



ST. JOHN'S NORWOOD  
Chevy Chase-Bethesda

# SAINT JOHN'S AT THE CROSSROADS

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[www.stjohnsnorwood.org](http://www.stjohnsnorwood.org)

## Proud to Introduce ...

I'm happy to present another round of interviews with the young people in the Rite 13 class. We will celebrate these seven new teens at the 9 AM service on Sunday, May 18. I asked them to offer words of wisdom to those younger than they, and I thought their insights were relevant to all of us.

**Tiger Bjornlund** suggests that people enjoy the age where they find themselves, since changes are always coming. He knows high school is definitely going to be harder, but he looks forward to it too, to the chance to choose among interesting subjects like physics and psychology. Tiger likes math and science; he's in 8th grade at Pyle Middle School. Tiger's both a soccer and an ice hockey player, and he follows hockey and baseball on TV. He takes flute lessons, plays with the family dog Saki, and enjoys the advantages of being the youngest of three, since he can get help with his homework and has been able to watch PG-13 movies for awhile now. Tiger gets called on when it's time for dessert: he's a pie specialist, with caramel apple pie his own favorite.

**Caroline Coffey** writes stories as a favorite pastime, and she always has a book she's in the middle of. Caroline is an 8th grader in the humanities magnet at Eastern Middle School, where she enjoys her English class the most. For exercise, she likes to swim. She's in choir at St. John's, takes voice lessons, and also sings in the Imagination Stage (IS) program she's in. She'll be acting and dancing as well in IS's *Godspell* this weekend. Caroline is the oldest of three. Her advice comes from her experience of going to Eastern without knowing people there: focus on finding real friends, instead of trying to be popular or to imitate others.

"Introductions" continued on p. 4

## RECTOR'S CORNER

I had a chance to spend this past weekend with a very close clergy friend of mine who was visiting from Los Angeles. Over the course of our time together I felt awakened in a new way to the value and importance of friendship - the kind that sharpens you as a person; the kind that creates a safe, open space for authenticity and allows your life to be mirrored back to you in a way that brings clarity. Friendship is a gift from God.

Picking up on Sarah's sermon from this past Sunday during which she encouraged us to reach out to our mentors and leaders simply to say "thank you," I want to invite us to consider this day the invaluable gift of our friends without whom life could seem empty and cold. Consider a phone call, a letter, an email, or a text today just to say thank you, and to let a friend know that they are a gift and a blessing to you. Life is too short not to.

### My favorite quote of the week:

*Many persons have a wrong idea of what constitutes true happiness. It is not attained through self-gratification but through fidelity to a worthy purpose. - Helen Keller*

## 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.

## Youth Appreciation Dinner (5/18)

The Youth Appreciation Dinner begins Sunday at 5:45 PM in the Parish Hall with a taco bar dinner and continues with presentations to the choirs, acolytes, youth Flower Guild, lectors, LEMs, and Welcome Team. 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.

## Music Notes

When was the last time you heard the music at our 5PM service? Whether you attend the service on a regular basis, or just drop in now and again, you are sure to be welcomed with music that is familiar, uplifting, and fitting for a small, intimate service. The piano provides the musical leadership, but the heart of the music is in the variety of congregational songs used throughout the service.

While the *Hymnal 1982* is present in the service, it is not the main source for our songs. Music from other Episcopal resources such as *Lift Every Voice and Sing II*; *Wonder, Love, and Praise*; and *My Heart Sings Out*, is part of the worship repertoire, as are songs from many other denominations' hymnals and songbooks. The mixture of old favorites and new songs that are easily learned will welcome you in and provide an easy entry into the service's low-key, comfortable worship.

*Anne Timpane*

## Adult Forum (5/18)

James R. Woody, Executive Director of The Bishop John T. Walker School for Boys, presents "The Grace of God and the Kindness of Strangers" at our Adult Forum, Sunday, May 18, 10:10 AM. He'll update us on the tremendous progress that has been made at the Bishop Walker School through the generous support from so many in our community.

Named in honor of the first African-American bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington, the Bishop John T. Walker School for Boys represents

the Diocese's response to the serious educational challenges facing African-American boys in low-income communities east of the Anacostia River. This tuition-free, independent school is rooted in the progressive traditions of Episcopal education, current childhood development research, and the educational philosophy of Bishop Walker. Starting in 2008 with a single class of 13 four year-olds, it now serves 73 students in grades Junior-Kindergarten through fourth. By the fall of 2017, the Bishop Walker School will educate 160 boys in grades Junior-Kindergarten through eighth.

Please join us for this heartwarming and inspiring presentation!

*Carolyn Peirce*

## Spring Ingathering for United Thank Offering (5/18)

This Sunday, May 18, is our United Thank Offering (UTO) Spring Ingathering. For over 125 years, UTO has worked through Episcopal dioceses and Anglican provinces around the world, offering grants for projects that alleviate suffering and poverty worldwide. Some recent UTO grants provided--

- A nurse practitioner for St. Luke's Episcopal Mobile Medical Ministry in the Diocese of Shreveport, Louisiana;
- A new roof for St. Martin de Tours Church in the Diocese of Haiti;
- Restoration of a hydrotherapy pool at the Princess Basma Center for Disabled Children run by the Arab Anglican Episcopal Church in Jerusalem;
- Construction of a sanctuary for abused women and children in the Diocese of Davao, Philippines.

At St. John's this Sunday, any cash placed in the offering plate will go to UTO, and if you wish to contribute by check, please make it payable to St. John's, with UTO on the memo line.

*Outreach Committee*

### ***Inquirer's Class (5/18)***

Interested to know more about St. John's and the Episcopal Church? You are welcome to attend an Inquirer's Class, Sunday, May 18, 10:00 AM, in the Lounge.

### **Senior Farewell**

Come celebrate our seniors during the Youth Appreciation Dinner on Sunday, May 18, from 5:45-7:30! We know of nine people finishing high school. Louis Bartholemew is leaving for New York University where he'll stay active in theater while studying government and economics. Natalie Campbell is heading to Rhodes College in Memphis, where she may study art management. Ryan Curto has enrolled at Washington and Lee, and he's thinking about pre-med or economics. Peter Horton heads to Amherst, where he'll be a runner, while studying math and economics. Matt Koenig is interested in dentistry, and he'll study biology at the University of Maryland. Jacob Mallin is ready to take up film and media studies in the fall at the Rochester Institute of Technology. Sammi Stroman is going to Yale, where she'll follow her interests in both theater and global studies. Michael Timpane is interested in sports management, and he'll pursue that at Coastal Carolina University. Not everyone knows what's coming up next: Keenan McUmbler will let us know, and we wish him, and all our seniors, all the best. We're so glad we got to know you! Thanks for being part of our life here.

*Nancy Derr*

### **Parking Lot Paving Rescheduled (5/20)**

Repaving of the right-rear (southeast) quadrant of the parking lot has been scheduled for **Tuesday, May 20**. Thank you for refraining from parking in this section of the lot on this day, allowing this important, much-needed, significant safety upgrade to proceed as planned.

### ***Felix Hora-hosted 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.

### **Men's Chill Grill Is Back (5/25)**

Due to popular demand, we'll be kicking off the summer with our fourth Men's Chill Grill on Sunday, May 25. It's becoming quite a tradition here on the St. John's blacktop. Gentlemen, please bring your beverage of choice. We'll start at 6 PM and have hamburgers, chicken, and all the fixings. Suggested donation, \$5.

*The Chill Grill Squad*

### **Women's Book Group**

The next meeting of the Women's Book Group will be June 2. We hope to see some new faces at upcoming meetings. Bring your ideas for reading selections, as we hope to expand our horizons.

While our book selections will continue to focus on women authors of fiction, we do also choose non-fiction and are open to other suggestions. If you're interested in joining us, please send your name and e-mail address to [STJN.bookgroup@gmail.com](mailto:STJN.bookgroup@gmail.com). You'll be notified by e-mail of upcoming meeting locations and readings. Check *Crossroads* for our monthly notice also.

NOTE: There will be no meeting in August to give people a chance to read the long selection for September.

Upcoming meeting dates and reading selections are as follows:

6/2/2014 *The Postmistress* by Sarah Blake  
7/7/2014 *My Beloved World* by Sonia Sotomayor  
9/8/2014 *Catherine the Great* by Robert K. Massie

Hope to see you sometime this summer.

*Mary Chyun*

## "Introductions" *continued from p. 1*

**Annabel Dobbyn** suggests that we listen to others. People deserve to have their say and not to be overlooked. Annabel gave a good account of her school, Green Acres, as a place where each person's opinion is valued. She's a 7th grader there. Though she misses the carefree days of younger years, she appreciates new freedoms, such as walking into Bethesda with her friends. Annabel loves art – she enjoyed her visit to the Visionary Art Museum in Baltimore – and she also writes poetry and short stories. She likes to play with her dog Max, to laugh with her older sister, and to watch her favorite shows "Sherlock" and "Supernatural." Her favorite food is her mom's corn salad.

**Peter Hechler** thinks people should look for and be grateful for the assets of the stage they're in. As a child he wasn't expected to help out much; now he does more around the house, and enjoys having more choices. An 8th grader at Robert Frost Middle School, Peter enjoys his PE class and his digital music class. Peter is a big sports fan. He loves watching football with his dad on Sundays in the fall, and he's closely following the fortunes of the Wizards and of his favorite player, John Wall. He and his twin brother Stephen are on a basketball team together. Peter enjoys the family's watching "Once Upon a Time" on TV together, and he likes listening to music with his older brother, too.

**Stephen Hechler** sees himself as a person with a lot of energy, and he counseled younger people to stay aware of setting a good example to others. He looks forward to the trust from his parents that more responsibility and freedom is going to indicate. Stephen, an 8th grader at Robert Frost Middle School, likes the never-ending story of history, as well as his computer applications class. Stephen spends time playing "Minecraft," his favorite TV show is "Monk," and his favorite foods are mac and cheese and white pizza with stuffed crust. He loves the fun the family has at the Outer Banks, not only hanging out at the beach, but the go-carts too.

**Joseph Kennedy** tells people to look ahead and get ready for the next stage of life, thinking of the challenging transition from 5th to middle school 6th grade. Now Joseph is a 7th grader at North Bethesda Middle School. He enjoys social studies and science, takes tennis lessons, and plays soccer and basketball. You can find him skateboarding on his street; sometimes his dad takes him to the skatepark in Rockville. He follows college basketball especially, and is often tuned to ESPN. Joseph plays the trombone, enjoys his two cats, Charlotte and Harry Potter, and likes being the older brother. His favorite TV shows are "Dr. Who" and "Hell's Kitchen." He looks forward to driving, and he has several ambitions: he wants to learn sign language, broadcasting and journalism, and biochemistry too.

**Anna Kim** knows it's best to let yourself gain the confidence and trust to be your natural self. A 7th grader at Norwood School, Anna finds she has more homework and higher expectations as she gets older, but also she has more freedom: for example, she had fun with her friends going to the azalea festival together at Landon School recently. Anna enjoys painting and drawing, and she gets a kick out her drama class too, where she does improv. She likes her science and her history classes; she plays softball and basketball; and she's a devoted older sister. The family pet is Nibbles the hamster, and "Modern Family" is Anna's favorite TV show. Anna looks after young children in a community volunteer program, and she's looking forward to the art camp she goes to in the summer.

Thanks for taking the time to get to know these young teens, who attend six different schools, yet connect at St. John's, bringing their fascinating selves to enhance our congregation. We wish them well on their journey to adulthood.

*Nancy Derr, Church School Director*

## **Our Diversity Statement + Outreach =**

Consistent with our Diversity Statement, St. John's will again extend our welcome to the gay and lesbian community by participating in the 2014 DC Pride Day on Saturday, June 7! St. John's will be the only Episcopal Church in Montgomery County marching in the parade. If you are interested in helping to plan this creative outreach, participating in the parade, or just learning more, contact Vestry member, Kurt Ellison by e-mail to [kurt.ellison\[AT\]runbox.com](mailto:kurt.ellison[AT]runbox.com)

*Kurt Ellison*

## **THC Adopt-an-Apartment Update**

Many thanks to those of you who already signed up to donate furniture, household items, or your time to furnish an apartment for a homeless family at one of Transitional Housing Corporation's apartment buildings. Though the move-in date was originally expected to be this month, we have been advised by THC that the move-in has been delayed. THC will advise us as soon as possible of a new move-in date. In the meantime, if you have furniture or other items you are holding for the move but have no space to store them, please contact Peter Plocki or Langdon Healy, and they will work with you and THC to find interim storage space.

*Peter Plocki*

## **The Vision Thing: Notes, Thoughts, and Updates from the St. John's Vision Team**

Your vision team has big plans this summer! Not only will we be reviewing and interpreting the terrific feedback we received from our Circles gatherings, but we will also be reaching out to key community leaders in our area. We're currently developing a targeted set of questions in which we will elucidate our community's present and future social needs. We have plans to involve you in this process, so stay tuned for details. Then, in the fall, we will begin to put all the pieces together—and see where our parish gifts best meet the needs of our larger community. We're planning multiple forums and other opportunities to talk about our findings, get your feedback, and work together to figure out the next exciting step in our faith journey together.

*For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.*

*1 Corinthians 12:12*

## **Summer Newsletter Bi-Weekly Publication Schedule begins with our June 1 issue.**

### **Summer Newsletter edition dates:**

June 1, June 15, June 29,  
July 13, July 27, Aug 10, Aug 24



# SAINT JOHN'S AT THE CROSSROADS

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## Calendar

### UTO 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  
Church School - Classrooms  
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  
5:30 PM Youth Group - Youth Room  
5:45 PM 3rd Sunday Supper - Parish Hall

### Monday, May 19, 2014

- 6:30 PM EfM - Lounge  
7:00 PM Spiritual Practices Planning - Chapel

### Tuesday, May 20, 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 [Vestry devotions] - Lounge  
8:00 PM Vestry [open meeting] - Lounge, Parish Hall

### Wednesday, May 21, 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 Worship Advisory Committee - Library

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, 5/25**.

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](mailto:newsletter@stjohnsnorwood.org) (with "Crossroads" in the subject line). Sending text in the body of the e-mail is preferred.

### Thursday, May 22, 2014

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

### Sunday, May 25, 2014

- Shepherd's Table Food Preparation - Kitchen  
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  
Church School - Classrooms  
10:10 AM Adult Forum: "Water," led by Jane Houlihan, water quality scientist, and Anne Wake, Chesapeake Bay Master Gardener - 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 Men's Spring Chill Grill - Parish Hall