



ST. JOHN'S NORWOOD
Chevy Chase-Bethesda

SAINT JOHN'S AT THE CROSSROADS

Volume 29 Number 39

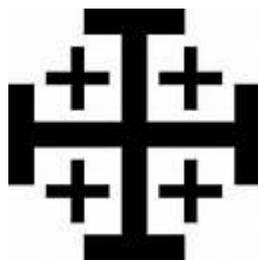
June 29, 2014

www.stjohnsnorwood.org

A New Cross for the Nave

The Holy Land pilgrims are thankful and pleased to present a gift to the parish. The Jerusalem cross is a symbol of pilgrimage for many. The cross is actually one cross surrounded by four smaller crosses with sides of equal length (see below). This five-fold cross is variously interpreted as representing Christ's stigmata, Christ and the four evangelists, and disciples spreading the word of Christ to the four corners of the earth.

The Jerusalem cross was worn as the coat of arms by Godfrey of Bouillon during the First Crusade and therefore was also once known as the Crusaders' cross. The Jerusalem cross remains prominent in the Holy Land especially at holy sites that Franciscan friars preserve and serve. A variation of the design is known as the Episcopal Church Service Cross to serve as a distinct mark of an Episcopalian in the Armed Services. The pilgrims on the recent trip to the Holy Land wished to bring this symbol of pilgrimage home to St. John's. While in Bethlehem, the group commissioned a hand-crafted Jerusalem cross to serve as a sign of the faith journey each of us takes throughout our lives. It was designed specifically to hang from the face of the balcony to remind us as we leave church to carry our faith as pilgrims out into the world.



A plaque commemorating the cross will read:

Jerusalem Cross
Olive Wood, Bethlehem, Palestine
In Thanksgiving
Holy Land Pilgrimage 2014

Suzanne Welch and Jay Everhart

Dear People of St. John's,

It is with mixed emotions that I am writing to inform you that our dear Associate Rector, Sarah Lapenta-H has accepted a call to become the next rector of St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church in Boulder, Colorado. Having had a rich and positive experience at St. John's, her calling to be a rector comes following a faithful process of prayer and discernment in regards to where God may be calling her and Paul next in their life and ministry.

Sarah entered the life of our faith community 3 years ago. Having accepted 40 applications, and interviewed nearly 10 applicants, the Associate Rector Search Committee at St. John's felt that none of the candidates were a right fit for our community, and in complete trust that God had just the right person for us, the committee took a step of faith and started over with the search. Shortly thereafter, Sarah's name was serendipitously mentioned to me through a mutual friend, and upon connecting with her, I became immediately aware of why the Spirit of God had guided the search committee to wait. Sarah's personality and gifts were just what St. John's had been waiting for. After several interviews by me, the search committee, and the vestry, we called her in July of 2011 to be our next Associate Rector.

The blessings that Sarah has brought to our community are indeed too many to number; her authentic nature, caring presence, strong work ethic, organizational skills, and commitment to clear and healthy communication just to name a few. During her time here, Sarah has been instrumental in shaping our community. As the clergy point-person for pastoral care, she created the Pastoral Care Advisory Team, reinvigorated the Lay Eucharistic Visitor ministry, and helped our church focus more on the needs of aging parishioners. In addition, she was instrumental in the creation of the Communication Committee in response to the strategic plan of 2012, and in the development of our new website, as well as spearheading the process of designing and adopting a new logo and style guide for our church. (continued on page 2)

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.

Strawberry Festival (7/20)

Join us for our annual Strawberry Festival on Sunday, July 20, to give our Youth a fabulous send-off as they head to Camp Joy in West Virginia for a week of volunteer work repairing the homes of people in need. The Festival will take place immediately following the 10 AM service on the lawn (weather permitting) or in the Parish Hall. Your help in baking shortbread or brownies, or serving during the event is most welcome! Please contact Johnna Story (johnna.story@finnegan.com) if you are available and willing to help.

Johnna G. Story

Seabury Resources for Aging Celebrates 90th

Seabury's mission is to provide personalized, affordable services and housing options to help older adults in the greater Washington area live with independence and dignity. Its services range from low income housing for seniors, Age in Place, care management, transportation, and direct service delivery for seniors in Wards 5 and 6 in the District. Significant support comes from the Episcopal Diocese of Washington and the United Church of Christ Potomac Association.

This year marks the 90th anniversary of Seabury. For any nonprofit, that is a significant achievement. And for the over 10,000 seniors and their families that are the beneficiaries of the services offered annually, many live a better life than they otherwise could.

St. John's has been a strong supporter of Seabury over the years including financial support (the Outreach committee designates a portion of our outreach funds for Seabury) and volunteers including past board members George Collins, Jack Dewey, Paul Carew (serving 1961-79). I currently serve as a member of the Board and Treasurer since 2010.

I encourage you to engage with this wonderful organization. Whether you are currently a senior, or your parents or other family members are living through some of the challenges and the opportunities of aging, Seabury offers significant resources.

Seabury also welcomes your volunteer time and your financial support. This organization fills an important role in helping all of us celebrate and support our seniors. It is looking toward 100 years of service to the greater Washington area over the next decade.

John Welch

(continued from page one)

Sarah started a young adults group, a vergers ministry, and helped shepherd the creation of a spiritual practices group. We were also blessed through Paul's ministry at St. John's, and in particular his mentorship and leadership of the most recent J2A class which culminated in their pilgrimage to Iceland.

On a personal note, working with Sarah has been one of the highlights of the past 3 years. As iron sharpens iron, doing ministry side-by-side with a priest of such high caliber as Sarah has been a gift to my own growth and development as a leader. It has been an absolute honor to serve with her and to have her on the church staff.

I know from conversations with Sarah that our church community has been a tremendous blessing to her as well. Thank you St. John's for the ways in which you have loved and supported her and Paul in their life and ministry among us, and for being instrumental in mentoring her and helping prepare her to take the next step in her own vocation. As bitter-sweet as the news of her departure comes to us, there is so much reason to celebrate and offer our thanks to God. We have been truly blessed by Sarah and Paul, and we pray God's blessings upon them as they prepare to make this transition.

Sarah and Paul's last Sunday among us will be on August 10, and I invite you to join us on that Sunday as we send them off with our prayers and, of course, with a St. John's worthy send-off party at 11:00 am following the 10am combined service.

Be sure in the next few weeks to let Sarah and Paul know how much they have meant to you.

Your Servant in Christ,

Sari+

Eco Action Team

Join St. John's new Eco Action Team for morning coffee and summer planning -- June 30th, 8am, at La Madeleine in Bethesda. We'll brainstorm projects and outings that help us connect, learn, grow and lead our community and the wider world in celebrating and protecting God's creation. Please RSVP to Jane Houlihan (jhoulihan[at]me.com, Polly Vail, or Tom Kerr. Stay tuned for announcements of regular monthly meetings beginning in September.

Jane Houlihan

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 deaths of ...

Sally Barthold*

Will Helfrich (Marny Helfrich's brother)

Mary Elizabeth Hotchkiss*

Amanda McBath Sprenger (Lesley Krauland's mother)

Please contact the Office if you have a celebration, thanksgiving, sorrow, or other news to share with the Parish.

Have infants or toddlers? 6/29, 3-5 PM

Our last gathering was such a success, we're doing it again: Join other St. John's parents with infants and toddlers for some fellowship and fun playtime. For location and other details, contact Jessica Flugge, 410-908-5575 or jessicaflugge@gmail.com (also in the directory).

Jessica Flugge

Centering Prayer Returns for the Summer!

Please join us on Wednesday evenings June 25-August 27 in the Chapel at 6:30 to 7 PM for Centering Prayer -- a quiet time to reflect on the presence of God in our lives. Beginners are welcome (we have information available if you would like a little guidance.) ALL are welcome. Sponsored by members of the SPP (Spiritual Practices and Programs)

Margaret Uhar, Becky Neal, Carl Schaefer

Vestry Highlights

At its June 17, 2014, meeting, the Vestry:

- Approved the minutes of the April 27, 2014, Annual Parish Meeting
- Approved spending up to \$25,000 of Property Reserve funds to install reliable air conditioning in the undercroft areas (Hines Hall, Journey to Adulthood room, Rite 13 room, and child care rooms).
- Approved an hourly wage rate increase for our part-time bookkeeper, Ronit Gold.
- Received an enthusiastic and encouraging presentation from Jane Houlihan and Polly Vail, of the Eco Action Team. The team was formed in response to the 2007 Strategic Plan. With the support of the Norwood Parish Fund, they have since then commissioned an energy audit, replaced lighting and windows, and seen a reduction in church energy costs of \$34,000 in two years. The team has recently been enriched by the addition of new members with professional and personal experience in "green" initiatives. They will present ideas for more projects to the Vestry at its July meeting.
- Learned from Personnel Committee liaison Becky Neal that the committee is working to formalize its record-keeping processes.
- Continued their discussion on "Stewardship of the Individual," seeking ways to support our faith through deeper engagement in our church community.
- Volunteered to conduct interviews with community members as a test of the Vision Team's plan to involve our entire congregation in listening to our surrounding community.

The next Vestry meeting will be at 8:00 PM on Tuesday, July 15, in the Lounge.

To see all Vestry documents and reports, go to: <https://docs.google.com/folder/d/OBzfjbFerWsaTbVczbOVMQmFWQWc/edit?usp=sharing>

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

SAINT JOHN'S AT THE CROSSROADS

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Calendar

Sunday June 29, 2014

Deadline for newsletter submissions

- 8:00 am Holy Eucharist with music
St. Mary's Chapel
- 9:00-12:00 Parish Library Open
- 10:00 am Children's Chapel – Hines Hall
- 10:00 am Holy Eucharist with sermon and music
- Nave
- 11:00 am Lemonade on the Lawn – Tower Lawn
Bible Study – Library
Diocesan Palestine Partnership -
Lounge
- 5:00 pm Come as You Are Eucharist – Nave

Monday, June 30, 2014

- 7:30 pm Outreach Committee - Library

Tuesday July 1, 2014

- 1:30 pm Church Staff – Rector's Office
- 7:30 pm Personnel Committee– Lounge
- 7:30 pm Stewardship Committee - Library

Wednesday July 2, 2014

- 10:30am Bible Study - Library
- 12:00 pm Holy Eucharist and Healing – Chapel
- 6:30 pm Centering Prayer – Chapel

Friday, July 4, 2014

Church Office closed for Independence Day

Sunday July 6, 2014

Deadline for newsletter submissions

- 8:00 am Holy Eucharist with music
St. Mary's Chapel
- 9:00-12:00 Parish Library Open
- 10:00 am Children's Chapel – Hines Hall
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- Nave
- 11:00 am Lemonade on the Lawn – Tower Lawn
Bible Study – Library
- 5:00 pm Come as You Are Eucharist – Nave

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 issue of *Crossroads* will be dated April 6, 2014,

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

Note: The editor and church staff reserve the right to determine the content of *Crossroads* and edit for grammar or length requirements.

St. John's Women's Retreat - Feb 20-21, 2015

Save the date! Join the women of St. John's for a fun and relaxing weekend away to rejuvenate, share, learn, and connect with God and each other. We'll stay at the new inn in rural Maryland's beautiful Claggett retreat center, nestled between Sugarloaf Mountain and the Monocacy River. Official sign-ups will begin in the fall.

Jane Houlihan

Wednesday Bible Study: The Holy Spirit 10:30 AM, Library

Join us through July as we spend this season of Pentecost learning more about the Holy Spirit, including conversations on "receiving the breath of," feminine nature of, "gifts of" versus "fruits of," and listening for the Holy Spirit! Each hour begins with a brief video, followed by discussion. All are welcome.

Sarah+