



ST MARK'S

Episcopal Church

The Missive

531 West College Avenue, Jonesboro, AR 72401

July 2015

A Message from Father Jesse....

It is so good to be back home for a while; I have just finished my two continuing education classes in Chicago, and after two round trips in the car, I am glad to be back for a while! The first class I took was called “Congregations in the 21st Century” and was held at Seabury, my alma mater seminary. It focused on how creativity and innovation occurs in existing organizations like the church, and how to encourage it. The second class was “Nonprofit Management/Leadership” hosted by Kellogg Business School and Seabury Theological School. This one was particularly informative, with lectures and activities based on team building, leadership, negotiation, and conflict resolution. The faculty were top notch, and it was well worth my second trip to Chicago. My thanks to you and the vestry for providing your clergy with these opportunities to further our own ministry among you.

As I returned, I am very excited about something that has been in the works for a few months now, and perhaps in the near future will come to fruition. St. Mark's Day School is considering purchasing a neighboring house and creating its first ever infant care program. I must commend our director and assistant director for their leadership in this issue, as well as the day school board. Under Mother Jo Ann's tenure, the school made a strategic change to expand its days and hours of operation to M-F 7:30-5:30 to accommodate full-time working out-of-the-home parents. I believe this change brought the school back from the brink of closure, and we continue to see the fruits of that decision. Recently, we added full-time summer care as well, and now have over 100 kids enrolled at this very moment. I believe adding infant care is only the next logical step in this development of providing high quality education and care for children who have two full-time working parents, in addition to those who work in the home. There are not many options for infant care in Jonesboro, and I hope we quickly become the top choice for parents and their kids for all of their preschool years. The house is across the street at 514 W. College Ave, and we are meeting with architects and DHS at the moment to determine what is required to start this program.

Continued on next page

In addition to this exciting change, there is another group meeting who are investigating possibilities for the repair/replacement of our nave flooring. I am sure all of you have noticed the rainbow and red duck tape currently holding down portions of our carpet there. As far as I can tell from talking with many of you, this carpet has been in our nave for over thirty years! Since an opportunity like this does not come around very often (it might be another 30 years before we have another chance), I have asked a team of volunteers to begin investigating our flooring options and prices in our nave (wood flooring around altar would not be changed). Mike Engelken, a member of the vestry, is leading this team and they have already met once. We are considering not only replacing the old carpet with new carpet, but also possibly going with a hard flooring to improve the acoustics from our music ministries. You can expect to hear about the options around Rally Day this fall, and if all proceeds as expected the vestry will discuss and decide how to proceed after that. I know considering such a change can produce a lot of anxiety, especially when it has looked a certain way for decades, but our carpet cannot remain in its current state of decay. Please take a moment to consider not only how it has always looked, but the acoustical improvements that could come with beautiful hard flooring as well.

If that was not enough, the Episcopal Church is currently gathering in Salt Lake City, Utah, for its triennial General Convention. This is the large gathering of representatives from across our denomination, and in this particular year we are electing the next Presiding Bishop. Rev. Amber will be holding a class on her experiences there on July 12, at 9am. You can learn more information at: <http://generalconvention.org>. Please be in prayer for our bishops and delegates as they meet and discern together. God bless you all, and I'll see you on Sunday.



God's Big Back Yard Vacation Bible School

August 3-6, 2015

We would like to welcome our children and their friends to St. Mark's vacation bible school program. This years theme is God's Big Backyard: Where kids have a blast serving Jesus! Get ready for an outdoor adventure that starts in your own backyard and gets bigger each day as kids take the love of Jesus into their neighborhoods and communities.

Each day, our backyard buddies will discover how much fun service can be, and they will be challenged to serve their families, friends, neighbors, communities, and Jesus. Your kids won't want to miss this adventure in God's Big Backyard!

Registration forms for Vacation Bible School with more information can be picked up in the church narthex. Kids entering kindergarten up to sixth grade will gather in St. Mark's hall each morning from 9:00am to 12:00 noon. VBS is slated for August 3 to August 6.

Please keep in mind, in order to make Vacation Bible School a reality in our parish, we must have the support of parents and parishioners. While we do have some volunteers in place, we still need parents and parishioners to help decorate and help during VBS week. We will decorate July 27 - July 31. Do pray and consider what role you can play in order to make our VBS program a safe place for children to learn about the love of Christ.

For more information please contact Rose Mary, VBS coordinator at 935-0236 or email at rosemarylatanich@gmail.com.

MEN'S CLUB

**Men's Club will meet
on **Tuesday, July 14.****

6:30 at the church.

Two Saints' Kitchen



JULY SCHEDULE

July 4- Team 3

July 11- Team 4

July 18- Team 5

July 25- Team 6

VAN DRIVERS NEEDED FOR TWO SAINTS'

Two Saints' is needing van drivers! St. Paul provides a van that is used to pick up guests every week. The van requires a valid driver's license and that's it. Every week there is a driver and another volunteer that rides along with the driver who stops at predetermined locations both for pick up and drop off.

This is a great opportunity for people who would like to help out, but are limited to just one day and cannot commit to a ten week rotation. If you can volunteer for a van shift call St. Paul's at [\(870\) 932-2083](tel:8709322083) and give them a time.

Helping Neighbors Food Pantry



ST. MARK'S ROCKS!

Our numbers for food contributed is down quite a lot in 2015. I don't know whether most of you are contributing to other organizations of need or whether you just don't think about buying a few extra cans when you go to the store. Just a little update on goings-on at HNFP: You can't imagine what a help this food source is unless you've been on the receiving end of help with food or have worked at Helping Neighbors and seen the size of the families who come in. We always have some who are living in cars or motels or sleeping under bridges without facilities to cook, so some of the snack items, canned meats and other pre-cooked items are such a blessing. For many people the month of July is the very worst because it is so difficult to get enough to feed a large family. We are giving away kids' packs during the summer which contain cookies, peanut butter, Jif Chocolate Spread, squeezable fruit and Pop Tarts - items which children can open and eat without adult help. If you're looking for suggestions for July, please buy large cans of tuna or other canned meats, individual containers of fruit and puddings, any kind of beans, containers of shelved rather than refrigerated milk, packaged peanut butter and crackers, packages of cookies, and juice (either bottles or individual containers). Thanks for all of your efforts in making Jonesboro a more hospitable place to live. Keep up the good work!

Blessings, Barrbara

July Birthdays

7/02 Wannda Turner
7/05 Maggie Coe
7/05 Rike Robinson IV
7/06 Jacob Henderson
7/06 Zane Neves
7/11 Amy Pearce
7/12 Jesse Perkins
7/13 Sheila Guinn
7/14 Blake Coe
7/17 Susie Grommet
7/20 Frannie Replogle
7/22 Michael Fagan
7/23 Jeanette Lamberth
7/24 Zachary White

7/28 Arnold Gilliam
7/28 DeeDee Gilliam
7/29 Janice Kroeter
7/29 Celeste Robinette
7/30 Robert Heim
7/30 Reed Hopper



July Anniversaries

7/02 Tim and Lisa Bohn
7/09 Andy and Marian Peeler
7/10 Ryan and Jacqueline Boyd
7/11 Larry and Carol Hinck
7/18 Carol and Jeffrey Koontz
7/20 Joe and Michele Murphy



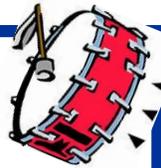
St. Mark's Day School

The summer program is in full swing with an enrollment of 122, and the children are having a blast! They enjoy arts and crafts, story time, movie hour, and especially recess! The teachers even throw in some learning time when the kids least expect it! Our teachers this summer have been amazing and make St. Mark's a fun place to be for everyone.

On June 30, we already have 134 enrolled for fall.

Thanks, Peggy

**Upcoming
Events...
July**



July 9 Theology by the Pint

July 11 ECW Meeting

July 12 Coffee with the Rector
Discussion of General Conference

July 14 Men's Club

July 16 Men's Club

July 20 Vestry Meeting

**Have a fun
and safe
4th of July!**

Financial Update

	<u>June</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Pledges and Offerings Received	\$ 22,704	\$ 154,172
Needed to meet budget	<u>26,665</u>	<u>161,188</u>
Budget Surplus (Shortfall)	\$ (3,960)	\$ (7,016)
 Actual Expenses Paid	 \$23,761	 \$ 157,124
Actual (Shortfall)	\$ (1,057)	\$ (2,952)
 Loan Balance	 \$170,712	