

THE EVANGEL

October 2019

WEBSITE: www.EpiscopalArcadiaFL.com

BISHOP'S COMMITTEE MEETING September 18, 2019

- Insurance coverage and premium is being studied
- The diocesan audit report has been completed.
- \$10,000 will be transferred to an interest bearing CD
- Procedures and policies followed for Designated Funds were discussed and clarified
- Stewardship program will use "Live A God Pleasing Life" materials
- St. Edmund Church ad will be placed in the Arcadia Villager Newsletter
- During October the 8:00 Eucharist will remain on first and third Sundays
- Ministry of Healing will resume at the Sunday 10:00 Eucharist
- Father McConnell expressed gratitude for the care and concern exhibited during his medical involvements. He is repaying coverage costs during his absence.
- Security alarm "call list" is 1. Roy Michaud, 2. Bill Stephenson, and 3-Irene Pooser

DIOCESAN CONVENTION

Friday, October 11th – Workshops & 5:00 pm Diocesan Liturgy

Saturday, October 12th – Business Meeting



Upcoming Events

October 3

10:00 am
Daughters of the King

October 5

2:00pm
Blessing of the Animals

October 16

5:30 pm ECW
6:00 pm Men's Group
7:30 pm Bishop's Committee

October 31

Community Halloween Event
(Turner Center)

**327 West Hickory Street
Arcadia, FL 34266
(863) 494-0485**

The Rev. James McConnell
Priest-In-Charge
(863) 368-1465
sailor2926@gmail.com

The Rev. Robert Vaughn, Deacon
(863) 244-1369
vaughn_rj@yahoo.com

The Rev. Mario Castro, Latino Missioner
(813) 562-2467
mcastro@redeemersarasota.org

PRIEST – IN - CHARGE

This month begins the busy time of the church year. We begin by exploring our outreach footprint in our community and perhaps abroad. It is a time of study as we begin exploring our faith during worship and weekday study. I have ordered a series of studies that will aid us in exploring our orthodox beliefs. Come and join us on October 15 at 4:00 P.M. followed by evening prayer.

On October 11th and 12th our Diocese will hold its annual convention at the convention center in Punta Gorda. There are several seminars that all are invited to attend. The Eucharist is an inspiring worship service in ceremony and sermon.

On Sept. 29th you will hear a sermon about a man who had great wealth, but arrogantly ignored poor Lazarus. They both died. Because of his humility Lazarus went to paradise with Abraham, while the rich man went to a place of suffering. This story reminds us that charity is a holy value considered by God and humankind to be worthy of salvation. As we approach the Holy season, let us remember the obligations placed upon us by our baptismal vows and our faith.

Please keep me in your prayers. At this time of writing I am suffering with pneumonia. Just when I thought I was getting stronger, I got up last Tuesday and couldn't get my legs to support me. The indication was that I was dehydrated. Breathing was painful; the doctor confirmed that I have pneumonia from my chest x-ray. So, like the rich man in the Gospel, just when things seemed to be going great, life changed. We had planned to go to Key West on the Key West Express but had to cancel. See you all next week. May God continue to bless us.

Fr. Jim McConnell+



SUNDAY ATTENDANCE

July Average Attendance

8:00 - 8
10:00 - 34
7:00 - 14

August Average Attendance

8:00 - 8
10:00 - 32
7:00 - 19

September Average Attendance

8:00 - 7
10:00 - 28
7:00 - 15

Bishop's Committee

Senior Warden Joe Mancuso
Junior Warden Charlene Michaud
Patricia DiCioccio
Bob Harrington
Pat Novean
Michael Pooser
Vivian Stewart

Irene Pooser, Clerk
Pat Moore, Treasurer

Roy Michaud & Bill Stephenson
Property Managers

DEACON

I was recently asked about how I became Episcopalian. Like most of our congregation at St. Edmund Church I started in another church tradition. I was born on January 12th, and four days later on January 16th I was baptized in my maternal family's Roman Catholic parish church. My paternal family was Evangelical Protestant. Although I often attended church services with my Protestant grandparents, my religious identity was firmly Roman Catholic.

I entered a Roman Catholic religious order at age 18, the Brothers of Holy Cross, and attained a degree in theology from the University of Notre Dame. It was during that course of studies that I first became acquainted with and interested in Anglicanism. Intellectually it was an appealing presentation of a reformed Catholic faith. The order and beauty of Anglican style liturgy I greatly appreciated. At the time it did not seem to be a viable option considering my commitment in the Holy Cross community as well as an emotional barrier concerning English oppression of the Irish people strongly implicating the Church of England.

I later became acquainted with a lady who was Episcopalian. A number of times I told her I would like to join her at a service at her church. She never invited me. May be typical of Episcopal evangelism!

After much discernment I eventually decided to leave the Brothers of Holy Cross. Part of that decision was also a desire to explore other church traditions. While the Roman Catholic Church is clearly and definitely my "mother in the Faith," I realized there were a number of issues that made me question my continued involvement. Not least of my concerns was the dismal experience of liturgy in the typical parish that I experienced.

I recognized that, to be comfortable and acceptable, any church tradition with which I would associate would have to have a Eucharistic type of worship service but I did not do anything about exploring other options; rather I just "dropped out" for a while. When Nancy Jo and I decided to marry, she identified the Episcopal chapel at the University of Miami as a possible wedding site. We became acquainted with the priest and started attending Sunday services. The very first Sunday there I knew I "was home."

A key Anglican/Episcopal theological understanding is "lex orandi, lex credendi". It means that what we believe is reflected in what and how we pray. That is why the Book of Common Prayer is so important in our church tradition. It is why our liturgical tradition is at the core of our Episcopal identity and understanding of being faithful to the message of Jesus. Liturgy sustains us spiritually and nourishes our ministry and living the Gospel of Jesus.

In addition to the liturgical importance for me, I also understood the necessity of a commitment to justice and service to those in need or hurting as reflected in Scripture and the mission of Jesus. I quickly realized that the Episcopal Church provided a full expression of my Catholic faith.

I have never doubted my journey into the Episcopal Church. It is theologically and spiritually congruent for me.

--Deacon Robert Vaughn

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

- ❖ Some Sundays it feels like fall and some Sundays it feels like summer. I stay confused! It is nice though to see friends from near and far returning to us at St.Edmund's.
- ❖ Please uplift Annie Virgilio in your prayers as she is experiencing health problems. We miss Annie and John so much. I remember fun times at their home when they treated everyone at St.Edmund's to delicious cookouts and tours of John's stained glass studio and Annie's art studio. Wonderful people!
- ❖ Carolyn and Ron Robins received the biopsy report on their son Scott's kidney and lymph nodes. He has a very rare form of cancer and will probably end up going to Johns Hopkins in DC as they are doing research on this type of kidney cancer. They say prayers are definitely needed as they don't know for sure the outcome of this illness. Please keep Scott on the church's prayer list indefinitely and the Daughters of the King prayer list. He goes to the oncologist soon and they will then decide what type of treatment he can receive.
- ❖ We love seeing Bob and Deb Long back with us. They add so much to life at St.Ed's when they are here!
- ❖ Ruth Adams says, "Praise the Lord!" Stephanie is healthy again and John is feeling much better these days. In addition, Ruth enjoyed a week long visit from her sister, Joyce, who lives in Knoxville. Joyce is such a nice addition to our choir.
- ❖ James Bianco has recently accepted a part time position at the local Winn-Dixie as a liquor store associate. Steve was recently admitted into the Master of Arts Curriculum and Instruction Education graduate program at Florida Gulf Coast University for the Spring 2020 semester to further his career in aiding those with disabilities in accessing and enjoying the internet. Velvet, the kitten, recently recovered from an UT infection but is just as rambunctious as ever.
- ❖ Shawn and Helen Bryan plan to be back in Arcadia for a couple of weeks in early November to move their RV onto their seasonal site at Little Willie's. They will return home for Thanksgiving and Christmas with their kids and grandkids and then will be back in January until they head back to Vermont in the spring. They look forward to seeing their St.Edmund's church family soon. It will be wonderful to see them also.
- ❖ Pat Moore is staying busy gathering information for the approaching census. I understand she is doing such a fantastic job that they would like to send her to other cities and states to help out!
- ❖ Look out, people-here come the Gromens! Linda and Barry plan to land in Punta Gorda on November 9th so she hopes to be at church on the 10th. And she says she cannot wait to see all of us! We feel the same way about her!
- ❖ Congratulations to Connie and George DeWitt as they celebrated their 69th Wedding Anniversary! Two wonderful people!

OCTOBER BIRTHDAY

6TH – Haila Lewis
10th – Ginny Fusco
13th – Bart Plymale
18th – Carol Vickery
22nd – Gail Dawn Hinesley
24th – Irene Pooser

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARY

7TH – Bob & Diane Blank
8th – Dave & Joyce Hendricks
12th – Joe & Sandy Easterwood
31st – Richard & Pam Apps

- ❖ Sandy Easterwood had her back surgery on August 19th and is still in the recovery mode. She is in a brace and cannot bend, reach, twist, drive, etc. Their three daughters from Northern Virginia each took a turn and came down for the first three weeks to help Joe out. Since then he has been on his own now and actually doing a very good job. She goes back to the doctor on October 11th and hopefully will be able to start doing some more things. They survived Dorian with little damage and hope all is well in Arcadia.
- ❖ Dante Lanzetta reports that their biggest “event” is that Jane located another rescue at a nearby shelter and they adopted him two days before Dante’s birthday (8/22). Patrick, as she has named him, apparently was dumped in a forest not far from them. Despite a few issues, he is highly socialized, which doesn’t fit either being dumped or being neutered when they found him. He was billed as a Shih-Tzu mix, either four or five years old, but the groomer thinks he’s a Tibetan Terrier, which Dante has never heard of and also isn’t a true terrier. So far, he and Sugar Plum, the blind toy poodle mix they adopted before going to Florida are co-existing calmly. Dante still hasn’t fixed his bike and has missed the best riding weather there all year. He says he’d better get back in the shop and try to remedy that. By the way, when here, Dante and Jane live at Live Oak RV Resort way south on 17 and he bikes all the way into church on Sundays!
- ❖ Please continue to uphold Rosanne and her sister Joyce in your prayers. Joyce lives in Massachusetts and is suffering with cancer. Rosanne was with her in July and will probably be returning before winter sets in.
- ❖ Roy and Charlene are spending time with their family in Maine. We miss them so much but they are dealing with family illnesses and have already attended three funerals up there. I am so sorry. In addition, they have been busy working on their lake home up there. We wish them safe travel back to us-hopefully soon!
- ❖ As soon as Father Jim is strong and well enough, he and Carolyn are looking forward to some camping and travel time. Father Jim is excited about beginning his Tuesday evening classes. They are going to be good and spiritually meaningful. God is great!
- ❖ Irene Pooser would like to thank Shelly Baumann, Rosanne Collins and Pat Moore for co-hosting our Literary Club with her in September. Just for the record, they are wonderful cooks, servers, cleaner-uppers and a delight to work with! The Poosers also enjoyed sharing a delicious meal at Bern’s in Tampa with longtime friends Jan and Hal Lewis in August. And we are actually already planning a New Orleans getaway with them in May of 2020. I find that as I get older it takes me longer to get organized!

See you in church!

Irene



(Contact Nancy Jo Vaughn for information or tickets)

STEWARDSHIP

Hello again. Can it possibly be that time of year again? In reality, Stewardship is NOT a once a year thing, but a life-long thing. We are so blessed by our Lord, He expects us to use a goodly portion of his blessings to further His work in the world.

“May the God of peace...equip us with everything good for doing His will, and may He work in us what is pleasing to Him, through Jesus Christ, to who be glory for ever and ever. Amen” (Hebrews 13:20-21)

The name of our program this year is, “LIVE A GOD-PLEASING LIFE!”

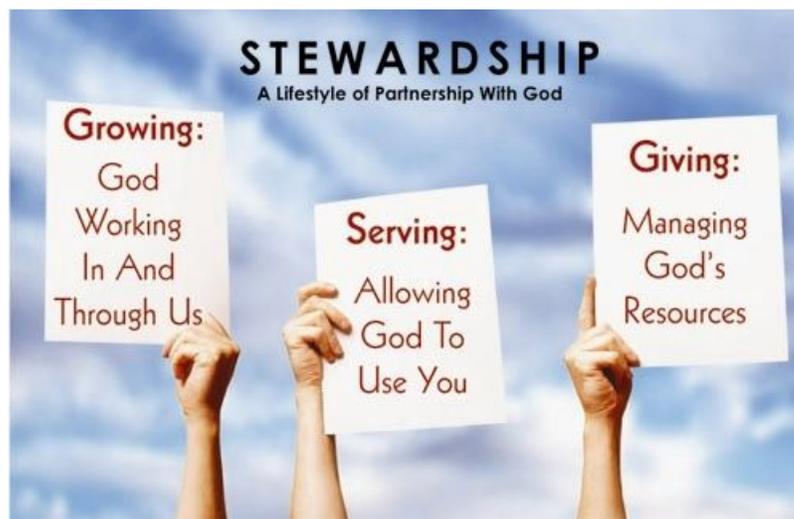
As Christians, we are stewards or managers of all the gifts God has given us. This is quite a task, a task, frankly, that we, on our own are incapable of carrying out. Yet we don’t have a choice; all Christians are called to be stewards. We are not left on our own, though. The God who calls us equips us as well.

If we are to be stewards **living a God-pleasing life**, we must follow the **path of discipleship** that Jesus lays out before us. We are called to serve, even as Jesus himself “did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many”. (Matthew 20:28)

God-pleasing stewards give generously, even as their Master, Jesus gave all He He has, His very life. **Generosity was the hallmark** of the early Christians who “shared everything they had...There were no needy persons among them.” (Acts 4:32, 34). Out of thankfulness to our giving God, who gives so generously, we, along with our spiritual forefathers, respond to the needs of others, giving to them as unto the Lord.

During the month of October, we will spend three Sundays learning and growing and becoming stewards **living a God-pleasing life**.

Robert Harrington
Stewardship Coordinator



MEMBERSHIP & CHURCH DIRECTORY

Please contact Carolyn McConnell with any changes or updates to your address and contact information

Have you looked at our Online Church Directory?

Follow the directions below to log on the directory

To log in to the directory:

1. Go to **members.InstantChurchDirectory.com**
2. Click on the link: First time signing in? Create a login now.
3. Enter the email address as it is listed in the family portion of the directory.
4. Create a password. The password must be 8 characters long, and contain at least two of the following special characters: capital letters, numbers or symbols.
5. Retype the password to confirm it and click "Request Login."
6. Check your inbox for an email from service@instantchurchdirectory.com.
7. To complete the sign-up process, you will need to verify your email address by clicking on the link sent to you in that email
8. Once you confirm your email, you may sign at members.InstantChurchDirectory.com.

You can read the directory online. Simply click on the name to see the details: photo, address, phone number, email, birthdays, anniversaries.

Your email with the password you created will work on all the Instant Church Directory apps on any device. All you have to do is go to "Apps" on your device and search for "Instant Church Directory." If you have not made an account yet, follow steps 2 through 7 above. If you have already used the program just sign in with the same username and password.

DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

The Daughters of the King (DOK) is a lay order of the Episcopal Church dedicated to prayer and service. The St. Edmund chapter was formed in 2006. The weekly prayer list is maintained by this group and used as focus for their prayer. The St. Edmund chapter meeting is the first Thursday of the month at 10:00 am. See chapter president Ruth Adams about becoming a member of DOK. This month's meeting is on Thursday, October 3rd, at 10:00 am.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN

The ECW opened our year with a wonderful meeting in September. Thank you to all who attended; it is so good to share ideas, fellowship and food! We began outlining a plan of projects and events for the coming year. We welcome any and all women of St. Edmund's to join us at our next meeting at Beef O'Brady's on Wednesday, October 16th, at 5:30. We would love your input for the coming year.n of St. Edmund Church are members of Episcopal Church Women (ECW). The purpose of

Charlene Michaud, ECW President

OUTREACH & BENEVOLENCE MINISTRIES

Sixteen people joined Deacon Robert Vaughn on September 30th for a dinner of "Hoosier Goulash," salad, rolls, cookies and pumpkin ice cream followed by a lively discussion about St. Edmund Church outreach ministry. A review of past and present outreach ministry endeavors as well as current funding status was presented. Discussion centered on the importance of a "hands-on physical presence" in addition to funding involvements. Various ideas were presented by the participants as well as acknowledgement of some of the realities of being a small church with an older congregation.

Ideas presented included exploring ways for involvement with Habitat for Humanity families, the need to address the issue of folks not able to afford medically necessary prescription medications, the opportunity to help ill or elderly people without transportation to get to appointments (perhaps interfacing with the county's DART program), consider ways to help with the Victims Advocacy programs (especially domestic violence) for local law enforcement agencies, and development of a St. Edmund Church volunteer team to assist at the Service Center for DeSoto Cares Homeless Services.

There was also discussion regarding the "St. Edmund Has Heart Dinner" that has served as an effective outreach ministry fund raising event. It was not done in 2019 and the group reached a consensus that it would be good to resume it in 2020; issues such as location and the volunteer committee were considered. The group expressed concern about hurricane relief money not having been fully used. Group members will take responsibility to explore options regarding the dinner and the hurricane funds.

Follow up to these discussions will be done in future meetings.



LITURGICAL MINISTRIES SCHEDULE

| DATE | ALTAR GUILD | LEM | ACOLYTE | 8:00 LECTOR | 10:00 LECTOR | PRAYERS | GREETERS |
|--------|-------------------|--------------|----------------|-------------|----------------|-------------------|------------------------------|
| Oct 06 | Irene Pooser | Joe Mancuso | Pat Moore | Haila Lewis | Pat Moore | Irene Pooser | Irene & Michael Pooser |
| Oct 13 | Sandy Stantz | Pat Moore | Irene Pooser | | James Bianco | Bob Harrington | Pat Novean Bob Harrington |
| Oct 20 | Carolyn McConnell | Pat Novean | Bob Harrington | Ed Dussault | Kent DeBruler | Nancy Jo Vaughn | Phylis & Joe Mancuso |
| Oct 27 | Pat Moore | Irene Pooser | Joe Mancuso | | Pearl Kiellman | Carolyn McConnell | Steve & James Bianco |

ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-EIGHT YEARS AGO

The first Episcopal Church liturgy in Arcadia was on October 13, 1891, officiated by the Rt. Rev. Edwin Gardner Weed, the Third Bishop of Florida:

“It is clear that the ministry of the Episcopal Church in Arcadia started with Bishop Weed while the original Diocese of Florida was intact. Bishop Weed reported that in 1891 he conducted services in Arcadia on October 13th, stating that it was the first Episcopal service ever held in Arcadia. He reports officiating a Confirmation Service in 1892 for three persons on February 8th and confirmed another person on February 9th.” (Love, Faith, Service, and Endurance: A History of St. Edmund the Martyr Church 1893-2018, p. 6)

The mission station in Arcadia was officially designated as “St. Edmund, Martyr & King” at the first convention of the Missionary Jurisdiction of Southern Florida in February 1893. Until the construction of the 1897 church building, services were held in private homes, the courthouse, the school, or the Methodist Church.



Bishop Edwin Weed

ST. EDMUND THE MARTYR EPISCOPAL CHURCH – OCTOBER

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--------|---|--|---|---|--|
| | | 1 7:00 pm NA | 2 | 3 10:00 am DOK 7:00 pm NA | 4 | 5 2:00 pm Blessing of Animals 6:00 pm NA |
| 6 8:00 & 10:00 Eucharist 7:00 pm Eucharist | 7 | 8 7:00 pm NA | 9 | 10 5:30 pm DeSoto Cares 7:00 pm NA | 11 <i>Diocesan Convention</i> | 12 <i>Diocesan Convention</i> 6:00 pm NA |
| 13 10:00 am Eucharist 7:00 pm Eucharist (Spanish) | 14 | 15 4:00 pm Religious Studies 7:00 pm NA | 16 5:30 pm ECW 6:00 pm Mens Group 7:30 pm Bishop's Committee | 17 7:00 pm NA | 18 | 19 6:00 pm NA |
| 20 8:00 & 10:00 Eucharist 7:00 pm Eucharist | 21 | 22 4:00 pm Religious Studies 7:00 pm NA | 23 | 24 7:00 pm NA | 25 <i>Newsletter items due</i> | 26 6:00 pm NA |
| 27 10:00 am Eucharist 7:00 pm Eucharist (Spanish) | 28 | 29 4:00 pm Religious Studies 7:00 pm NA | 30 | 31 5:00 pm Halloween Turner Center 7:00 pm NA | | |
| | | | | | | |