



**ST. JOHN'S NORWOOD**  
Chevy Chase-Bethesda

# SAINT JOHN'S AT THE CROSSROADS

Volume 30 Number 1

September 14, 2014

[www.stjohnsnorwood.org](http://www.stjohnsnorwood.org)

## Be a St. John's Acolyte Guild Member!

Have you wondered what it would be like to be a member of the Acolyte Guild at St. John's? Well, an Acolyte's ministry at St. John's includes leading the choirs and clergy in procession; lighting and extinguishing candles; carrying crosses, torches, banners, flags, and the Gospel Book; welcoming the congregation to communion; assisting clergy who set the altar; dispensing the offering plates to the ushers; and receiving the congregation's offering from the ushers to present it at the altar.

Acolytes at St. John's are organized into five Teams. The Teams serve once every 5 Sundays during the 9am Sunday and 10am combined Sunday services, unless they volunteer to fill in for another Acolyte or would like to participate in a special service. There are no weekday obligations. The new Acolytes are coached by the Guild Leader and mentored by the more senior Acolytes on a Team. When requested or necessary, individual or group training sessions are held.

Acolytes have helped with the worship service from Old Testament times. At St. John's, Acolytes play a significant role in service to our congregation, choirs, ushers, and clergy.... all in the worship of God!! Anyone from the age of nine to ninety-nine can serve in this ministry. We're particularly interested in developing the Acolyte ministry for the 11:15 a.m. worship service. Please consider joining the Acolyte Guild at St. John's. *For more information, feel free to contact Christine Curto at [301-571-1674](tel:301-571-1674) or the Clergy at [301-654-7767](tel:301-654-7767).*

**Sunday, September 14**  
**our regular service schedule returns!**  
**8am, 9am, 11:15 am, and 5pm**  
**Education for All at 10am**

## Rector's Corner

I often like to think of visitors coming through the doors of our church on Sundays as guests coming into my home.

How would I treat a guest who's come over for dinner? No question, I would stand at the door to greet them, I would offer to take their coat, and show them and their family in.

I would lead them to the living room, and offer them a drink. If they had children, I would introduce them to my own and take them to the playroom. In short they would have my full attention, and I would do everything in my ability to make sure that they felt welcome in my home.

The key to nurturing an atmosphere of hospitality is the same whether it's your home or your home church: it always comes down to the host's ability to welcome the guest with a genuine spirit of gladness.

It breaks my heart when I occasionally notice someone standing around by themselves on Sunday mornings during coffee hour with no one to talk to. When that does happen, I wonder what impression they are left with in terms of the home they are in? Whether you're new to the family, or you've been a part of it for a long time, perhaps you can play a small part in being a gracious host to someone who seems less comfortable in a new environment. There's no need to ask them if they're new to the church (sometimes that can be awkward especially if they've been there longer than you) but instead, simply introduce yourself and take a moment to get to know them. Just two minutes of your time on a Sunday morning could enrich your life for having heard a new story or having made a new connection. Just two minutes of your time on a Sunday morning could leave a lasting impression on someone else of a welcoming, loving, and caring church family that is worth visiting again.

My favorite quote of the week

*"We cannot sow seeds with clenched fists. To sow we must open our hands."*

-Adolfo Pérez Esquivel

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.

**Celebrating New Families  
Through the New Parent's Ministry**

The arrival of a baby into a family is a joyous event. In earlier times, new parents had the help and support of family and community members living close by. Today, families are spread apart, community networks are generally not as strong as they once were, and life can feel much more pressured. This can leave new parents feeling isolated, unsupported, and overwhelmed.

The New Parent's Ministry, established in the spirit of St. John's community-building mission, is intended to celebrate new parents and provide them with a sense of support, sustenance and community. Shortly after the arrival of a new baby, a volunteer from St. John's will call the parents, welcoming the new baby, wishing them well, and offering the delivery of a gift basket of flowers and soup. At that time the volunteer can offer a personal visit if the parents so wish, with the intent of providing a listening ear and a comforting adult presence. The parents and baby would also be invited to take part in a small welcoming ceremony during a Sunday church service, celebrated by Sari.

The New Parent's Ministry is co-chaired by Lizzie Glidden-Boyle and Carol May. If you would like more information on this ministry, you may contact [may.carol\[AT\]hotmail.com](mailto:may.carol[AT]hotmail.com)

**Middle Eastern Lunch and Guest Speaker  
September 21**

We have invited one of the volunteers from the World Council of Churches program whom we met in Jerusalem to join us and share her experiences. (Please refer to last issue of Crossroads for more details). She will be with us on Sunday, September 21 and will speak after the services at a catered Middle Eastern Lunch at 12:15. One of the Pilgrims has contacted Lebanese Taverna and has generously offered to provide the meal. All are invited, but if you plan to join us for lunch, please RSVP (deadline COB on September 17) to Clara Lovett ([301-654-2629](tel:301-654-2629)) or by e-mail to [Clara0804\[AT\]gmail.com](mailto:Clara0804[AT]gmail.com). Thank you! We all look forward to unique opportunity

**Thanks for your Generous Support!**

As of September 3, St. John's Norwood raised \$5,465.00 for Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza. Additional donations are still coming in! Thank you to all who contributed. The needs are great and our contribution will make a difference. For a first-hand update on the hospital and its work, please see the account by the Reverend Kate Taber, a Presbyterian mission co-worker who visited Al Ahli during a recent ceasefire, at <https://www.pcusa.org/news/2014/8/13/day-gaza/>.

**Step Out in Faith and Support  
Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington!**

Along with other Episcopal parishes in the area, St. John's has had a long and significant partnership with Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington (SMGW). Therefore, we are pleased to announce that on Saturday, November 1 at 6:30 p.m., SMGW will be holding its annual Gala/Auction fundraiser at the Washington Episcopal School in Bethesda. The theme this year is "Stepping out in Faith" and we hope you'll consider joining us for food, drinks, music, and auctions – both live and silent. Tickets are \$100 and benefit SMGW's *Next Step* program which serves more than 1,000 people each year who are homeless or otherwise in need. SMGW staff and volunteers provide program participants with the resources and support they need, such as housing and employment search guidance, coaching, and referrals to partner service providers, to fulfill their goals. Our goal is to raise \$85,000, which will cover the cost of case work at SMGW's Southeast office.

For more information, or if you are interested in attending, please see/email Liz Everhart ([lizeverhart9\[AT\]gmail.com](mailto:lizeverhart9[AT]gmail.com)), Langdon Healy ([langdonhealy\[AT\]gmail.com](mailto:langdonhealy[AT]gmail.com)), or Cecelia Smith ([mariacsmith\[AT\]verizon.net](mailto:mariacsmith[AT]verizon.net)). We already have a few donations for the auction from St. John's parishioners and will be seeking more; if you would like to donate an item, please see/email Liz Everhart ([lizeverhart9\[AT\]gmail.com](mailto:lizeverhart9[AT]gmail.com)). Hope to see you there on Saturday, November 1 at 6:30 p.m.

Liz Everhart, SMGW Gala/Auction co-chair and Partner Parish representative; Cecelia Smith, SMGW Partner Parish representative; Langdon Healy, Chair, Outreach Committee

## 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 ...*

*Tom Johnson (Liz Mullikin's father)*

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

## Meeting with Young Israeli and Palestinian Leaders September 25

Israeli Lior Frankiensztayn and Palestinian Walid Issa are young leaders and friends who met when they lived together in the summer of 2012 with a family in Bethesda under the auspices of the New Story Leadership Program (NSL). NSL is an innovative program that brings young Israelis and Palestinians together in the summer in the U.S. to learn from the American experience, form bonds and return home to create meaningful change on the ground. After their very positive experience in the U.S. through NSL, Lior and Walid returned home and co-founded SHADES, another exciting program for students in Israel and Palestine to teach them how to negotiate. SHADES is NSL's very first Project for Change and its highly successful first year provides encouraging evidence that given the right support and training, young people from Israel and Palestine can work together to make a difference. We have the opportunity to hear directly from Lior and Walid about the NSL and SHADES programs and their personal experience with both on Thursday, September 25 at 6:30 pm in the Parish Hall over appetizers. Please come! RSVP to Anne Derse at [derseae\[AT\]hotmail.com](mailto:derseae[AT]hotmail.com) by September 22. More information on NSL and SHADES can be found at [newstoryleadership.org](http://newstoryleadership.org).

## Music Notes

One of the ways I spent my time off this summer was in attending a choral conducting institute at my alma mater - Westminster Choir College in Princeton, NJ. Participants included church musicians, school teachers, college professors, orchestral and opera conductors, singers, and pianists, all there to focus on choral conducting. The eight distinguished musicians who served as our professors for the week had different areas of expertise, so we were constantly being challenged, stretched and pushed in new directions. From 8:30 a.m. till 8:30 p.m. each day we not only had conducting sessions in small groups, but attended classes in music theory, breathing, Suzuki body movement, score interpretation, Gregorian chant, and participated in Masterclasses with the institute faculty. It was quite a heady experience, but definitely a wonderful reminder of music's beauty and power.

Anne Timpane



## GOT BOOKS?

It's time again to start the wheels in motion for the St. John's Annual Used Book Sale! As such, we are now actively seeking/inviting donations of books, books and more books. So, when you have a moment, shake the sand out of those summer reading books, clear some shelf, floor and tabletop space at home and drop off any gently used books that you are willing to "let go" in the West Avenue Lobby of the church. No encyclopedias or textbooks please. If you have any questions or need assistance transporting books, please contact Debbie Bunker at [dcbunker\[AT\]verizon.net](mailto:dcbunker[AT]verizon.net).

# SAINT JOHN'S AT THE CROSSROADS

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## Calendar

### Sunday September 14, 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  
- Nave
- 10:00 am Church School – classrooms  
Adult Forum – Parish Hall  
“Bethesda Downtown Plan” presented  
by the Adjacent Property Committee  
Bible Study – Library
- 11:15 am Holy Eucharist with sermon and music  
- Nave
- 5:00 pm Come as You Are Eucharist – Nave
- 5:30 pm Youth Group – Youth Room
- 6:00 pm Adoption Ministry - Lounge

### Monday September 15, 2014

Parish Office Closed

### Tuesday – Friday, September 16-19

Parish Office Open 9 am – 2 pm

### Tuesday September 16, 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 [Vestry devotions] – Lounge
- 8:00 pm Vestry [open meeting] – Parish Hall

### Wednesday September 17, 2014

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

### Thursday September 18, 2014

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

### Saturday September 20, 2014

- 10:00 am David Nelson Funeral –Nave  
followed by Parish Hall reception
- 4:30 pm Schaffenburg/vanErp wedding - Nave

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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.

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The next issue of *Crossroads* will be dated September 21, 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](mailto: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.

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### Sunday September 21, 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 by the Alleluia Choir  
- Nave
- 10:00 am Church School – classrooms  
Adult Forum – Parish Hall  
The Rev. Joe Clark: “Notes from the Diary of a Tamed Curmudgeon”  
Bible Study – Library
- 11:15 am Holy Eucharist with sermon and music by the St. John's Choir  
- Nave
- 5:00 pm Come as You Are Eucharist – Nave
- 5:30 pm Youth Group – Youth Room