



ST. JOHN'S NORWOOD
Chevy Chase-Bethesda

SAINT JOHN'S AT THE CROSSROADS

Volume 30 Number 15

January 11, 2015

www.stjohnsnorwood.org

Community Based Shelter Week: January 18 - 24, 2015

Twice a year, St. John's parishioners provide all of the meals for a week at the Community Based Shelter at 12250 Wilkins Avenue in south Rockville. Our next week for doing this is January 18 — 24, 2015. The shelter is run by Interfaith Works and houses 35 homeless women in job-training and rehabilitation programs. The shelter is very family friendly, and many St. John's families with children in elementary school sign up to help. (However, to feel helpful, children must be tall enough to be able to work at a kitchen counter.) Here is how we provide the meals:

- **Breakfasts:** St. John's Outreach Committee drops off supplies, such as cereal, milk, fruit, orange juice, and coffee, and the women serve themselves.
- **Lunches:** On Sunday, January 18, St. John's Sunday School will be making the bag lunches for the first two days of the week. For the rest of the week, the Outreach Committee sets up and stocks an assembly line for making bag lunches in the church kitchen, and parishioners can sign up to assemble and deliver the lunches to the shelter. Volunteers receive detailed instructions by email.
- **Dinners:** Parishioners sign up to help buy, cook, deliver, and serve a dinner for all 35 women at the shelter. This job can be accomplished by just one well-organized family, but most dinners are provided by teams of three or four families/adults who collaborate to provide and serve the meal. The organizer sends each night's team detailed instructions several days in advance and is always available by phone to help solve problems. Volunteers should plan to arrive at the shelter with their food ready to serve by 6:15 p.m., so they can set up and start serving by about 6:30. There is no stove at the shelter—only a microwave—so all cooking must be done at home or in the church kitchen.

This is one of St. John's most popular Outreach programs, so please sign up early to help. The sign-up sheets are posted on the Outreach Committee bulletin board at St. John's. If you are interested in volunteering but have questions, please contact the organizer by email at Julia.Andrews@hq.dhs.gov.

- St. John's Outreach Committee

Rector's Corner

This past Sunday we heard the story of the Magi from the East following a star to the birthplace of Jesus in order to worship him. What was this star exactly? There are many speculations, among them Jupiter, or the conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn, or a low-hanging meteor, an erratic comet, or simply an inner vision of the "star of destiny" in the hearts of humankind.

More significant than the "type" of star, however, is the fact that God used a star in the first place. That God used nature to communicate with the Magi (non-Jews), and specifically by means of something with which they, as astrologers, were very familiar — a star — reminds us that God is not limited in the ways God chooses to speak to people, and more specifically, that God knows how to reach us regardless of how much or how little we might know or understand about religion. God is a personal God, and God speaks to us in the ways we can hear and understand.

How might this reminder encourage you in your own life today? Does it make a difference to know that God is a personal God? Or to know that God is not limited to conventional religious language, or symbols, or buildings?

My favorite verse of the week

"I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power."

The Apostle Paul
Ephesians 1:17-19

Sari+

Update on Bethesda Downtown Plan and Development in St. John's Neighborhood

2014 was a positive year for advancing St. John's interests with respect to the new Bethesda Downtown Plan and neighborhood development. Development for Community Committee co-chair Bill Fry and Committee members John Ross, Suzanne Welch and Penny Winder updated the Parish at the December 14 Open Forum.

They reported that following St. John's interventions over the past year, the Montgomery County Planning Staff's preliminary concepts for the new Bethesda Downtown Plan, briefed to the Planning Board on December 11, included positive recommendations to support community facilities such as St. John's.

The Planning Staff briefing slides can be found at http://www.montgomeryplanning.org/community/bethesda_downtown/index.shm.

We submitted initial comments supporting these recommendations online; the Planning Staff also plans a drop-in/open house community meeting on January 29th to hear directly from the public.

2015 also will be busy as drafts of the new Plan are released, discussed at public hearings and the Plan finalized. In late March/early April, the official Staff Draft of the new Plan is expected to be issued, followed by a Planning Board public hearing in which we will participate 30 days later.

The Development for Community Committee, assisted by law firm Linowes and Blocher and development consultants CSG, Inc., will continue to work with the County, the 6801 owner and his partner, the Town of Chevy Chase, the Parish and other relevant parties to advance St. John's interests throughout this process. We look forward in particular to engaging church members in coming weeks as we work to further define St. John's goals for these discussions, including enhancing parking and community space, honoring the Memorial Garden as a sacred space and ensuring compatibility of neighboring developments with St. John's character as a religious institution and community resource.

Anne Derse

Special Library Book Blessing

January 11, 10:10 am



Join the Adoption Ministry, the Peggy Bradberry/Denise Galbo family and Sari+ at 10:10 am in the Norwood Parish Library as we celebrate the gift of books donated in memory of Peggy Bradberry.

for more info: [www.library\[at\]stjohnsnorwood.org](http://www.library[at]stjohnsnorwood.org) or Toni Hartman, Librarian [301-657-2784](tel:301-657-2784).

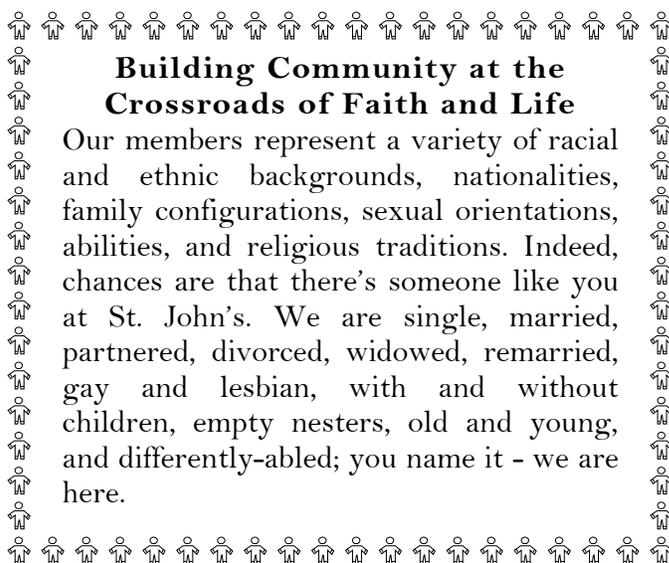
St. John's Women's Retreat - Feb 20-21

Give yourself the gift of relaxation, creativity, and fellowship!

It's time to register! You'll find forms in the West Avenue lobby for next few Sundays, 10-11am, at the Women's Retreat table, or you can leave your registration with Liz Luck in the office or with Penny Winder — blank forms are posted on the Parish Life bulletin board.

We'll stay at the new inn in rural Maryland's beautiful Claggett retreat center, nestled between Sugarloaf Mountain and the Monocacy River. We'll enjoy workshops, worship, featured speakers, delicious meals, fellowship and quiet time to rejuvenate. Please join us!

Jane Houlihan



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.

Passages

"If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it."

1 Cor. 12:26

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

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@verizon.net] or Anne Derse [[301-401-5717](tel:301-401-5717) and derseae@hotmail.com] or the church office.

Hands-On Flower Workshop

January 31

St. John's Flower Guild is hosting a flower arranging workshop with David Powers of Potomac Flower Wholesale. David was the presenter at our fall workshop—his exciting teaching style and wonderful stories from 35 years of experience with flower arranging provide for an exciting morning of fellowship and fun with flowers.

In this workshop, with the additional help of Flower Guild members, you will learn how to handle, cut and care for different kinds of flowers, and how to mass flowers in an arrangement. The arrangement you create will be in a container you can take home.

The morning begins with coffee and crumpets at 9:15am; the workshop runs from 9:30 to 11:30, followed by lunch.

Please bring hand clippers, a floral knife, any other tools you are comfortable with, and note paper. The cost is \$50 for non St. John's Flower Guild members).

To sign up to attend the workshop, or for questions, please contact John Mertens [301/718-2073] or Lizzie Glidden-Boyle [301/949-0966].

Offering envelopes for 2015 are now available in the lower West Avenue Lobby – please pick yours up!

If you prefer not to use envelopes, but need to know your 2015 pledging number, email the bookkeeper (bookkeeper@stjohnsnorwood.org).

Music Notes

Have you ever noticed the lack of public occasions in our society which foster singing? We hear others sing the national anthem at sporting events; download music to listen to on our iPods; take our children to music classes; and are "serenaded" while shopping, riding in elevators, or even pumping gas. We are surrounded by music, yet almost never take the opportunity to make music ourselves.

Church is one of the few places where we have the chance to engage in group singing that is not dependent on special skills, time commitments, or membership. In fact, immediate informal participation is encouraged. At St. John's, we sing songs that many have known since childhood; songs that connect us with Episcopalians from diverse cultural backgrounds; songs that stretch our faith or call us into service, and songs that touch our hearts. "When we sing together, our emotions are synchronized," says David Huron, a musicologist at both Ohio State University's school of music and center for cognitive studies. "Everyone is on the same emotional page." By joining our voices as a church, our song becomes more than just words. It becomes a shared offering. So, sing with your voice. Sing with your heart, but most of all – Sing!

Anne Timpane

Men's Retreat—Still time to sign up!

The second annual St. John's Men's retreat will be this February 6-8. We will go to Berkley Springs, WV. This is an opportunity to go away for a couple of days with other men from the parish and have a chance to reflect on your life, get to know other men in the parish better and deepen your journey to and with God.

The focus of the retreat is **Men and Their Work**. Led by Joe Clark, a retired Episcopal clergyman who with his wife, Meredith, is a member of St. John's, the retreat will have a mixture of discussion, study, relaxation, good food and company....what's not to like!

Sign up either by calling the office or on the bulletin board in the West Street lobby.

Questions, call Joe Clark @ [301-802-2976](tel:301-802-2976).

SAINT JOHN'S AT THE CROSSROADS

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Calendar

Sunday January 11, 2015

The Baptism of our Lord

- 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 Library Book Blessing – Library
Church School - classrooms
Bible Study – Library
- 11:15 am Holy Baptism/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
- 6:00 pm Adoption Ministry - Lounge

Monday – Friday January 12-16, 2015

Parish Office open 9 am – 2 pm

Monday January 12, 2015

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

Tuesday January 13, 2015

- 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 January 14, 2015

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

Thursday, January 15, 2015

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

St. John's follows the Washington DC Public Schools for weather cancellations. When the Washington DC 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.

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 Jan. 18, 2015.

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.

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