



ST. JOHN'S NORWOOD  
Chevy Chase-Bethesda

# SAINT JOHN'S AT THE CROSSROADS

Volume 29 Number 37

June 1, 2014

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

## A Letter from the Rector and Senior Warden

Before summer pulls us in all sorts of new directions, we wanted to reflect for a moment on the big picture of things going on at St. John's. The Vision Team, commissioned by the vestry a year ago, works apace on discerning what a collective ministry for our parish might look like. How can we target the gifts we have toward a great need in our community to greatest effect? Our gifts in terms of skills, talents, and resources are incredible—how can we make the greatest difference with them in the world outside? See the "Vision Thing" column in this issue for the latest from the Team.

The Vision process has already yielded rich fruit that we didn't expect! By thinking about how we reach out into the community, it's also reinvigorated a rich discussion about how we internally support each other in our faith journeys. How do we make sure that we nurture an environment that will help each of us—recent attendee and seasoned long-timer alike—move deeper in our spiritual lives?

During the recent vestry retreat we focused on these internal questions by discussing how we treat individuals. They are unique, have special needs, have gifts, deeply desire community, and want to contribute. We spoke about the difference of needs among all of us, especially those of a person who has just walked through our doors and another who has come here for decades. It became apparent that we can't only be a welcoming place (though we certainly are!) but that we could do much to think about being mindful of the richness and diversity of our spiritual needs and setting up ways to address those even more fully than we do now. This could affect, for instance, our welcoming process, our forums, our stewardship, and the development of new ministries and programs.

Your vestry is enthusiastically diving into these discussions, not to come up with new programs or ministries or processes, but to ask fundamental questions about how we nurture one another on our faith journeys. By asking the right questions,

*"Vision," continued on p. 4*

## Thank You, Teachers

Think of the many people who helped raise you – perhaps there were church school teachers among them. The reward for the people here at St. John's who volunteer to teach church school is that they are both enacting and talking about the spiritual dimension of life with young people. Children's questions are existential. They awaken us, and not by their simplicity so much as by their complexity. A few months ago Marianne Carr, age four, asked Lizzie Glidden-Boyle, "Why do we keep talking about Jesus all the time?!" What is the answer to that? "He shows us how to love each other," said Lizzie, and Marianne knew how to show that, with a hug for her teacher. Lizzie taught the oldest class on Mother's Day, and was impressed by how fond the teens were of one another and how satisfying it was to be with a group like that. Teachers Bob Uhar and Mark Horton can attest to that. They are among the many who will miss the seniors!

The J2A class takes the attendance awards this spring. Thanks to the team of Stefanie Rardin and Rick Bradley for creating a clear and engaging process for focusing on their pilgrimage, coming up a year from now. We hope you'll be hearing a lot from the J2A as they engage the congregation on the subject of science and faith – suitable to their destination, the Galapagos – via the Youth Service and inter-generational events and the March auction.

You've seen many Rite 13 ceremonies this year – all those new teens are from the class that is taught by two creative couples, both long-time teaching teams, Shirley Sagawa and Greg Baer, and newlyweds Sarah Tomkins and Jason Flohre. This is our biggest class, with an enrollment of 25.

*"Church School," continued on p. 4*

## 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.

## Adult Forum (6/1)

### "Caring for Creation: The Biblical Imperative and the Contemporary Challenge"

Dr. William Blair is an astronomer by training and is a research professor in Physics & Astronomy at Johns Hopkins University. He is also a science educator, and has given many public talks, including topics related to science and religion, astronomy, and climate change issues. Dr. Blair also directs the Creation Care Group in the Presbytery of Baltimore, a group that seeks to engage and support churches in establishing and growing creation care ministries. St. John's Episcopal Church was connected with Bill through Interfaith Power & Light (DC.MD.NoVA), which helps congregations of all faiths throughout the area to save energy, go green, and respond to climate change.

We are fortunate to have Dr. Blair come to St. John's to speak on this vital topic. Please join us at the forum at 10:10 to welcome Dr. Blair.

*Carolyn Peirce*

### Have Infants or Toddlers? (5/31, 3-5 PM)

Join other St. John's parents with infants and toddlers for some fellowship and playtime. For location and other details, contact Jessica Weber, jess.m.weber[AT]gmail.com (also in the directory).

### Pentecost Cakes Needed (6/8)

We traditionally celebrate the Church's birthday at Pentecost. What would a birthday party be without cake?! We are asking for contributions of cakes or cupcakes for the celebration after the combined 10 AM service on Sunday, June 8.

Please sign up on the Parish Life bulletin board in the West Avenue lobby. Here is a chance to express your creativity through baked goods. You may decorate it to represent the month of your choosing (e.g. a red velvet heart-shaped cake for February), or contribute your favorite birthday treat celebrating your birthday month. Your cake can be as simple or elaborate as you like. Of course, store-bought cakes and cupcakes are just as welcome if you prefer that option. Rest assured that no matter the source, all will get eaten.

We look forward to seeing and tasting your creativity.

Questions? Contact Johnna Story  
(johnna.story[AT]finnegan.com)

*Parish Life*

## 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 join in mourning the death of Harriett O'Donnell.*

*We give thanks for our 309 known adult volunteers and almost 80 children and youth volunteers.*

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

## Wednesday Bible Study: Summer Video Discussions

Back by popular demand, the Wednesday Bible Study will meet this summer from June 11 through July 30, 10:30-11:30 AM in the Library. We'll watch and discuss a short video each week; no need to prepare in advance. All are welcome to drop in or join us weekly. Contact: Sarah+

## Music Notes

The term sabbatical is derived from the biblical Sabbath. It is a time of rest and rejuvenation. A time to get away, renew, and refresh. Thanks to the generosity of our parish, I will be taking three months of sabbatical this summer. My time will be divided between study, family vacations (hopefully with some rest mixed in), and home projects I've been neglecting. Study will include attending the Association of Anglican Musicians conference here in DC and participating in Westminster Choir College's conducting institute where I'll have the opportunity to study with some of the world's most renowned choral conductors. While I'm away, the music will be in the capable hands of Clarice Snyder who is retiring from her position as Director of Music at St. Luke's in North Bethesda, parishioner and organist Karen Berry, as well as talented pianists Jane Houlihan and Betsy Reed.

See you in the fall!

*Anne Timpane*

## Vestry Highlights

At its May 15, 2014, meeting, the Vestry:

Welcomed new members Lon Anderson, Anne Derse, Tom Hebert, and Nancy Petrisko.

- Approved two grants from the Norwood Parish Fund:
  - (a) \$1,161.65 for the purchase of a set of hand chimes to augment the options available to the Handbell Choir and to introduce the Primary and Children's Choirs to bell ringing
  - (b) \$1,195 for Anne Timpane to attend the Westminster Conducting Institute, a renowned program for choral conductors
- Elected Vestry officers: Scott Cotter, Treasurer, Pat Cascio, Secretary, Craig Ulman, Chancellor
- Set dates to meet with the Finance Committee to construct the 2015 operating budget: Saturday, September 13, 2014, and Saturday, January 10, 2015. These meetings are open to the parish.
- Continued a discussion on how St. John's can be more intentional in the stewardship of its individuals -- both members and visitors, with a special focus on helping people grow in their faith and sense of community at St. John's.
- Authorized Junior Warden Roxy Wolfe to contract with realtor Sue Bader to advertise the 7020 Beechwood property for sale, now that we have secured permission from the Diocese to do so.
- Noted in the Property Committee report that a total of 21 six-foot tables have been bought for the Parish Hall, and new windows have been installed in J2A room, the Nursery, and Hines Hall.

The next Vestry meeting will be at 8:00 PM on Tuesday, June 17, in the Lounge.

To see all Vestry documents and reports, go to:

<https://docs.google.com/folder/d/0BzfjbFerWsaTbVczb0VMQmFWQWc/edit?usp=sharing>

*Pat Cascio, Secretary of the Parish,  
for the Rector and Wardens*

## The Future of Downtown Bethesda and St. John's

What do you want downtown Bethesda – and especially, St. John's corner and immediate surroundings – to look like for the next twenty years and beyond? The Montgomery County Planning Department is well on the way to updating the 1994 Bethesda Central Business District Plan Sector Plan and will present the first draft of recommendations for the comprehensive new 20-year Bethesda Downtown Plan for public discussion this fall. The new Plan will promote social, economic and environmental sustainability and will address urban design and character, open space, mobility and environment. The Planning Department is actively seeking input from the community. Members of the Adjacent Property Committee have attended public workshops on the Plan, and accompanied by Sari, met with county planners on March 25. The planners value the church at the gateway to the downtown and as a nexus for community involvement. They are interested in the church's wishes and views with respect to everything from pedestrian access to green space and importantly, parking. We will continue our dialogue with the planners to advance St. John's interests and encourage all interested in the planning process to visit [montgomeryplanning.org](http://montgomeryplanning.org) for extensive information and opportunities for individual input. Given that 40 percent of residents and 20 percent of workers in downtown Bethesda are ages 20-34, the planners are especially interested in the views of millennials. We offered to explore whether there is sufficient interest in the St. John's community for a session with planners. We encourage those interested in participating in a session to contact Anne Derse at [derseae\[AT\]hotmail.com](mailto:derseae[AT]hotmail.com) by June 7.

*Anne Derse*

## **Pizza, Beer, & Jesus | Wednesday, June 11 at 7 PM | Haven Pizzeria**

Come learn with us over pizza, beer, and a Jesusy conversation hosted by Felix Hora. Meet there or walk over from church at 6:45 PM. Contact for information: Heidi Weber ([heideweber1\[AT\]gmail.com](mailto:heideweber1[AT]gmail.com)). To be added to the Felix Hora email list, contact the Church Office.

## **Vision**, *continued from p. 1*

the congregation can do the important work of seeing how it will manifest itself in God's work.

The external Vision process and internal spiritual nourishment evaluation have some overlap, of course, because spiritual nourishment will certainly also come when we find ourselves living into our communal vision. But we have many other needs that might not be specifically addressed tangentially.

It truly is an exciting time at St. John's where we are asking fundamental, hard questions about who we are as a community and where we are going. No one but God knows the answers—and the journey is sometimes uncertain and scary. But together we are capable—as God tells us—of doing extraordinary things.

Please keep your letters coming, your comments, your contributions, your love, as we tackle this holy work. As you rest and rejuvenate this summer, we invite you to create space in your hearts through prayer and devotion for the exciting things that God is preparing for us as a community. We look forward to updating you and sharing with you much more about all of this come the fall.

In Peace,  
John Ross, *Senior Warden*  
Sari Ateek, *Rector*

## ***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@runbox.com](mailto:kurt.ellison@runbox.com)

*Kurt Ellison*

### **Summer Newsletter Bi-Weekly Publication Schedule:**

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

*deadline = one week prior to edition date*

## **Church School**, *continued from p. 1*

Next fall we will combine the sixth and seventh grades. This year the teachers of the sixth were Langdon Healy and Lee Walsh; of the fifth, Elly Sullivan and Cecelia Smith. All but Langdon came to us for the first time, and the classes had a great year, thanks to their teachers' enthusiasm and appreciation.

The fourth grade teachers also were new this year: we applaud Kathy Kemper-Dean and Jessica Snyder, another team who enjoyed each other and gave so much of themselves to their students. Third graders thrived under the care of the lively team Kate Tapley and Mike Primich: look for their several birdhouses enhancing the branches above the tower lawn.

The upstairs hall is filled with outstanding teachers: I want to encourage the pre-school through second grade children to come to the last class on June 1, to say goodbye to them! Wendy Vicente and Amy Jackson were always happy to welcome their second graders to new activities, and next door, Cassie and Walter Carr, with Marit Bjornlund when she was in town, nurtured the first grade and kept them engaged and connected. We had three teachers in the kindergarten as well: Fritz and Leslie Kass and Scott McNulty are a dynamic team, full of ideas and energy, as the job requires! Pre-kindergarten also had three teachers rotating in and out: we thank Lizzie and Judy Pendergrass and Sooz Mitchell for their care for these engaging children. And in the pre-school, we are lucky to have experienced teachers Susan Little and Pam Kempf in our anchor class, giving the three year-olds a happy experience in the classroom.

Librarian Toni Hartman gave six classes the chance to have a library Sunday during the past year – our thanks to her. Nike Refshauge prepared several Sundays of parish-wide snacks, set up receptions after the passion play and the pageant, brought in the cakes for the Rite 13 ceremonies, and kept all of the classes supplied and juiced every Sunday since September. Nike has volunteered ever since I started working at St. John's, seventeen years ago come July 1st.

People sometimes say that children are the future of the church, as though to emphasize the importance of our family and youth program that way. Yet children and youth are really more core to the present church. Their support from volunteers who rise to the challenge of teaching is a big part of St. John's character. We're known for our church school and youth program. We are a parish who supports our children. Our volunteers show children and teens how to grapple with difficulties and how to reconcile with one another; they invite them to participate in a spiritual life. They'll come forward at the 9 AM service on June 1: please join me in thanking them.

*Nancy Derr, Church School Director*

## The Vision Thing:

### Notes, Thoughts, and Updates from the St. John's Vision Team

Thanks for all your comments and observations over the past few months. They've been critical in guiding our discernment on how best to focus our collective energy on making a large impact in the community outside our walls. Keep them coming!

We're learning much, too, as we chart these new, unexplored waters, not only about ourselves but the process as well. Perhaps most significantly, we've discovered that the majority of our task is far more process- rather than results- oriented.

This means that in order to accomplish our task with integrity, we need to collect a large amount of behind-the-scenes information – both internal (information from within our congregation) and external (information from the wider community). And thus, the challenge (or spiritual discipline!) for us has been to suspend our own desires for quick answers, instead trusting that this sacred process must occur at its own organic pace for it to work. This process-vs.-results aspect of our visioning work sets it apart from putting together a more straightforward strategic plan.

So where are we in the process now? We recently split our team into two main groups: the first is working on synthesizing the information gleaned from the historical timeline and Circles gatherings, and the second to focus on gathering and synthesizing information from the Bethesda/Chevy Chase community.

We plan on finishing both tasks by September 1st. Next, our team will come back together, share the results and prayerfully consider any points of intersection between them, and then make a presentation to the vestry and to the congregation. We will all consider together how to best use this information to guide our next steps.

Thank you for supporting our work with your prayers, and for joining us in trusting the Holy Spirit's guiding of this process and our corporate journey toward a sacred vision.

## Caring for One Another: Stephen Ministry



I had been attending St. John's about five years, when Dorothy Hevey approached me about becoming a Stephen Minister. I had been asked to join other groups prior to this and was working on perfecting a "No

thanks!" response. Dorothy, however, is not one to take "no" for an answer. I wasn't even certain what a Stephen Minister was much less exactly what one did which made me wonder why she thought I was qualified. After several discussions with Dorothy, I agreed to make the commitment.

The Stephen Minister training emphasizes active listening, confidentiality, feelings, process, and the concept that we are the care giver and God is the cure giver. Being a process-oriented individual, this worked for me. I also have a strong faith that when two or three are gathered together, Jesus is in their midst. My job was to be one of the two gathered together.

After the training I was assigned to a care receiver. He was in the midst of working out several major changes in his life. During the course of our weekly meetings he delved deeper into his situation. He was aware of various options available to him, knew the pros and cons but was unable to move forward. As the discussions ensued over the next several months, my biggest struggle was to keep from blurting out what to me were obvious choices - forever keeping in mind that I was just a listener and not the cure. Eventually, a combination of factors helped him decide what to do and he was able to move forward. I like to think that somehow I was an instrument of God for him.

A few years ago, I was asked to be a Stephen Leader. The Leaders train new Stephen Ministers, consult with the clergy and match a Stephen Minister to a care receiver. Since becoming a Stephen Leader we have trained two groups of new Stephen Ministers. I am very heartened to be part of this growing ministry and now in my role as a Stephen Leader, I believe I am helping several people rather than just one.

If you are interested in talking to a Stephen Minister, please contact the clergy or one of the Stephen Leaders. If you are interested in becoming a Stephen Minister or finding out more about this ministry please look at our bulletin board located in the hall across from the library or contact one of the Stephen Leaders, Penny Winder, Toni Hartman, or me.

*John Mertens*

# SAINT JOHN'S AT THE CROSSROADS

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## Sunday, June 1, 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 - Lounge  
Church School (last) - Classrooms  
Youth Group Bake Sale (proceeds benefit  
Camp Joy) - West Avenue Lobby  
10:10 AM Adult Forum: "Caring for Creation: The  
Biblical Imperative and the Contemporary  
Challenge" - Dr. William Blair, Professor of  
Physics and Astronomy - Parish Hall  
11:15 AM Holy Eucharist - Nave  
12:15 PM Hospitality Hour - Lounge  
4:00 PM Volunteer Appreciation - Parish Hall  
4:45-6:30 Parish Library Open - Library  
5:00 PM Come As You Are Holy Eucharist - Nave

## Monday June 2, 2014

6:30 PM EfM - Lounge  
7:30 PM Women's Book Group - (offsite)

## Tuesday June 3, 2014

1:30 PM Church Staff - Rector's Office  
4:00-6:00 Parish Library Open - Library  
7:30 PM Stewardship Committee - Library  
7:30 PM Personnel Committee - Lounge

## Wednesday June 4, 2014

10:30 AM Bible Study (canceled)  
12:00 PM Holy Eucharist and Healing - Chapel  
1:00-4:00 Librarian Is In - Library  
6:30 PM EfM - Lounge

## Saturday June 7, 2014

4:30 PM Capital Pride Parade - (offsite)

## Sunday June 8, 2014

8:00 AM Simple, Spoken Holy Eucharist - Chapel  
9:00-1:00 Parish Library Open  
10:00 AM Children's Chapel - Hines Hall  
10:00 AM Combined Service Holy Eucharist - Nave  
11:00 AM Bible Study - Library  
Pentecost Party - Parish Hall  
4:45-6:30 Parish Library Open - Library  
5:00 PM Come As You Are Holy Eucharist - Nave  
5:30 PM Youth Group - Youth Room  
6:00 PM Adoption Ministry - Lounge

## Monday June 9, 2014

7:30 PM Property Committee - Parish Hall  
Sunday Forum Committee - Library

## Tuesday June 10, 2014

1:30 PM Church Staff - Rector's Office  
4:00-6:00 Parish Library Open - Library  
7:30 PM Finance Committee - Lounge

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, 6/15**.

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.

## Wednesday June 11, 2014

10:30 AM Bible Study - Library  
12:00 PM Holy Eucharist and Healing - Chapel  
1:00-4:00 Librarian Is In - Library  
7:00 PM Pizza, Beer & Jesus  
- (offsite, Haven Pizzeria)

## Thursday June 12, 2014

7:30 PM Stephen Ministers - (location TBA)

## Friday June 13, 2014

Youth Group "Bradley Bay" Trip  
- (offsite, through 6/15)  
3:00 PM R&W - Rector's Office

## Sunday June 15, 2014

Father's Day  
8:00 AM Simple, Spoken Holy Eucharist - Chapel  
9:00-1:00 Parish Library Open  
10:00 AM Children's Chapel - Hines Hall  
10:00 AM Combined Service Holy Eucharist - Nave  
11:00 AM Bible Study - Library  
Lemonade on the Lawn  
11:00 AM New Member Reception - (TBD)  
4:45-6:30 Parish Library Open - Library  
5:00 PM Come As You Are Holy Eucharist - Nave  
5:45 PM New Member Reception - (TBD)