



ST. JOHN'S NORWOOD
Chevy Chase-Bethesda

SAINT JOHN'S AT THE CROSSROADS

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May 11, 2014

www.stjohnsnorwood.org

Vestry Retreat

This past weekend the Vestry joyously welcomed its four new members—Lon Anderson, Anne Derse, Tom Hebert, Nancy Petrisko—at the DuPont House in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, for fellowship, spiritual reflection, and much hard work thinking about our life and faith together at St. John's. Intentionality and faithfulness became our watchwords. After reviewing a busy last year—starting a visioning process, deciding what to do with the Beechwood rectory, discussion about the fate of our adjacent property—we accepted Bishop Mariann's challenge to look inward at the culture of membership at St. John's. How do we welcome new people and sustain and nurture our long-time members? Using passages from 1 Corinthians, Sari led us into some energetic discussions about what the New Testament has to say regarding the individual members of the body of Christ. Using our mission and diversity statements, we then considered St. John's philosophy of the individual. What do we believe is true about people? What is our spiritual obligation/responsibility to the individual? What is our process for faithful stewardship of individuals?

Bolstered by the writings of Thomas Merton, Sarah led us in some rich discussions about the first time that we came to St. John's and what kept us coming back. We also had leadership development exercises led by Sari, evening prayers and Eucharist, and an introduction to Vestry liaison work with standing and parish committees by our Junior Warden Roxy Wolfe. Even with all that, we managed to squeeze in mint juleps (thanks, Bill Fry!) for the running of the Kentucky Derby, shopping, and a visit to the nearby Dogfish Head Alehouse. A few of us even ventured into the Atlantic Ocean for a quick, chilly dip, serenaded by Sari playing the guitar.

We thank our families for giving us the opportunity to spend such a rewarding and insightful time together. We returned energized, fully committed, and excited about serving St. John's in the coming months.

John F. Ross, Senior Warden

Building Community at the Crossroads of Faith and Life

Our members represent a variety of racial and ethnic backgrounds, nationalities, family configurations, sexual orientations, abilities, and religious traditions. Indeed, chances are that there's someone like you at St. John's. We are single, married, partnered, divorced, widowed, remarried, gay and lesbian, with and without children, empty nesters, old and young, and differently-abled; you name it - we are here.

Passages

"If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it." 1 Cor. 12:26

We give thanks ...

Jake Craven and Erin Pearl were married on April 16, 2014 in Las Vegas, Nevada. Jake is the son of Marnie & Tom Craven. Jake & Erin live in Frederick, MD, where both are lawyers in the Office of the Frederick County State's Attorney.

Please contact the Office if you have a birth, baptism, wedding, death, or other passage to share with the Parish.

Adult Forum (5/11) Sharing the Pilgrimage

St. John's pilgrimage to the Holy Land was an exhilarating experience. Collectively, we saw and walked places that enabled us to feel a profound awareness of Jesus' life and death for us 2000 years ago. We shared our experiences in daily song and prayer. We also saw the fragmentation of daily life in today's Israel-Palestine. Other experiences and feelings were more unique to the individual. But, wherever we went, we were never far from St. John's. We would like to share our experiences with you at the forum this Sunday, May 11. A number of us will speak about what the pilgrimage meant to us, and we will answer your questions. We will cover the places that enlightened our minds and deepened our spirit, discuss the impact of the pilgrimage on our own lives, and explain what we learned about the search for peace in this troubled land. We will share some regional food and drink at the end of the forum. We hope you can make it because we are anxious to make this marvelous experience a part of your lives.

Earle O'Donnell

Parking Lot Paving (5/13-14)

The right-rear (southeast) quadrant of the parking lot is scheduled for repaving on Tuesday, May 13 – Wednesday, May 14. Thank you for refraining from parking in this section of the lot on these days, allowing this important, much-needed, significant safety upgrade to proceed as planned.

Men's Book Club (5/14)

Book selection: *The Internal Enemy: Slavery and War in Virginia, 1772-1832*. Meeting at the home of Bob Dupont, 7:30 PM.

THC's Living in the City Benefit (5/15)

Please join the friends of Transitional Housing Corporation at the new NPR Headquarters on May 15 to celebrate the achievements of THC's hard-working families. THC is a faith-based, non-profit partnership that provides housing and comprehensive support services to homeless and at-risk families to make transformational changes in their lives. THC's annual Living in the City benefit shows supporters how THC is helping its clients transform their lives, and raises funds for future THC families. Through sponsorships, auction donations, and your attendance, you can help THC help them. To learn more about the event and purchase tickets, stop by THC's website - <http://thcdc.org/litc14/>.

Peter Plocki

Youth Appreciation Dinner (5/18)

Saying "thank you" is important. Thanking those who give us gifts, share their talents, or do something special for us shows how much we appreciate them. At our annual Youth Appreciation Dinner on Sunday, May 18, we'll join together to extend a big thank you to all the youth who serve as acolytes, Flower Guild members, LEMs, choir members, and Welcome Team members. Their service and presence is very important and their work will be celebrated at this special parish-wide event.

The evening begins at 5:45 PM with a taco bar dinner and continues with presentations to the youth. Dessert, good-byes to our graduating seniors, and a slide show from the Youth Group will cap off the evening. There is no charge for the event as a special thank you to all our fabulous youth and their families.

Anne Timpane

Inquirer's Class (5/18)

Interested to know more about St. John's and the Episcopal Church? You are welcome to an Inquirer's Class, Sunday, May 18, 10AM, in the Lounge.

Bocce and BBQ | Sunday, May 25, at 1:00 PM | Sarah+'s patio

Join us for an afternoon of fellowship, food, and bocce! Sarah+ and Paul will provide the grill, boutique sausages, and some drinks; you provide the rest to share. Get location details and RSVP to Sarah+ by May 18. If you'd like to receive email reminders about Felix Hora events, please ask the Office to add your name to the FH email group.

Music Notes

This coming Sunday at 11:15 AM, the St. John's choir will share a setting of Psalm 23 written by Bobby McFerrin. Known to many of us for his pop hit "Don't Worry, Be Happy," McFerrin is an improvisational jazz phenomenon, orchestral conductor, and composer. What sets his version of the 23rd psalm apart is the use of the word "she" when speaking about God.

*The Lord is my Shepherd, I have all I need,
She makes me lie down in green meadows,
beside the still waters she will lead.*

*She restores my soul, she rights my wrongs,
She leads me in a path of good things,
and fills my heart with songs.*

*Even though I walk through a dark and dreary land,
There is nothing that can shake me,
she has said she won't forsake me, I'm in her hand.*

*She sets a table before me, in the presence of my
foes, She anoints my head with oil and my cup
overflows.*

*Surely, goodness and kindness will follow me
all the days of my life,
And I will live in her house for ever and ever.*

*Glory be to our Mother and Daughter and to the
holy of holies,
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen.*

McFerrin writes, "Whether we visualize or praise the Lord in terms of gender or in other personal ways, the beauty of the 23rd Psalm is in the worship and in the music."

Anne Timpane

Outreach: Everyone Loves a Sale

And what better gift can you give to our church Outreach Committee and to yourself than a Giant card? Easy to shop with, no wrapping required. We buy them at a discount of 5% and that extra 5% goes to the Outreach Committee each time you buy one. We have several denominations at the table in the lobby at 10 AM. The sign says SALES. Don't miss out!

The Outreach Committee

Prayer at Op Shop's Luncheon

Margaret Uhar, St. John's parishioner and Opportunity Shop volunteer, offered the opening prayer at the Annual Meeting and luncheon in the Parish Hall on May 3. "The Op Shop," our church-affiliated thrift store, recently gave a check for \$17,000 to St. John's for disbursement to local charities.

"Gracious God, Thank you for this opportunity to come to celebrate the mission of the Opportunity Shop, to appreciate its volunteers, and to enjoy fellowship with one another.

"We are grateful for the success of the shop this past year and for the gifts of service. We are especially thankful for our volunteers who give of their time and talents, who serve strangers with a smile and offer friendly assistance to all who pass through the doors...

"Finally, for everyone here present, we ask that you would bless us all with your grace, humility, and peace as we serve our community and beyond. In Your Name, Amen."

Pamela Kempf

SAINT JOHN'S AT THE CROSSROADS

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Calendar

Sunday, May 11, 2014

Mother's Day

- 8:00 AM Simple, Spoken Holy Eucharist - Chapel
9:00 AM Children's Chapel - Hines Hall
9:00 AM Holy Eucharist - Nave
9:00-1:00 Parish Library Open
10:00 AM Bible Study - Library
10:10 AM Adult Forum: *Holy Land Pilgrims' Presentation* - Parish Hall
11:15 AM Holy Eucharist - Nave
12:15 PM Hospitality Hour - Lounge
4:45-6:30 Parish Library Open - Library
5:00 PM Come As You Are Eucharist - Nave
6:00 PM Adoption Ministry - Lounge

Monday, May 12, 2014

- 6:30 PM EfM - Lounge
7:30 PM NPF Board - J2A Room
Property Committee - Parish Hall
Sunday Forum Committee - Library

Tuesday, May 13, 2014

- 1:30 PM Church Staff - Rector's Office
4:00 PM Primary Choir - Choir Room
4:00-6:00 Parish Library Open - Library
5:00 PM Children's Choir - Choir Room
7:00 PM Alleluia Choir - Choir Room
7:30 PM Finance Committee - Lounge

Wednesday, May 14, 2014

- 10:30 AM Bible Study - Lounge
12:00 PM Holy Eucharist and Healing - Chapel
1:00-4:00 Librarian Is In - Library
6:30 PM EfM - Lounge
7:30 PM Men's Book Club - (offsite)

Thursday, May 15, 2014

- 6:00 PM Norwood Ringers - Choir Room
7:30 PM St. John's Choir - Choir Room

If you wish to be removed from the Saint John's mailing list, or no longer wish to receive the Saint John's at the Crossroads newsletter, please let the office know.

The next Crossroads will be dated **Sunday, 5/18**.

Note: The editor and church staff reserve the right to determine the content of Crossroads and edit for grammar or length requirements (article limit, 150 words).

Final article drafts must be submitted to the Parish Office by the *Sunday* prior to publication date (above). One may email articles to newsletter@stjohnsnorwood.org (with "Crossroads" in the subject line). Sending text in the body of the e-mail is preferred.

Saturday, May 17, 2014

- 8:30-12:00 Beautification Day
9:00-12:00 Rite 13 rehearsal - Nave, Parish Hall

Sunday, May 18, 2014

- 8:00 AM Simple, Spoken Holy Eucharist - Chapel
9:00 AM Children's Chapel - Hines Hall
9:00 AM Holy Eucharist - Nave
9:00-1:00 Parish Library Open
10:00 AM Bible Study - Library
Inquirers' Class - Lounge
10:10 AM Adult Forum: *"The Grace of God and the Kindness of Strangers,"* led by *James Woody, Executive Director of the Bishop John T. Walker School for Boys* - Parish Hall
11:15 AM Holy Eucharist - Nave
12:15 PM Hospitality Hour - Lounge
4:45-6:30 Parish Library Open - Library
5:00 PM Come As You Are Eucharist - Nave
5:45 PM Youth Appreciation / 3rd Sunday Supper - Parish Hall