

The Evangelist

March 2022



A Newsletter
for Saint John's
Episcopal Church
Friends & Families

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Lenten Greetings!

Several years ago, I had the opportunity to listen to professor and author James K.A. Smith at a clergy retreat. Dr. Smith teaches philosophy at Calvin University and his main interests as a professor are in the works of St. Augustine and twentieth century theologian and philosopher, Charles Taylor. When he spoke to our group, he shared with us a conversation he had with one of his children some years ago, when shopping malls were busier than they are now. They were discussing the regular patterns of travel to the mall, the things one could expect to see, and the behaviors one could observe there. Dr. Smith had concluded that the trip to the mall was in itself a bit of a liturgy, though not one offered to the glory of Almighty God. He wanted to share this insight with his teenage son, but while his son was somewhat interested in the topic, he was much more interested in hanging out with his friends and getting a burger in the food court.

As we laughed, Dr. Smith posed an honest question: what formed his son's desires for hang outs and burgers? Maybe it was simple: maybe his friends are really cool and the burgers especially delicious. But what if, Dr. Smith pushed, that the rhythm and process of going to the mall not only reinforced his behaviors but influenced his very desires?



Dr. Smith was walking us through the thesis that marks almost all of his teaching and written work: that our worship shapes us and that we might be surprised at what we worship when we take a critical look at our lives. Unsurprisingly, I think Lent affords followers of Jesus the chance to be critical of the little liturgies of our lives, to what (or whom) are they offered, and what they might produce in us. Of course, the hope of the Church is that by participation in liturgical life, in the life prayer in the Spirit, the faithful would grow in union with Christ. Again, the season offers possibilities for new or renewed spiritual practice and therefore the hope that our rhythm and process of prayer and praise will draw our affections to God.

This season of Lent, we'll be reading Dr. Smith's book, *You Are What You Love*. My prayer is that you'll take some time to join us on Wednesday nights for worship and discussion as we await the Spirit to search our lives and draw us closer to God in Christ. I'm very much looking forward to being with you this Holy season, my friends!

Yours,

The Rev. David Burnsted, Rector



From Our Senior Warden

I was so delighted to see everyone who attended the Annual Meeting. Thank you so much for your dedicated and thoughtful engagement in the life of Saint John's. To all those who stood for election to the Vestry, thank you so, so much for being willing to serve our congregation in a leadership role.



To new vestry members Bard Moss, Jace Pavlik, Elizabeth Osborn, Peggy Schroedter, and Kristine Taylor – welcome! To Marc McCaw – thank you for taking on the big role of Junior Warden! I am excited to serve with all of you and look forward to discovering the individual gifts and talents that you will add to our work.

As I asked of everyone at the Annual Meeting, please pray for us: that we will support Father David and his ministries in the best interests of our parish, that we'll work together in harmony, and that we'll be wise in our decisions.

I wish you a prayerful and meaningful Lenten journey this month.

- Susan Walker



Treasurer's Update



I happened to read an article by Dave Ramsey that I would like to share about characteristics of a debt-free church. According to Ramsey, there are five characteristics of a debt-free church. These are:

Trusts God completely. As the congregation learns to rely on God for what they need, the church as a whole does too. Leaders and members don't look to debt to provide things they want. They trust that He will provide it, in His time. The borrower is slave to the lender, even in church!

Saves money consistently. Proverbs 21:20 says, "In the house of the wise are stores of choice food and oil, but a foolish man devours all he has." The debt-free church trains the congregation to save for the future and practices what they preach. Many churches take a "use it or lose it" approach to their cash flow, but debt-free churches have a spending plan in place that involves saving for future expenses. Having cash saved up is vital for the church to survive and prosper.

Recognizes God's ownership. When we recognize that God owns it all, and that we are simply asset managers for Him, it impacts the decisions we make with money. Debt-free churches work to manage all of the resources God has entrusted to them in a way that honors Him. The debt-free church has a healthy budget that leaders agree on and communicate about often.

Embraces its God-given mission. Ministry takes money! Churches on the debt-free path are freer to fund the vision and mission God has given them because they aren't shackled to payments. A healthy budget ties into the mission and prioritizes the church's vision by creating a workable spending plan.

Commits to lifelong generosity. Debt-free people and debt-free churches are more generous – because they are free to be! Oftentimes the heart to give is there, but people or churches don't feel like they can give the way they want to. When a church has a healthy spending and saving plan, they find that there is more money to give away. And the spirit of generous people and churches are winsome to the Father!

Treasurer's 2021 Recap

On page three you will find the financial statement snapshot for our church for the year ending December 31, 2021. I would like to thank all of those who have assisted me in presenting the financial statements, including our chief of operations, Debbie Ainley, the finance committee members, Tom Schroedter, Debbie Luthey, George Dotson, Marc McCaw and Father David, and our 2021 wardens, Susan Walker and Doug Crews.

We ended the year with net loss of (\$98,326). The recap of 2021 finances of the Parish includes the following:

THE VESTRY OF SAINT JOHN'S

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| Senior Warden | Susan Walker |
| Junior Warden | Marc McCaw |
| Clerk | Hillary Cinocca |
| Treasurer | Bill Chevaillier |
| Chancellor | Jeff Baum |
| Members - | |
| Chris Barber | Elizabeth Osburn |
| Nick Bradford | Jace Pavlik |
| Susan Lyons | Peggy Schroedter |
| Bard Moss | Trent Shores |
| Charlie Nutter | Kristine Taylor |
| Imona Omole | Barrett Waller |

Treasurer's Update Continues on page 3.



	Actual	Budget
2021 Income		
Total Pledges & Contributions	959,035	938,621
Total Other Income	59,071	108,621
2021 Total Income	1,018,106	1,047,242
2021 Total Expenses	1,235,432	1,358,703
Net Operating Income	(217,326)	(311,461)
Rainy Day Fund Withdrawals	119,000	311,461
2021 Net Income	(98,326)	-0-

Summer Camp. St. Crispin's camp is operated by the Episcopal Diocese of Oklahoma. It offers sessions for many age groups throughout the summer. The camp's goal is: teaching young people the joy and community found in Christianity. To sign up a kid, go to stcrispins.org/camp/#camp-dates-section.

You will see that our 2021 pledges and contributions were over budget and expenses were under. Funds were used from the Rainy Day Fund for the shortfall.

We have approved a budget for 2022 that reflects actual pledges and projected contributions at almost \$1,100,000 with other revenue and funds from designated endowments of \$120,000 totaling \$1,220,000. However we still project a shortfall as our expenses are budgeted at \$1,560,000. As you can see, we are hoping for additional pledges. Fortunately, we will be able to utilize our Unrestricted Rainy Day Funds against the projected deficit to create a balanced budget. I know some of you are concerned about depleting our Rainy Day Fund. Fortunately, I am happy to report that although we have had to draw off this fund over the past few years that with contributions and earnings the fund continues to grow. Our endowments totaled \$2,211,554 in 2012 and now total \$2,401,827 at the end of 2021.

One thing that I have not reported in the past but would like to emphasize: Saint John's is a "debt-free" church which is so unusual in today's world. Being debt-free gives Saint John's so much more flexibility in its budgeting process.

As I reported in last month's newsletter, I was very excited about our stewardship campaign. In 2022 we will continue developing our legacy programs and yearly pledging in both amount pledged and number of active pledgers. In furtherance of that perspective, I am pleased to report that Saint John's remains on sound financial footing, which has allowed us to retain our staff and keep Saint John's operating and offering its ministries during this period.

As I have expressed in the past, our biggest challenge is to continue to seek pledge revenue from multiple members rather than always counting on our small loyal group of highly dedicated parishioners. We must encourage new members as well as long-standing members to appreciate how important it is to make a pledge to Saint John's rather than to just contribute. We cannot continue to grow our church without understanding what our upcoming revenue looks like. I challenge everyone who has not yet pledged to do so. We must remember that our church is strongest when everyone is actively involved, which includes its finances.

Our accountants, Briscoe, Burke & Grigsby LLP, performed a full audit of Saint John's bookkeeping. Their previous year's audit is available in the Annual Report.

As in previous years, I will be available via phone, email or to meet in person if anyone has questions.

- Bill Chevallier

Acolytes. Our acolyte program continues to go strong, however we would like to ask for other members to join! This program is for adults, children, and teens. If you are interested in helping out during the service as an acolyte, please contact me, Josh Corsaro, at jcorsaro@sjtulsa.org.

Children's Chapel and Sunday School. Children's Chapel will continue with our Storymakers curriculum adventures through creativity. Activities will focus on crafts that help children realize how they are a part of God's story. To learn more, email me or visit <https://www.storymakersnyc.com/>.

Choristers. Last month we re-started our Choristers program, and it has been going really well! We already have a great, talented group of singers. Their first concert will be Easter Sunday, April 17, at the 9 a.m. service. You won't want to miss it! If you have a kid who is interested in being in the Choristers program, please contact either me or Joseph Arndt.

Easter and Egg Hunt. To celebrate Easter, we will host several festivities on April 17, including an Egg Hunt with a secret grand prize. Families with young children will have fun participating, and parishioners without kiddos will also enjoy watching all the festivities. To make this the best egg hunt/family-fun day it can be, we are asking for volunteers to help out as monitors for the different activities. If you'd like to help or just want more information about the event, please reach out to me.

VBS. With summer around the corner, we are looking to restart a Vacation Bible School! This will be for children in elementary school (grades K-sixth). We plan to start this June 13. Keep an eye on the e-news, Facebook, and future newsletters for more information. If you wish to sign up your kid(s) or you'd like to volunteer, contact me by phone, email, or in person on a Sunday morning at the church.

More to come. We have more events in the pipeline and are looking forward to adding offerings for family formation. Please keep an eye on our communication channels for details. In the meantime, if you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out to me. I look forward to seeing you at church!

- Josh Corsaro

Giving by Smartphone

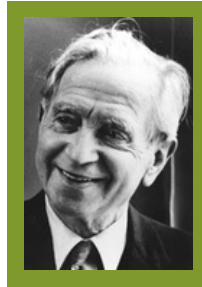
It's easier than ever to make a donation to Saint John's, especially on those days when you don't have cash in your wallet, forgot to write a check, or simply want to give fast but also get a receipt. To donate by scan, hover your smartphone over this QR code and follow the easy instructions.



The Saint John's music ministry team has prepared a wide range of outstanding offerings for the spring of 2022, during both worship times and in the form of stand-alone concerts. Mark your calendars to save these dates to attend as well as to invite your friends! And, we'd value your help sharing the event updates via your social media personal pages.

Howells Canticles at Choral Evensong

The Chamber Choir is in the midst of a two-year project learning the complete evening canticles of English composer Herbert Howells (1892-1983). His works, inspired by church choral forces as well as architecture, will be offered in 2022-2023. This month, his featured canticles are those dedicated to Magdalen College (England) and St. Luke's (Dallas).



Sunday, March 20 – Third Sunday in Lent at 5:30 p.m. The “Collegium Magdalenae Oxoniense” Canticles. This piece is dedicated to the Choir of Magdalen College, Oxford, and composed in 1970.

The Magdalen organ is pictured at left and the Magdalen College Chapel (and Choir Gallery) can be seen below.



Friday, March 25 – The Annunciation (of Our Lord) Evensong at 6:30 p.m. The “Dallas” Canticles. These are Howells' only pieces written for an American church. Composed in 1975, Howells dedicated the works to Larry Palmer and the choir of St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Dallas. The sanctuary and nave of St. Luke's are pictured below.



What is the Annunciation? It is a feast day of our liturgical calendar falling on March 25. Nine months before Christmas Day, this feast commemorates the message from the angel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary that she will give birth to Jesus.

Music at Midday

Our midday music series begins its seventh season on March 9 and runs through April 27. These free concerts – some choral, some instrumental, and some both – are always offered on a Wednesday and begin at noon, followed by a light lunch (by RSVP) at 12:30 p.m.



We will again offer boxed lunches from Queenie's. The cost is \$12 per person and reservations are due on the preceding Monday at 12 noon. RSVP to Diana Carter by phone or email (dcarter@sjtulsa.org). Boxed lunch options for the half sandwich are: ham and Swiss cheese, chicken salad, or egg salad. The two cookie options are oatmeal raisin or snickerdoodle.

Schedule of midday concert musicians for Spring 2022:

- March 9 - organist Joseph Ripka from St. Paul's Cathedral in Oklahoma City
- March 16 - organist Michael Bedford (premiering his new Suite for Organ)
- March 23 - pianist Paul Sweet
- March 30 - organist Charles Tompkins from Furman University
- April 6 - students from the Barthelmes Conservatory
- April 13 - Vivaldi's Stabat Mater featuring countertenor Nicholas Garza and period instruments
- April 20 - cellist Kari Caldwell and pianist Cathy Venable
- April 27 - the Ezra Duo featuring violist Jacob Clewell and pianist Sasha Bult-Ito.

Oklahoma Bach Choir

On Friday, April 29 at 7 p.m. the Oklahoma Bach Choir will present "Cantatas for the Easter Season" with baroque trumpet and strings. Admission will be free.



Adam Pajan and I will conduct. Our soloists will include: Meray Boustani, soprano; Caleb Hudson, trumpet; Nicholas Garza, countertenor; Keith Lathrom, tenor; and Edmund Milly, bass.

We will perform three cantatas: Jauchzet Gott in allen Landen, BWV 51; Christ lag in Todes Banden, BWV 4; and Meine Seel erhebt den Herren, BWV 10. This concert is being generously underwritten by the DeKraai family.

Music Mondays

Friends, tune into my midday vlog on composers, instruments, upcoming compositions, and more! These air on Mondays at 11 a.m. on Facebook and may be found afterward on our church website as well as archived in the church's FB video feed.



Getting to Know: Michael Bedford

This month we had the chance to catch up with Michael Bedford, Parish Choir singer (tenor), organist and choirmaster emeritus for our church, composer, and author. If you don't know him already, seek him out! His wry sense of humor, heart to serve, and ready smile are just a few reasons you'll enjoy adding him to your list of friends at Saint John's. We hope new members and long-timers alike will have fun getting to know more about Michael in this newsletter.

Q: For newer people in our parish who don't know you well, tell us about your family. **A:** My wife, Marilyn, and I have been married for forty-eight years, so at this point we figure we are in it for the long haul. She is a retired kindergarten teacher and part-time health caregiver. Our daughter Allyson, age thirty-seven, is Manager of Training and Engagement at the Books-A-Million headquarters in Birmingham, Alabama. Our son Phillip is thirty years old and is a financial advisor for Edward Jones Investments in Austin, Texas. He is engaged to Meggie Summers and we are looking forward to an August wedding!

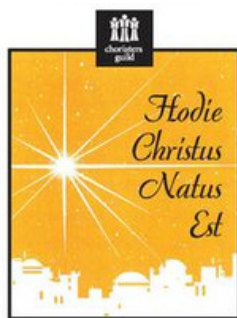
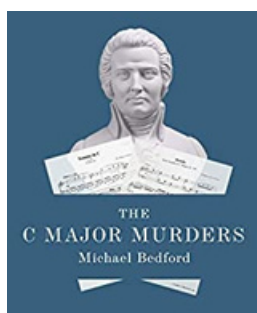
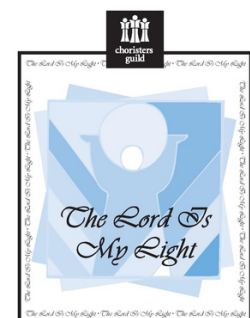
Q: How long did you serve as organist and choirmaster at Saint John's? **A:** I was at Saint John's for twenty-five years, from 1990 until 2015, and loved every minute of my time on staff!

Q: Where did you go to college and what degrees did you receive? **A:** I attended Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, Texas, earning the Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Music Education degrees in 1972. In 1972-1973, I studied organ on a Fulbright scholarship at the Hochschule fur Musik in Cologne, Germany. I then earned the Master of Music degree at Texas Christian University in 1975. Later, in 1998, I was awarded the Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of North Texas in Denton.

Q: Did you grow up in the Episcopal tradition, or migrate to it during your career? **A:** Marilyn and I both grew up in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Upon returning from Germany in 1973, I took a full-time position at Trinity Episcopal Church in Fort Worth, with the understanding that we did not need to be members of the church for me to work there. The rector did ask that we attend confirmation classes "just to see what the church was all about." I think he knew exactly what he was doing, because we were absolutely taken with the music, history, and liturgy. We subsequently were confirmed in December of 1973 and feel that the Episcopal Church is exactly where God intended us to be.

Q: Since retirement from Saint John's, you have served as national President of the American Guild of Organists (the AGO). How long have you served in this role, what have your responsibilities been, and when do you finish? **A:** In June I will complete three, two-year terms as AGO president and will have reached my term limit. Here I have been involved in overseeing the 12,000-member organization, which has chapters on every continent except Antarctica. And as soon as someone figures out how to make organ pipes out of ice, we might even make it down that way! My job has largely included being in touch with some 300 chapters through our magazine, *The American Organist*, as well as through national and regional conventions. I oversee a wonderful group of national and regional councilors, as well as numerous committees and task forces, dedicated to the ongoing enjoyment of the organ.

Q: I recall that you have authored many children's choral works, other sacred music works, and a book. Would you list a few and tell us about them? **A:** I have some 200 sacred titles in print, including music for children, youth, adults, handbell choirs, and of course organ. My best-sellers were for children's choirs and include "Sing and Dance, Children of God" (Hinshaw Music, Inc.) as well as "The Lord is My Light" and "Hodie Christus Natus Est" (both by Choristers Guild). Paraclete Press published my "Fantasia" on Victimae Paschali Laudes for organ and brass quartet, and my solo organ work "Partita" on Wondrous Love. In March, thanks to my worthy successor and good friend Joseph Arndt, I will be premiering my Saint John's Suite for Organ, seven pieces composed in honor of our new Schoenstein organ. I also recently published my first murder mystery, *The C Major Murders*, available from Amazon in both Kindle and paperback versions. If you buy six or eight books and tie them together with a nice bow, they make a great doorstop!



Q: Do you have a favorite season in the church calendar? **A:** This is going to sound like a cop-out, but I love every season of the Church Year. I feel that each one must be celebrated not only individually but in conjunction with one another. Through the progression from one season to the next, we glean a clear picture of the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. And, through observing each season we experience a unique succession of events that draws us ever closer to God and to the Holy Spirit at work in all of us.



Communication Corner

In this column, we help our readers stay on top of other events and opportunities happening in the life of the parish. Plus, we'll share other news items from across the parish and in church business.

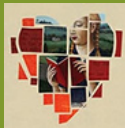
Confirmation Class 2022

Father David is working on details for the 2022 Confirmation and Reaffirmation Class. If you have an interest in a family member attending (or you!), please reach out to Diana in the church office and ask to be placed on the email list for further information.

Evening Prayer Invitation

The Daily Office is once again offered at 5:30 p.m. in addition to 8:30 a.m. Lent is the perfect time to join readers and staff for those prayerful opportunities.

Follow along with Father David's Lenten Study on Wednesdays and read a great book in the process! For the next few weeks, Father David's formation class will be exploring the book *You Are What You Love* by James K.A. Smith.



The Sounds of Saint John's

Saint John's Adult Formation (Sunday School) and Father David's sermons are now available to hear via three online channels.

If you enjoy listening to a homily without the video (Sunday morning sermons are already offered via Facebook) or you like the convenience of the Sunday Bible lessons while you work, bike, hike or drive – we've got you covered!

Simply download one of the three optional handy apps – Soundcloud, iTunes, or Spotify – on your smart device, select "follow" or "subscribe" to YOUR Saint John's Episcopal Church, and enjoy! You can also access this information on our SJC website. Under the Get Connected tab, select the "Class & Sermon Audio Offerings" page.

We hope you'll enjoy this new way to access food for your soul and brain.



Saint John's Annual Report

If you were not present for the Feb. 10 Annual Parish Meeting, you can still obtain a copy of the Annual Report. Contact Mary Waller and she will email you a copy.

This is a good tool to get caught up on the programs and ministries from 2021. And, it is also a great way to become an inspired pledger in 2022!

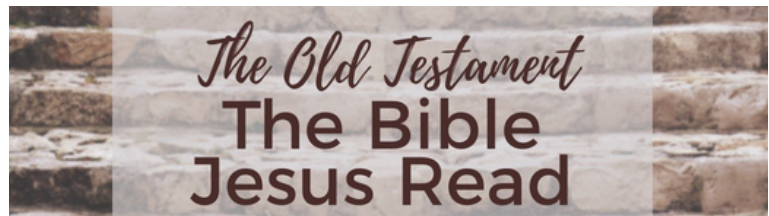
Daughters of the King

Are you interested in learning more about the women of the Bible? Would you like to know more about their continued influence on our lives today? If so, we invite you to join the Daughters on the first Thursday of each month, in the library from 11 a.m. - noon as we continue our discussion led by Father David. (Fellas are welcome, too!)

For the Adults!

Young Adults' Brunch. The popular Saint John's Young Adults' Brunch meets the last Sunday of each month. This month we'll meet on March 27). Please let us know if you want to join by emailing me, Josh Corsaro, at jcorsaro@sjtulsa.org, or reach out to Joseph Arndt at jarndt@sjtulsa.org. Feel free to invite friends and family! Simply let us know so we can reserve enough seats!

Iron Gate. We would like to thank every volunteer who has given time to help at Iron Gate these past several months, especially members of the Brotherhood. If you wish to join with us in 2022, we will meet the first Saturday of every month at the church around 7:45 a.m. and then carpool to Iron Gate. After we are finished serving, we usually go to Hurts Donut Company. If you want to sign up to be a part of this great community service opportunity, email me. Iron Gate does require an advance registration.



Adult Formation. One of our Adult Formation courses in March continues with Dr. William "Bill" Lyons leading us through an introduction to the Old Testament called "The Bible that Jesus Read." Dr. Lyons' class explores this ancient component of our Bibles and the foundation of the New Testament. This month we will be going book by book and understanding the message and themes in the Old Testament. Join us any Sunday at 9 a.m. in the Common Room for this focused study and a bit of coffee. This is a great offering to invite friends to!

- Josh Corsaro



Calling All Women of Saint John's...

Save the Date!

Spring Salad & Dessert Luncheon
Thursday, April 21, 2022
11:30 a.m. in the Common Room

Presented by
St. Barbara's Guild & Daughters of the King

Milestones



Boy Scout Troop 153 News - *Carolyn Davis*

While spring was just around the corner, Troop 153 really enjoyed a great winter "camp-in" at Cosmosphere, a space museum and STEM education center in Hutchinson, Kansas. Our Scouts had a great time of exploration and hands-on learning. They also earned merit badges for both engineering and robotics!

We recently had our Troop 153 Court of Honor where Scouts were recognized for their accomplishments in the fall semester. As a troop we had thirteen rank advancements, ninety-five merit badges were earned, and numerous special awards were also given. We are so proud of all our Scouts and are thrilled to recognize all these achievements.

We have a new Senior Patrol Leader and Patrol Leaders Council (PLC) for our troop. Every six months the Scouts elect a peer to the highest leadership position in the troop held by a Scout. The candidates must make their intentions known to the Scoutmaster and give a speech to the troop outlining their plans for the coming term, then the Scouts vote. Congratulations to Jaxon Davis our new Senior Patrol Leader. We are excited to see what Jaxon and the new PLC have in store for the remainder of spring as well as summer.



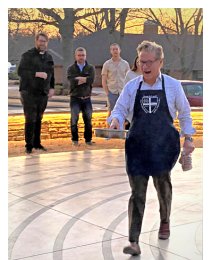
Birthdays

Robert Baker IV
Arlo DeKraai,
Scampy Rainey
Brock Taylor
Jean Tate
Kalleb Boston
Jim Singleton
Randy Spencer
John Abney
Grace Coen
Adam Adwon
Lorraine Kaefar
Susanne Methven
Dora Barber
Mark Payton
Barbara Putnam
Baxter Schooley
Joseph Arndt,
Catherine Hoopert
Jody McIntyre
Kristin Randall
Ira Phillips
Barbara Lawson
Karen Dodson
Sheri Colpitt
Deborah Tommey
Janice Cline
Susie Fisher
Trish Lyons
Mark Youngblood
Katherine Johnson
Carolyn Ferguson
Charlotte Gibbens
Jillian Moore
Jane Roegels
Barrett Waller
Breen Emery
Finley Randall
Travis Termin
Diane Morrow
Ben Russell
Les Veltman
John Staedke
Katherine Barlow
Michaela Blanton
Sidney Lawler

Nancy Morrison
Meg Perdue
Roberta Carter
Katie Coon
Katharine Dwyer
Stacey Clark
Nancy Hicks
Betsy Mayes
Imona Omole,
Lynne Waters
Laura Gubser

Super Shrove Supper!

A Shrove Tuesday pancake supper was hosted at the church on Tuesday, March 1, and featured the culinary and decorating talents of many of our parishioners. The turn-out was terrific and we extend our appreciation to all who helped shop, set up, cook, serve, clean up, plan activities, and provide prizes for the Bingo games.



Passings

Rita Bell
Kathleen Williams
Vail Wilcox

Baptisms

Emily Main
Rosemary Lynn Ross
Henry Frederick Schirmer

Births

Charlotte Eron Moss

This Month at Saint John's Church
March 2022 Newsletter
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Repent, A Lenten Prayer

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

From the Book of Common Prayer, page 264.