

Dates to Remember in November

- November 1, 8, 15, 29 SS/SJ Women's Book Study at SJ
November 1 SS 12:00 pm Noonday Prayers with prayers for healing
November 5 SS 11:00 Stewardship Ingathering
November 6 SS 10:00 Inreach meeting
5:30 Wine and Cheese Social at the home of Susan and David Allen, with guest speaker, Miller King; nursery with dinner provided at the church
November 8 12:00 pm Lunch with *The Chosen*
November 12 SS 9:00 HE Rite II
SJ 70th Anniversary Celebration 11:00 HE Rite II followed by lunch
4:00-6:00 pm Delta Convocation Youth Event at Nativity, Greenwood
November 19 6:00 pm Community Thanksgiving Services in Indianola (BB King Museum) and Leland (Leland United Methodist Church, with Rev. Jennifer preaching)
November 20 SS 5:30 Vestry meeting; Emily Black has devotional
November 22-23 Church office closed. Happy Thanksgiving!

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

P.O. Box 1004

Indianola, MS 38751

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

205 East Gresham Street

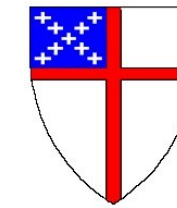
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The Rt. Rev. Brian Seage, Bishop
of Mississippi

The Rev. Jennifer Deaton,
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St. John's Episcopal Church

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News from the Pews | November 2023

"It's a great day to be a Saint!"

The headmaster at St. Andrew's Episcopal School while I served there as chaplain said this almost every day. We were the St. Andrew's Saints, and he was proud of and grateful for the staff, faculty, and students, always noticing when there was something good happening on campus, from art to academics to outreach to athletics to simple acts of kindness. Rain or shine, exam week or spring break, preschooler or graduating senior, it was always a great day to be a Saint—there was always something to celebrate, to be grateful for, to aspire to, to strive for. The highest grade or the game ball or the lead role might not always be yours, but you knew you were part of a community of people in which effort was appreciated and help was available and everyone's uniqueness was part of beautiful whole.

We sing a song of the saints of God every year on or around November 1—it's a great day to be a saint, although many whose names fill our scriptures and church history books might not have felt that way in their own day. We see them depicted in stained glass or brightly colored icons, surrounded by golden halos and other symbols of their sainthood. Each and every one of them, though—even our own Saints Stephen and John—were ordinary people, like us, doing their best to stay faithful in a world in which that isn't always easy.

On All Saints Day, while we remember the work and witness of these men and women, it isn't just the stained glass saints we celebrate. We celebrate the wonder that we are in community with everyone who has ever said "yes" to faith, whether that "yes" was whispered or shouted or sung. We don't live this life alone—we live it together, those who have gone before us, those who surround us now, those who will follow us, and *all* of us *with God's help*.

I hope you can join us for worship on Sunday, November 5—11:00 am at St. Stephen's, and 5:00 pm at St. John's—to remember and celebrate our own faithful departed, to say "yes" once again to our shared baptismal call to "proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ". It's a great day—every day is a great day—to be a saint!

Peace,
Jennifer

Worship with Us! The Episcopal Church Welcomes You!

St. John's Episcopal Church, Leland

1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays-5:00 pm Holy Eucharist; 2nd Sunday (this month only)-11:00 am;
4th Sunday-9:00 am

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Indianola

Sundays-11:00 am Holy Eucharist (9:00 am on 2nd Sunday, this month only)
In person and on our Facebook Page

Delta Convocation Youth Gathering

Sunday, November 12 | 4:00-6:00 pm

Church of the Nativity, Greenwood

Fun? It's happening! Games? We've got 'em. Food? Let's eat! Faith? You bet!

Everyone in grades 6-12 is welcome to the biggest Episcopal youth gathering
in the Mississippi Delta!

Meet at St. Stephen's at 3:15 pm and we'll all head over together!!

The Episcopal Church Women cordially invite

St. Stephen's Family and Friends

to a

Wine and Cheese Gathering

With Guest Speaker, Miller King

Monday, November 6 at 5:30 pm
at the home of Susan and David Allen
100 Arbor Lane, Indianola

Nursery will be available at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

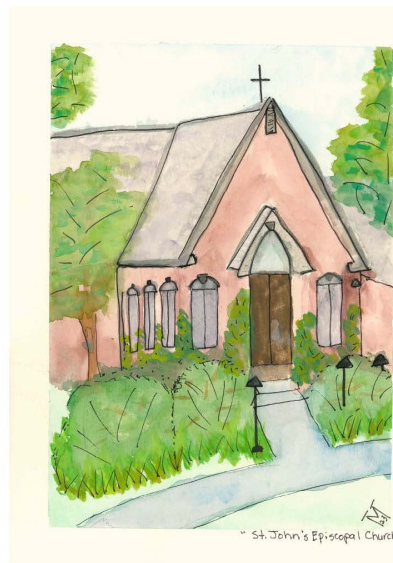


Join us as we celebrate the

70TH ANNIVERSARY

of St. John's Episcopal Church Leland, MS

Sunday, November 12, 2023
11:00 A.M.
Lunch following
R.S.V.P to (662) 887-4365



Bishop Search Update

On Wednesday, November 1, a slate of 3-5 finalists to become the 11th Bishop of the Diocese of Mississippi will be announced. We are deeply grateful to the Search Committee for their prayerful and diligent work of discernment!

A petition period will follow, November 2-8, by which clergy who did not go through the search process may be nominated. Candidates brought forward by petition will undergo the same rigorous application process and background check. Forms for submitting names by petition can be found on the Bishop Search website.

The Transition Committee has planned a series of Meet and Greets to be held January 15-20, 2024, around the Diocese. People are welcome to attend any of these events; the event nearest us will be held the evening of January 17 at St. James, Greenville. Questions for the candidates to discuss at these gatherings will be submitted in advance - a form will be available for that on the Bishop Search website as well.

Let us continue to hold candidates, our working committees, and our Diocese in prayer as we move toward electing our new bishop!

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds and hearts of those who shall choose a Bishop for this Diocese, that we may receive a faithful pastor who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.



From top left: St. Stephen's celebrated Dominga Agada's three decades of ministry in our nursery; Emily Lewis and Reba at the pet blessing at St. John's; Susan Lee at the St. Stephen's pet blessing, surrounded by Maisie, Carly, Biscuit, and Jesus; Woods and Banks Abraham and Walker and Bowen Neal help Rev. Jennifer dedicate new playground equipment; altar flowers at St. John's, arranged by Hebe Splane; and the women of St. Stephen's host the Delta Cotton Belles lunch for breast cancer survivors in Sunflower County.



Community *Thanksgiving* Services
 Sunday, November 19 | 6:00 pm

Leland
 Leland United Methodist Church
 202 North Broad Street
 The Rev. Jennifer Deaton, Preacher

Indianola
 BB King Museum
 400 Second Street

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.
 Colossians 3:15

BISHOP SEARCH committee

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It's almost Advent!
Sign up at the back of the church, or email the church office, to let us know if you'd like Advent wreath supplies - we'll make our wreaths before worship on Sunday, December 3.
St. Stephen's folks, it's also time to let us know if you plan to give a Christmas poinsettia - that sign up sheet is in the back of the church, too.

