



SAINT JOHN'S AT THE CROSSROADS

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August 24, 2014

www.stjohnsnorwood.org

Bishop's Appeal for Urgent Aid to Al Ahli Episcopal Hospital in Gaza

As we have seen tragically illustrated in recent news and other reports, the violence in Gaza has had a devastating effect on the people, infrastructure and facilities in the region. Despite sustaining structural damage, the highly respected Al Ahli Episcopal Hospital in Gaza, run by the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, is striving to meet severe humanitarian needs.

Al Ahli staff report that the number of wounded exceeds the capacity of all state medical facilities in Gaza and many wounded are therefore seeking care at Al Ahli, whose ambulances and staff have been working non-stop. The wounded, their families, hospital staff and their families are also seeking refuge in the hospital compound because it is safer and more secure.

Al Ahli and all other health care providers are either running out of or have run out of food, water, fuel, and medical supplies. The needs are great. As just one example, Al Ahli requires \$2,000 a day to buy fuel for its generators since the only remaining power station in Gaza was destroyed.

In light of these extreme circumstances, the Bishop of Jerusalem, The Rt. Rev. Suheil Dawani, issued an urgent appeal for aid for Al Ahli Hospital in mid-July. Bishop Mariann seconded that appeal in a moving message on her blog on July 24, asking that all congregations and individuals in the Diocese of Washington make a contribution to support Al Ahli.

The Vestry encourages all members of St. John's to respond generously. Donations in the form of checks can be made out to St. John's, with "Gaza Hospital" on the memo line.

Regular and detailed updates on Al Ahli's response to the humanitarian situation can be found on the website of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem and the website of the American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese in Jerusalem.

Anne Derse
for the Vestry

Rector's Corner

Dear St. John's,

This is the first Rector's Corner I have had the opportunity to write since before I went to Jerusalem with my family in mid-July. During this time a lot has happened in our church office about which I'd like to inform you. First, I have begun the process of searching for our next assistant priest with the help of a small group of people from the Vestry and the Personnel Committee. As you might expect, we are trying not to rush this process but rather to take our time and be as intentional and mindful as we can, knowing that it often takes time to find the right fit. I invite your prayers for our search, trusting that God will bring to us just who we need as we take the next step in our journey together as a faith community.

Something more critical that requires all of our prayers and intercessions is the heartbreaking news that our beloved Parish Administrator of 16 years, Brian Briggs, has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. Although this news comes as a shock to all of us, it is with faith that I invite us to join Brian and his wife Carol as well as their families in praying for a miracle as he begins treatment. If you would like to send a card to Brian and Carol as they go through this difficult season in their lives, you may send it to

10605 Radstock Ct., Damascus, MD 20872.

Prayerfully,

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. Barnabas' Episcopal Church of the Deaf
Celebrates!**

Rejoice, pray and worship at St. Barnabas' Episcopal Church of the Deaf, which has worshiped in St. John's Chapel for nearly fifty years, as they commemorate The Rev. Thomas Gallaudet and The Rev. Henry Winter Syle on the 25th anniversary of the establishment of their feast day.

The first celebration of this feast day was held in the Washington National Cathedral. As president of the Episcopal Conference of the Deaf at that time, I was honored to be the preacher that day. It was a glorious day, with an estimated seven hundred people in attendance. St. Barnabas' choir was joined by choir members of All Souls' Church for the Deaf, Philadelphia. Dr. I. King Jordan, then president of Gallaudet University, read one of the Scripture passages.

We'll remember this occasion and again give thanks for the ministry of The Rev. Mr. Gallaudet, who founded St. Ann's Church for the Deaf, New York City and The Rev. Mr. Syle, the first Deaf person to be ordained in any denomination.

The Rev. Dr. Kirk VanGilder, Assistant Professor at Gallaudet University's Department of Philosophy and religion, will preach. I will be the celebrant at the Eucharist. All baptized Christians are welcome to receive the blessed Bread and Wine, no matter what your church affiliation. However, if you simply wish to observe, that is all right.

"Eucharist" is the Greek word for "giving thanks," and indeed this is truly a time to give thanks the God's blessing on Deaf congregations throughout the world!

The Rev. Jay L. Croft

Blessing of the Backpacks

August 24

at 10 am & 5 pm!

Calling all children and grown-ups!

Bring your backpacks and briefcases to be blessed, along with a few extra supplies to donate to Interfaith Works for needy kids!

Top 5 Items Needed

- Backpacks (grades K-12)
- Packages of Lined Filler Paper
- Tab Dividers
- 2- Pocket Folders
- Pencil Pouches

Other Items

- 1-Subject Notebooks
- Composition Books
- Erasers, Large Pink
- Package of Big Markers
- Pencil Boxes
- Pens (Red and Black)
- Scissors (Blunt Tip and Pointed Tip)
- Boxes of Colored Pencils
- Rulers

Kitchen Refrigerator—Chillin' for Many

St. John's multi-ministry, multi-purpose kitchen refrigerator has become crowded recently, so we are clearing it out on August 30th. Please label your items with an expected-use date (the date of your event, for example) and your name or your group's name so that they can be retained during the clean-out. Any old or non-labeled items will be discarded.

Fall is a busy time for both the parish and the school, so in order to endure there is room for us all, please try to avoid storing anything in the refrigerator for more than seven days. Also please remove any surplus items once your event has occurred. These simple guidelines will help to make sure there is room for our ministries and activities.

Tom St. Clair and Colleen Parent
Shepherd's Table

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 pray for Brian Briggs, as he undergoes cancer treatment [see Rector’s Corner for details]

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

Caring Well for One Another Through our Clergy Transition

To assist Sari+ through our Assistant clergy transition, Penny Winder (Stephen Minister Leader) and Anne Derse (Vestry liaison for Pastoral Care) will serve as interim Pastoral Care Coordinators. If you or someone you know would appreciate any form of pastoral care during this time (prayers, connections to other pastoral ministries, visits, etc.), please call Penny, Anne, Sari+, or the church office. Penny may be reached at [301-938-1193](tel:301-938-1193) or winderph@verizon.net and Anne at [301-401-5717](tel:301-401-5717) and derseae@hotmail.com.

Mark Your Calendars! September 14

Open Forum on the Bethesda Downtown Plan

Change is coming as the County updates its master plan for development in Bethesda. Please join the St. John's Adjacent Property Committee at an Open Forum on the new Bethesda Downtown Plan and implications for the church and our neighborhood on Sunday, September 14 at 10:10 am in the Parish Hall!

Anne Derse
for the Adjacent Property Committee

Make a Joyful Sound to the Lord!

All of our singing and ringing choirs resume practices the first week of September, so start warming up now for another year of great music and fellowship led by our Director of Music Ministries, Anne Timpane!

Here are the descriptions and rehearsal times for all our choirs (which rehearse in the Choir Room on Level B):

Primary Choir—Children K-2nd grade learn the building blocks of music through games, movement, and singing. They sing at the midmorning Sunday service several times during the year. Rehearsals Tuesday 4-4:45 pm

Children’s Choir—Children in grade 3 and above focus on skills needed to be a successful singer and leader of worship. The choir sings in church once a month at the midmorning Sunday service. Rehearsals Tuesday 5-5:45 pm.

Alleluia Choir—Children and adults, from 3rd grade to parents and other adults, sing traditional music—and occasional gospel and international songs—at the midmorning Sunday service. Rehearsals Tuesday 7-8 pm.

Norwood Ringers Handbell Choir—An intergenerational group of musicians of all levels plays solo handbell pieces on special Sundays throughout the year. Rehearsals Thursday 6-7:15 pm.

St. John’s Choir—Adults singers of all levels join a core group of professional singers at St. John’s late morning Sunday serve. Rehearsals Thursday 7:30-9 pm.

New Parish Directories will be published in early September

If you have moved recently, please let the Parish Office know via email office@stjohnsnorwood.org or 301/654-7767.

SAINT JOHN'S AT THE CROSSROADS

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Calendar

Sunday August 24, 2014

Blessing of the Backpacks at 10 am & 5 pm

Shepherd's Table Food Preparation - Kitchen

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

5:00 pm Come as You Are Eucharist – Nave

Monday -Friday August 25 - 29, 2014

Parish Office Hours 9 am – 1 pm

Monday, August 25, 2014

7:30 pm Outreach Committee - Library

Tuesday August 26, 2014

1:30 pm Church Staff – Rector's Office

7:30 pm Communications Committee - Lounge

Wednesday August 27, 2014

12:00 pm Holy Eucharist and Healing – Chapel

Sunday August 31, 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

5:00 pm Come as You Are Eucharist – Nave

Labor Day Monday September 1, 2014

Parish Office Closed

Tuesday – Friday, September 2 – 4, 2014

Parish Office Hours 9 am – 1 pm

Tuesday September 2, 2014

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 Stewardship Committee – Library

7:30 pm Personnel Committee - Library

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 July 27, 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.

Wednesday September 3, 2014

12:00 pm Holy Eucharist and Healing – Chapel

Thursday September 4, 2014

6:00 pm Norwood Ringers—Choir Room

7:30 pm St. John's Choir—Choir Room

Sunday September 7, 2014

Renewal Sunday

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 Barbecue Lunch

Bible Study – Library

5:00 pm Come as You Are Eucharist – Nave