

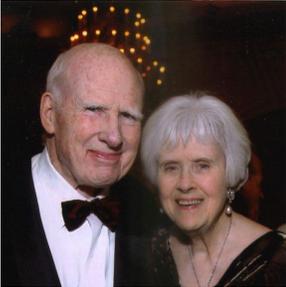


ST. JOHN'S NORWOOD
Chevy Chase-Bethesda

SAINT JOHN'S AT THE CROSSROADS

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October 19, 2014



My Journey to St. John's
by David R. Maginnes

My journey to St. John's took many turns before I finally found my parish home. It began during my childhood when my mother took me, my brother and sister to an Episcopal Church Sunday school. Our mother had been raised a Catholic and was very religious. She always prayed aloud before retiring.

The headmaster of the secondary boarding school I attended led a daily prayer service in the school chapel before classes, as well as the Sunday morning service and evening vespers. Later, when I was living alone, I sought out a church, though my attendance was somewhat sporadic because of military service, graduate school and a college teaching career.

When I attended various churches, including one in D.C., I remained fairly anonymous because these congregations and their leaders weren't very welcoming of newcomers. So, having moved to Chevy Chase, I decided to join the local Episcopal Church, knowing nothing about it.

It was with great delight after coming to St. John's that I found myself drawn into the life of a parish that provides numerous opportunities for friendship and fellowship.

My wife, Fairlie, and I feel embraced by the congregation. While I was recovering from an operation a few years ago, we were touched and heartened when several parishioners brought food to our door to help us through my illness.

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Meet our newest teens!

Darby, Ethan, Will, and Ryan were my interview subjects, fascinating young people, whom you can meet in print here in Crossroads, and see in person at the 9 am service on Sunday, October 19, when the Rite 13 ceremony will honor them and bless their journey to adulthood. Three of this group are the final ones from the class of 8th and 9th graders; one begins the procession from the class of 6th and 7th graders, which will continue over the next two school years. These two-year groupings stay steady throughout the middle school and high school years of church school. The teens will share the pilgrimage adventure and their confirmation at the Cathedral with the same people. We do both of those highlight events in the same season, toward the end of their 10th or 11th grade years.

All four of our teens have been at St. John's for many years, and all four of them are older siblings. I'm happy to present the tip of the iceberg of their stories! **Darby Harris** is an eighth grader at Tilden Middle School. She loves history and feels the opposite way about math. Darby takes a cooking class, which began by making pot stickers, and twice a week she takes boxing classes. She's aged out of the children's class, so her classmates are adults, who are sometimes surprised by her skills. It's a "happiness booster," she says. In the summer Darby goes to an acting camp, and she loves to go up to her room and draw. Of course she likes to hang out with her friends, and she enjoys going vintage clothes-shopping. The oldest of four daughters, Darby sees the advantages of doing things first, but she sees too that the oldest one gets the strictest rules. She enjoys her family's vacation on the beach in August; I must mention too the family pet, a Hungarian hound dog named Coco. In her future, perhaps a medical career beckons Darby. She offers as advice to those younger than she is: relax and enjoy your childhood! The pressure increases as you get older. And at the same time, be sensible, think things over before you act. Help others when you can.

Will Philpott, a Westland Middle School eighth grader, likes math best among his subjects, and science too – he is studying weather this month. English has too many writing assignments for his taste. Will plays second base and shortstop for the "Fire Ants" who are enjoying a good season

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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...

Betty Callen, sister of Marge Donaldson

Arleta DiPaolo, friend of Jane Ross

Mary Studebaker, friend of Kathy Carey

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

St. John's Annual Used Book Sale

Saturday, November 15th, the date of the critically acclaimed "Annual Used Book Sale" is quickly approaching. Mark the date on your calendar and get ready to snatch up some great titles (we've already got a fantastic selection and more are arriving every day) for your winter reading, as a gift for a friend or loved one, or to add to a classroom or personal collection. Also, please keep those fabulous, interesting and diverse book donations coming in!

All donations can be dropped off in the West Ave. lobby of the church or if you need assistance transporting your books, please contact Debbie Bunker. Finally, stay tuned for information about a new, fun and exciting Preview Sale of Children's Books at the home of parishioners Debbie Bunker and Marianne Sullivan on Saturday, November 8th. You won't want to miss it!

Sunday Forum, October 19

Advocacy for Changes in the Criminal Justice System

Charlie and Pauline Sullivan, the founders and co-directors of CURE (Citizens United for the Rehabilitation of Errants), will present a talk at St. John's on October 19th. They will be joined by Lea Green, the Ex. Director of Maryland-CURE. St. John's parishioner, Annelise Hafer, is a volunteer with CURE.

Citizens United for Rehabilitation of Errants (CURE) is a grassroots organization that was founded in Texas in 1972. It became a national organization in 1985. They believe that prisons should be used only for those who absolutely must be incarcerated and that those who are incarcerated should have all of the resources they need to turn their lives around. They also believe that human rights documents provide a sound basis for ensuring that criminal justice systems meet these goals.

CURE is a membership organization. We work hard to provide our members with the information and tools necessary to help them understand the criminal justice system and to advocate for changes.

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We have tried to reciprocate the blessings of our membership in St. John's through participation in various activities. I've served on the vestry, usher at the 11:15 a.m. service and attend the Wednesday Bible study group as well as the Men's Book Club. Fairlie is a greeter at the 11:15 a.m. service and has been involved at various times in the property committee, beautification days, the Op Shop, and outreach.

For us, pledging financial support is a way of showing our love of God and represents a gift shared with parishioners we have joined on a lifelong spiritual quest. Pledging also expresses our hope for the life of the parish in the years to come. We feel truly blessed as members of St. John's.

Women's Book Group

At the next Women's Book Group we will be discussing "The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry" by Gabrielle Zevin. This book is a delightful, easy to read novel about a curmudgeon who owns an independent bookshop in New England and changes his ways as the result of a (very intelligent) baby left one night among his books. It includes many unusual characters, some mini-reviews of other books, and perhaps even a unicorn!

The meeting will be on Monday, November 3, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Mary Chyun. Please call Mary ([301-520-9994](tel:301-520-9994)) for directions or any other questions.

The next 3 selections for anyone who wants to read ahead:

12/1/14 In the Garden of Beasts: Love, Terror and an American Family in Hitler's Berlin by Erik Larsen.

1/5/15 The Gallery of Vanished Husbands by Natasha Solomons

2/1/15 Soldier Girls: The Battles of Three Women at Home and at War by Helen Thorpe

Mary Chyun

Ladies' Thanksgiving Luncheon

November 23, 12:15 pm

What nourishes you? The Women of St. John's are cordially invited to share a meal, meet and get to know some new friends and enjoy a discussion which may help us to reflect and give thanks for those whom we nourish and receive nourishment...everyone is welcome!

Sign up in the West Ave. Lobby starting October 26. (\$10 fee will cover lunch).

Questions: Margaret Uhar, Nancy Watson, Becky Neal, Carol May, Johnna Story, Maura Lynch, Nadia Carrell

Rector's Corner

At our noonday Eucharist last week, we read a portion of Psalm 18. At verse 28, we came upon these words written by King David following his experience of deliverance from a situation in which his life was threatened:

"It is you who lights my lamp;
the LORD, my God, lights up my darkness."

I found myself struck by the intimacy in these words; words that convey utter dependence as well as passion - similar to what a lover might whisper to his beloved in secret: "you light up my darkness." This is an acknowledgment spoken in retrospect through the lens of an experience of on-going benefit and reward because of the presence of a soulmate.

You get the sense that for David, God was not an abstract entity, but rather a very palpable and present friend - a companion for all walks of life.

There is an effective form of prayer/meditation called "Breath Prayer" whereby you essentially repeat a short phrase over and over with your breathing - words with each inhale and exhale. I want to invite you to find 5 minutes this week where you can still yourself and use these words as a prayer. No need to say it out loud to where others can hear, but just under your breath enough to be conscious of what you are saying:

Inhale: "it is you who lights my lamp"

Exhale: "the LORD, my God, lights up my darkness."

May the intimacy and closeness of God capture our hearts, and may we become mindful of the presence of this invaluable friend who lights up our darkness.

My favorite quote of the week:

In prayer it is better to have a heart without words than words without a heart."
-Gandhi Mahatma

Sari+

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of travel baseball. He relaxes with sports, whether with his friends outside in his free time, or by watching TV, where you can find him tuned into Sports Center. He plays with his dog Beau, who likes tug of war. Beau is a Cavishon, and a loud barker. Will enjoys the ski trips that his family of four takes, as well as the sailing adventures they've been on. He observes that the older brother is the one expected to be a good example, yet the advantage of being older is similar, that it's easier to shrug off disputes. Will would love it if fate allowed him to play baseball for a living; yet he has a good back-up plan, because he is interested in astronomy. His advice is to live life to the fullest. By that

he means: reflect upon your mistakes, but only in order to see how you can do better. Move forward and make the best of where you are.

Ethan Russell is turning thirteen on Friday, October 17, and may celebrate at Dave and Buster's. He's a seventh grader at Rosa Parks Middle School. Ethan really enjoys his social studies class, which just now is studying feudalism, and he's truly a history fan. His default TV channel is the History Channel, and he likes "Pawn Stars" in particular. Ethan plays soccer in a rec league and runs cross-country at his school. He's a Boy Scout, too. He enjoys playing with Paws, his golden doodle dog, who has a feisty-friendly personality. Ethan helps take care of Paws, as well as mowing the lawn, taking out the trash, and doing his share of dishes. He appreciates that he has chances to do more adventurous things, as the older sibling. With his friends, Ethan likes to play computer games, and his ambition has arisen from that pastime: he'd like to be a game designer, involved in the graphic arts side. His family has traveled a lot: he's been to Australia seven times to see his grandparents, and has visited many places on that side of the world, including Bali and Hong Kong. Ethan's advice is: take advantage of your time. Don't procrastinate, but instead listen, focus, and learn.

The oldest of the group is **Ryan Story**, who is an eighth grader at Westland Middle School. When he recently turned fourteen, he enjoyed sushi at Gaylord's with his family. His least favorite subject is history, and his favorite is science. His current unit is called "earth investigations," understanding earthquakes and hurricanes. Ryan is a soccer player, where you'll find him in left midfield. He likes playing soccer when he has free time too, on a field near his house. He does have a favorite TV show, Brooklyn 99. Like the other teens, Ryan's family includes a dog, a German shepherd named Prince, who is both clingy and energetic. Ryan likes his family's trips to their cabin in West Virginia - walking along the trails, and swimming in the Cacapon River. Ryan is a referee for soccer games for first and second graders. He was trained for this, but he says most of what he has learned comes from experience, with the key lesson being to keep them moving. Ryan's ambition is to be an engineer: he's always been fascinated by how things work. He observes about being a year into teenage status that he never gets enough sleep and that he is constantly hungry. His advice is to keep trying to see the bigger picture. He remembers that when he lost his focus toward homework for awhile, it was tough catching up. Now he can appreciate how much his present affects his future.

I know you join me in thanking these four teens for sharing their insights. We are proud of them and we'll follow their remaining years here with interest.

Nancy Derr, church school

SAINT JOHN'S AT THE CROSSROADS

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Calendar

Sunday October 19, 2014

- 8:00 am Holy Eucharist with sermon
St. Mary's Chapel
- 9:00-12:00 Parish Library Open
- 9:00 am Children's Chapel – Hines Hall
- 9:00 am Holy Eucharist/Celebration of Rite 13,
with sermon and music led by the
Alleluia Choir - Nave
- 10:00 am Church School – classrooms
Adult Forum – Parish Hall
CURE- Advocates for Change in the
Criminal Justice System
Bible Study – Library
- 11:15 am Holy Eucharist with sermon and music
led by the St. John's Choir – Nave
- 5:00 pm Come As You Are communion service -
Nave
- 5:30 pm Youth Group – Youth Room

Monday - Friday October 20 - 24, 2014

Parish Office open 9 am – 2 pm

Tuesday October 21, 2014

- 12 - 1:30 pm Church Staff – Rector's Office
- 4:00 pm Primary Choir – Choir Room
- 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] – Parish Hall

Wednesday October 22, 2014

- 10:30 am Bible Study - Lounge
- 12:00 pm Holy Eucharist and Healing – Chapel
- 6:30 pm EfM - Lounge

Thursday October 23, 2014

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

Friday October 24, 2014

Youth Group Beach Trip (offsite) thru Sun

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 October 26, 2014, Final article drafts must be submitted to the Parish Office by the *Sunday* prior to publication. One may e-mail articles to office@stjohnsnorwood.org). Sending text in the body of the e-mail is preferred.

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

Sunday October 26, 2014

- 8:00 am Holy Eucharist with sermon
St. Mary's Chapel
- 9:00-12:00 Parish Library Open
- 9:00 am Children's Chapel – Hines Hall
- 9:00 am Holy Eucharist with sermon and
music led by the
Alleluia Choir - Nave
- 10:00 am Church School – classrooms
Adult Forum – Parish Hall
Bible Study – Library
- 11:15 am Holy Eucharist with sermon and music
led by the St. John's Choir – Nave
- 5:00 pm Come As You Are communion service
- Nave
- 6:00 pm Oktoberfest Dinner sponsored by
Stewardship—Parish Hall

Labyrinth Walk to Remember, November 2

All Saints Sunday is a day to remember all of those who have gone before us...to honor those family, friends and famous persons in our history who have inspired us and challenged us in our faith journey. Join fellow parishioners in the ancient spiritual practice of walking the Labyrinth on November 2 from 3pm to 8 pm in the Parish Hall. The walk takes ~ 20-30 minutes. Bring clean socks or we'll provide some for you. Guidance is available for anyone new to this practice. For more information contact Ann Wild or Toni Hartman. (library@stjohnsnorwood.org).