

MARCH 2025

# THE MESSENGER

St. John's Episcopal Church  
321 W. Chestnut St., Lancaster PA 17603  
www.stjohns-lancaster.org



## PENNSYLVANIA IMMIGRATION ADVOCACY CLINIC

Every Tuesday from 5 - 8 pm

Starting March 11, 2025

Free of charge

Location: St. John's Episcopal Church  
321 W. Chestnut St., Lancaster PA  
17603

Do you have a hearing with Immigration  
Court?

- **Deportation defense**
- **Consultation with lawyers**
- **Bond support**
- **Asylum work**
- **And so much more!**



## NEWS & STORIES FOR THIS ISSUE:

- Rector's Message
- Pancake Supper
- Ash Wednesday
- Youth & Families Lenten Program
- Morning Prayer
- St. Patrick's Day & Chocolate Eggs
- Musings from the Organ Bench
- Caring Ministry Update
- Food Pantry
- Soles4Souls
- Fence Ministry
- Financials

## RECTOR'S MESSAGE



Dear St. John's,

It's hard to believe Lent is upon us! Beginning on Ash Wednesday, March 5th, we will enter into the 40+ days set aside each year to reflect, pray, and nurture our relationships with Christ and each other. I have always loved this season and the introspective work it invites us into.

Lent is countercultural - it speaks of slowing down when the world says speed up. It invites us repent, when the world tells us not to worry about how we impact others. Lent challenges us to fast, give, and pray when the world encourages us to feast, take, and use. For forty days, we are encouraged to take on spiritual practices, kneel a little longer in worship as we acknowledge our brokenness, and create a little more space in our hearts for Christ to enter in. It's a holy and life giving season, and yes, it requires a little work on our part!

This Lent, rather than giving something up, I'm feeling the urge to take something on, but not just anything. I feel the Spirit inviting me (and perhaps, you feel the urge, too), to engage in a spiritual discipline that's outside of my norm. There are countless disciplines to consider. Perhaps, we could:

- Begin a daily gratitude journal
- Pray one of the daily offices from the Book of Common Prayer
- Spend 15 minutes a day in real silence
- Devote a few minutes each day to read through a book of the Bible
- Listen to a soul nurturing podcast or watch a series such as "The Chosen"
- Walk the labyrinth each week

"The journey through Lent into Easter is a journey with Jesus. We are baptized into his life, self-giving, and death; then, we rise in hope to life transformed." - Christopher Sikkema

There are so many opportunities to enter into the holy season. My prayer for our parish is we take the time to discern what might soften our hearts and nurture our relationships the most over the next forty days. Let's take full advantage of this season and the invitation to connect with our Lord and Savior. I look forward to traveling with you through these holy weeks...

God's peace,  
Amanda+



**MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR OUR PANCAKE SUPPER!**

# Pancake Supper!

**Tuesday, March 4 from 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM**



Meals include pancakes, sausage,  
fruit, butter & syrup.

Free will donations are requested to support  
our J2A Youth Ministries!

Take-out orders are also accepted. You can place your  
orders in advance by emailing the church office at  
[office@stjohns-lancaster.org](mailto:office@stjohns-lancaster.org).

## ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

# ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

*with the Imposition of Ashes and Holy Eucharist*  
*Join us at noon at St. John's or at 7:00 PM at Hope for a*  
*combined service with St. Thomas, Hope, and St. John's!*

**12:00 PM**

**St. John's Church  
321 W. Chestnut St.  
Lancaster, PA**

**7:00 PM**

**Hope Church  
2425 Mountain Rd,  
Manheim, PA**

*Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made  
and forgive the sins of all who are penitent: Create and make in  
us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins  
and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God  
of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus  
Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy  
Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

**Wednesday, March 5**



## LENTEN PROGRAMS!

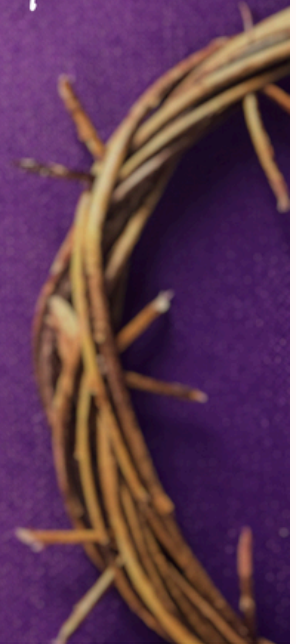
# Intergenerational Lenten Program for Youth and Families



- Session 1: Jesus' Ministry, Journey, & Who He Served
- Session 2: St. John's Past & Present: Who Have We Served?
- Session 4: St. John's Future: How Do We Continue to Serve?
- Session 5: Episcopal 101: What Ties Us All Together?
- Session 6: What is YOUR Ministry and Journey?

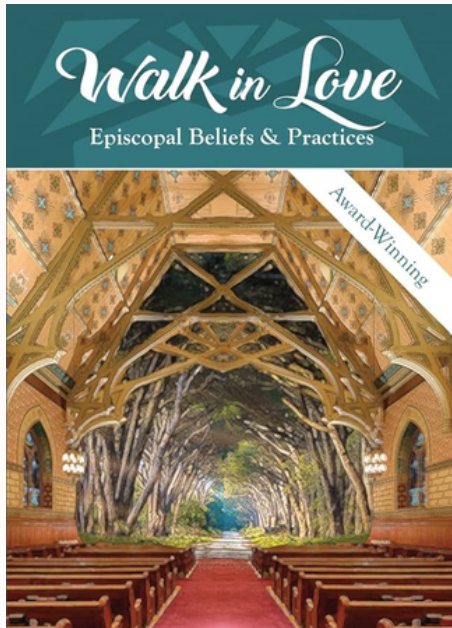


*Wednesdays during Lent:  
March 12 - April 9  
5:30 - Meal  
6:00 - 7:30 - Program*





## LENTEN PROGRAM - AN INQUIRER'S CLASS WEDNESDAY IN LENT 5:30-7:00 PM



### **WALK IN LOVE: EPISCOPAL BELIEFS AND PRACTICES**

Take a journey through *The Book of Common Prayer*, the Christian life, and basic beliefs of our faith, guided by two Episcopal priests-- Scott Gunn and Melody Wilson Shobe. Walk through the liturgical year, the sacraments of the church, habits of daily prayer, and the teachings of Anglican Christianity. See how our prayer shapes our belief and our lives and how our beliefs lead us into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ.

This class is for anyone who wants to learn more about the Episcopal Church, those who would like to be confirmed or received as official members when the bishop visits on May 4, or for those who are just curious! Classes will take place on Wednesday evenings in Lent beginning with a simple supper at 5:30 p.m., followed by discussion at 6:00 p.m.

.....

## Save the Date: Lenten Weekend April 4-5

Friday evening - simple supper, fellowship, introduction to our theme: cruciform spirituality, and compline

Saturday morning - in depth look at what it means to carry one's cross (considering the example of Simon of Cyrene), followed by the Stations of the Cross, and lunch





## MUSINGS FROM THE ORGAN BENCH

*Ye joyful bells, ring out your praise, that we our hearts to God may raise; Ring out above our mortal strife, and hail the Lord of love and life. (anonymous)*

For well over a 1000 years, bells and the Christian faith have resonated together. In towns large and the small, in this and other parts of the world where the Christian faith is found, the sound of bells calls believers to praise and prayer. From small bells to huge...the sound of a bell is special and enriching of our lives. Bells tolling at the death of a person or the pealing of bells at joyful times expresses in sound, what is in our hearts.

At St. John's we hear the bell ringing from our tower as we begin worship each Sunday. We hear the ringing of the Sanctus bells (four small bells) several times in our worship at points of the consecration of the elements, and at the time of the creed, reminding us of the very presence of Christ in our midst. From time to time the "tinkly" bells of the organ's Zimbelstern ringing randomly bring an element of delight to our souls. On occasion, the chimes of the organ ring out familiar melodies.

St. John's has a set of bells we call "handbells" and we have a set of "hand chimes". Over the years, St. John's has been blessed with dedicated ringers that present special music in the form of the sound of bells. Handbells such as ours, were originally created so that a group of eight ringers could practice "change ringing" before moving to the tower to do the same with the tower bells...!

Eventually more than eight bells were created by foundries such as Whitechapel Foundry in London, England, which made Big Ben by way and was the oldest existing bell foundry until it closed in 2017.

Some time in the future, a set of Whitechapel change ringing bells (a peal of bells) will be displayed and played. More about Change ringing at another time, but to hear a full peal of bells takes three and one half hours...without mistakes. I experienced this while at a Washington College of Preachers conference. The College is just down the hill from the National Cathedral so I had first "ear" experience with a full peal while trying to pay attention to the lecturer!

All this to say that bells are an important part of our worshipping community as we hear them played in worship. Even more, a handbell choir is a wonderful small group experience that supports one another. In the past year, we have lost three of our longtime ringers and are in need of "new blood" to keep this musical ministry alive.

Our next time to play will be during the Easter Season, most likely the first service on Easter Sunday. We practice on Thursday evenings from 7-8:30 p.m. and would like to invite young and old to join in playing. This group has currently 5 ringers (counting myself) and I would like to see 3 or 4 more "newbies" to join our ringing for God's glory and our worship. If you are inspired to try your hand and bell ringing, let me know via email, phone call or stopping me after worship in the coming weeks. Blessings!

## MORNING PRAYER ON THURSDAYS

Thursday Morning Prayer will continue through Lent at 9:00 a.m. in the beautiful Saint Mary Chapel at St. John's. During the season of Lent, we will be using Common Worship: Daily Prayer from the Church of England beginning on March 6, 2025. Come join us for a 30 minute service of silence, scripture, and prayers. What a wonderful way to begin your Lenten journey!



*Blessed are you, gracious God; you make your home among the weak, you deliver us from death, you bring us joy beyond our imagining to the praise of Jesus Christ our Lord.*





## ST. PATRICK'S DAY SUPPER 2025

Please RSVP for our event on Sunday, March 16th, starting at 4:00pm.

We will be serving corned beef & cabbage, potatoes, and a vegan option. Our own Paul West will perform live, and all are encouraged to get up and sing along!

The cost is \$25 per person, and \$50 per family. PLEASE RSVP here: St. Patrick's Day Supper! or on the paper signup in the parish hall.

We will have a door prize as well as basket raffle and 50/50 raffle!



## **CHOCOLATE EGGS!**

That special time of year is almost here! Homemade Peanut Butter and Coconut Eggs will be available for sale during Lent for just \$8 per box. These sweet, creamy treats are perfect for sharing with loved ones or enjoying as a seasonal indulgence. Sales will kick off at the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and continue through Palm Sunday.

This year, we kindly ask that all orders be placed in advance using the signup sheet in the parish hall. We will have: Milk Chocolate Peanut Butter, Dark Chocolate Peanut Butter, & Dark Chocolate Coconut.

All Sales benefit the St. John's Youth Pilgrimage Fund!



## CARING MINISTRY REPORT

# Caring Ministry Update

*John 13:34-35 "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."*

### WE NEED YOU!

Caring Ministries is asking for volunteers for our five areas of ministry. Please sign up in the parish hall at the Caring Ministry booth which will be featuring sign up sheets and members who will answer questions during Sundays in March. The five areas of ministry are Eucharistic Visitors, Transportation, Phone Connections, Faith Friends (Home Visits), and Card Ministry.

#### Eucharistic Visitors

- What is a Eucharistic Visitor?

Eucharistic Visitors are lay persons trained and licensed by the Diocese and sent forth by the congregation to take the Eucharist to persons who cannot attend St John's for regular services. Those discerning this ministry, should discuss it with the Rector, complete Safe Church training, and attend a training session conducted by Deacon Jane Miron. New Eucharistic Ministers will be paired up with someone already trained for initial visits. Brother David is the Eucharistic Visitor contact.

To learn more about this important ministry, you are invited to attend an information session about being a Eucharistic Visitor on Sunday, March 16. Eucharistic Minister training will be held on the morning of Saturday, April 26. Please mark your calendars!

#### Phone Ministry

- What is Phone Connections Ministry?

Sign up to be available to make calls to members who need a caring connection during life's difficult or joyous events. Anne Almy Webber is the Caring Ministry contact.

#### Transportation Ministry

- What is Transportation Ministry?

Sign up to be on a call list to transport our church family members who need a lift getting to church! Sue Heilman is the Caring Ministry contact.

#### Faith Friends

- What is Faith Friends (Home Visits) Ministry?

Sign up to visit folks who are unable to get to church (without taking communion). These visits can be vital for those who just want to connect and spend an hour with a friend from church. Anne Almy-Webber is the Faith Friends contact.

#### Card Ministry

- What is the Card Ministry?

We need volunteers to make or collect cards to be sent by the church office staff to our members who are having birthdays, celebrating special events or need a card hug during difficult life situations.

JOIN US IN MARCH TO FIND OUT WHAT ALL THE BUZZ IS ABOUT WITH CARING MINISTRIES!



# ST. JOHN'S FOOD PANTRY AND BLESSINGS BOX MINISTRIES PREPARING WITH HOPE

Join us each Sunday from March 9 through April 13, in focusing our Lenten preparations on giving specific food items most needed by the Food Pantry and the Blessings Box Ministries — ministries that provide hope as well as food to our neighbors and community.

Beginning the first Sunday (March 9) following Ash Wednesday, we prayerfully ask you to consider donating specific food items for use in either or both the Food Pantry and Blessings Box. We have selected the items most needed by the two programs and also indicated the size needed to fit in our food bags. Items can be placed in the red wagons in the Atrium and Lower Lobby or in the basket located in the Parish Hall.

|                                               |                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                           |
|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Sunday, March 9<br/>Collection</b></p>  | <p><b>Food Pantry</b><br/>Canned Chicken<br/>5 or 10 oz Size</p>                        | <p><b>Blessings Box</b><br/>Granola Bars</p>                                           |
| <p><b>Sunday, March 16<br/>Collection</b></p> | <p><b>Food Pantry</b><br/>Peanut Butter<br/>16 Oz Plastic Jars</p>                     | <p><b>Blessings Box</b><br/>Peanut Butter<br/>5 oz Pouches or 10 oz. Plastic Jars</p>  |
| <p><b>Sunday, March 23<br/>Collection</b></p> | <p><b>Food Pantry</b><br/>Healthy Breakfast Cereal<br/>12-18 oz Boxes</p>             | <p><b>Blessings Box</b><br/>Soup<br/>Small Cans or Cups or Dry</p>                    |
| <p><b>Sunday, March 30<br/>Collection</b></p> | <p><b>Food Pantry</b><br/>Canned Tuna<br/>5 or 10 oz Size</p>                         | <p><b>Blessings Box</b><br/>Tuna<br/>Foil Packages or Kits</p>                        |
| <p><b>Sunday, April 6<br/>Collection</b></p>  | <p><b>Food Pantry</b><br/>Canned Fruit<br/>15 oz Size</p>                             | <p><b>Blessings Box</b><br/>Mac and Cheese<br/>Individual Cans or Cups</p>           |
| <p><b>Sunday, April 13<br/>Collection</b></p> | <p><b>Food Pantry</b><br/>Pasta Sauce<br/>Cans or Plastic Jars<br/>24-28 oz Size</p>  | <p><b>Blessings Box</b><br/>Snack Items<br/>Individually Wrapped</p>                  |

Thank you friends for your support. Working together allows us to find hope ourselves and offers hope to those who need it. If you have questions, please contact Marion Wear at [mwear2016@outlook.com](mailto:mwear2016@outlook.com).

## SOLE4SOULS - A FEW STATS & THOUGHTS BY BARBARA LANDIS

Thanks to Soles4Souls and their commitment to saving the planet, 9,153,812 pounds of discarded shoes and clothing were saved from landfills having sent used goods to good use in 137 countries, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands.

78,656 pairs of shoes and pieces of clothing have been provided to hurricane survivors in North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida and Tennessee, offering comfort and dignity to those who lost everything in the wake of Hurricanes Milton and Helene.

Through our 4EveryKind program, 209,000 children experiencing homelessness in the US, received brand new athletic shoes, making it possible for kids to attend school more regularly, participate in extracurricular activities and feel like they fit in....the power of shoes.

Entrepreneurs in Haiti, Honduras, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Moldova, Transnistria, Chile, Belize and the Philippines participated in their 4Opportunity program, reselling shoes and clothes in their communities, making it possible to send their kids to school, improve family health and nutrition, and break the cycle of poverty.

St. John's, you can't imagine the smiles I get when people bring shoes to me to donate or send emails about donating and what helps others, helps them with the release of guilt of "stuff" being in their house and not wanting to trash them.

A friend who dropped off shoes at church has another friend who works at the recycle shop in Mt. Joy. After hearing about our participating in Soles4Souls, they donated the shoes from their shop that hadn't been sold. The smiles on their faces said it all knowing those shoes were going to make a difference instead of being a burden on their shelves.

Shoes are more than an accessory, they are a life line. Please consider donating your shoes before Good Friday! Bins are located outside of the Parish Hall.





## CHESTNUT STREET FENCE MINISTRY



Martha's Ministry has been keeping a record of the number of donated items that grace our fence: warm hats, scarves, gloves and socks. These items are placed on the fence for those in need.

Since the first chill in October 2024 until the end of December 2024, we have provided:

- 58 scarves
- 123 hats
- 27 pairs of gloves
- 94 pairs of socks
- 3 cowls
- 11 headbands or earmuffs

The month of January 2025 has given us the coldest temperatures since 1994. We provided:

- 73 scarves
- 52 hats
- 24 gloves
- 46 socks
- 8 cowls
- 1 headband or earmuff

We are challenged to keep up with the demand and would like to thank those who have helped carry this ministry forward. Thank you to Ewebiquitous of Lititz, The Sit and Sip group also from Lititz, our neighbors here in Lancaster and our parish family as well as those who attend Martha's Ministry.

Donations of new and gently used clean items are welcomed and very much needed.

Any questions about our Ministry please contact Deb Smith at [deboston@aol.com](mailto:deboston@aol.com) or Amy Dissinger at [amy.l.dissinger@gmail.com](mailto:amy.l.dissinger@gmail.com).

## FINANCIALS BY CHARLES WEAR, TREASURER

We recorded an operating surplus of \$23.1k for January, which is typical of historic income trends for the beginning of a new year. The surplus would have been even larger save for December medical premiums paid in January. Income surged due to a single \$35k non-pledged contribution and the 2024 ExtraGive receipts of \$13.5k for the food pantry.

Electricity ran high for the month, not too surprising given the cold weather and our almost total conversion from gas heat. Looking back at total energy costs for December and January over a 5-year period, our new HVAC system appears to be delivering improved efficiencies and lower overall operating costs. Another roof leak and associated damage have been discovered in one of the auditorium stairwells. Estimated repair is \$13.3k, which will be covered by insurance after a \$5k deductible. The deductible will be a February or March expense.

Concord 209 requires work on the main sewer line servicing the property. Total repair job will be \$9.3k. A 50% down payment was made in January, which essentially meets our annual budgeted maintenance allowance for this property. Funds will be reimbursed from our restricted reserve account at year end.

Major capital expenses for January include \$11.0k to Skyline to complete the sanctuary floor and \$14.3k to Saltzer & Son as a deposit to repair the auditorium (and other) windows. Capital gifts of \$4.3k were received in January, bringing the total for the project to \$720.9k. Bequests and pre-campaign donations bring the grand total received to \$834.5k. An additional \$272.2k in pledges is outstanding. Overall, we are about \$95k short of the campaign goal.

|                             | 2025          |               |                   |
|-----------------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|
|                             | Actual<br>Jan | Budget<br>Jan | Budget<br>Full Yr |
| <b>Income</b>               |               |               |                   |
| Contributions               | \$65.0        | \$42.1        | \$505.1           |
| Investment Draws            | \$0.0         | \$6.1         | \$73.6            |
| Other Income                | \$2.7         | \$2.9         | \$34.4            |
| Jubilee                     | \$16.6        | \$3.0         | \$36.1            |
| Transferred Income          | \$0.0         | (\$3.3)       | (\$40.0)          |
| <b>Total Income</b>         | <b>\$84.4</b> | <b>\$50.8</b> | <b>\$609.2</b>    |
| <b>Expenses</b>             |               |               |                   |
| Clergy                      | \$26.2        | \$23.1        | \$277.5           |
| Lay Staff                   | \$10.3        | \$9.4         | \$112.4           |
| Vestry/Finance/Comm         | \$3.7         | \$2.5         | \$30.3            |
| Utilities                   | \$5.6         | \$3.3         | \$39.0            |
| Building Repairs & Supplies | \$1.8         | \$3.0         | \$36.1            |
| Other Property              | \$3.1         | \$3.1         | \$36.6            |
| Worship/Ed/Community        | \$1.8         | \$1.8         | \$22.2            |
| Outreach                    | \$5.4         | \$5.3         | \$64.2            |
| Jubilee                     | \$3.4         | \$3.1         | \$37.1            |
| Transferred Expenses        | \$0.0         | (\$3.9)       | (\$46.3)          |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>       | <b>\$61.2</b> | <b>\$50.8</b> | <b>\$609.2</b>    |
| <b>Net Total</b>            | <b>\$23.1</b> | <b>\$0.0</b>  | <b>\$0.0</b>      |

## GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP CHALLENGE

GPC Challenge for March 2nd

Ash Wednesday - March 5th

FAST from hurting words and say kind words.

The smallest caring expression can be huge. Think and act on a closer relationship with God and His children through prayer, service, and connection.

GPC Challenge for March 9th

National Girl Scout Day March 12th

Support the girls in their efforts and learning.

We are ALL His children - NO exceptions!

GPC Challenge for March 16th

St. Patrick's Day March 17th

Think about how you can be more "green" in saving our world by recycling, sharing, decreasing plastic use, etc. Any change counts. We can't live without the earth.

GPC Challenge for March 23rd

Remember and share with our Food Pantry. Anything you give will be received with smiles and thanks. We are ALL welcome at His table.

GPC Challenge for March 30th

Soles4Souls is a community sharing with our world community, bringing smiles to be connected with our brothers and sisters all over the world. We work to help ALL which is what we are ALL called to do.

"Speak words of hope. Be human in this most inhuman of ages. Guard the image of man for it is the image of God." Thomas Merton



## BIRTHDAYS

Dani Myers 1  
David Dissinger 3  
Ali Dorgan 4  
Janell Olah 4  
Philip Snyder 4  
Brooks Morgan 6  
Bob Bailey 7  
Adeline Bowser 7  
Eileen Pugliese 7  
Ellen Sellers 8  
Ken Brown 10  
Tim Huber 11  
David Rodriguez 11  
Julie Rodriguez 12  
Ted Loose 13  
Leslie Lemonick 16  
Janelle Stone 17  
Alison Siewert 19  
Karen Latshaw 21  
Heather Trenary 21  
Betsy Hasircoglu 23  
Penn Glazier 24  
Paul Dorgan 25  
Neil Clark 29  
Webb Cook, Jr. 29  
Joel Cliff 30  
Jim Snyder 31  
Bruce Waskowicz 31  
Liz West 31

## ANNIVERSARIES

John & Nancy Houston  
Katie & Andy Mausolf  
Bruce & Leslie Tahsler  
Bruce and Mary Waskowicz

## OUR FRIENDS AT HOME

Ellen Keller, Nancy Nemith, Ricky Smith, Joanna Sweeney, Al Kuser, Mary Sue Farmer, Ellen Sellers, Edith Kane, Merle Schnee, Carol Greenfield, Sandy Grove, Darlene Bentley, Peggy Zuke

## SERVING IN THE MILITARY

Alex Kelly, Brooks Morgan, Brian Hobbins, Joshua Watkins, Kirby Kinderwater, Kyle Kinderwater, David Wolfe

## CHURCH PRAYER LIST

Pat Pankey, Nancy Strasburg, Ella, Kevin, Judy Modene, Andrew Gilpin, Cheryl & Rhoda, Ted Griswold, Richard Anderson, Collin, Liz Kryder Reid, Eileen Waite, Andrew Wright, Marshall, Sandy Patrone, Carol Stigelman, Denise Chandler, Ann Marie, Dawn, Jon



Watch over your children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts, may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.