



ST. JOHN'S NORWOOD
Chevy Chase-Bethesda

SAINT JOHN'S AT THE CROSSROADS

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www.stjohnsnorwood.org



Embraced By My New Congregation By Jacqueline Job

I grew up knowing the Lord Jesus Christ, but I never really had a close relation with Him until I came in the United States from my native Cameroon. It was there 20 years ago that I joined a Pentecostal church because I yearned to feel His presence more intensely than had been my experience in the Baptist church of my upbringing.

I continued to attend a Pentecostal church after coming to the U.S. Before my husband, Henri, and I moved to Chevy Chase, we attended different churches. After our move, we compromised and agreed that we would join a church near our home. So when we saw the sign for St. John's Church during an evening walk, we decided to check it out.

At the first Sunday service we felt so welcomed and loved that we quickly felt a part of St. John's. The very first hymn we sang, "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing," is one of my favorites. I felt as if the Lord was speaking to me through the message that was so well elucidated in the sermon by The Rev. Sari.

The warmth and the dedication of the people at St. John's were astounding and uplifting. Not only did we quickly make new acquaintances but our sons, Yann and Nathan, enjoyed their Sunday school and made new friends.

The multiculturalism and the simplicity of this community are very refreshing. The Sunday school teachers are so loving and caring that my youngest child hates missing his class.

My experience at St. John's has taught me not to pre-judge a community. I love and cherish my new

Rector's Corner

I'd like to use today's corner to introduce to you this coming Sunday's guest preacher, The Rev. Fanny Belanger. Fanny is a native of Grenoble, France. She was raised in the Roman Catholic Church and sensed a strong call to the ministry at a young age. Recognizing that there was no room for a female priest in the Catholic tradition, she chose a different path, studying philosophy with the intention of becoming a teacher. In her early 30s, however, she discovered the Anglican Church, and began attending St. Marc's, a member of The Church of England's Diocese in Europe.

Soon after meeting Bishop Pierre Whalon of the Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe, she found herself returning to school to study theology and in August 2011 moved to the United States with her husband, Xavier, to complete her Masters of Divinity at Virginia Theological Seminary (VTS). In February, 2014, her dream and calling became a reality when Bishop Whalon traveled from France to VTS to ordain Fanny as the first French female priest in the Episcopal Church.

As a preacher, Fanny likes to draw on her background in philosophy and theology as well as her deep love of prayer and spirituality to deliver sermons that are both intellectually stimulating as well as relevant and pastoral. Please join me in welcoming Fanny to St. John's this Sunday.

Sari+

congregation and want to participate in its growth. Where there is love, there will be the Spirit of God and my family is blessed to be part of this wonderful community.

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.

Music Notes

Mark your calendars now for one of St. John's special annual musical offerings—the Advent Lessons and Carols service which will take place this year on Sunday, November 30, at 5 PM. With scripture and music full of expectation, anticipation, preparation and prophecies, this beautiful evening service will be a wonderful place to begin our yearly journey with Christ.

Anne Timpane

Help Build Community Through Flowers at the Crossroads of Faith and Life

The Flower Guild will be decorating our church for Christmas. There are several opportunities to join in the fun. We will begin at 10am and hopefully this will take three hours. If you would like to join us for this activity please let Lizzie Glidden-Boyle know. We need at least eight people to help.

You might enjoy our time together so much that you will want to join the Flower Guild. We hope to see you.

Lizzie Glidden-Boyle and John Mertens

Annual Used Book Sale

Saturday, November 15, 9am – 3pm

Come one, come all...and purchase a book, or two, or three, or more! We have a great selection of gently used books for all ages and all interests at bargain prices. Don't miss this incredible opportunity to stock up on winter reading for the entire family, find that perfect gift **AND** support St. John's at the same time. It's a win/win situation. Hope to see you there.

Adult Forum: November 16

The November 16 Adult Forum will feature Barbara Wien, a faculty member at American University, on the topic "Growing Voices for Peace." A scholar/activist in the field of conflict resolution with extensive international experience, Wien will share insights about the state of the field and about initiatives for peace and reconciliation that mostly do not make the daily media headlines.

J2A Pilgrimage Fundraiser

The J2A group has a special offer; you can pre-order best-quality Poinsettias and Christmas Wreaths for your home! The 10th and 11th grade classes are raising money for our spiritual pilgrimage. Place your order in the West Ave lobby between the 9 and 11:15 am services and before December 7th. You can pick up your poinsettias and Christmas wreaths on the morning of December 13th.

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



The Gift of a Thanksgiving Meal

The approaching cold weather reminds us of the importance of housing, a place to call home. This year, 500 families will be warmed by the housing provided by Transitional Housing Corporation, THC, but the challenges of poverty are still very real in their lives. Birthdays and holidays, including the celebration of Thanksgiving, are often luxuries that the families THC serves might not be able to afford.

THC believes that the families it serves deserve this time to gather and strengthen family bonds over a delicious, home-cooked meal. To help make that happen, THC is working to give 300 of those families \$50 of gift cards to local grocery stores so that they can create their own unique Thanksgiving meals. Cooking is a way of expressing one's self and one's affection for others, so THC wants to give its families the room to get creative and cook the meal they desire.

St. John's parishioners have the opportunity to help THC achieve its grocery card goal. Please see the Outreach bulletin board in the West Avenue lobby for information on the three easy ways you can contribute a card and give a THC family the gift of a home-cooked Thanksgiving meal.

The Outreach Committee



Thanks Suzanne!

A few St John's parishioners have been attending this parish all their lives, and so never have gone through the process of exploring a new church and finding out how you become a member. Most of us, though, came for a visit some Sunday, nervous maybe but also interested in a new or first time church home, or in exploring religion, or in learning what this community is about.

At St. John's there is a committee that helps new people navigate the process of becoming a member. For the last four years that committee, Connections, has benefited from Suzanne Welch's (center, in photo) faithful and successful chairmanship. Her tenure came to an end on Sunday, November 9, 2014, at the luncheon to welcome new members after that day's Liturgies of Welcome. Sari+ and Junior Warden Roxy Wolfe were there to mark the occasion and to recognize and thank Suzanne for her dedicated service.

The work of Connections continues, of course, and the current team will welcome new members. If

Advent Wreath Workshop (November 30)

The Advent Wreath is a simple way to honor Advent. Having a wreath in your home, using the symbolic power of candles to illustrate that Advent is a time of awaiting the Light of the World, is a perfect way for you and your family to carry on this tradition of preparation for the birth of Christ.

The Advent Wreath Workshop is a St. John's tradition, suitable for families and parishioners of all ages, that will be observed again this year in the Parish Hall, on Sunday, November 30, immediately following the combined 10 AM service (there will be no Church School on that Sunday). So that we may order enough materials for the wreath makers, you must reserve your wreath by emailing parishlife@stjohnsnorwood.org.

Payment of \$20/per wreath will be collected at the workshop --please do not pay in advance. If you are unable to join us that day, but would still like to make a kit at home, please note that when making your reservation. Reserved kits can be picked up from the church office on Monday, Dec 1. We will serve a light lunch for wreath makers, and would appreciate a voluntary contribution to cover the costs of lunch. If you have small garden shears, don't forget to bring them! Contact parishlife@stjohnsnorwood.org if you have any questions.



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 with
Doug Canter on his baptism on November 9

In thanksgiving for those who participated in the
Liturgy of Welcome this past Sunday

Vicki Turco
Tim Kennedy
Amy, Dan, Nicholas & Louisa Beaupre

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

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

you are interested please let Sari+ or a member of the Vestry know.

Tom Hebert, SJNP Vestry

SAINT JOHN'S AT THE CROSSROADS

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Calendar

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

Monday – Friday November 17-21, 2014

Parish Office open 9 am – 2 pm

Tuesday November 18, 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 [Vestry Devotions] – Lounge
- 8:00 pm Vestry [open meeting] – Lounge, Parish Hall

Wednesday November 19, 2014

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

Thursday November 20, 2014

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

A Prayer for Remembrance Day (November 11)

Ever-living God, we remember those whom you have gathered from the storm of war into the peace of your presence; may that same peace calm our fears, bring justice to all peoples and establish harmony among the nations, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

from Common Worship
The Church of England

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 Nov. 23, 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 November 23, 2014

Outreach Sunday

Shepherd's Table Food Prep

- 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
Susan Flanders will discuss her book
“Going to Church—It's Not What You
Think”
Bible Study – Library
- 11:15 am Holy Eucharist with sermon
and music led by the St. John's Choir