

# The Fellowship Times

## Jeanne Wright Memorial Luncheon

**Saturday, March 7th**

**Time: TBD**

**Location: St. Alban's Parish House**

**Hosted By: Rick Wright, Jessica Poveda and Jamie Johnson**

Jeanne Wright passed away at Good Shepherd Hospice on January 27th. Her husband Rick and her daughters Jessica and Jamie attended to her throughout her battle of cancer, the treatments of chemo & radiation, and the daily care of her at home.

Jeanne was our vestry Junior Warden from 2021-2026 who did the hands on work of managing the Memorial Garden, decorating for Christmas, overseeing the lawn care, and managing the building maintenance projects. She also devoted many weekly hours to the altar and sanctuary work every week to prepare for our worship, clean black mold outbreaks, decorate with new liturgical banners and altar table hangings, operate dehumidifiers, and polish multiple brass candle holders, and iron or clean delicate altar linens. She did this while learning "on the run" what and how to do these challenging tasks...because she had experienced being loved and graced by her Saviour! She transcended her past disappointments to reveal a Love and Presence within her that was greater and freeing. Jeanne, you are loved and appreciated by all of us!



## Book club & Lenten soup suppers

Book club and Lenten Soup Suppers begin Wednesday, February 25 from 6-7 PM. Our study book will be "The Great Divorce" by C.S. Lewis, so please purchase your copy ahead of time. We'll be covering 2 chapters each week for 7 weeks. Please also bring a pen and notebook.

**Sunday Services are at 10:00 AM with Coffee Hour in the Parish House directly after.**

Church Office Hours:

Monday– Thursday: 9:30 AM– 2PM

Closed on Friday

Follow us on our Website, Facebook and Instagram! Watch us on You Tube!



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### Special points of interest

- **Choir Practice after church service– contact Karen Gomer for more information**
- **Grief Support Group meets every other Tuesday at 10-11AM in the Church Office conference room . Contact the Church Office or Helene Daigneault for more Information.**
- **Lenten Study & Soup Supper every Wednesday in Lent from 6-7 PM**

## A Note From Fr. Rick



### Being New not just Forgiven

The Gospel is His Rescue and Redevelopment Mission for turning you ( your relationships, the people of St. Alban's) from just mere sinful humans into saints! It includes forgiveness for every sin and the certain hope of Heaven as your eternal home. But really, deeply, it is about being "a new creation in Christ"...and that new Identity and Creation exists already in you...and is waiting for you to discover and believe. It is this reconciliation and union with Christ on the inside of your soul that makes you more than just a mere human with perhaps a short fuse, an anxiety problem, or bent towards being self-centered and demanding that people do what you want.

So the Cross is not just Jesus dying alone for our sins. The Cross is also Je-

sus taking your sinful self with Him...to die. To die so that He would rise from Sin and rise with you too...the new you. The fantastic cosmic supernatural great news is that " you have died with Christ and you have risen with Christ". Since that is a Fact greater than gravity, greater than the speed of light, and greater than all of the laws of nature...it is a Fact that is also greater than your sins! Now when embrace and believed it, the Spirit and Power of the Gospel works for you! There is such a release of grace along with multiple flows of graces like internal rivers that now empower a new nature. This Presence of Life and Grace actually flow from within you as a being who is " a new creation in Christ Jesus". Now that is a holy and happy Lent.



## February and March Bunko Night Fun

We had a good group show up to play Bunko for our December and January game night. Bunko is great fun and just a little bit of friendly competition might be involved. Everyone brought snacks to share and when I say snacks, I mean some great food. Remember, we have Bunko Night on the first Saturday of every month. Come join us for a great night of fun and fellowship. Below are some picture from December and January.



## Food Pantry

Our Food Pantry is a ministry that is very near and dear to our heart. We have a great group of volunteers who come together to package food on Wednesday and give it out to people in the Polk County community every 1st and 3rd Friday of the month. We serve approximately 400 families a month. Below are some pictures of our last food pantry pick-up on November 21st.



## Upcoming Events

February 18– Ash Wednesday– services will be at noon and 6:00pm

February 25, 6:00– 7:00 PM– Book Study and Lent Soup Suppers begin. We will be doing a study on the C.S. Lewis book, “The Great Divorce”.

March 7– Game Night– come join in the fun!!

Sunday, March 8 -- Stations of the Cross- after the regular church service

Wednesday, March 18 -- 5pm Stations of the Cross- (before the Lenten Soup Supper / Book study)

Wednesday, March 25 -- 5pm (Stations of the Cross- before the Lenten Soup Supper / Book study)

March 29– Palm Sunday service

## Recipe of the Month

### Sheet Pan Chicken Tostadas

#### Ingredients

- 12 [street taco-size tortillas](#) (use flour tortillas or soft corn tortillas)
- 1 lb cooked, shredded chicken breast
- 1 packet [taco seasoning](#) (or 3 tablespoons [homemade taco seasoning](#))
- ½ cup water
- 1 ½ cups [store-bought](#) or [homemade refried beans](#)
- ¾ cups black beans, drained and rinsed
- ½ cup salsa of choice
- 1 ½ cups shredded cheddar, Mexican-style, queso fresco, or cotija cheese
- *Optional toppings: shredded romaine lettuce or iceberg lettuce, diced tomatoes, sliced green onions, jalapeno slices, diced avocado, and/or salsa*



#### Cooking Instructions

- Preheat the oven to 350°F. Among two [baking sheets](#), lay out the tortillas in an even layer, leaving a little space between each one. Bake for 5 minutes or until slightly brown on bottom. Remove from the oven and flip the tortillas over; set aside.
- In a [large skillet](#) over medium-high heat, place the cooked shredded chicken, taco seasoning, and the water. Heat and stir until the chicken mixture is warmed and well coated with the seasoning, 4 to 5 minutes.
- In a medium bowl, combine the refried beans, black beans, and salsa.
- To the half-baked tortillas, evenly spread 2 tablespoons of the refried bean mixture over each one. Next, top each with 2 tablespoons of the chicken taco mixture. Finally, top each with 2 tablespoons of the cheese.
- Bake until the cheese is melted, 5 to 7 minutes. Remove from the oven and top with desired toppings and garnishes, such as shredded lettuce and tomatoes.

## News from the Vestry Senior Warden

The vestry met on Sunday, February 1 after the service. The structure of our meetings is fairly simple. We begin in prayer, followed by roll call. All five vestry members, Fr. Rick and Mike (our parish administrator) were there, and we looked at our financial reports first, presented by Mike. Then we discuss and approve the minutes from the previous meeting, we review old business, present new business items and we discuss and approve, table or reject decisions we have to make.

**Old Business:** we talked about the hiring of Danny and Taqueria for the pickup of food for the pantry and how that is working out; it seems to be working out well. We also discussed grants that we are looking at, including a grant from Publix to fund the expenses to run the Food Pantry, an historical preservation grant through the state to fund repairs needed for the Sanctuary and grants to help fund our operating budget, such as GiveWell.

**New Business:** When talking about the finances, we discussed having our budget look more like the Diocesan budget, which is more streamlined and easier to read. We also discussed the spring schedule, including the Lenten Soup Supper and the visit on March 23 by Canon Dan and how we can best prepare for that. Lois Hamann was selected to be our Volunteer of the Month. We discussed a plaque commemorating Jeanne and her life and service to the church. Most importantly, we needed to select a Junior Warden and Pat Masters was willing to do that!

If you are wondering what a Junior Warden does, that person's area is typically building and grounds. What does the Senior Warden do? My area is general business operations but I have a dual responsibility of overseeing finances. The areas of music and worship (the title of one of my college classes; it was a great class) are Christy and me, which supports and helps to carry out Fr. Rick's vision. Christian Education is Chrisy's area, which again supports what Fr. Rick does but is the big job of supporting and carrying out adult and youth programs. Donna's area is social media, which includes keeping up the website and newsletters.

**Takeaways:** As we have now entered the season of Lent, this reminds me that as a church we have also entered a season of being in the wilderness. This is a Biblical theme in Exodus and Numbers, in Jesus' 40 days and we reflect this theme with our own season of not quite knowing where our funding will be coming from and in what direction that will take us. As we as a vestry move forward to find ways to navigate the journey, we appreciate all the support and ideas people have offered. Thank you!

## Vestry Members, Staff and Ministry Leaders

### Vestry Members

Liz Manning- Senior Warden & Finance

Pat Masters- Junior Warden

Donna McWhorter– Secretary & Communications

Christy Gardner– Worship

Chrissy Quinn– Adult Education

### Office Staff

Mike Reilly– Parish Administrator

Andrea Concha– Receptionist

### Ministry Leaders

Altar Guild– Pam Merashoff

Choir– Karen Gomer

Food Pantry– Bill Silvey/Danny Poveda/Taquira Studimire

### Fellowship

Coffee Hour– Lois Hamann/Pam Merashoff