

Letters from St. Nicholas'



Keeping you informed with what's going on around St. Nicholas!

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MONTHLY NEWSLETTER!

If you would like to contribute content for your ministry, please send it to [Darryl](#) no later than the 20th of each month for the next month's issue.

[Visit our Website](#)

Mother Nancy's Notes



Hopefully, you hear me talk about being good stewards a lot. I know stewardship a topic that makes some folks uncomfortable, because we've gotten stuck in the idea that stewardship is about money and we don't like to talk about money. I'm sure there are a lot of reasons why, but mainly I think it's because we've gotten our ideas about money all mixed up. We use money to measure success or to control others or we think money will ease our suffering or make us happy. None of this is biblical. And stewardship is about far more than money.

Our stewardship, being good stewards, is about how we live our lives as Jesus followers, as citizens of God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. It is all that we do with all that we are and all that we have. Jesus tells a lot of stories about stewards and property managers and money management. God has entrusted us with the people, creatures, and things of this world to take care of all things as if The Kingdom were here and now. We cannot separate our view of money from our faith. We can't separate any part of who we are or what we do from our faith. Our faith in God is a living faith that comes from the core of the Image in which we are all created. We are to reveal God's image in everything we think, say, and do.

It has been the tradition of every church I've ever known that in the fall to ask for financial commitments from all of the members. And although it is a task that has warped the understanding of stewardship, it is a necessary task as we prepare our budget for next year. Budgeting is good stewardship. Giving financially to your church is good stewardship, as is serving and volunteering and helping with the ministries as God as enabled and equipped you. Each of our skills and talents are necessary as we serve the people of our community in Jesus' name. Each of our financial commitments, our "pledges," is necessary to prepare for next year and the future. Our conversations about stewardship will continue, however, as we grow together into the true meaning of the word.

Just as I've asked you to prayerfully consider how God is calling you to serve, I also ask you to prayerfully consider what God is asking you to give, as together we seek to serve Jesus and reveal God's love to each other and our community.

On November 11 we will ask God's blessing on our financial commitments for the coming year. Please plan on being in worship with us, every Sunday of course, but November 11 especially, as we continue to grow into the Kingdom People God is calling us to be through the transformative power of the Holy Spirit.

God's peace,
Mtr. Nancy+



Jesus calls each of us to "strive first for God's kingdom and God's righteousness" and promises that "all these things (our daily needs) will be given to you." (Matthew 6:33)

How would we, as the St. Nicholas' twig of the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement be transformed if we remembered and lived into this call from Jesus? What would be our priorities if we let God transform how we think about generosity? How would we behave differently if we saw ourselves as stewards of God's Kingdom in all aspects of our lives?

I Sing a Song of the Saints of God'
For reflection ...

- v Who are the everyday saints in your life?
- v What makes them saints for you?

By Mary M. MacGregor

Thursday mornings in my childhood were very special. That was the time my elementary day school class at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Houston would go to chapel. This routine that lasted for seven years of my life shaped my young faith. Participating in this child-centric worship filled my heart with joy. We would exuberantly sing as our recessional the classic children's hymn, "I Sing a Song of the Saints of God." I doubt that the mother of three young children and wife of an Anglican priest who wrote this simple hymn had any idea how popular it would become, even jumping the Atlantic to become a favorite hymn of countless Episcopalians. Lesbia Scott wrote this memorable hymn in 1929 and specifically created it for All Saints Day. The lyrics stress that saints not only lived in the past but live and work today as people go about their everyday lives. "You can meet them in school, or in lanes or at sea, in a church or in trains, or in shops, or at tea. For the saints of God are just folks like me and I want to be one too."

As I sat in that chapel as a little girl my image of saints flowed through the brilliant stained glass windows that adorned St. Stephen's. I would hear the Bible stories of the disciples who became saints and grew to understand their devotion to God and the sacrifices they made. Yet this simple song reminded me that everyday people could end up being saints too. As I grew older and committed my life as a follower of Jesus, it became easier for me to see the everyday saints I encountered and the saints who have played significant roles in my life. They do share some similar characteristics: a remarkable devotion to God and, to a person, exemplary sacrifice in their lives and ministries. I always see Christ in them. Sometimes I experience a glimpse of a saintly moment. Sometimes I see years and years of an unbelievable witness to their love for God, giving of themselves while asking nothing in return. Sometimes I observe an extraordinary act of courage for God's sake. And I have lost so many of them. Whether through moving far away, or the drift that can happen in a friendship over time, or losing them to death as they meet Jesus face to face, I see them as saints. Who are the everyday saints in your life?

As we set aside November 1 as a day to remember the saints of old or the saints we actively encounter in our everyday lives, let us thank God that they all show us a glimpse of how the Holy Spirit can work in and through us, simple folks just like you and me.

Cn. Mary MacGregor, a TENSboard member who has been deeply involved in congregational development for over 25 years, served as Canon for Congregational Vitality and Mission Amplification for the Diocese of Texas.

[Read Mother Nancy's Stewardship letter here.](#)

Stewardship In-gathering is

Sunday, November 11th
Please send in your Pledge Cards. Thank You!

PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

Please sign up today in the Parish Hall.
We want everyone to be in the new Directory.

Sittings are from 2:00PM—9:00PM in the Parish Hall

TUESDAY, & WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13th & 14th



The Bible in 90 Days Yes, You Can!

You really CAN read through entire Bible, and Bible in 90 Days (B90) makes it possible. B90 is a group oriented, Bible reading plan that engages people in a 90-day, cover-to-cover reading of the Bible.

Reading just 12 pages a day in a specially designed Bible, with weekly teaching videos, and group accountability combine to make a life changing experience. Churches across denominations, prisons, drug rehabs, corporate Bible studies, neighborhood small groups - almost a quarter million people - have used B90 successfully. So turn your aspiration into inspiration!

The course materials include a specially formatted Bible and a Participant Guide for \$20.00. If you need a scholarship for the materials let Mother Nancy know. If you are able to pay for more than one set of materials to fund a scholarship, please let Mother Nancy know.

**TOGETHER,
WE CAN DO IT!**

Sundays @ 11am
beginning September 16 and
ending December 16
OR

Wednesdays @ 6:30pm
beginning September 19 and
ending December 19

(The two sessions each week
will cover the same material.)

Where do I find it?

Click on the pictures below to access the Ministry Roster & Calendar, Vestry Information, and Sermon pages of our Website:



Ministry Roster & Calendar



Vestry Information
Minutes of Vestry Meetings are available through the Parish Office. Please call if you wish a copy. Thanks.



Sermons



**All Saints' Sunday
November 4th**
We remember the departed today
Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord;
And let light perpetual
shine upon them.
May their souls, and the souls
of all the departed,
through the mercy of God,
rest in peace. Amen.



Episcopal Diocese of Northwest Texas News & Events

The Episcopal Diocese of Northwest Texas has a new look to their website. Check it out!

[The Episcopal Diocese of Northwest Texas](#)



The Episcopal Church

Explore the Way of Love!

Presiding Bishop Curry has invited the whole church to take up The Way of Love, a "rule of life" focused on practices for Jesus-Centered Life. Go to the Way of Love page on the Episcopal Church's website to find out more about engaging The Way of Love, developing and following a rule of life, walking with others, the Jesus Movement, and a selection of resources and tools for discovering and deepening that practice in your own life.

[The Episcopal Church](#)

A General
Thanksgiving
BCP P. 836



Accept, O Lord, our
thanks and praise for all that you have done for us.
We thank you for the splendor of the whole
creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of
love.

We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care which
surrounds us on every side.

We thank you for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts, and for leading
us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us.

We thank you also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to
acknowledge our dependence on you alone.

Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for the truth of his Word and the
example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation;
for his dying, through which he overcame death; and for his rising to life again, in
which we are raised to the life of your kingdom.

Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know him and make him known; and
through him, at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things.

Amen.



Daughters of the King

The Daughters of the
King is a national,
Episcopal women's

group whose purpose is prayer: thanksgiving, supplication,
intercession for others.

Prayer requests are kept anonymous unless the sender gives
permission to use specific names and privacy respected by the
Daughters and can be sent to Pamela Howell at prhluv9@yahoo.com

with the subject line:
DOK prayer request.



CHILDREN'S CHOIR
Sundays following Godly

Play & Church

Adult Choirs
Music Brush-up
Rehearsals
Updated Schedule

HANDBELLS

Saturdays,
November 3, 10, & 17
8:30am - 9:15am

CHORISTERS

Saturdays,
November 3, 10, & 17
9:15am - 10:00am



When Christmas hurts.....

All are welcome to
A Blue Christmas Service at
St. Nicholas' Episcopal Church.
An Ecumenical Service for all those
who find Christmas as a difficult time.
A Candlelight service is offered to
acknowledge our pain, grief, and loss,
and to offer that to God.
Everyone who is hurting this Christmas is
invited to attend.
Tuesday, December 4th 6:00 PM, in
the church.

The Bishop
Is Coming!

Bishop Scott
Mayer will be
at St. Nicholas'
for his annual
visitation on
Sunday, December 9, 2018.
If you wish to be confirmed or
received into the Episcopal
Church, please contact Mother
Nancy as soon as possible. Also, if
you'd like to talk about being
Baptized, either when Bishop
Scott is here or another time,
please contact Mother Nancy.



Please mark your calendars
for our annual
Lessons & Carols Service
Sunday, December 16, at
6:00PM
featuring
Adult & Children's Choirs,
Handbells, &
The West Texas Winds
Reception following

NOVEMBER Jubilee Food Pantry
Saturday 9:00am November 10th
Volunteers are always welcome!

The pantry is located at 3311 Andrews Hwy. There is a green bin in the

Welcome Center for donations of Tuna fish and peanut butter. Thank you.

~Linda Jordan

Weekly Outreach Plate Offering

First Sunday—to the Rector's Discretionary Fund

Second Sunday—to Outreach

Third Sunday—to the Deacon's Discretionary Fund

Fourth Sunday—to Episcopal Relief & Development

Fifth Sunday—to FELLOWSHIP

Need a ride to church?

At St. Nicholas' Episcopal Church, we would like to make sure all who wish to attend our Sunday morning service are able to do so. If you, or someone you know, are unable to drive independently to church because of health or impairment, we would like to pick you up, bring you to church, and then deliver you back home again.

Our courtesy Taxi Cab will pick up passengers for church every Sunday morning between 9:00-9:15am, and return home approximately at 11:00am. If you are interested, or you know of someone who could benefit from this service, please contact the Parish Office, at 432-694-8856.

Parish Prayer Requests

Will, Tommy, Jerry, Jo, Tina, Elisabeth, Jonathan, Noel, Karen, Sue, Derrill, Ross, Jimmy, Jenny, Robbie, Joy, Fran, Victorio, Kim, Glenda, Ray, Troy, Fred, Fr. Slayter, Becke, Joan (Jo-ann), Dylan, Wanda, Ben, Cynthia, Rachel, Daniel, Ann, Nancy, Brandy, Gregg, Isaac, Tisha, Wells Family, Ronnie, Linda and Family, Janie, Kathy, Colleen, Chalfant Family, Charlie, Alexandria, Chris, Kaylene, Gary, Addison, Bobby, Donna, Vivian, Sarah, Kellie, Marge, Ernest, Peggy, Jane, Maryann, Susan, Gwen, Sydney, Kathey, Dean, Coral, Sandra, Nikki, Clyde, Shirley, Latonya, Lani-Sue, Margaret, Timothy & Family, Raymond & Family, Craig, Tanya, Kalee, Debbie, Jenn, Richard, Terry, Kellie, Hazel, Tomasine, Sharon, Jessica, Don, Cathey, Qanna, Emmory, John, Jennifer, Kellie, Carol, Lisa, Kati, Pamela, Jim & Family, Denise, Frankie, Doug, Adriana & Family, Darla, Jessie, Hall Family, Riddle Family, Joshua, Kellie, Rebekah, Cynthia, Barbara, Sam, Shannon & Family, Harold and Family, Dymond, Paul, Andrea, Greg, Tom, Gray, Skyles Family, Todd, Elizabeth, John & Marcia, Linley, C-J Family, Sharon.

For those in the Armed Forces

Jordan, Robert, Stephen, Karen, Gabriel, Isaac, David, Daulton, Charlie, Luke, James, Mika, Tres, Josh, Jacob, Christine, Noah, Jackson, Aaron, Nicholas, Adam, Margarito, Kenton.

Prayer Ministers pray every Sunday with any member of the congregation who has

special prayer requests. They are found at the back of the church near the double doors during Communion. The Prayer Ministers also pray during the week for the congregation, our clergy, for our church, and parishioners in need.



Godly Play News

Godly Play is our Montessori-based children's education program. It allows our youngest members to explore their faith through play. The teacher presents a lesson that is followed by a time for the children to wonder and delve into their relationships with the Divine and each other. This is followed by their choice of art, or a project the teacher chooses, and the morning finishes with a tea party and snacks. We have a growing group of children who are excited and eager for class each week. It is inspiring to see them learning the stories and developing favorite lessons. Godly Play may

be designed for children, but it has something for everyone. I have learned as much as the students.

Two volunteers are needed for class each week. The teacher is responsible for the lesson and the assistant keeps everything running smoothly. No experience is needed! It is a fun opportunity to serve our church family.

I am available anytime to answer questions about the program.

If you are interested, I would love to visit with you.

Sally Stafford, 432-352-4281

All are Welcome, Really!

Sunday

9:30 AM Holy Communion

Sunday School for Children & Children's Choir

10:30 AM Fellowship Brunch

11:00 AM Adult Bible Study

Childcare provided

Wednesday

5:30 PM Healing Service & Holy Eucharist

6:00 PM Handbell Rehearsal

6:30 PM Light Supper and Bible Study

7:00 PM Chorister Rehearsal

Childcare provided



The Rt. Rev. J. Scott Mayer,
Bishop of Northwest Texas

The Rev. Canon Mike Ehmer,
Canon to the Ordinary

The Rev. Nancy Springer,
Rector

The Rev. Tom Burns, Deacon

Joe Cobb, Sr. Warden

Robert Norrgard, Jr. Warden

Darryl Knapp,

Organist/Choirmaster &

Lay Ministry Coordinator

Sharon Gerald, Bookkeeper

St. Nicholas' Episcopal Church | 432-694-8856 |
stnicks@stnicksmt.org www.stnicksmt.org

STAY CONNECTED

