of their volunteers. Visit nanaschildrenshome.com for more information.



Family Promise



If you would like to help contact:

Contact: Ben Kendall 832-229-0142 (cell),
ben.kendall@gmail.com (email)

Contact: Linda Fletcher 321-704-7100 (cell),
lcalvert1956@yahoo.com (email)

Outreach Meetings

The Outreach Committee will meet the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. on Zoom.

Upcoming meetings are March 4, and April 1.
A Zoom link for the Outreach meeting is on the St. John's website calendar.

Daily Bread



The upcoming duty days are March 6, and April 3, 10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

If you would like to volunteer, please email the office.

Outreach Partners Looking for Volunteers

The following Outreach partners are always looking for volunteers to help with various projects:

Daily Bread
The Children's Hunger Project
Complementary Cancer Care

St. John's Endowment Fund

The fund is intended to be managed in perpetuity, meaning the principal will not be invaded. You may want to consider making a gift to the endowment fund as a direct gift of cash or as a planned gift. Consult your financial manager about gifts to the endowment fund to possibly reduce your taxes. Endowment Fund brochures are available in the parish hall.



St. John's Annual Parish Meeting Notes

The St. John's annual Parish Meeting was held Sunday, January 26, 2025 in the Parish Hall and remotely on Zoom. Approximately 40 people were in attendance. The Vestry members will remain active until after a new rector is in place. Reports given by the Wardens. Treasurer Keith Salmon, assisted by Andy Weeks, presented a review of the 2024 financials and the 2025 budget. The budget is based on 3 months of an interim rector and 6 months of a full-time rector. Hard copy of the presentation was made available to participants. In summary:

- 2024 Revenue _ \$254,417
- 2024 Expenditures _ \$204,765
- 2024 Surplus _ \$49,652
- 2024 Cash on Hand _ \$169,283
- 2024 Outreach Collections/Distributions _ \$9,786

The 2025 Budget presentation consisted of Budget versus 2024 Actual, including variance. In summary:

- 2025 Budget Revenue _ \$251,000
- 2025 Budget Expenditures _ \$245,000
- 2025 Budget Surplus/Deficit _ \$6,000 Surplus

Dr. Jerry Davidson presented the report from Diocesan convention, Jamie Hamilton presented the Search Committee report, and The Rev. Susan Davidson presented the Rector's Report. - Katie Wilson.

Vestry Notes

Vestry approved Minutes are now posted on the bulletin board in the parish hall.

November 21

Treasurer's Report: \$15,000 surplus shown at the end of October. The surplus started accumulating in July when Fr. Eric retired. We are paying property tax on the gazebo which Keith believes is new this year.

Senior Warden Report: Kitchen door has been replaced. Andy Weeks will design a card with information for Christmas services. Wavecrest, without consent installed new door and purchased a new air conditioner at a cost of \$800. Keith sent a letter to Wavecrest advising correct procedure.

Rector's Report: The bishop's visit rescheduled due to Bishop Dabney Smith's death.

Rector Search Update: The Search Committee is consolidating the responses from the church meeting. Vestry will review. A Farmers' Market in the park suggested to introduce people to St. John's. The Vestry approved.

Vestry Notes (cont.)

December 19:

Treasurer: Presented a draft of the 2025 budget. The Vestry requested clarification of the 2024 budgeted items for the Organ Scholar and Supply Organist. The Diocesan pledge will increase 11-12% in the 2025 budget. Rent for the Shady Lane property will increase beginning in March.

Stewardship: 41 pledges received, \$170,092 pledged vs. \$150,836 for 2024.

Senior Warden: Wavecrest-electrical panel replaced to meet commercial standards. Clean-up work continues slowly. Original Parish Register discovered and will be protected.

Junior Warden: Replaced A/C unit and made repairs at rental properties.

Rector's Report: Ben and Jerry Davidson have volunteered as delegates at the Diocesan Convention and Katie will be the alternate. The Vestry will vote on the delegates after the service on January 5th. Angie Brown's funeral, December 28. Burial in the Memorial Garden. Annual Meeting – January 26, 2025.

Rector Search Update: All inputs received from the committee members and congregants over the last few months will be formalized and the responses forwarded to Canon Dan. The committee will then wait the response of the Diocese.

Financial Summary for November, 2024				
	Nov 2024 Budget	Nov 2024 Actual	2024 Annual Budget	2024 Annual Actual
Income	\$ 20,897	\$ 30,210	\$ 237,493	\$ 228,387
Expenses	\$ 18,414	\$ 12,336	\$ 239,978	\$ 194,570
Net	\$ 2,482	\$ 17,874	\$ - 2,485	\$ 33,816

Financial Summary for December, 2024				
	Dec 2024 Budget	Dec 2024 Actual	2024 Annual Budget	2024 Annual Actual
Income	\$ 24,765	\$ 26,031	\$ 262,258	\$ 254,418
Expenses	\$ 18,406	\$ 10,195	\$ 258,384	\$ 204,765
Net	\$ 6,359	\$ 15,836	\$ 3,874	\$ 49,652

Books for Schoolchildren



Dear St John's Friends, thank you so very much for your wonderful response to my request for books. The teacher and the children in the Second-Grade class where I volunteer are delighted with the generous donations. Miss P's class library is now overflowing! It has inspired some of the other teachers to create classroom libraries too. The children are excited to show me the books they are reading, especially when they are books I have brought in. Just think! Your kind gifts of books are giving a new generation a fabulous world of imagination and knowledge, and greater opportunities in life through a love of reading. Thank you again. Vanessa+



Wholeness to Freedom Food Pantry

Just a reminder that we are still collecting non-perishable food for the food pantry in Eau Gallie. Located on Ferndale Avenue they are open on Thursdays only.



This is such an important Outreach program. Thanks to Linda Fletcher who delivers the food each week. We give thanks for the Seaside Stitchers and their continued support of food donations.

If you remember Edna Fitzgerald, a long-time member of St. John's who regularly came to the first service and as regularly brought food for Wholeness to Freedom. We would like to thank her daughter who donates food for the pantry in Edna's memory.

Seaside Stitchers



A big thank you to the Seaside Stitchers for regularly donating food for the local Food Pantry. Very much needed right now.

The Stitchers meet in the Parish Hall at 9:00 a.m. on the 1st Monday, and 2nd and 3rd Thursday of the month. If you are interested in joining the sewing group stop by and join in. If you would like more information contact Shirley Muzzy 321-254-2206 or shirleymuzzy@aol.com.



St. John's Pet Cemetery



Our Pet Cemetery is located on the East side of the sanctuary and lovingly maintained by Amy Lacy and Laure Bennett.

Please contact the office if you would like to have your pet laid to rest there.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

BIRTHDAYS

March:

Amy Lacy	3/4	Ray McClendon	3/14	Ginny Bradley	3/18
Olivia Brotherton	3/9	Marie Salmon	3/14	Laure Bennett	3/19
Jen Lester	3/10	Michael Razor	3/15	Ryan Hambel	3/19
Linda Fletcher	3/12	Sandra Pekar	3/17		

April:

Quentin Campbell	4/3	Clarissa Harrell	4/9
Lorraine Burluson	4/4	John Hawkins	4/22
David Langenback	4/5	David Kaleel	4/25

ANNIVERSARIES

March:

Rudy & Nicole Tuten 3/11

April:

Dick & Pam Jarvela	4/5	Austin & Cati Stitzel	4/20
Doug & Gail Dunbar	4/16	Lee & Nancy Steininger	4/22
Debbie & Quentin Campbell	4/19		

Exit Doors in an Emergency

In the unlikely event of an emergency exit routes from the parish hall are posted on the bulletin board. If you are new to St. John's please take the time to review these routes.

Apart from the main door into the Sanctuary there are also exit doors in both the right and left sacristy, either side of the altar.

Loaning of Church Items

If you would like to borrow tables, chairs, cribs, linens etc. please speak with Kathy Oas, Sr. Warden or Paul Mitz, Jr. Warden, first as there might be an event on the schedule where these items are needed. And, of course, we need to keep track of the church's property.

Please contact Kathy at kmoas40@gmail.com; Paul at 321-288-4050, or email the church office.



Military Prayer List

Every year we update the military prayer list, adding the new military members and removing those who are no longer serving in the military. Please submit or resubmit those members you want to be on our military prayer list. If you want to add a name, email the person's name to office@stjohnsmlb.org

Christian Formation

Sunday morning 9:00 a.m. meet in the Parish Hall for Christian Formation.

Women in the Bible is the focus study now.

Children will meet in the chapel.



KEEPING UP WITH ST. JOHN'S ONLINE



St. John's Chat - an email list to receive the latest updates from St. John's. You can also share things with the parish this way.

St. John's Weekly eNews - will be sent periodically to promote events.

St. John's YouTube Channel - you will find worship live streams and sermons, and links to all past and upcoming worship services.

Visit stjohnsmlb.org and click on **Worship Live Stream**.

St. John's Website at stjohnsmlb.org. A variety of information including schedules, the calendar, archives of the "Good News", Sunday Ministry schedules, the latest eNews and much more.

Visit Facebook - search for "St. John's Episcopal Church, Melbourne" and like our page. You will receive updates in your newsfeed, notifications when we are live, and more.

To subscribe or to contact St. John's - email office@stjohnsmlb.org.

Mar 2	Daughters of the King, in the chapel, at 11:30 a.m.
Mar 4	Outreach Meeting, Zoom, 7:00 p.m.
Mar 5	Ash Wednesday Worship, 12 noon and 7:00 p.m.
Mar 6	Daily Bread, 10:30 a.m.
Mar 12	Lenten Soup Supper, Parish Hall, 5:30 p.m.
Mar 16	Choral Evensong, 7:00 p.m.
Mar 19	Lenten Soup Supper, Parish Hall, 5:30 p.m.
Mar 20	Vestry Meeting, Chapel & Zoom, 7:00 p.m.
Mar 26	Lenten Soup Supper, Parish Hall, 5:30 p.m.
Apr 1	Outreach Meeting, Zoom, 7:00 p.m.
Apr 2	Lenten Soup Supper, Parish Hall, 5:30 p.m.
Apr 3	Daily Bread, 10:30 a.m.
Apr 6	Daughters of the King, in the chapel, at 11:30 a.m.
Apr 9	Lenten Soup Supper, Parish Hall, 5:30 p.m.
Apr 13	Passion/Palm Sunday Celebration, 10:00 a.m.
Apr 17	Maundy Thursday Worship, 7 p.m.
Apr 17	Vestry Meeting, Chapel & Zoom, 7:00 p.m. (to be rescheduled)
Apr 18	Good Friday Liturgy, noon & 7:00 p.m.
Apr 20	Easter Sunrise Service in the Park, 7 a.m.
Apr 20	Easter Festival Worship, 10 a.m.

Many meetings include Zoom. Check the web page calendar for details.

ZOOM and Livestream Links: All Zoom meeting and Livestream event links are available by visiting stjohnsmlb.org > Parish Life > Calendar or by sending an email to office@stjohnsmlb.org.



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