



ST. JOHN'S NORWOOD
Chevy Chase-Bethesda

SAINT JOHN'S AT THE CROSSROADS

Volume 30 Number 12

December 7, 2014

www.stjohnsnorwood.org

Rector's Corner

John Ross, our Senior Warden, and I had a chance the week before Thanksgiving to visit with Brian Briggs, who has been bravely battling pancreatic cancer since his diagnosis in July. Brian continues to undergo a barrage of treatments, and, although physically much weaker, his spirits are high and his determination inspiring.

Brian has faithfully served St. John's as its parish administrator for 14 years - providing support to staff and lay volunteers, managing the church property as well as all of our contractors and vendors, producing the weekly newsletter, and so much more. We have felt his absence over the past several months, both professionally and as a friend.

During our visit, John and I discussed with Brian the status of his employment at St. John's, considering the unlikelihood that he would be returning to his duties as parish administrator any time in the near future. It was a very sacred conversation. We had the opportunity to express our commitment to continue to support him and Carol with our thoughts, prayers, and notes. Brian expressed his deep gratitude for all the support St. John's has provided him and Carol during this vulnerable journey. Brian's employment at St. John's officially ended yesterday, December 1.

As we approach Christmas, I invite you to consider sending Brian a card - maybe share a story you recall from your interactions with him, or a time when you felt particularly thankful for his ministry. Notes can be mailed to:

10605 Radstock Court,
Damascus, MD 20872

Most importantly, I ask for your continued prayers and intercessions for Brian, for the medical teams that treat him, for his perseverance, and ultimately for a miracle in his life.

Faithfully,

Sari+

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.

**St. John's Holy Land Committee
on Education and Outreach
December 7, 12:15-1:15 p.m., Parish Hall**

Following the April 2014 pilgrimage to the Holy Land, interested pilgrims and parishioners agreed on October 5 to establish a working group at St. John's to consider follow-up education and engagement initiatives. We noted the many issues of concern to people of faith and conscience and agreed we should take action. The committee will meet bimonthly (every even month) on the first Sunday of the month from 12:15-1:15 p.m. with rotating chairs of the group. The next meeting will be on December 7 and is open to everyone interested.

Anne Derse

Felix Hora Christmas Fellowship

St. John's Norwood Vestry member Anne Derse has graciously invited Felix Hora over for an evening of Christmas fellowship at her home on Tuesday, December 9, from 7 to 9 pm.

Please RSVP by December 8: Email Anna Smith at annalowndessmith@gmail.com

If you need carpool, email Anna Smith. If you would like to join the Felix Hora young adults/professionals group mailing list, please email Liz Luck in the church office at lluck@stjohnsnorwood.org

Anna Smith

**Last Chance to Support the
J2A Pilgrimage Fundraiser
is December 7!**

The J2A group has a special offer; you can pre-order best-quality Poinsettias and Christmas Wreaths for your home! The 10th and 11th grade classes are raising money for our spiritual pilgrimage. Place your order in the West Ave lobby between the 9 and 11:15 am services and before December 7th. You can pick up your poinsettias and Christmas wreaths on the morning of December 13th.

To download a copy of the order form, go to the St. John's website (stjohnsnorwood.org) and search "poinsettia".

**An Introduction to Spiritual Discernment
Adult Forum December 7**

Listening Hearts Ministries began over twenty-five years ago as a grassroots effort to help people recognize and respond to God's call, to seek and discover God's path in their lives. The effort resulted in the writing of *Listening Hearts: Discerning Call in Community*, a book now recognized as a classic in the field. Author Joe Gill will provide an introduction to spiritual discernment.

Anne Wake

**Secret Santa Shopping At the Op Shop
December 14**

On Sunday, December 14, the Op Shop, at 4504 Walsh Street, just over a block from St. John's, will open its doors at 11 am for the youngest shoppers among us. The staff at the Op Shop have selected an array of gifts for young children to choose among. There will be elves on hand from the older church school classes to help the children decide and to wrap up their purchases. Parents should escort their children to the Op Shop right after church school classes are over. They can browse the aisles of the Op Shop while their children are in Santa's Secret Shop in the back -- and maybe finish their own Christmas shopping! Walk on West Avenue past Stanford Street to the next street, Walsh, and turn left: you'll see the Op Shop on your left. Parents: payment can be made in cash (small bills please!) or check.

We hope to see you there!

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
Delano Compton (Leslie Kass’ father)*

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

If you or someone you know would appreciate any form of pastoral care, please call Penny Winder [[301-938-1193](tel:301-938-1193) or [winderph\[AT\]verizon.net](mailto:winderph[AT]verizon.net)] or Anne Derse

Celebrate Christmas with Christians in Bethlehem at the Washington National Cathedral The Bethlehem Prayer Service

The annual simulcast prayer service with Christians in Bethlehem will be held at the Washington National Cathedral on December 22 at 10am. See the for more information.

Music Notes

This coming Sunday, the Primary Choir will share one of their special musical offerings at the 9 a.m. service. This group of young singers (K-2nd grade) gathers each Tuesday afternoon for a forty-five minute rehearsal where they work on learning the building blocks of music through games, movement, and singing. The choir works on songs and anthems to sing in church, but the main focus is on learning and enjoying music together. Although the kids don’t realize it, our jumping game teaches them to follow the conductor; singing “sirens” helps them explore the range of their voice; “Moses the Moose” encourages intentional listening, and clapping flash cards give them the basics of reading music rhythms. The kids do know that our time together will be fun and that the snacks always taste great! If your child is interested in joining the Primary Choir, please bring them for a rehearsal in the choir room on Tuesday afternoons, 4:00-4:45 p.m.

Anne Timpane

Christmas Flowers

All parishioners are invited to share in providing for the church decorations during Christmas. Gifts of cash or check, in any amount, may be designated as memorials or thanksgivings and will be listed in the worship bulletin on Christmas. Please PRINT information clearly below.

Due in Parish Office Dec 10

Make checks payable to: St. John’s Church Flower Guild
and designate “Christmas flowers” on the memo line.

Name: _____ Amount: _____

Purpose (as it should appear in the bulletin):

SAINT JOHN'S AT THE CROSSROADS

Periodicals
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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 Dec. 14, 2014.

Final article drafts must be submitted to the Parish Office by the *Sunday* prior to publication.

Calendar

Sunday December 7, 2014

The Second Sunday of Advent

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
“Listening Hearts “ with Joe Gill
Bible Study – Library
11:15 am Holy Eucharist with sermon and music led
by the St. John's Choir - Nave
12:15 pm Holy Land Committee – Parish Hall
5:00 pm Come As You Are communion service–
Nave
5:30 pm Youth Group – Youth Room

Monday – Friday December 8-12, 2014

Parish Office open 9 am – 2 pm

Monday December 8, 2014

7:30 pm Property Committee – Parish Hall
7:30 pm Sunday Forum Committee - Library

Tuesday December 9, 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 Finance Committee - Lounge

Wednesday December 10, 2014

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

Thursday December 11, 2014

6:00 pm Norwood Ringers – Choir Room
7:00 pm Stephen Ministers – Library
7:30 pm St. John's Choir – Choir Room
7:30 pm Stephen Ministers – Lounge

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• St. John's follows the Washington DC Public
• Schools for weather cancellations. When the
• WashingtonDC public schools are delayed or
• cancelled due to weather, all weekday activities
• and services at St. John's are cancelled. Ministry
• heads will contact members concerning evening
• meetings and classes.
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Saturday, December 13, 2014

7 am – 2 pm J2A Poinsettia Pick-up
– Parish Hall, West Ave. Lobby
3:00 pm Holiday Event for
hearing-impaired children—Parish Hall

Sunday December 14, 2014

The Third Sunday of Advent

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
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and music led by the Alleluia Choir - Nave
10:00 am Church School – classrooms
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by the St. John's Choir – Nave
5:00 pm Come As You Are communion service–
Nave
5:30 pm Youth Group – Youth Room
6:00 pm Adoption Ministry - Lounge