

# PARISH NEWS

*Weekly News for the Family and Friends of St. John's Church*

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www.stjohnsfortworth.com  
2401 College Avenue, Fort Worth, Texas 76110

**August 28, 2022**

## MEMORIALS & PRAYER

### ALL MEMORIALS ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF ALMIGHTY GOD...

- † **THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR** – given in loving memory of Gabriel Paetz by Denise and Jeff Paetz.
- † **THE LADY CHAPEL FLOWERS** - given to the Glory of God.
- † **THE SANCTUARY CANDLE** – given to the Glory of God and in honor of the birthday of her granddaughter, Emily Matthews by Trish Williamson.
- † **THE DE PROFUNDIS BELL** – will ring on August 29 in memory of Jeremy Gallagar offered by Andrew Martin and on September 1 in memory of Jack Fry offered by Olga Fry.
- † **PRAYER LIST (3-wk cycle)** : Hugh, Lou, Wanda, Jim, Diane, Glenna, Ann, Cindy, Vic, Courtney, Katie...Jorge, Natallia, Joni & Chelsea, The Baileys, Anne, Fr. Bob, Larry, Sherman, Brooke, Jennifer, Numan, Cynthia
- † **THE MINISTRY OF THE FORT WORTH PREGNANCY CENTER**
- † **THE CHILDREN AND STAFF AT COOK MEDICAL CENTER**
- † **MILITARY SERVICE:** Danushka Fernando
- † **FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED:** John
- † **FOR THOSE TRAVELING:** Georgette
- † **FOR PARENTS EXPECTING:** Matthew and Neola Hilliard; Robert and Maris Bosworth.
- † **BIRTHDAYS:** Eleanor Stevens (28); Mike Carmena (30); Clay Slaughter (31); Chris Slaughter (1); Vivian Stevens (2)
- † **WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:**

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### Online Giving from Website

STAYING CURRENT WITH YOUR STEWARDSHIP IS NEVER EASIER. Visit our website [www.stjohnsfortworth.com](http://www.stjohnsfortworth.com) and click on the “Give” link on the Front Page and follow a few easy steps. Choose from the calendar the date that you would like your contribution submitted. Select your payment method. Select which fund from the drop-down list. The General Operating Fund is the default. Then, simply tap “Give!” to process your contribution. *Thank you!*

## **Visitors' Information**

### **Visitor's Card**

Help us get to know you! Please fill out a Visitor's Card, located at Pews and place it in the Offering Plate or hand it to one of the clergy.

### **Hospitality**

"Coffee Hour" is after the 9:00 am mass.

### **Prayer Ministry**

Prayer cards are in each pew for your prayer needs. To access the parish prayer chain, email the office@stjohnsfortworth.com or call 817-927-5341.

### **Counseling Office**

Fr. Bob Bosworth, Ph.D. Pastoral Associate is on staff as a licensed Clinical Pastoral Counselor for individual, marriage, and family counseling. Hours are Tues and Fri 10am-7pm and Sat 10am-4pm. Appointment required. Call 859-475-4475 or visit: Dr-Bosworth.com

## **How to Join St. John's?**

If you are Anglican or Episcopalian and wish to join St. John's, we will process a letter of transfer. If you are from a denomination, we will let you know when the next Inquirers Class begins. If you are not yet baptized, please see Fr. Klein.

### **Low-Gluten Hosts**

St. John's offers low-gluten (less than 0.01%) communion wafers on request. If you are gluten intolerant, please speak with the clergy.

### **Our Commitment to Biblical Orthodoxy!**

St. John's is a Parish of the Anglican Communion, the Anglican Church in North America (ACNA) and the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth. Our Bishop is the Right Reverend Ryan S. Reed, SSC, D.D. St. John's uses the 2019 Book of Common Prayer and the 1928 Book of Common Prayer.

## **Office Hours**

Tuesday - Friday  
9:30 AM - 4:00 PM  
*Closed for Lunch*  
12:00—1:30 PM

### **Worship Times**

Sat Vigil: 6:00 pm  
Lady Chapel. Sunday Morning: 8:00, 9:00, 11:15, Wed Morning: 7:30 am Lady Chapel.

### **Our Vestry**

Sr. Warden - Tom Ward 2025  
Jr. Warden - Gerald Gregory 2023  
Clerk - Rusty Wood 2023

### **Vestry Members:**

Jacob Belk 2023, Bob Hampton 2024, Don Lange 2024, Jason Merritt 2024, Christina Pavlovsky 2024, Clay Slaughter 2025, Kendall Smith 2025, Patrick Wells 2023, Trish Williamson 2025.

### **Treasurer**

Bob Hampton

### **Delegates to Diocesan Convention**

Gerald Gregory  
Jason Merritt  
Tom Ward

Next Vestry Meeting in Guild Parlor is Tuesday, **SEP 27** at 7:00 PM.

# Current Announcements

## Receiving the Precious Blood of Christ.

You can receive the Precious Blood of Christ by either intinction or directly from the chalice.

If you want to receive by intinction please keep the sacred host in your open hand and the chalice-bearer will take the host and dip a small portion of it carefully in the Precious Blood and place the host on your tongue.

*Of course, you are always invited at anytime to receive just the host.*

*When at the Altar rail, after receiving the host, cross your arms and the chalice-bearer will move to the next person.*

**CGS Atriums** will open September 11th!

**Teen Formation** is currently on a break for summer.

**Wednesday Morning Bible Study** will begin September 21 at 9:30 am.

**Choir and Bell Rehearsal:** Rehearsals begin August 18. Contact Alan Potts for details at 817-675-0346.

**Children's Choir Rehearsal:** Rehearsals begin Thursday, September 15, from 5:15—6:00 pm for ages 4-12. Contact Diane Lange for details at 817-908-6010.

## **GOOD NEWS DAILY**

Good News Daily booklets are here! The **SEPTEMBER** edition is available. You may pick up a

copy in the narthex, the chapel entrance, or the office.

## **ANOINTING IN CHAPEL**



We offer the sacrament of healing during the 9:00 am and 11:15 am services. *This is done by one of the*

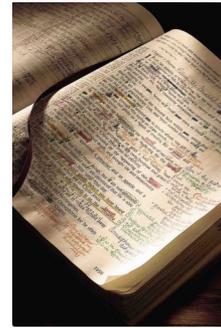
*clergy in the Lady Chapel immediately after you have received Holy Communion.* If you desire prayer and anointing, please go into the Chapel.

## **Choir Rehearsals!**

All adult choir rehearsals have returned on Thursdays. Bells at 6:00 and choirs at 7:00 pm. *There is always room for you in the choir!* Contact Alan Potts 817-675-0346.

## **Fall Adult Formation:**

**First Corinthians, Sept 11-Nov 13**  
**Instructor: Jason Merritt, Ph.D**



In the chaos and confusion of our modern world, Christians can find themselves wishing for the "good old days" of the early church. *But when we read St.*

*Paul's letters, we find that the early church wrestled with the same kinds of problems we encounter in the church today: disunity, sexual ethics, rightly ordered worship, and confusion about basic Christian theology.*

In this series, we'll work through St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians and see how the Apostle-to-the-world addressed these issues in the ancient church, and we'll learn how we can apply those lessons to our own lives and modern world. Bring your Bible and join us! **Sept 11-Nov 13.**

## Outreach Opportunity

### **Kairos Prison Ministry**



Kairos is an ecumenical, worldwide ministry that brings the

love of God in Christ into prisons. This is a hugely important ministry to provide a Christian presence as so many prisons have only Muslim chaplains. If you are interested in this ministry please speak with Fr. Klein.

### **Fort Worth Pregnancy Center**

**The Fort Worth Pregnancy Center is currently in need of the following items:**

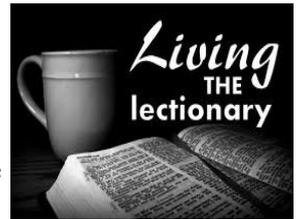
- † Diapers Size 1-6
- † Pull Ups
- † Wipes
- † Nail Clippers
- † Baby Lotion
- † Baby Shampoo/Wash
- † Diaper Cream
- † Gender Neutral bibs, burp cloths, socks infant mittens
- † New Baby Clothes for Baby Gifts (Size Newborn 0-9 months)

- † Gently used maternity and baby/toddler clothes & shoes size NB – 4T (Size 2T-4T most needed)
- † Baby accessories (carriers, bouncers, swings, etc.)

You may deliver your donated items directly to the Fort Worth Pregnancy Center (3221 Cleburne Rd., Fort Worth, TX 76110) or you can bring them here to St. John's, and we will deliver them for you.

### Wednesday Morning Bible Study

Wednesday morning Bible Study will begin on Sept. 7 at 9:30 am. We will begin a fresh study which shall be a study of the scriptures used in the upcoming Sunday morning Lectionary. Fr. Klein will lead the program through September and Fr. Moseley will step in on Oct. 5.



### How do Anglicans Grow?

*As we look to the future of St. John's with God's help several things come to mind. One is maintaining and growing Christ's mission here in Fort Worth. We can't slow down. Tarrant County is growing by leaps and bounds. So many people are moving into our area and many of them do not know Jesus Christ. Many of these folks wonder why it's necessary to be baptized or to receive Holy Communion. Christian fellowship for many today is more like a share*

*time at a local coffee house or restaurant. The very notion of everlasting salvation, that every person needs a savior in God who will intervene in their life, this is strange to so many today. There are many who see Christianity only as a problem or an old fashion interference that is no longer relative. For many, Christian doctrine threatens one's freedom of choice and the freedom to construct a personal "reality." Clearly, our work is cut out for us. But, with God's help nothing is impossible. We need only the courage to apply ourselves.*

In these Sunday morning reflections we have been looking at ways our Anglican Christian faith helps us grow deeper in our life with Christ.

I will title this weeks meditation, "**They just won't go away!**" What won't go away? Ancient Christian heresies.

Historically, as soon as the Church was born at Pentecost the devil started his confusions. Some Christians started teaching a different gospel from what Jesus gave to the apostles.

In his first letter we find St. John refuting the growing lies, heresies and life of the false teachers who were creating a major theological crisis in the churches in Asia Minor. A major schism was developing as Christians started leaving apostolic congregations to form new congregations with false teachers.

St. John writes, "*They went out from us, but they were not really of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but they went out, so that it would be shown that they all are not of us.*" (1 Jn 2:19)

We find this same concern in St. Paul writings as well. In his letter to the Galatians he writes: "*I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel; which is really not another; only there are some who are disturbing you and want to distort the gospel of Christ.*" (Gal 1:6-7)

The first six ecumenical councils (325-680) were largely a push back against errors. The council Fathers wanted to refute what was wrong, but also provide proper catechesis to guide the Church. From their efforts the Creeds were born providing an outline of basic Christian teachings about Christ and the Church's mission to the world. The Nicene Creed is one such effort completed in 325 AD.

Why all the fuss? Having a proper understanding with clear definitions is crucial because we are dealing with salvation.

People are not saved by ambiguity or foggy-mindedness or general ideas. Since the beginning the Church has always fought to retain hold of a proper orthodoxy in faith and orders.

What's happening today is no different. Which is why we must

be serious about our responsibility to identify and eliminate all false and mistaken ideas about Christ's revelation. This responsibility belongs to clergy and laity alike.

*Let it also be clear that God will hold each of us accountable.*

So, let's dig into a few examples of ancient heresies that are still active in the church today.

**What is heresy?** The word "heresy" comes from the Latin meaning "*to choose.*"

Christians supporting heresy are those who generally "pick-and-choose" their own path in understanding doctrine.

We see this abundantly today. Modern Christians aren't worried that their positions on Christ and salvation maybe heretical. The reply is something like, "God doesn't care." Concepts are relative! Well, actually, God really does care! He cares because he cares for your salvation. He really does want us to get it right because there are eternal consequences. Great harm will come to any soul seeking sanctification and salvation.

Heresy, like all fatal diseases are destructive to a person's soul.

Let us look at a few examples.

**Arianism** was a direct attack on the person of Jesus and his holy Incarnation. It denies the divinity of Jesus Christ. It was first argued by Arius (256-336), a priest of Alexandria in Egypt, who denied

that there were three distinct divine Persons in the Holy Trinity.

Arianism was condemned by the First Council of Nicaea in 325 AD.

When someone denies the divine nature of Jesus they reduce him to being just another guy. Maybe he is a wise man. A spiritual guide. A man of influence and a friend.

By reducing Jesus to only a common human person his or anyone's resurrection is reduced to a psychological and uplifting moment. Which is one reason why the Nicene Creed affirms belief in the "Resurrection of the Body and life everlasting."

**Nestorianism**. Nestorianism takes the heresy of Arianism in new levels. It's the belief that there were *two distinct persons* in Christ, one human and one divine. This heresy said that the blessed Virgin Mary gave birth to simply a male boy whose was conjoined to that of God. So Christ's divinity was superimposed upon his humanity.

The Nicene Creed refutes this position with the phrase we say all the time, "*of one being* with the Father." This translates the Latin "*consubstantialis*" or in Greek "*homoousios.*" This simple phrase is absolutely essential! It means that Jesus, *who is fully human*, is also *fully God himself*. Therein lies a profound mystery.

In Christ, God is never removed from us. He draws near to us in Jesus. We are loved by God himself.

Historic Christian theology explains that Jesus is in fact a divine person who *assumed human nature*.

**Pelagianism**. This heresy claims that Adam's sin was not passed on to future generations.

Pelagius was a Christian monk who died in 418 AD. He taught that Adam's sin was solely his own, and Adam's descendants did not inherit from him a sinful nature.

This denial of fallen nature is popular by those who support a universal salvation and believe that all people are good and what we call sin is actually only human flaws or adjustments or psychological issues, or just "me being me!"

But such people do not accept that unrepentant human nature can and will separate them from God or finally heaven.

Pelagius couldn't accept St. Augustine's teaching that every person is born with a "fallen nature" and that this fallen state inclines them to sin.

Our Prayer Book theology affirms St. Augustine's teaching about fallen human nature and the "original sin." Anglicans also understand that it is only through the grace of God and no other means that we could be saved from eternal damnation.

**Gnosticism**. This is the last one I will mention (there are more) and

it is one that has remained active through Christian history. The principles of Gnosticism contradict what it means to be a Christian.

Gnosticism, a multifaceted heresy was perhaps the most dangerous heresy that threatened the early church. Influenced by Plato's philosophy, Gnosticism is based on two false premises.

First, it creates a dualism regarding spirit and matter.

Gnostics assert that matter is inherently evil and spirit is good. As a result Gnostics believe that anything done with the body, even the grossest sin, has no meaning because real life exists in the spirit realm only. We see this in "New Age" thinking and in secular moral thinking today.

Gnosticism supports a dualism that claims that the powers of evil are battling the powers of good. These are understood as two separate powers, the good one and the bad one. Gnostics say they are quite independent and that both existed from all eternity.

BUT, the truth is that even though Satan has some power, he is no equal to God. Satan was created by God as an angel before he rebelled. (Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:13-17) St. John writes, "***You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.***" (1 John 4:4)

Second, Gnostics believe that salvation comes through acquiring a special type of knowledge or a “higher truth.” By obtaining this knowledge a person is freed from the illusions of darkness.

Gnosticism believes that our Lord’s physical body was not a real human body, but to the human eye it only “seemed” or “appeared” to be physical, and that the Holy Spirit did descend upon Jesus at His baptism, but it left him just before His crucifixion.

Gnosticism destroys not only the true humanity of Jesus, but also the atonement, for Jesus must not only have been truly God, but also the truly man who actually suffered and died upon the cross in order to be the acceptable sacrifice for our sin and the sin of the whole world! (Heb. 2:14-17)

BOTTOM LINE: Failure to identify and affirm truth doesn't mean that there are no harmful consequences. Just the opposite is true. From loose definitions to confusion to deliberate ambiguity and full lies it all can bring harm to souls in need of sanctification and salvation.

### **DHC Regional Gathering**

A common theme for all those who stood for Provincial Council this year was the desire to have regional gatherings that would enable women from states in the same area to gather together. The

first regional gathering is being held in Dallas, Texas, hosted by the Daughter's chapter at Church of the Holy Communion Cathedral. Anyone is welcome to attend, regardless whether or not you live in Texas! This event is open to all women - we encourage you to invite a friend.

Registration for the Gathering may be done on the Daughters' website. Additionally, we have reserved a block of hotel rooms at The Hyatt Place at a discounted rate. We are looking forward to seeing you in September!

### **DHC Regional Gathering in Dallas Church of the Holy Communion Cathedral**

Friday, September 23, 2022 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Saturday, September 24, 2022 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Registration \$30

[www.daughtershc.org](http://www.daughtershc.org)



...clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness,  
humility, gentleness and patience.

Colossians 3:12