



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

# SAINT JOHN'S AT THE CROSSROADS

Volume 30 Number 8

November 2, 2014

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

## Caring for the Earth: Stewardship and Spirituality

By Tom Kerr

I was not raised with a strong sense of spirituality, though I have cultivated a sense of spiritual purpose through a love of God's creation. When I was 8, we lived at the end of a



dirt road in the hills outside of Detroit, Michigan. The back yard was my playground, with a river and woods all around.

One day during my explorations I found a newly erected chain-link fence blocking my path, announcing that this space was not, in fact, all mine. A company was building a golf course. In the months that followed, I returned to poke my nose through the fence, watching with wide eyes the removal of trees and the disappearance of birds and wildlife. It was a powerful lesson in humanity's ability to completely transform a landscape

Let me be clear: I am not against golf courses. But we are put on this earth to be stewards of creation, so that when we do build golf courses, roads, and cities they should be developed in a sustainable manner. We share this planet with a number of other beings -- large and small -- and the vibrant diversity of life is testament to God's creativity and love.

We can ensure that the beauty we see around us -- in urban parks, suburban gardens and in wild forests and seas -- is healthy, sustained and thrives for our children and succeeding generations.



I have dedicated my life to finding clean energy and other environmental solutions that make a profit and thus can help our economies to prosper and grow.

We can make simple choices in our daily lives that have a major impact: reusing things rather than throwing them away, drinking filtered tap water

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## Rector's Corner

Several parishioners have asked me lately about the status of the search for our next Assistant Rector, so I thought that I would use this week's column to offer an update on where we are in the hiring process.

As you already know, the position opening was posted through the diocese in mid-July, shortly after learning that Sarah+ would be leaving us. Originally, the plan was to interview candidates in August in the hopes of hiring someone by mid-September. It soon became apparent, however, that we needed to adjust our expectations in terms of the hiring timeframe for two main reasons: 1) the fact that most clergy already had their placements by mid-summer, resulting in a very small pool of applicants, and 2) some financial restraints related to the extended absence of our parish administrator, Brian Briggs, due to illness.

In light of these reasons, therefore, the Vestry and I sensed that it would be wisest not to rush the process, but rather to trust that God will bring to us the right person at the right time. In the last several weeks, however, I have had the opportunity to interview a few promising candidates, and I feel hopeful that we will have someone in place, God willing, by January.

Thank you for your continued prayers for the search process.

Sari+

## My favorite quote of the week

You say the little efforts that I make will do no good; they will never tip the hovering scale where justice hangs in balance. I don't think I ever thought they would. But I am prejudiced beyond debates in favor of my right to choose which side shall feel the stubborn ounces of my weight.

Bonaro W. Overstreet

## 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.

**Adult Forum – November 9  
Family and Conflict Resolution**

Conflict in families is inevitable, but it does not have to be destructive. Unfortunately, many people don't understand how conflict can be useful to a family or organization. Dr. Jim Ostenhaus will talk about and answer questions on the difference between destructive conflict (Red Zone) and constructive conflict (Blue Zone). He will also offer useful strategies for dealing with and resolving conflicts. Jim's areas of expertise include conflict management, leadership, team dynamics, change process, and communication and psychological issues in the workplace. Jim holds a Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology from American University, and degrees in counseling from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and Catholic University. He has written and published a number books and articles. Please join us in the Parish Hall at 10:10 am.

Bob Hampton  
Sunday Forum Committee



**J2A Pilgrimage Fundraiser**

The Christmas season starts up soon, and for all 'planners' the J2A group has a special offer; you can pre-order best-quality Poinsettias and Christmas Wreaths for your home! The 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade classes are raising money for our spiritual pilgrimage. Place your order in the West Ave lobby between the 9 and 11 services and before December 7<sup>th</sup>. You can pick up your poinsettias and Christmas wreaths on the morning of December 13<sup>th</sup>. You will have the festive cheer of a green and red poinsettia in your living room in time for the holiday season.

To download a copy of the order form, go to the St. John's website ([stjohnsnorwood.org](http://stjohnsnorwood.org)) and search "poinsettia".

Please send the form to the Parish Office with your payment.

Theo Gonzales-Tapley

**Children's & Young Adult's Used Books  
Preview Sale  
November 8**

Be among the first to look through and snatch up some great bargains from a large and diverse selection of fabulous books for children and young adults of all ages. Drop by the home of parishioners Debbie Bunker and Marianne Sullivan on Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup> any time between 5pm and 9pm to check out the books and to spend some time catching up with good friends or making new ones. Have a drink and a bite to eat, stay for 5 minutes or for a few hours! Bring the kids and let them select their favorites or come alone and make some surprise purchases. There is definitely something for everyone. So, if you have kids, grandkids, nieces, nephews, young neighbors, a favorite teacher, etc. you will not want to miss this chance to make them smile! Hope to see you on the 8<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions about the event, please contact Debbie Bunker.

**Diocesan Event for  
Young Adults and the Young at Heart  
November 7-8**

Over the last two years, young adults (18-35 +/-) from across the Diocese of Washington have gathered every autumn to build relationships, learn from each other and share their stories with each other. This fall, we will gather for an event we have started calling **Commonplace**.

Why 'Commonplace'? The name is a nod to the intent of "common" as in the Book of Common Prayer. We're hoping that this gathering expresses Christian faith—and our tradition in particular—in the common vernacular. It is also a nod to the "commons" as the place where gifts of an entire community are collectively shared.

This year, Commonplace will start at 7pm on **Friday, November 7**, with a parish/home brew competition and hymn sing led by some incredible choir directors in the Diocese of Washington. The next day, **Saturday, November 8**, will be filled with conversation, worship, food, speakers and workshops. We are grateful to be hosted by [St. Paul's Rock Creek Parish](#) right here in DC. St. Paul's is located at **Rock Creek Church Rd. & Webster St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20011**. There is no charge for this event and no tickets are necessary—it's free to all young adults *and* the young at heart!

Jason Evans  
Youth Missioner for the Diocese of Washington

## 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 celebrate the All Saints’ Sunday baptisms of*

Luke Yang Chipman  
(parents Lydia Liu & Gene Chipman)  
Skyla Grace Hansen  
(parents Melanie & Stan)  
Matthias George Hauswirth  
(parents Christine & Mike)  
Kathleen Olivia Snyder  
(parents Jessica & Lucas)  
Holland Virginia Swain  
(parents Michele & John)  
Maren Judith Tuesca  
(parents Molly & Tony)

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

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

## Flower Guild Workshop Recap

As part of the Flower Guild outreach education, twenty-one people attended a workshop led by David Powers AIFD, CFD of Potomac Floral Wholesale. David, with nearly 40 years of experience in flower design, gave a very engaging and informative talk as he prepared three flower arrangements. Two of these were in the chancel for All Saints’ Sunday and one in the West Ave Lobby. While David was preparing the second arrangement, we broke into two groups, one group learning the basics by making small arrangements.

David explained flower design techniques including tips for buying, conditioning, and arranging flowers.

Looking ahead, the Flower Guild will be recruiting volunteers to help with Christmas flowers. More details to follow.

Lizzie Glidden-Boyle and John Mertens

## Music Notes

On Sunday, November 30 at 5 p.m. St. John's choirs will offer their annual Advent Lessons and Carols service. The service weaves together scripture and song to make a truly magical progression that carries us from prophecy to fulfillment, from Old Testament foretelling to a birthday celebration. Based on King's College, Cambridge, Advent Lessons and Carols, the service has been adapted for use in a parish setting. Each church chooses its own music to follow the readings, but the “main theme is the development of the loving purposes of God . . . [seen] through the window and words of the Bible.”

With music from the Children's Choir, Alleluia Choir, St. John's Choir, and Norwood Ringers, this service is a wonderful place to begin our Advent journey towards the manger and Jesus' birth.

Anne Timpane

### Men’s Chill Grill

**Sunday, November 23**

**5:45 pm**

**Parish Hall**

**Bring a beverage to share!**

**\$5 donation  
to cover the cost of food**

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rather than buying bottled water, walking to the store rather than hopping in the car, or planting gardens to replace parking lots or lawns

I feel blessed to have found kindred spirits at St. John’s who share a sense of wonder and joy in nature and a desire to preserve its fragile beauty. Our Eco-Action Team members are developing plans to green the church and get us out into nature - to experience God’s country first-hand. Join us at our next meeting!

# SAINT JOHN'S AT THE CROSSROADS

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## Calendar

### Sunday November 9, 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  
“Family and Conflict Resolution”  
with Dr. Jim Ostenhaus  
Bible Study – Library
- 11:15 am Holy Eucharist with sermon  
and music led by the St. John's Choir – Nave
- 5:00 pm Come As You Are communion service with  
Baptism – Nave
- 5:30 pm Youth Group – Youth Room

### Monday – Friday November 10-14, 2014

Parish Office open 9 am – 2 pm

### Monday November 10, 2014

7:30 pm Property Committee – Parish Hall

### Tuesday November 11, 2014

- 12 - 1:30 pm Church Staff – Rector's Office
- 7:30 pm Finance Committee - Lounge

### Wednesday November 12, 2014

- 10:30 am Bible Study - Lounge
- 12:00 pm Holy Eucharist and Healing – Chapel
- 6:30 pm EfM – Lounge
- 7:30 pm Norwood Parish Fund Committee – Library
- 7:30 pm Men's Book Club – offsite
- 7:30 pm Sunday Forum Committee – Parish Hall

### Thursday November 13, 2014

- 7:45 – 9:30 am Environmental Group - Lounge
- 6:00 pm Norwood Ringers – Choir Room
- 7:00 pm Stephen Ministers - Library
- 7:30 pm St. John's Choir – Choir Room
- 7:30 pm Stephen Ministers – Lounge

### Saturday, November 15, 2014

- 9 am – 3 pm Used Book Sale – Parish Hall
- 9:00 – 11:30 am Beautification Day

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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 Nov. 16, 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 church staff reserve the right to determine the content of *Crossroads* and edit for grammar or length requirements.

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### Sunday November 16, 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  
“Growing Voices for Peace”  
with Barbara Wien of AU  
Bible Study – Library
- 11:15 am 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

Don't forget to sign up in the West Ave Lobby for the Ladies' Luncheon on Nov 23 at 12:30-2:15.

Join us for fellowship, a tasty meal and some "food for thought" All are welcome!