

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

ANGLICAN



CHURCH

FEBRUARY 25, 2021 WEEKLY UPDATE

NOTICE OF ANNUAL VESTRY

The annual vestry meeting will be held on **Sunday, February 28, 2021** at 10am via ZOOM. Per our diocesan COVID Communiqué 36 and in keeping with public health directives, no in-person vestry meetings are permitted until further notice. This means our annual vestry meeting (and any special vestry meetings) will be held via video-conferencing. Zoom allows for participation by phone for those who do not have access to the internet.

Because this is a new way of meeting as a vestry, and this past year has been exceptional, this year's annual vestry meeting will involve only that business that our diocesan Canons, By-laws and Regulations require:

- Election and appointment of parish officers
- Reception of annual reports of parish groups
- Presentation and reception of financial statements ending fiscal year 2020
- Presentation and reception of 2021 budget

If you are interested in letting your name stand for election for office, please contact Karen Bryan or Paul Howard as soon as possible. A slate of nominations has been published in the Vestry report. Additional names may be added, but advance notice is helpful in terms of the proceedings.

Members of vestry and those permitted to hold office in the Parish of St. John the Evangelist, Smiths Falls must be able to make this declaration:

ELIGIBILITY FOR VESTRY MEMBERSHIP - CANON C.5.02

I solemnly declare that: I am a member of this congregation of the Anglican Church of Canada; I am of the full age of sixteen years; I am a regular worshiper with this congregation; I do not intend to vote as a member of any other Vestry in the election of Church Wardens or of Members of Synod during the ensuing year, and I am a supporter of this congregation by regular contributions to its maintenance.

Pre-registration will be required. Please contact People's Warden Karen Bryan at (613) 284-8149 or bryank284@yahoo.ca to register. You may participate by video or by phone.

Vestry packages have been e-mailed out to parishioners for whom we have e-mail addresses. Hard copies are being delivered this week to those who have requested one. If you have requested a hard copy and haven't received it by end of day Friday, February 26, please call the parish office and leave as voicemail message. If you would like an electronic copy, please e-mail the parish office.

PANDEMIC UPDATE

COVID Communiqué 41 was issued on Wednesday, February 24 and is available on the Diocese of Ottawa's Facebook

page: https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=4206077536088821&id=993410380688902&sfnsn=mo

It is hoped that parishes in our diocese will move to AMBER stage of our *In This Together Plan* on **Sunday, March 28**. (Palm Sunday). This plan is *tentative* as our ability to resume in-person worship is conditional on how the public health situation evolves given the high transmissibility of new COVID variants.

While some will find this announcement frustrating, the decision to watch and wait is borne out of a desire to avoid the stressful and demoralizing scenario of resuming in-person worship now, only to have to abruptly shut down just before Easter. The safety of all the congregations, and our community as a whole is the primary concern of parish and diocesan leadership.

Hopefully, service schedules for Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter Sunday will be publicized by March 18.

St. John's continues to offer recorded Sunday morning worship via its YouTube, web page and Facebook. We are investing in some technology to allow for the live streaming of our Sunday morning worship (rather than the record and upload model currently employed). In addition to Sunday morning Eucharist, Morning Prayer is live streamed on Facebook at 7am Mondays – Thursdays in Lent and Compline continues to be live streamed on Facebook at 9pm each evening.

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT IN LENT

Pint and a Passage – Mondays at 7pm. Pour yourself a pint or a cup of tea and join in the discussion for the Gospel of the upcoming Sunday. To register contact catherine-ascah@ottawa.anglican.ca

Questions of the Cross Book Study – Thursdays from 7 - 8:30pm February 18 – March 25. Samuel Wells' book *Hanging by a Thread: Questions of the Cross* scrutinizes the assumption that the crucifixion was about fixing human problems, and instead suggests it was the culmination of God's disarming purpose to be with us, no matter what. The book is available to order from Chapters and Kindle editions are available through Amazon. To register, contact catherine-ascah@ottawa.anglican.ca

Canon Brian Burrows recent reflection on Isaiah 28.13 titled "New Directions" has been posted on our website. Thank you Brian, for your wisdom and your proclamation of the Word.

Canon Catherine prays the Night Offices in Lent (midnight and 3am). If you have a prayer request, please contact her directly by phone or send it to catherine-ascah@ottawa.anglican.ca

There are many, many opportunities for Lenten study and prayer. The Anglican Church of Canada has a comprehensive list of resources at <https://www.anglican.ca/resources/lent2021/> which includes PWRDF's 2021 Lenten Guide Creation Care: Climate Action compiled by Bishop Jane Alexander of the Diocese of Edmonton and our diocesan PWRDF Representative The Rev'd Patrick Stephens from St. Barnabas, Deep River.

FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

On Friday, February 27 at 7pm, celebrate Black History Month with The Church Without Walls service. This virtual service is hosted by our diocese and St. Stephen's Church, Ottawa and Bishop Parker will be the preacher. Participation via Zoom (includes post-service fellowship) requires pre-registration. Livestreaming is available at St. Stephen's YouTube channel. For more information and to register: <https://www.facebook.com/OttawaAnglican/photos/a.1043388562357750/4188608111169097/?type=3&theater>

FELLOWSHIP

Afternoon Tea Tuesdays – Tuesdays at 3pm. Strictly social. Pull out your best china tea service, make a delicate little sandwich or set a plate of scones and jam before your computer and join in a civilized afternoon tea and friendly visits with friends near and far. To obtain the Zoom coordinates, please e-mail the parish office stjohns.smithsfalls@bellnet.ca. Hats, fascinators and ascot ties are optional.

OFFERINGS

Thank you for your generous financial support. Your donations make the ministry of St. John's possible. Offering envelopes can be mailed to the parish office or dropped off in the mailbox. Perhaps consider signing up for PAR (pre-authorized remittance) if that would work for you. Information was about PAR is available from the Envelope Secretary: SJSFenvelopesecretary@gmail.com

MISSION & MINISTRY UPDATE

Carebridge Community Support made a presentation to Parish Council at its virtual meeting on Wednesday, January 20 with an update on their proposed project, and we will look to have congregational information sessions (virtually) in the coming weeks, so that members of the congregation can hear the information first hand and ask questions regarding the proposal. Carebridge is awaiting to hear if they were successful with their RHI Grant application before their next update. As of February 22, they were still waiting. Once they hear on the status of the application, they will prepare a presentation for the congregation. For the most recent update issued to the parish on December 20, 2020, please refer to our website <https://www.stjohn-smithsfalls.com/news/important-congregational-update>

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School Live happens on the St. John's Sunday School Facebook page at 11:30am. Everyone and anyone can tune in and enjoy this time of teaching, prayer and fellowship. For more information, contact Emily at emduberville@hotmail.com. Please note that you can participate, even if you do not have a Facebook account.