



July 7, 2021

## THE RETURN OF JANE'S LUNCH BUNCH

We're excited to announce that Jane's Lunch Bunch continues – at least for the time being!

On Monday, July 19<sup>th</sup> God's Assembly Line will reconvene at 7:30 am to make lunch sacks for 350 hungry people in Tucson. Most of the time, we're done by 8:30 or 9:00!

All you need is a willingness to help others – very little skill is required!

But there are now two stipulations:

#1: **we still need a back-up person.** Dave Nichols has agreed to take on the coordinator role, but he needs a back-up person for those times when he and Cheryl travel. Like this August!

#2: if we do not get that back-up person, we'll need to either skip a month here or there or shift the day we make the lunches.

Please plan to be there on the 19<sup>th</sup> and if you can, please let Dave know you're willing to take over on those months when he's unavailable.

**This Sunday, Pastor Lesley will be preaching on Psalm 113 and Matthew 6:11:  
“Celebrating the Blessing of God’s Presence in Every Single Moment”**

## PASTOR'S PENCIL

There are a few stories in the Bible about folks running away from God's call. Jonah heads in the opposite direction when God tells him to preach repentance to the sin-ridden people of Ninevah. But many more accept the challenge God places before them whether it be to liberate the Israelites from slavery (Moses) or accept the role of Mother to the Son of God (Mary).

My coming retirement is a call of sorts to this congregation. Your Interim Pastor will not be filling my shoes; she will be preparing you for a new set of shoes. Her job is not to do all that I have done; her job will be to learn everything she can about St John and help you choose the best pastor going forward.

To that end, you will need to step up and give more of your time and talents to St John.

Or, you will need to gracefully let go of what we've thought of as "institutional" – soup suppers in Lent, Jane's Lunch Bunch, Fellowship after worship, Prayer Quilts, picnics, let alone special music in worship.

Dean and I have done a disservice to St John by taking on 90% of what happens here on a weekly basis. I did so because A) It's in my nature as a Type A to take control of things! And B) when I got here, you were all tired of running everything during years of steady leadership.

In the weeks to come, I'll be asking you to take on some of the roles I've assumed: we'll need greeters, ushers and liturgists again. We'll need fellowship treats and folks to take home the recycling and people to lead committees and join committees.

Your Session understands what needs to happen next, but they'll need your help to do so. Please answer the call.

*Shalom,  
Pastor Lesley*

**Remember, Pastor Lesley is in the office every  
Tuesday from 9-Noon  
Wednesday from 9:30– 1  
and is available just about any time by appointment.**



### Education Calling...



Hello from Rob.

### And then...

I look at the tree for a long time. I think of me. I think of God. And then it comes.

Endure.... Endure...

Hebrews 12-1: Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us....

*Faith be your guide,  
Rob.*

PS: A new book of note: [The Constitution of Knowledge](#), Jonathan Rauch, The Brookings Institution. "A defense of Truth."

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

- † **Jean and Lew Smith**, as Lew's hospice journey continues
- † **John Deering**, on the death of his beloved Aunt Rita

## THANK YOU FOR HELPING T BAKER

To all of you who've made financial donations, brought in gloves or clean socks and shared food with her, T Baker thanks you. Her homeless ministry has fed countless hungry people in Tucson every week for over 8 years – with your help.

With a new pastor coming on board, we're asking you to no longer bring in donations for T – unless you contact her directly or send her a financial gift. T no longer has the space for your clothing, books etc.

Plus, the St John office will be soon cleared of everyone's donated stuff (why is it that *we* have become the repository of your left-overs?!?) And we will no longer have space for your clothing, books, etc.

Once the new pastor is on board, all this may resume again – who knows? But in the meantime, please find other places to take your “stuff.” The Salvation Army has donation drop off's all over town and Savers on Broadway accepts everything you bring for the Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Tucson.

If you have books, bring them to the Friends of the Pima County Public Library BUT CALL FIRST as they may be taking time off this summer. Their number is 795-3763.



**Dave Nichols**, who has agreed to take on the coordination role of Jane's Lunch Bunch and Cheryl Nichols who has agreed to help him! Thanks Dave and Cheryl – for stepping up when we need you most!

**Rocky Hoopengardner**, for constructing the most beautiful audio/video “booth” this side (or that side) of the Mississippi!

**The Deacons**, for hosting a lovely memorial lunch in honor of Kim Patton.

**The St John congregation**, for giving Pastor Lesley two weeks off.

**Dave Tabb**, for overseeing the installation of the new Internet connection we desperately need at church.

## CALENDAR CELEBRATIONS JULY 7 – 13

**Thurs. July 8 – Liberty Bell Day:** When the Liberty Bell was rung for the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence in Philadelphia in 1776. When the British invaded, the bell was hidden until it could be returned to the State House. The Liberty Bell was cast in 1751 to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of William Penn's Charter, used as the state's constitution.



**Sat. July 10 – National Piña Colada Day:** This national drink of Puerto Rico is a refreshing drink for a hot summer's day. A blend of rum, pineapple juice, and coconut cream, this drink is best served blended with ice. Makes you think of sunny beaches and tropical climes.



**Sun. July 11 – Cheer Up the Lonely Day:** Spread happiness and reduce loneliness – fight depression. The importance of social interaction has been recognized as mental health issues have skyrocketed across our planet. (*Be a part of the solution.*)



**Tues. July 13 – Embrace Your Geekiness Day:** Your "geekiness" is your special power! Accept your differences with pride. Did you know that geek was originally a derogatory term to describe circus workers? Today the term describes an enthusiastic expert on a particular issue or subject.



**Happy Birthday Henry Bernheim!** – celebrating 1 year of life next week!

**Congratulations to Roger Ryberg** for getting kicked out of rehab and the hospital! Roger is our latest example of "PRAYER WORKS!"

## AND GOD SAID, “WHAT!?!?”

Cont. pg 7

Imagine the conversation God had with St. Francis on the subject of lawns. God says to St. Francis:

**GOD:** You know all about gardens and nature. What in the world is going on down there? What happened to all the dandelions, violets, thistles and all the plants I started eons ago. I had a perfect ‘no maintenance’ garden plan. These plants grow in any type of soil, withstand drought and multiply with abandon. The nectar from the long-lasting blooms attracts butterflies, honeybees and flocks of songbirds. I expected to see a vast garden of color by now. All I see are patches of green!

**ST. FRANCIS:** It's the tribes that settled there. They're called Suburbanites. They started calling your flowers weeds and went to great lengths to kill them and replace them with grass.

**GOD:** Grass? But it's so boring and certainly not colorful. It doesn't attract butterflies, bees or birds. Only grubs and sod worms. Do the Suburbanites really want grass growing there?

**ST FRANCIS:** Apparently so. They go to great lengths to grow it and keep it green. They begin each spring by fertilizing it and poisoning any other plant that crops up in the lawn.

**GOD:** The spring rains and warm weather probably makes the grass grow real fast. That must make the

Suburbanites happy.

**ST. FRANCIS:** Apparently not. As soon as it has grown a little, they cut it - sometimes two times a week.

**GOD:** They cut it? Do they bale it like hay?

**ST FRANCIS:** Not exactly, most of them rake it up and put it in bags.

**GOD:** They bag it? Why? Is it a cash crop?

**ST FRANCIS:** No just the opposite. They throw it in the garbage.

**GOD:** Now, let me get this straight. They fertilize it to make it grow and when it does grow, they cut it and throw it away. The Suburbanites must be relieved in the summer when we cut back on the rain and turn up the heat. That surely slows the growth and saves them a lot of work.

**ST. FRANCIS:** You aren't going to believe this: when the grass stops growing they drag out hoses and water it so they can continue to mow it and throw it away.

**GOD:** What nonsense! At least they kept some of the trees. That was a stroke of genius if I do say so myself. The trees grow leaves in the summer to provide beauty and shade. In the autumn they fall to the ground to form a blanket to keep the moisture in the soil and protect the trees and bushes. Plus, as they rot, the leaves become a compost to enhance the soil. It's a natural cycle of life.

**ST FRANCIS:** Imagine this-----As soon as the leaves fall, the Suburbanites rake them on big piles and pay to have them hauled away.

## AND GOD SAID, “WHAT!?!?”

Cont. from pg 6

**GOD:** No way! What do they do to keep the tree roots and shrubs moist and warm in the winter.

**ST FRANCIS:** After they get rid of the leaves, they go out and buy something called mulch. They haul it home and spread it around in place of the leaves.

**GOD:** And where do they get this mulch?

**ST FRANCIS:** They cut down the trees and grind

them up to make mulch.

**GOD:** Enough, I don't want to think about this anymore. St Catherine, you're in charge of the arts. What movie have you scheduled for us to watch tonight?

**ST. CATHERINE:** Dumb and Dumber. It is a real silly movie about...

**GOD:** Never mind, I just heard the whole story from St. Francis.

## LAUGHTER IS THE BEST MEDICINE

There was a man who worked all his life and saved all his money. He was a real miser and loved money more than anything else. Sometime before he died he said to his wife. "When I die, I want you to put all my money in the casket with me. I want to take my money to the afterlife." He got her to promise that she would do just that. A

few months later the husband died and as the undertaker was ready to close the casket the wife said, "Wait a minute!" She had a shoe box with her and put it in the casket. Then, the undertaker locked the casket and rolled it away.

Her friend said. "I hope you weren't crazy enough to put all that money in the casket?" She

said, "Yes, I promised. I'm a good Christian, I can't lie so I did as he wanted. "Her friend said, "You put all that money in the casket with him? "I sure did," said the wife. "I got it all together, put it into my account and wrote him a check."

## THEATER SEATS FOR SENIORS

An old man lay awkwardly sprawled across three entire seats in the movie theater

When the usher came by and noticed this, he whispered to the old man,

"Sorry sir, but you're only allowed one seat."

The old man didn't budge.

The usher became more impatient.

"Sir, if you don't get up from there I'm going to have to call the manager."

Once again, the old man just muttered and did nothing.

The usher marched briskly back up the aisle, and in a moment returned with the manager.

Together the two of them tried repeatedly to move the old disheveled man, but with no success.

Finally they summoned the police.

The officer surveyed the situation briefly, then asked, "All right, buddy, what's your name?"

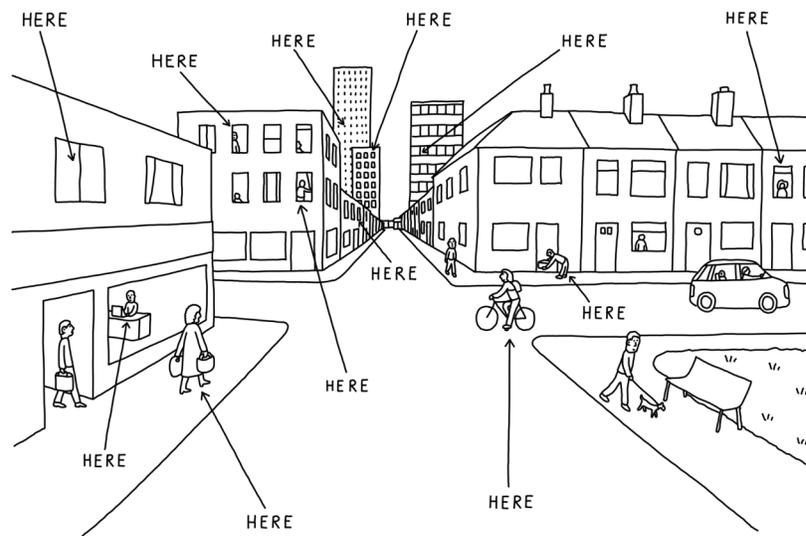
"Fred," the old man moaned.

"Where you from, Fred?" asked the police officer.

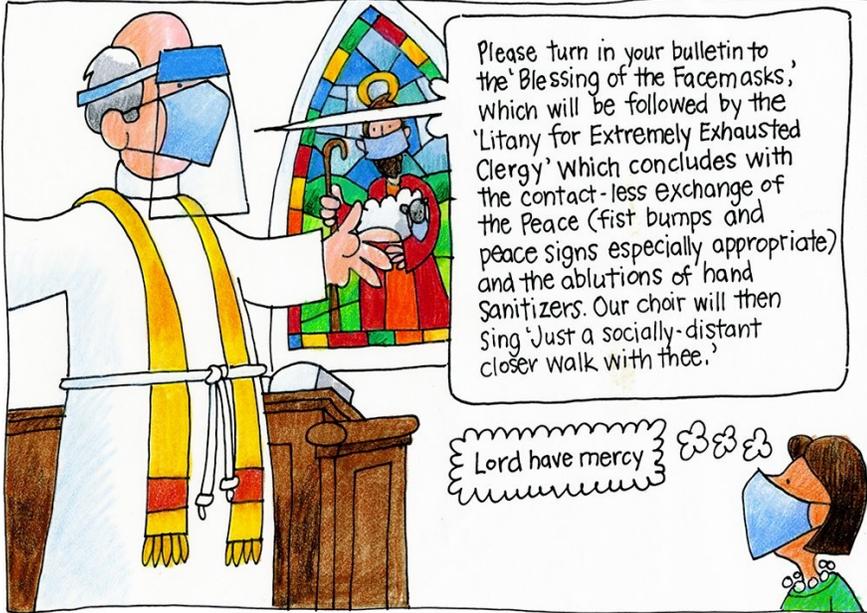
With a terrible strain in his voice, and without moving, Fred replied;

"The balcony"

## WHERE THE CHURCH IS



SUPPLEMENTAL LITURGIES FOR COVID-TIDE



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GLASBERGE

"If I send my prayer as a text message, will I get a faster reply?"

PARISHIONERS SAY THE DARDEST THINGS...



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