



ST. JOHN'S NORWOOD
Chevy Chase-Bethesda

SAINT JOHN'S AT THE CROSSROADS

Volume 30 Number 3

October 5, 2014

www.stjohnsnorwood.org

A Celebration of St. Francis of Assisi

**Blessing of the Animals
and
Pet Adoption Fair
Sunday, October 5, 2014**

2-5 pm

Pet Adoption Fair

**Representatives from Montgomery County Humane Society
will be at the church with adoptable animals!**

5 pm

**"Come As You Are" service
with individual pet blessings by St. John's clergy.**

All are welcome!

The life and witness of St. Francis of Assisi is remembered every year on (or around) October 4 – but who was he? What did he do that was so important?

For someone as famous as Francis, it's strange that we're not even sure when he was born – it was either 1181 or 1182. He was baptized "Giovanni di Bernardone"; the name was chosen by his mother to honor St. John the Baptist. She hoped that he would grow up to be a great religious leader. When his merchant father arrived home after a business trip, however, he insisted that the child's name be changed to Francesco, possibly in homage to new business contacts in France. Francis' kind nature, rather than the greedy one that his father tried to cultivate, shone through in many acts of generosity that Francis showed to the poor.

Francis' father was a textile merchant and a community leader, so Francis grew up in a household with all the advantages of a life of wealth. He spent money entertaining and dining with his friends, wearing fancy clothes and shoes. He was a dreamer who imagined himself in all sorts of heroic roles, so when the chance came to join the army for a war with neighboring Perugia,

he eagerly volunteered. He never saw battle – he was captured and spent a year in prison. Upon his return home, he became seriously ill; as part of his recuperation, he wandered in the hills, becoming more and more dissatisfied when thinking about his old way of life. He went to the woodland chapel of San Damiano, where he was instructed by God to "repair my church." Francis was to do "repairs" in more than the fixer-upper sense. The corrupt church of his day was ready for the return to poverty and obedience that Francis later preached.

A further turning point for Francis was hearing a sermon centered on one of Jesus' teachings found in Matthew 10:9: "Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts, ¹⁰no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff." Francis took the words as his rule of life – a life given completely to Jesus. He and his followers cared for lepers and the poor; they went about without a purse or shoes.

St. Francis even changed the way people celebrated (and still celebrate) Christmas. He was the first to create a *crèche* (Nativity scene), complete with live animals, so that everyone could understand the story of the birth of Christ.

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NPF Accepting Grant Applications

The Norwood Parish Fund (NPF) Board will accept applications for grants October 5—November 2, 2014. Grants are available to organizations or individuals for the purposes of:

- St. John's capital needs
- Outreach ministries
- Seed money for new ministries and special one-time projects
- Other purposes specifically designated by donors

Questions? Please contact Carolyn Schugar ([301/946-5607](tel:3019465607) or frank.schugar@comcast.net). Applications are available in the Church Office or on the St. John's web site under [Caring & Outreach](#). Please return forms to the NPF mailbox in the Church Office or by email to Carolyn Schugar .

Carolyn Schugar

Continued from page 1

St. Francis lived a life of contrasts – he came from a wealthy family, but chose a life of poverty. He had worn fancy clothes as a young man, but later on didn't even wear shoes. He imagined himself a romantic hero – he became a religious hero. A reflection of these contrasts can be found in a prayer attributed to him (Book of Common Prayer, p. 833):

Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let us sow love;

where there is injury, pardon;

Where there is discord, union;

where there is doubt, faith;

Where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light;

Where there is sadness, joy.

Grant that we may not so much seek to
be consoled as to console;

to be understood as to understand;

to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;

it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;

and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Amen.

Liz Luck

Vestry Highlights

At its September 16, 2014, meeting, the Vestry:

- Elected Steve Philpott to serve as Senior Treasurer for one year, with Bill Assmann to be Junior Treasurer. The Vestry expressed their deep gratitude to Steve and Bill, and also to Scott Cotter, retiring Treasurer, for their dedication to St. John's.
- Heard from Kurt Ellison, chair of the Stewardship Committee, that the 2015 Pledge Campaign will run officially from October 5 through November 23. The goal for 2015 is \$830,000, an increase of 4% over 2014.
- Learned from the 7020 Beechwood Property Committee (former Rectory) that we have a solid contract to sell the property for \$1,235,000, slightly more than the asking price. The closing is set for the end of September.
- Learned from the Adjacent Property Committee that it has met with the Montgomery County planning staff, with the Deputy Mayor of the Town of Chevy Chase, and with the developer of 8601 Wisconsin Avenue. The county's revised Bethesda Downtown Plan will be finalized in mid-2016; St. John's needs to participate in that process in concert with our neighbors while negotiating with the developer for concessions in his design in exchange for some of our density development rights. The committee has hired a lawyer, Anne Mead, and will hire a consultant for this complex process. The committee led a Forum on September 14 to inform the parish of these developments.
- Learned from the Rector that a job description for Assistant Rector has been posted through the diocese, and some applications have been submitted.
- Heard from the Eco Action Team (Jane Houlihan, Polly Vail, and Tom Kerr) about ways St. John's can become a better steward of the environment: following best practices, seeking green certification, installing a sustainable flower garden near the tower entrance, and engaging our community in other sustainability projects.

The next Vestry meeting will be at 8:00 PM on Tuesday, October 21, 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

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

Ian Burns, former parishioner
A celebration of his life will be held on
Saturday, October 4, at 4 pm here at St. John's

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

Eco Action Team

Monday Oct 6th 8am

Join St. John's eco team in the lounge for coffee and green project planning. Also on the agenda: news on the NYC climate march and U.N. climate summit from Tom Kerr, Lead Climate Policy Officer at the International Finance Corporation, World Bank Group. Contact parishioners Jane Houlihan, Polly Vail, or Tom Kerr with questions.

Ladies' Luncheon Planning Meeting

"We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing".....and to meet a few new folks, to catch up with the old and to share our stories. These are a few of the goals of the ladies' luncheon! Planning right now is in progress for the SECOND ANNUAL Ladies' Luncheon! Would you like to have some input? Join us on October 12 at 10am in the Lounge for a brief meeting to help us decide what type of interactive program you'd like. Possible themes are Thanksgiving and Hospitality, Friendship and Family, Nature and Nurture.

Questions or comments? Please contact Margaret Uhar mrduhar@atl.com, or phone [301 908 4673](tel:3019084673).

Sign up beginning Oct 26 for the luncheon on Sunday, November 23 after the 11:15 service. There will be a small charge to cover a catered lunch.

Margaret Uhar, Becky Neal,
Amy Shiman, Carol May,
Nadia Carrell, Nancy Watson

Music Notes

The words to one of my favorite children's hymns, "All things bright and beautiful", were written by the British poet and hymn-writer Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895.) Her hymns "are characterized by a use of images to capture a child's imagination, followed by instruction couched in simple language . . ." In her "All things bright and beautiful" text, Ms. Alexander uses God's creations in nature and the world to illustrate the second article of the Apostles' Creed: "God the Father, maker of heaven and earth."

*All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
the Lord God made them all.*

We are also familiar with several of her other hymn texts including "Once in royal David's city," "Jesus calls us o'er the tumult," and "He is risen," as well as her translation/paraphrase of "I bind unto myself today."

Anne Timpane

Adult Forum, October 5

Does the universe have a purpose? People of faith have always thought so, but scientific advances of the last two centuries have led to increased doubt and angst for some on this point. The work of Jesuit priest Teilhard de Chardin (1881-1955) pushed back on rising cosmic pessimism, and his thoughts may resonate today more strongly than ever.

In the October 5th Adult Forum, Dr. John Haught of Georgetown University will give an insightful presentation on the work of this venerated scholar (a geologist by training).

If you attended the Forum that Dr. Haught gave earlier this year, you know that we're in for a special treat from an engaging speaker and a leading authority on the intersection of science and faith. Please join us!

Paul Beatty

SAINT JOHN'S AT THE CROSSROADS

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Calendar

Sunday October 5, 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
led by the Alleluia Choir - Nave
- 10:00 am Church School – classrooms
Adult Forum – Parish Hall
John Haight, Georgetown University,
presents "Teilhard de Chardin"
Inquirer's Class - Lounge
Bible Study – Library
- 11:15 am Holy Eucharist with sermon and music led
by the St. John's Choir - Nave
- 2:00-5:00 pm Pet Adoption Fair – Tower Lawn
- 5:00 pm Blessing of the Animals /Come As
You Are communion service -
Nave
- 5:30 pm Youth Group – Youth Room

Monday – Friday October 6-10, 2014

Parish Office open 9 am – 2 pm

Monday October 6, 2014

- 7:30 pm Women's Book Group (offsite)

Tuesday October 7, 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 Stewardship Committee – Library
- 7:30 pm Personnel Committee - Lounge

Wednesday October 8, 2014

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

Thursday October 9, 2014

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

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 October 12, 2014, Final article drafts must be submitted to the Parish Office by the *Sunday* prior to publication. One may e-mail articles to newsletter@stjohsnorwood.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 October 12, 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
led by the Alleluia Choir - Nave
- 10:00 am Church School – classrooms
Adult Forum – Parish Hall
Eco Action Team – Top 10 Steps to
Green a Church (or Home)
Bible Study – Library
- 11:15 am Holy Eucharist with sermon and music
led by the St. John's Choir – Nave
- 12:30 pm LEV Training -Nave
- 5:00 pm Come As You Are communion service -
Nave
- 5:30 pm Youth Group – Youth Room
- 6:00 pm Adoption Ministry - Lounge

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.