



June 16, 2021

## PASTOR'S PENCIL

Memorials are hard. For members of the faith community, it's an opportunity to celebrate the life and legacy of someone we knew and loved. For members of the departed one's family, it's a time of grief. When we pray at a memorial, we're praying for that family; those experiencing the loss of someone indispensable to their lives.

During the pandemic we were unable to honor the lives of those who passed on to the heavenly realm. Under "normal" circumstances, we would have gathered to celebrate the individual lives of Jeanne McKenna, Dee Green, Bob Miller, George Zimmerman, George Birger, Lenora Austin and Jim Alkire. Needless to say, the pandemic made that impossible.

Which is why I am pleased that we will be able to come together this Saturday, June 19<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am to honor our own Kim Patton. The Patton family from near and far will be gathering to pay tribute to their beloved Kim and I hope his faith community – that's you! – will be able to attend as well.

This will be our first memorial – but not our last. On Sunday, July 25 the worship service will focus on the seven saints I mentioned above and how each of them was a blessing to their families and this church.

I began this column by saying memorials are hard because those of us who remain mourn and grieve. But memorials are also a cause for celebrations – for lives well-lived, for sweet memories and for the acknowledgement that those who've gone before are experiencing the true shalom that comes from resting alongside God.

*Shalom,*

*Pastor Lesley*

Pastor Lesley is in the office this week but heads out for vacation from June 20 – July 2.

Bill Evans will be filling the pulpit. THANKS, BILL!



**Education Calling...**

## The Wonder of God's Creatures

Greetings!



Two moms and three kittens, in a safe secluded area in our neighborhood, with water and shade (but no human interference). Ahhhh.... the rhythm of life of our wild creatures is amazing.

So this week, by the time you see this, Session will have conducted interviews with three great candidates for Interim Pastor. We will keep you informed about the results.

*Faith be your guide,  
Rob.*

### ***Lord, we offer these prayers for . . .***

- † **Debbie & Paul MacKinney**, beginning a new phase of life. Paul is moving to a memory care unit in a group home
- † **Nancy Roberson**, ongoing challenges with her broken foot
- † **Rita Rasmussen**, knee replacement surgery
- † **Barbara Bledsoe**, on the death of her aunt
- † **Luanne**, Kay French's daughter, on the passing of her husband
- † **Lew Smith**, home hospice
- † **John Deering**, cancer
- † **Jon**, the Taylor's nephew, cancer

## JANE'S LUNCH BUNCH IS BACK!

Great news and thank the Lord, Jane's Lunch Bunch (JLB) returns to St John on July 19th at 7:30 AM. Dave Nichols has generously agreed to step into JLB's coordinator position which involves shopping, set up and delivery. Dave is looking for someone to assist him in his duties and be prepared to take over whenever he finds himself out of town. If that's you, contact Dave at [tool135@msn.com](mailto:tool135@msn.com) or 520-349/2330. Kent Grant has agreed to purchase and deliver bananas and Sandi Tinsley has agreed to purchase and

deliver bread. I have canvassed last year's volunteer list and there are plenty of volunteers ready to come back to the ham & cheese and PB&J sandwich-making lines. God bless you all for ensuring this important St John mission continues on into the future! Jane's Lunch Bunch meets the third Monday of every month to make 360 sack lunches for the Casa Maria Soup Kitchen. JLB is funded by the loose change you put in the offering bowls every Sunday.



A big and hearty thank you to the **Daves: Tabb and Nichols**. They spent many hours last week trying to determine the reason for our phone, A/C and Internet outages. Bless you both for stepping up while the pastor was "indisposed."

**Rocky Hoopengardner** for what promises to be a beautiful and efficient Audio/Visual booth.

**John Deering** for sharing his Star Word.

## MEN OF MISSION

As you probably know, I will be leaving St John with Pastor Lesley as she retires. I had been loosely shepherding St John's Men of Mission (MOM) group for a few months before the pandemic and we cancelled meetings during the pandemic.

Men of Mission met once a month for "beer and business." We sought opportunities to be of assistance to each other, our church, our community and the world. There's lots to be done and these are just the guys who can do it. It is my hope some of

the fellows who attended MOM meetings will step up and continue this rich fellowship opportunity.

Let me know if y'all need anything else,

*Dean*

**NEXT FILL THE CART OPPORTUNITY JULY 4**

## HYMN HISTORY: SHINE, JESUS, SHINE

Graham Kendrick, the son of a Baptist pastor, began writing songs in the early 1970s and today is one of the most prolific British Christian singer-songwriters and worship leaders. His hymn *Shine, Jesus, Shine* has been at the top of church copyright license charts for over ten years.

Kendrick tells of writing the praise song: "I had been thinking for some time about the holiness of God, and how...his desire is for us to live in his presence. I wrote the three verses and 'road tested' it in my home church. It seemed incomplete, so I put it back in the file." Several months later he was asked to submit new songs for a conference song book and realized his three-verse song needed a chorus. The line 'Shine, Jesus, Shine' came to mind, and within about half an hour he finished the chorus.

Stanza one focuses on the light "shining in the midst of the darkness" and Christ as the "Light of the World" (John 8:12). This Light "set[s] us free by the truth..." (John 8:32). Stanza two reflects on coming before the "awesome presence" of Christ, where "the shadows [turn] into your radiance." Christ's brightness "consume[s] all my darkness." The final stanza focuses on how Christ's brightness may be reflected in our lives as "our faces display your likeness." The third stanza concludes with a petition: "May our lives tell your story."

Lord, the light of your love is shining  
In the midst of the darkness, shining  
Jesus, Light of the world shine upon us  
Set us free by the truth you now bring us  
Shine on me, Shine on me.

(Chorus)

*Shine, Jesus, shine  
Fill this land with the Father's glory  
Blaze, Spirit, blaze  
Set our hearts on fire  
Flow, river, flow  
Flood the nations with grace and mercy  
Send forth your word,  
Lord, and let there be light.*

Lord, I come to your awesome presence  
From the shadows into your radiance  
By the blood I may enter your brightness  
Search me, try me, Consume all my darkness  
Shine on me, shine on me.

(Chorus)

As we gaze on your kingly brightness  
So our faces display your likeness  
Ever changing from glory to glory  
Mirrored here may our lives tell your story  
Shine on me, shine on me.

(Chorus)

### NO DESERT VOICE FOR TWO WEEKS

Pastor Lesley goes on vacation and Susan Patton is leaving for a month-long journey so that means we'll have no issues of the Desert Voice for the next two weeks. Publication will resume on July 7.

## CALENDAR CELEBRATIONS: JUNE 16 – 22

**Wed. June 16 – Fudge Day:** Believed to be an American invention, fudge is a tasty treat appreciated world-wide. A student at Vassar wrote about fudge made and sold at a grocery store in Baltimore for 40 cents a pound. (*Celebrate by making your own batch of fudge and experimenting with flavors.*)



**Thurs. June 17** – the day in 1885 **the Statue of Liberty arrived** in New York City. The copper statue, a gift from the people of France to the people of the United States, was designed by French sculptor Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi and its metal framework was built by Gustave Eiffel. Another year passed before the statue was dedicated in October 1886.



**Sun. June 20 – Father's Day:** This day we celebrate the backbone of the family and source of the quirky dad jokes we all know and love. Catholics in medieval Europe established Father's Days to honor fathers and fatherhood, a tradition that continues to this day. In 1976, President Lydon Johnson proclaimed the third Sunday in June as Father's Day in America.

*"A father is neither an anchor to hold us back, nor a sail to take us there, but a guiding light whose love shows us the way."* – Unknown



**Tues. June 22 - National Kissing Day:** Is all about showing your love and improving your health. That's right, kissing is actually good for you — #wellness. Kissing relieves stress, burns calories, and benefits your immunity. With so many perks, we can't imagine why anyone wouldn't want to celebrate, so pucker up!



This Sunday is your last chance to donate any size diapers for the **Southern Arizona Diaper Bank**.

## THE LESSON OF THE TREES

Many years ago we bought an older house with several large, healthy shade trees.

They shaded the grass, cooled the porch, hosted lovely birds, marked the changing seasons, welcomed climbers, and pleased us each time we sat beneath them or looked up into them. Those trees enriched our lives, increased the value of our property and gave joy to many.



One day, I realized that I had neither planned for nor planted those trees. For me, they had always been there. Who was it, I wondered, who had planted the seeds or the saplings?

Who had chosen the variety, had watered and cared for them? Who went to the expense, and then moved away, never intending to take the trees along? Imagine! leaving those trees for me. Leaving the beautiful trees for the benefit of people they would never know. What a gift!

A few years ago we bought a new house on a barren lot. Very soon I planted trees---maple, birch, white pine, dogwood, crabapple. I decided where to put them, tended and watered them. Even in their infancy I appreciated those trees---their soft colors and new growth, their birds' nests and their little movements in the breezes.

As I planted them I knew that I would not still be living there to see them at their height, their full glory, their cool shading of the whole house. Someone else, whom I may never see or know,

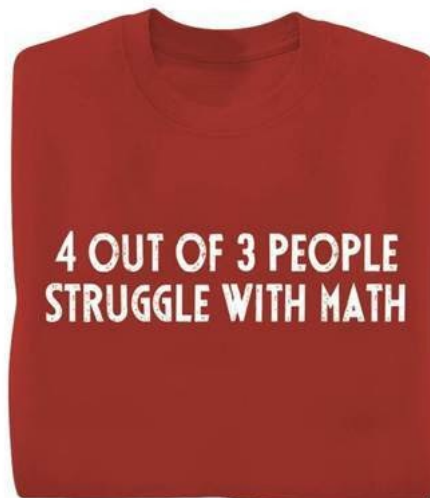
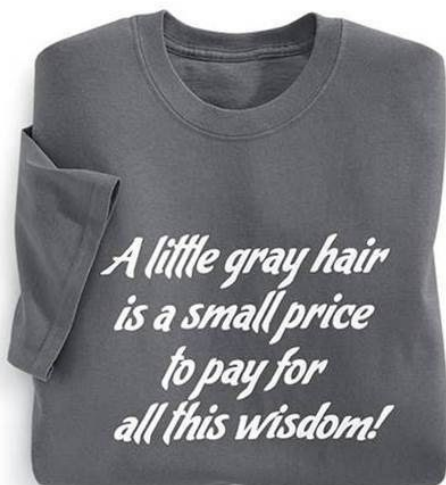
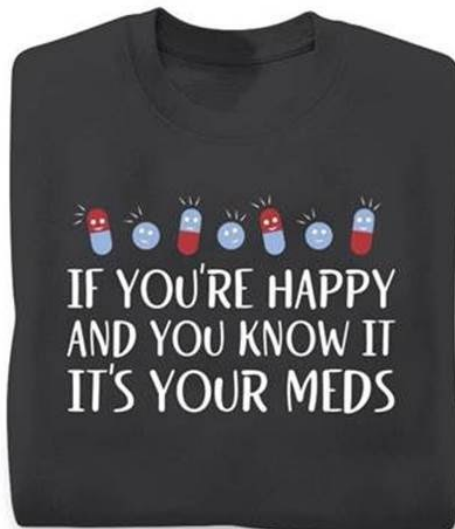
will enjoy the trees growing into each other, welcoming climbers, cooling the porch. And all that makes me glad. What a plan! What a gift----to plan for others.

**Didn't you always long to be one of the kids on the A/V squad?**

Now's your chance. Mark your calendars now for Saturday, July 31.

We are about to launch a new chapter in the life of St John on the Desert.

Whole Hearted Pro A/V will be training us on the live streaming equipment.



**Elders**

Joy V'Marie (23) Clerk of Session  
[sessionclerk.stjohn@gmail.com](mailto:sessionclerk.stjohn@gmail.com)

David Tabb (23) Treasurer  
 (520) 298-1654  
[treasurersjod@gmail.com](mailto:treasurersjod@gmail.com)

Diane Kent (21) Mission  
[mrskent1@gmail.com](mailto:mrskent1@gmail.com)

Susan Taylor (21) Buildings & Grounds  
 (520) 760-2119  
[sktaylor.tus@cox.net](mailto:sktaylor.tus@cox.net)

Rob Dillon (22) Christian Education  
[rpd1046@gmail.com](mailto:rpd1046@gmail.com)

Georgia Bernheim (23) Communications and Outreach  
 (520) 227-0481  
[bernheim@yahoo.com](mailto:bernheim@yahoo.com)

Susan Curwen Personnel  
 (520) 760-7239  
[gregnsusan@usfamily.net](mailto:gregnsusan@usfamily.net)

**Deacons**

Helen Tabb Parish 1  
 (520) 298-1654  
[hmtabb46@gmail.com](mailto:hmtabb46@gmail.com)

Sandi Tinsley Parish 2  
 (520) 777-4400  
[sandraminton@gmail.com](mailto:sandraminton@gmail.com)

Rita Rasmussen Parish 3  
 (520) 296-2730  
[ritarasmussen5@gmail.com](mailto:ritarasmussen5@gmail.com)

Kay French Parish 4  
 (520) 207-1504  
[grammyk1211@cox.net](mailto:grammyk1211@cox.net)

Eugenia Villafana Parish 5  
 847-571-4210  
[villafanaeugenia@gmail.com](mailto:villafanaeugenia@gmail.com)

Barbara Bledsoe Parish 6  
 (520) 982-1392  
[lilacjen@cox.net](mailto:lilacjen@cox.net)

**Newsletter Editor**

Georgia Bernheim  
[bernheim@yahoo.com](mailto:bernheim@yahoo.com)

**Newsletter Publisher**

Susan Patton  
[susanopatton44@gmail.com](mailto:susanopatton44@gmail.com)

**Web Site**

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

**Pastor Lesley Abrams**

[pastorsjod@gmail.com](mailto:pastorsjod@gmail.com)  
 520-271-2067

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[https://www.facebook.com/  
 StJohnonTheDesert](https://www.facebook.com/StJohnonTheDesert)



2695 N. Houghton Road,  
 Tucson, AZ 85749  
 520-749-3615  
[stjohnonthedesert@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnonthedesert@gmail.com)