



SEA NOTES

A Monthly Publication of Shepherd of the Sea

201 East Fort Macon Road, Atlantic Beach, NC 28512 www.soselca.org

FEBRUARY 2023

Pastor's Page

Dear Church,

While serving for three years on the coast of Mississippi, this time of year looked different. This was Carnival season, or Mardi Gras season, or king cake season as our kids liked to call it. The season began on Twelfth Night (of Christmas), when our city had a big celebration with an actual New Year's Eve type countdown to Carnival Season and the first king cake of the season.



From then until Mardi Gras (the day before Ash Wednesday), we would spend every single weekend going to one or two parades in New Orleans, our city, or Mobile, AL. Some weeknights were spent on the parade routes (we are strictly sidewalk side people) too as friends' Krewe were rolling in the parades. We collected pounds and pounds of beads, and stuffies, and other throws, coming home with huge bags full of things we would donate to our church's free health clinic to be sold for recycling the following year.

We would spend every Lundi Gras and Mardi Gras on the streets of NOLA with our kids' voices going horse hoping for floats to notice them and throw more. The floats were huge, and gorgeous. The crowds had amazing energy. It was a festive, if not exhausting time.

By the time Ash Wednesday rolled around, the difference between seasons was stark. I wish everyone could experience the quick, almost alarming difference from those Tuesdays to Wednesdays. Where we went from wearing beads to wearing ashes.

This month we enter into the season of Lent. This time of repentance, of recentering ourselves on God, and of spiritual reflection. And after the months of holiday season, the beauty and excitement of Christmas Eve, Lent can feel more somber and dark. And I think that's ok. Because we can't experience the light without the dark. As we've been talking during Epiphany, we need the dark in order to see the star, and God, after all, guided people to Jesus with a star.

I invite you, this lent, to really participate and experience the season. On Shrove Tuesday (Mardi Gras!), we will be having a pancake dinner at the church for all who would like to enjoy it. On Ash Wednesday we will have two opportunities for worship and to receive ashes, one at noon and one at 6pm. Each Wednesday during Lent we will offer a time to sink deeper into the season with a meal at 5:45pm and Holden Evening Prayer worship at 6:30pm. Please join us to fully engage in the life changing season of Lent.

While we put away the "alleluias" and reflect a bit more, take on a spiritual practice of the season and come and be a part of our community as we explore what Lent means together.

Laissez les bon temps rouler, and blessings on the journey,
Pastor Kelly

CHURCH HAPPENINGS AND UPCOMING EVENTS



**ANNUAL
CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING**

Save the Date: Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be held after worship on Sunday, February 5. If you are a

Shepherd of the Sea member, please plan to attend this important meeting where we will discuss and approve the yearly faith spending plan, elect new church council officers, and elect synod assembly representatives.

Women of the Church: The women's group will meet on February 6 at 10am in the fellowship hall for coffee and discussion. We will be discussing chapter 7 of *Bad Girls of the Bible*, but all are welcome to come join even if you haven't read.

Men's Breakfast: Plan to join us for breakfast and fellowship on Saturday, February 11 at 9 am.





Pastor Kelly and all the staff thank you for the generous Christmas gifts.

Note from Alicia:

“It is a blessing to worship with you and hear the beautiful music that we make together. It is truly a "joyful noise to the Lord". May the Lord continue to bless our church in 2023.”

Homebound Members

Linda Holden Alice Cress Nancy Womack Ernie Hayman Nancy Warren

In a Facility

Evelyn Collins Dot Blickle Bob Warren

Friends of the Congregation

Loretta (prisoner we adopted)

LECTIONARY READINGS for: FEBRUARY 2023

| Color of the Day | February 5 Fifth Sunday after Epiphany | February 12 Sixth Sunday after Epiphany | February 19 Transfiguration of Our Lord | February 26 First Sunday in Lent |
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| First Reading | Isaiah 58:1-9a[9b-12] | Deuteronomy 30:15-20 | Exodus 24:12-18 | Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7 |
| Psalm | Psalm 112:1-9[10] | Psalm 119:1-8 | Psalm 2 | Psalm 32 |
| Second Reading | 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16] | 1 Corinthians 3:1-9 | 2 Peter 1:16-21 | Romans 5:12-19 |
| Gospel | Matthew 5:13-20 | Matthew 5:21-37 | Matthew 17:1-9 | Matthew 4:1-11 |

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