



ST. JOHN'S NORWOOD
Chevy Chase-Bethesda

SAINT JOHN'S AT THE CROSSROADS

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July 27, 2014

www.stjohnsnorwood.org



Last Sunday, one of the kids at St. John's drew a picture of God – the Holy Spirit, Creator, and Christ –to carry with me to St. Mary Magdalene's in (east) Boulder CO. The handoff from church to church is well underway, as was illustrated by the number of "likes" this picture got on my Facebook page by SJN *and* SMM parishioners, one of whom has affectionately named SJN's their new "cousin." Sweet. The handoff has also been readied by several SJN parishioners who've already introduced me to their friends and family in the Boulder area or shared fun memories of their experiences there. What a small world!?

As I continue exchanging teary yet cheering goodbyes through email, phone, and in person, my heart is overflowing in gratitude for the diverse relationships of these last few years – serving St. John's with Sari+, many pastoral visits, and small group gatherings; reuniting with my family here; and developing bonds with Diocesan colleagues in my service with the Bishop on two diocesan committees, invitation to serve on the Washington Episcopal Clergy Association, and my colleague group of three years; as well as friendships in the larger DC area.

Thank you for walking a bit of life with me. I've fallen in love with you. And I look forward to exchanging in-person goodbye blessings and hugs at the *Felix Hora*-hosted picnic in Norwood Park on July 27 and at church on August 10 (both after the 10am service).

With your blessing and prayers to go and grow,

Sarah+

In addition to the many relationships I enjoyed at St. John's, I feel especially blessed to have shared with the young adults in J2A and to make the pilgrimage to Iceland, the land of the never setting sun. The J2A students, like many others at St. John's, graciously received my quirky style and inquiry as we explored that thing called adulthood. My time in Washington DC was a wonderful opportunity to explore and deepen my roots as a South African through the pilgrimage there in 2013 and my service on EDOW'S Southern Africa Partnership Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to both get involved and be in the background, which was a good balance for this Pastor's Spouse. :) -- Paul

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

We join in mourning the deaths of

Lauryn Sutton, student of Sarah Thomas

Kate Kingberger, friend of Ann Wild

We join in celebrating with

Earle & Cathy O'Donnell on the July 13 birth of their grandson Henry Hughes Lock

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

Vestry Highlights

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

— Discussed expectations of the Vestry as church members who are fully committed to the welfare of St. John's, both physical and spiritual. Kurt Ellison and Roxy Wolfe will develop a Vestry Member role description.

— Heard from Rector Sari Ateek that August 10 will be Sarah Lapenta-H's last Sunday with us. Sari is initiating the search for an Assistant Rector immediately by sending a job description for posting by the Diocese. He recruited a small team, including both Wardens, to review resumés as they are received.

— Continued its discussion, begun in May, of St. John's Stewardship of the Individual. Previously, the Vestry had reviewed how we respond to and nurture both visitors and church members. Now the Rector proposed assembling a team of Vestry members to create a "roadmap" specifying the activities and the benefits of successive levels of involvement and commitment to the St. John's community. The document is to serve as a guide to how St. John's supports the faith journey of all who know us.

— Stood and linked hands as Sarah Lapenta-H offered a closing prayer.

The next Vestry meeting will be at 8:00 PM on Tuesday, August 19, in the Lounge.

To see all Vestry documents and reports, go to: <https://docs.google.com/folder/d/0BzfjbFerWsaTbVczb0VMQmFWQWc/edit?usp=sharing>

Pat Cascio, Parish Secretary,
for the Rector and Wardens

Women's Book Group

The next meeting of the Women's Book Group will be Monday, September 8th. Remember there is no meeting in August to give us all time to relax and read the large volume that is our next selection. After relaxing perhaps we can expect some new book selection ideas. Our book selections do mostly focus on women authors of fiction, but we do also choose non-fiction and we welcome other suggestions. If you're interested in joining us, please send your name and e-mail address to STJN.bookgroup@gmail.com. You'll be notified by e-mail of up-coming meeting locations and readings. And also check Crossroads for our monthly notice.

Upcoming meeting dates and reading selections are as follows:

August - no meeting

9/8/2014 -

Catherine the Great by Robert K. Massie

10/6/14 -

Where'd You Go, Bernadette: a novel, by Maria Semple

11/3/14 -

The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry by Gabrielle Zevin

Enjoy what's left of the Summer and we'll hope to see many new faces in September.

Mary Chyun

Outreach Sunday, July 27 in support of Episcopal Relief & Development (ERD)

Episcopal Relief & Development (ERD) works with Church partners and other local organizations to save lives and transform communities worldwide. ERD rebuilds after disasters and empowers people to create lasting solutions that fight poverty, hunger and disease. For example, ERD has been working with the Episcopal Diocese of Guatemala to formulate a comprehensive approach to development issues. To address chronic poverty in rural communities, ERD works with the church in Guatemala to identify and train key regional leaders who could facilitate the formation of community-based savings and micro-finance groups. If are you concerned about the economic plight in Central America driving children to the U.S. border, a donation to ERD could help. At St. John's this Sunday, any cash placed in the offering plate will go to ERD, and if you wish to contribute by check, please make it payable to St. John's but write "Outreach Sunday – ERD" on the memo line.

The Vision Thing

Your Vision Team has assembled the data collected during our spring Circles gatherings for your review. You'll remember that at each gathering we talked about (1) the times when St. John's was at its best as a church and then discussed (2) why those moments were so meaningful, powerful, and valuable. These recorded conversations form a critical part of the Vision Team's data gathering that will help it fulfill its task of helping guide St. John's toward a better understanding of how we, as a church, might best engage and serve the community as an extension of Christ's love, and in fulfillment of our mission as a church.

We ask that you prayerfully read the attached and get back to us with any comments. Does this reflect your experience at St. John's? Please direct your message to Penny Winder (winderph@verizon.net). Thanks from the Vision Team!

Key Findings from Lenten Circle Gatherings at St. John's Norwood

Clergy and Lay Leadership

Strong clergy leadership is provided by young, energetic individuals, who bring out our best.

Strong lay leadership guided the parish through clergy transitions and the acquisition of the new organ. (The parish has not only survived, but thrived, between rectors).

Lay leadership willing to go out on a limb in hiring clergy.

Liturgy/Worship

Uplifting sermons speak directly to the congregation; they focus on daily living while delivering an underlying message.

The 5 pm service, developed by the participants, offers a real sense of community and intimacy.

Communion and worship are open to all.

Music

Great music programs build community, even for those who are non-musical.

Adult Education

Multiple opportunities for spiritual development include adult forums, Bible study, parenting forums, circle gatherings, as well as other opportunities.

The conversation with Terry Campbell, a "transcendent experience," stands out as an occasion when the church was at its best.

Children and Youth Education:

The church school, Youth Group, children's chapel, and special programs such as plays, pageants, and the J2A pilgrimage are all excellent.

The church school and other programs are welcoming to newcomers.

Community

Pastoral care

Strong clergy and lay support reaches those in need.

Fellowship:

Fellowship may be the greatest strength of the parish. Multi-generational fellowship events such as Third Sunday suppers and Oktoberfest were the occasions most frequently seen as times when St. John's was at its best.

The community is inclusive and welcoming to all. Clergy and lay people form strong relationships, exemplified by the support of Harrison West during his illness.

People can count on each other and generously give time, talent, and treasure.

Religion becomes alive and relevant in everyday life.

Community is strengthened and reflected in circle gatherings and circles of worshipers around the altar at the 8 am and 5 pm services

Retreats

Men's and women's retreats build community and are very popular.

Welcoming

All are welcome - no matter their background or where they are on their faith journey.

Inclusive welcome is supported by messaging in sermons, inclusiveness statement, and participation in the Gay Pride parade.

The community is non-judgmental, tolerant, welcoming of alternative viewpoints

Outreach

The church provides opportunities such as Community-Based Shelter and Shepherd's Table for parishioners to work together to serve those in need.

Balance

There is a good balance of opportunities for people to connect with God and each other. This balance of spiritual growth and fellowship is shown in circle participants' most frequently mentioned occasions of St. John's at its best--Fellowship events, such as third Sunday suppers, and the adult forum with Terry Campbell.

Concerns

The church may grow too big and lose intimacy.

The location may limit diversity of parishioners.

Suggestions

Identify fundamental core principles as a framework for the vision.

Develop a unified congregational vision for outreach.

SAINT JOHN'S AT THE CROSSROADS

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Calendar

Sunday July 27, 2014

Outreach Sunday

Shepherd's Table prep - kitchen

Deadline for newsletter submissions

8:00 am Holy Eucharist with sermon

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

“Goodbye Picnic” – Norwood Park

5:00 pm Come as You Are Eucharist – Nave

Monday – Friday, July 8-August 1, 2014

Parish Office Hours 9 am – 1 pm

7:30 pm Outreach Committee - Library

Tuesday July 29, 2014

1:30 pm Church Staff – Rector's Office

7:30 pm Pastoral Care Advisory Committee-
Lounge

Wednesday July 30, 2014

10:30am Bible Study - Library

12:00 pm Holy Eucharist and Healing – Chapel

6:30 pm Centering Prayer – Chapel

Saturday, August 2, 2014

Noon Youth Group returns from Camp Joy

Sunday August 3, 2014

8:00 am Holy Eucharist with sermon

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

Come as You Are Eucharist – Nave

Monday – Friday, August 4 -August 8, 2014

Parish Office Hours 9 am – 1 pm

Tuesday August 5, 2014

1:30 pm Church Staff – Rector's Office

7:30 pm Stewardship Committee—Library

7:30 pm Personnel Committee—Lounge

Wednesday August 6, 2014

10:30am Bible Study - Library

12:00 pm Holy Eucharist and Healing – Chapel

6:30 pm Centering Prayer – Chapel

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 August 10, 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.

Sunday, July 27, 11 am

“Goodbye,” Potluck, Picnic in the Park Norwood Park

Join *Felix Hora* folks in saying “goodbye” to Sarah+ as she leaves to serve as the rector of St. Mary Magdalene in Boulder CO (her last Sunday and all-church party at St. John's is August 10th). Please bring a potluck item to share, and meet us at Norwood Park (behind the fire station near church) or walk over after the 10am service.

Sunday, August 10, 2014

8:00 am Holy Eucharist with sermon

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 Goodbye to Sarah+ - Parish Hall

Bible Study – Library

5:00 pm Come as You Are Eucharist – Nave