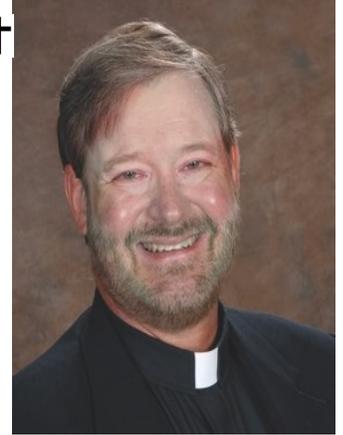


KEVIN'S KERYGMA by Fr. Kevin Warner †

This will be a potpourri of information without a unifying message. I think sometimes it is okay to be informative without trying to tie it all together and especially this month as there are many tidbits that I want to share, but none big enough to build an article around.

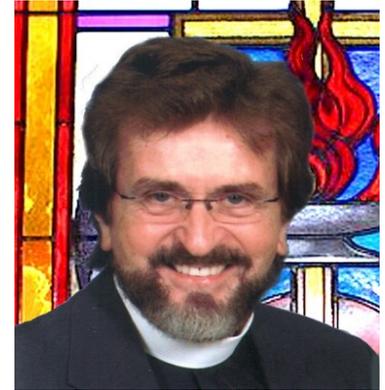
- First, I am writing this in the midst of our annual Clergy Conference at DaySpring. It is a wonderful conference led by Mary Palmer, who is the creator of Invite Welcome Connect. Invite Welcome Connect is a ministry of relational evangelism and congregational empowerment allowing churches to become places of genuine connection for inviting the faith journeys and stories of everyone, enabling deeper journeys of Christian discipleship and enabling the Spirit of Christ to be at the heart of each church's hospitable mission of spreading the Good News. Frs. Lee, David and I are learning much about how to improve our evangelism efforts while, at the same time, finding out we are doing a lot of things right thanks to our Welcome Ministry Team. Find out more by going to her website at: <http://www.invitewelcomeconnect.com/>
- Second, I want to say how grateful I am to God, the Task Force for Growth, current and past vestries, and all those who have, in one way or another, contributed in helping God's plans for SJD be achieved. It is exciting to see young people active and involved in our worship service at 9:15 and a healthy Sunday School and Youth Group beginning to take shape. Our progress is the result of two things: the leading of the Holy Spirit and the willingness of so many ministry-minded folks willing to be the hands of God in this place.
- That said, there are costs associated with a growing ministry and next year will be one of our most challenging financially. Our tithe to the Diocese will double based on the spending on the Banner Building and an increased staff, and a larger staff will be an added cost.
- Speaking of staff, as you know our media specialist Dean Crawford departed and his job was filled on an interim basis by my son Tristan. That job has been posted and we are seeking applicants. It was decided that Tristan was welcome to interview but, if he so chooses, I will recuse myself and the decision will be made by the Sr. Warden.
- Next, some personal notes. Many of you have asked about my recovery from my hip replacement, especially given my gait seems a bit off. The hip joint itself is perfect and I am free of the pain that preceded the surgery. However, one of the tendons has not come back to full strength so I am faced with a choice. Either I can live with it or more surgery. I am currently in discernment and am getting multiple opinions. Also, I am seeking prayers for healing and praying God makes the matter moot.
- On a happier note, I was honored to be asked to preach the Celebration of New Ministry for the new rector in Longboat Key. David Marshall and I were good friends back in San Diego and he credits me with helping him at a pivotal time in his ministry. He is a welcome addition to an already excellent diocese, and I have humbly accepted his invitation. His service will be October 30.
- Finally, last month if you had read this newsletter carefully you would have possibly won a \$25 gift card. At SJD we are serious about communication but there is only so much the staff, vestry and leadership can do. You must listen, read, mark and digest the information that comes your way so we can all be on the same page. This month there is that opportunity again, and it can be found elsewhere. Please take the time to read all the newsletter and enter the "Readers' Sweepstakes!"

Blessings!

Kevin+

|| Timothy 1:11

WORDS OF WISDOM



With another birthday around the corner, I reflect again on the passage of time and how wonderful it is for God to have given me another year. I am not, however, very big on celebrations and I what I really want to say is “Let’s get rid of those ridiculous attitudes concerning birthdays!”

Now, it’s not because I am old in years, although I am well past that age young people used to say they would trust. It’s just that I can see that dividing line between young and old becoming wider and more age conscious.

Whether teen or ninety or somewhere in between we are never allowed to forget how old we are. The old scorn the young and blame their few years and the young mumble as in the words of Simon and Garfunkel, “How terrible strange to be seventy” (Both are now 77).

Cicero put it well, “As I approve of a youth that has something of the old man in him, so I am no less pleased with the old man that has something of the youth. He that follows this rule may be old in body, but can never be so in mind.”

As we age, we are given certain justifications that can ultimately kill us. When one would settle for less physical activity, that person merely says, “I’m not as young as I used to be.” As we age, we can slow down and, as we slow down, we can ignore preventive maintenance. Suddenly, we are old. Each person can age from a clock within.

This works the other way, too. It is so tempting for a younger person to say, “I am really too young to do much for the Lord. I must wait until I am older.” Then, suddenly, we become old and look toward the youth to do the work.

So, how about it? Is “age” really holding us back from the ministry of the Gospel? Or maybe, it is merely our excuses.

Father Lee

CLERGY CHANGES



Our deacon, the Rev. Paulette Diehl, will be taking a leave of absence due to health concerns. She is getting treatment for some back/leg issues that impact balance so will not be serving at the altar. She will, however, still be a regular at Sunday service and available for one-on-one pastoral conversations for those who request them.

Our retired priest, the Rev. Carol Fleming, has accepted an assignment from our diocese to assist a newly forming congregation in Parrish. I have assured her of our support and prayers as she goes out to spread God’s Kingdom.

εὐαγγέλιον

“The Good News”



“Father, why do you cross your stole?”

The stole is worn by clergy and is the “emblem of their ordination.” It is worn primarily at the celebration of the Holy Eucharist and for other sacramental occasions. Stoles have been used throughout the history of the Christian Church, although not consistently. After the English Reformation, in the 16th Century, stoles fell out of use in the Church of England and later the Protestant Episcopal Church in America. It was not until the Oxford Movement of the 19th Century that many of the pre-reformation customs were recovered, including the use of the stole.

Traditionally in the Roman Catholic and Anglican Churches, Deacons would wear their stoles over their left shoulder. Symbolically leaving their right hand free to do the work of a servant. Priests, prior to the mid-20th Century who followed the Roman and Anglo-Catholic traditions, would wear their stoles crossed in the front, reminding them of being yoked to Christ. Bishops, while also being priests, would wear their stoles hanging straight down, as not to obscure their pectoral cross (the sign of their episcopacy).

Because The Episcopal Church has deep roots in both the Protestant and Catholic liturgical traditions, you will see a variation in liturgical dress and theology. This is not to say any one tradition is more valid than the other, it is to point out the diversity seen in our tradition. With these traditions and differences in mind, I follow a more traditional form of liturgical expression and cross my stole over my chest.

Blessings,

Fr. David+

A NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY IS COMING TO SJD



As you may know, we are going to have a new church directory. Lifetouch has a few new items for us that I find very exciting. For everyone that gets a photo taken you will receive a color directory, in addition to this, once a year for 4 years they will update the directory for free, if we have 15 new members, and everyone will get

a new copy. Photography dates for our upcoming directory event is fast approaching. The first session will be October 30th and 31st, and the second session will be Jan 23rd, 24th, & 25th. With a goal of 100%, we need all families to sign up. Our directory will allow us to connect names and faces and stay connected. Photography times are still available.

Every family will receive a free 8x10 portrait and will have the opportunity to purchase additional portraits. Price sheets are available in the parish hall. You will also receive a \$10 off coupon a check-in and for Military, First Responders or 60+ years old, will receive 20% off your entire order. In addition to this SJD will receive a portion of all proceeds.

There are several ways for you to sign up for your photo session. The easiest way for you to sign up is online by going to our web site; stjohndivine.com and clicking on the link provided, or go to our Facebook account and click on the link there it will only take about 3 minutes. (If you have problems with this link please call the church office.) I have also put signup sheets on the counter in the parish hall for your use or you can stop by our photo table in the parish hall and let Karen Stapleton help you schedule your appointment. If none of these options are good for you, please call the church office and Candy will be able to help you get an appointment.

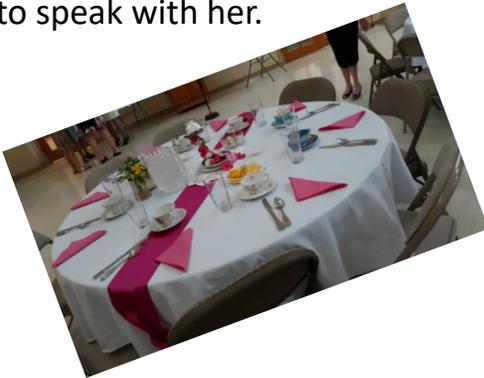


I am also still in need of some volunteers to help check folks in when they come for their appointments. We only need 2 hours of your time. If you can help out, I would be so appreciative. Please call the church office to get on the schedule.



THANK YOU!!

Nadine Wyly (and Samatha, Regan and Jillian) would like to thank every one for attending the tea that was held in her honor. She was overwhelmed with the love and support she has been shown since moving here. She so enjoyed having the opportunity to speak to you all and get to know you a little better. She wanted to thank all the volunteers that helped organize, made the delicious food, decorated the hall so beautifully, set-up and cleaned up. She also wanted to thank everyone for the wonderful gifts she received. If you were not able to attend and spend some time with Nadine, she attends the 9:15 service, please make an effort to speak with her.



WELCOME MINISTRY



We are pleased to have welcomed two new members to St. John Divine



Paulette Stoddard attends the 8 a.m service and lives in Little Manatee Springs, she has lived in NY, and Sarasota. She wrote she came to SJD because she found the website and joined because of the beautiful people and clergy. She loves her 3 kids & 7 grandkids, Please welcome them when you see them and learn more about them!

Hal Drury attends the 11 am service and lives in Valencia Lakes, is originally from Readin, Massachusetts. He wrote he came to SJD because of Mission and Ministry and joined because of Mission and Ministry. He plays golf and loves history!

Thank you, Lord, for directing them through SJD's doors!

If any of you enjoy meeting new faces, showing them around the church, introducing them to our clergy and members, and incorporating them into SJD, please give Joel (727-643-8971) or Brooke Taliaferro (727-643-8970) a call! We'd love to talk with you!

In Christ's Love, the Welcome Ministry Team

OUTREACH TEAM

NOVEMBER IS MEALS ON WHEELS.

Meals on Wheels serves hot nutritious meals daily to those shut-ins throughout Kings Point and the Greater Sun City Center area. St. John Divine has been a participant in this program for over 24 years and is one of 9 churches participating.

As the population in SCC continues to age, so does the growth of this program. In 2018, 500 meals were served monthly. Today in 2019, Meals on Wheels is serving 700 meals a month. Meals on Wheels participants - Widows, widowers, individuals aging in place, on fixed incomes, without family, disconnected family or family living far away need the support of our Parish family to receive their meals in November. As the Vestry representative for Outreach, the job of Coordinating Meals on Wheels is my responsibility, and it is a huge job. One that I am unable to do alone for a 30 day period. I really do need the assistance of everyone.

Please note for those of you who live outside of SCC we are staffing Sun City and Kings Point with drivers familiar with the area to alleviate the stress of navigating our community.

So please, when I come to you or call you about signing up for Meals on Wheels, before you immediately respond "no" won't you please prayerfully consider stepping up for one day. Trust me "It will totally change your perspective".

Annie Hunter
Meals on Wheels Coordinator
813-645-8366
813-842-0755
anniemedic813@gmail.com

SEPTEMBER'S PROJECT



We would like to thank everyone for supporting September's Project, The Lord's Lighthouse. Because of your generosity, we were able to give over \$1100, and many many donations of items to them. Thank you again for supporting your Outreach Ministry of SJD

God loves
a cheerful
giver
2 Corinthians 9

Junior Warden View Sept. '19

Well here we are again. A few things done here, some things not finished, all in all the place is looking OK.. Our Palm trees will be getting trimmed, the hedge by the front driveway will be a bunch shorter, the fire lane got paved. The floors are all polished. We are getting a new Episcopal flag to show on the South side. A bunch of thangs to a bunch o' people.



Now, reluctantly, but graciously, this is my last monthly Revelations view. The whole thing started back in the late summer of 2001. yes, right after 9/11...At Saint James in Skaneateles (*yes, I know ow to pronounce it, do you?*) NY, we just had our rector of 7 years move on to be Bishop of the CNY Diocese. As a warden, someone had to fill a gap for our monthly, THE SPIRIT. Ever since I have mostly been churning out monthly stuff. Now I am older and tired-er. You may once in while see something, but mostly I thank all of you for allowing me the privilege to drive all y'all nuts. It's always been fun to do and I hope you enjoyed.

Until next time (or not)

GOD Bless

Greg

Just what the heck is a Deacon?

The term deacon comes from the Greek word "diákonos" meaning servant or minister. It appears at least 29 times in the New Testament. The term designates an appointed member of the church who assists by serving other members and meeting material needs.

The role or office of deacon was developed in the early church primarily to minister to the physical needs of the members of the body of Christ. In Acts 6:1-6 we see the initial stage of development: "After the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. the church began to grow so fast that some believers- particularly widows, were being neglected in the daily distribution of food and alms or charitable gifts. Also. as the church expanded, logistical challenges arose at meetings mainly because of the increasing size of the Christian communities. The apostles who had their hands full caring for the spiritual needs of the church. decided to appoint seven leaders who could tend to the physical and administration needs of the body. But as the believers rapidly multiplied. there were rumblings of discontent. The Greek-speaking believers complained about the Hebrew-speaking believers. saying that their widows were being discriminated against in the daily distribution of food. So, the Twelve called a meeting of all the believers. They said, "We apostles should spend our time teaching the word of God, we need help from some to feed and minister to those in need. They selected seven who were well respected and full of the Spirit and wisdom and gave them this responsibility. With this burden lifted. the apostles could spend their time in prayer and teaching the word." (Acts 6:1-4).

Two of the seven deacons appointed here in Acts were Philip the Evangelist and Stephen who later became the first Christian martyr.

The first reference to an official position of deacon in the local congregation is found in Philippians 1:1. Where the Apostle Paul says "I am writing to all of God's holy. people in Philippi who belong to Christ Jesus. Including the elders and deacons."



Liturgical Colors and the Christian Year

In the August issue of Revelations, we talked about liturgical colors. How many of you took the quiz? In this issue let's look at how the liturgical colors correspond with the Christian year.

The calendar of the church year starts on page 15 in the Book of Common Prayer and consists of two cycles of feasts and holy days; one dependent upon Easter Day; the other, upon Christmas Day. An easier way to follow the year is the *Ordo Kalendar* which helps the Altar Guild, and clergy keep track of all the important dates of the Christian year. Each season has its corresponding symbolic color, more or less.

Almost all colors are being used in churches for vestments, altar hangings. And banners. The use of colors is fairly consistent in today's Episcopal Church. **White** is symbolic of purity, and is used on occasions that commemorate Christ's life on earth, like Christmas, Easter and Epiphany and for Baptisms, weddings and funerals. **Red** is used to symbolize the fire of the Holy Spirit and martyrdom, and is used on Palm Sunday and Holy Week. **Green** is the symbol for life, growth, fertility, and spring and is used in the season after Epiphany and Pentecost. **Blue** is also used as a symbol of penitence: for example, it is used for penitential preparation, as during Advent. It is also the color assigned to the Blessed Virgin Mary. **Rose** is used for the Fourth Sunday in Lent and Third Sunday in Advent.

If you want to follow the Christian Year, just open the Book of Common Prayer, pages 15 through 30, or look at the Ordo Kalendar. We invite you to enjoy the colors of the rainbow as we celebrate the feasts and holy days of the Christian Year.

Resource: The Complete Training Course for Altar Guilds

Blessings,

Cher Cerebe

Altar Guild Directress

Blessings,

Cher J. Cerebe

Altar Guild Directress

Oh, where, Oh, where, were our priests September 23-25th? Where did they go? What did they learn?

Email: office@stjohndivine.com the answer, for a chance to win a \$25 Walmart Gift Card.

Shhhhh don't tell your friends you found it, or where, see if they can find it.

Winner will be posted in November's Newsletter.

September's winner was: Maureen Hill, she found the secret word (Bubble) in Father David's article. Congratulations Maureen, and keep reading.



OCTOBER BIRTHDAY

10/2 Jean Pollard
10/4 Margaret Beaumont
10/4 Liz Hood
10/5 Catherine Patterson
10/8 Mary Arnold
10/8 Boomer Detweiler
10/8 Lucrecia Smith
10/14 Joan Allen
10/14 Carole Hilton
10/14 Marjorie Moore - Pyles
10/15 Melissa Long
10/16 Larry Hilton
10/17 Audrey Bussey
10/17 Ralph Del Castillo
10/17 Ann Ellis
10/17 Carol Ermann
10/18 Greg Diehl
10/19 Meredith Joerg
10/20 Richard Beebee
10/22 Jay Sparkman
10/22 Charlene Wirick
10/23 Shirley Lingertot
10/23 Maria Martucci
10/24 Bill Duhn
10/25 Carrie Van Gelder
10/26 Shannon Arndt
10/27 Peter Grady
10/29 Dan Cardillo
10/29 Anthea Parris
10/31 Sharon Armour

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

10/3 Mary & Marcley Hildebrand
10/7 Donna & John Kustron
10/16 Nancy & Jack Phillips
10/16 Ila & Bob Stamper
10/17 Susan & Tracy Wilder
10/21 Sharon & Steve Van Loan
10/29 Wendy & Mike Fitzgerald
10/31 Michelle & Peter Grady



happy anniversary



The Lord's Lighthouse Ministry

CAN YOU HELP? NEEDS INCLUDE:

- * NONPERISHABLE FOOD such as flour (especially Maseca corn flour), tortillas, cooking oil, pinto beans, cereal, peanut butter, macaroni and cheese, baby food and formula
- * MONEY to buy nonperishable food and to meet people's emergency needs
- * CLOTHING AND SHOES for men, women, and children (All clothing must be clean and in good condition)
- * Diapers
- * Personal hygiene items
- * Small household items
- * Walmart gift cards (to buy clothes and shoes for the children)

You may leave your donations at The Lord's Lighthouse area in the parish hall. Checks may be written to St. John Divine, designated for The Lord's Lighthouse.

Thank you for helping!

A study of hymn meditations:

I BIND UNTO MYSELF TODAY

("St. Patrick's Breastplate") #370 – 1982 Hymnal

We will study the poetry of the Celts vs. the modern hymns. Then meditate on the verses and phrases as to how they apply to our prayer life and response to others.

Each class will be an hour 2-3 p.m. beginning with prayer, singing or reading of a verse for the day, ending with meditation exercise and a closing prayer by all.

Text: THE CRY OF THE DEER, meditations on the Hymn of St. Patrick by David Adam.

Order books from Amazon on your own. Hymnals provided, but bring your own Bible

Please email me your preference for class day , MONDAY OR THURSDAY, at

merrill_40@yahoo.com.

Enrollment 5-10 . Classes held at my home. For more information, contact Mary K. Merrill @ (813) 833-7206.





October, 2019

St John Divine Episcopal Church 1015 E. Del Webb Blvd. Sun City Center, FL 33573

813-633-3970

sjd-office@stjohndivine.com

www.stjohndivine.com

Vestry

Curt Arp
Aubrey Thompson
Coretta Butts
Liz Hood
Walter Powell
Jim Smith
Annie Hunter
Allie Maiocchi

Vestry Officers

Don Fisher Sr. Warden
Greg Diehl Jr. Warden
Valerie Bryant Clerk
Susan Arp Treasurer

Clergy and Staff

The Rt. Rev. Dabney T. Smith
Bishop of the Diocese of Southwest Florida
The Rev. Kevin Warner, *Rector*
The Rev. Lee Miller, *Associate Rector*
The Rev. David Wyly, *Assistant Rector*
The Rev. Paulette A. Diehl, *Deacon*
Scott Gardner, *Praise Leader*
Joan Frankel, *Organist & Choir Director*
Tristan Warner, *Media Specialist*
Connie Minnoe, *Accounting Administrator*
Candy Allman, *Office Manager*
Sharon Bakay, *Kitchen Manager*