

FEBRUARY

2021
NEWSLETTER

ST. MARK'S AND ST. JOHN'S

HOME OF THE E.D.E.N. GARDENS



BE REAL.
BE HEALED.
BE LOVE.

ANNUAL REPORT

Want to take a look back at the work the SMSJ community accomplished in 2020? Check out our 2020 Annual Report, now available on the [home page](#) of our website!

SEEKING GARDEN CAPTAINS AND VOLUNTEERS



We are looking forward to the start of the garden season in 2021! We're seeking **volunteers interested in being a Garden Captain or general garden volunteer in the EDEN Gardens.** All skill levels are welcome. If you are interested, please send an email to erinturpin5@gmail.com for more information. The first garden captain meeting will be on February 18th!

ASH WEDNESDAY & LENT

"I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word." (*Book of Common Prayer*, 265)

Ash Wednesday
February 17, 2021

The Sanctuary will be open from **12:30pm-5:30pm**. You and your family are welcome to come by for a quiet time of prayer and reflection.



The Forty Days of Lent

Monday-Friday at 9:30am a reflection by Evelyn Underhill will be read followed by Morning Prayer. Please join us on Zoom/ Facebook Live each weekday morning during the season of Lent.



EMERGENCY FOOD MINISTRY



Since the pandemic began, we have made 2,500 Emergency Food Deliveries and serve about 55 families each week through our weekly Food Shelf. Our monthly food bill from Foodlink is running between 6K-9K a month.

WE NEED YOUR FINANCIAL HELP.

You can make financial contributions on [our website](#).

A POST-PANDEMIC WORLD

The world has changed in significant ways over the past year and so has the way our community has lived out our calling to be salt and light in a world that has often felt overwhelming and even hopeless. SMSJ has lived more deeply into our calling to be a beacon of hope this year. Our gardens continued to flourish and our faith in neighbors, friends and God deepened.

As I write this, I do not know when in-person worship will begin again, but I do know that when it resumes we are being called to expand our circle ever wider. This means we will need to be more intentional about sharing the work we do and the prayers we pray beyond 1245 Culver Road. This pandemic has pushed me/us to engage and connect with one another differently on Sunday mornings. Through Zoom, YouTube, iMovie, FaceTime, Facebook Live we found ways to stay connected. Although I found being in front of a camera easily 15-20 hours a week difficult, it became an essential part of my work as a priest. After a year of using this kind of technology, I realized how it could broaden our reach and spread the word about our ministries.

Sharing our story more broadly meant that this year we received a number of donations from people who found us online. In a post-pandemic world we need to continue to share our story and God's good news. I'm looking forward to continuing to keep in touch with those who have joined us by volunteering and work to make the circle wider. This year we will continue to make strides to create a more welcoming sanctuary. In 2020 we brought in beautiful new pews and currently have a neighborhood artist painting four large canvas that will be installed in the Chancel. In 2021 we are going to be updating our sound system and integrating it with a professional video/ tech system so we can stream services and events. We will regularly add content to our new YouTube Channel with prayer services, music, and stories of those we love and serve in Christ's name. SMSJ is taking up the challenge to share our story each and every Sunday - our story of love, transformation and joy.

INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?

We are always looking for more volunteers! We even have a number of ways for you to volunteer VIRTUALLY! If you have skills or talents to share with us, please call (585) 654-9229 or check out our website for current opportunities!

CONNECT WITH US!



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