



ST. JOHN'S NORWOOD
Chevy Chase-Bethesda

SAINT JOHN'S AT THE CROSSROADS

Volume 30 Number 10

November 23, 2014

www.stjohnsnorwood.org



My St. John's

by John Ross, Senior Warden

When I walk into St. John's, I see remarkable, truly wonderful things.

I find a growing, vibrant church, filled with new faces—and familiar ones.

I see love and the Holy Spirit in our midst.

I hear the joyful noise as we teach our children well. See the pride on the faces of high school pilgrims as they prepare to go to the Galapagos.

I witness people caring deeply for one another.

I smell chili as it's cooking for the homeless, and exult as we volunteer and contribute to many worthy causes.

I see us giving of ourselves in small and large ways.

I enjoy beautiful music, organ and bells, voices of young and old raised to celebrate God.

I hear laughter as we gather in fellowship.

I watch as our vestry, committee members, and lay leaders—and all of us—work hard to create community within and outside our walls.

I thrill to our rector—his sermons that teach us about Jesus and inspire us, his kindness that heals us.

I see honesty and authenticity.

I see a place where difficult conversations can occur like nowhere else, on death and conflict, families and life. On the tough business of being human.

I see a place and people who are making a BIG difference in the world around them.

When you think about pledging to St. John's, I urge you to look into your heart and think about these things.

Does what we do feel right to you? Is this what your heart yearns for?

For me the answer is a big YES! Quite simply, the more I give, the more I receive.

If you answer "yes," too, then please consider giving generously in your pledge. Think about raising it five percent this year. Or, if you've not pledged before, think about starting now. Every contribution, no matter how large or small makes a huge difference. Your heart will tell you the truth of this.

We're growing and moving in new directions with a vision plan and all sorts of new ideas. Together we can make an even bigger difference in this world and continue in supporting God's good works. But only if we all pull together and take responsibility for keeping St. John's running smoothly.

What does your St. John's look like?

Please give what you can!

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.

Women's Book Group

At the next meeting of the Women's Book Group we will be discussing "In the Garden of Beasts: Love, Terror and An American Family in Hitler's Berlin" by Erik Larsen. It has been described as "an enthralling work of novelistic history." The book details life in Hitler's Germany in 1933 as experienced by U.S. Ambassador William Dodd and his family, particularly his daughter. This is a thriller, and winner of many prizes in 2011.

The Book Group meeting will be on Monday, December 1, at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Maire Hewitt. Please call Maire ([301-229-2962](tel:301-229-2962)) for directions or any other questions you may have. Our book selections generally are fiction by women authors, but we do also choose non-fiction and the occasional male author, so please join us and bring your own suggestions for future readings.

Following are the next 3 selections for anyone who wants to read ahead:

1/5/15 The Gallery of Vanished Husbands
by Natasha Solomons

2/1/15 Soldier Girls: The Battles of Three Women at
Home and at War by Helen Thorpe

3/2/15 The Golem and The Jinni: A Novel
by Helene Wecker

Mary Chyun

Our J2A class is taking **Christmas wreath and poinsettia** orders in the West Ave lobby until December 7th. Pick up your plants and greens at St. John's on the morning of December 13th! Forms also available online (stjohnsnorwood.org), search "poinsettia".

Outreach Sunday for Seabury Resources for Aging

November 23

Seabury Resources for Aging's mission is to provide personalized, affordable services and housing options to help older adults in the greater Washington, DC area live with independence and dignity.

Seabury's services include:

·Seabury Senior Living Communities at Friendship Terrace, Springvale Terrace and Home First Residences

·Care Management providing counseling and professional guidance to older adults and their families

·Ward 5 and Ward 6 Aging Services plans and delivers direct services to older adults and their caregivers living in these DC wards

·Age-In-Place provides volunteers for free yard work and clean up projects for older adults in Wards 4 & 5.

·Congregational Services provides resources and support for congregations in the Episcopal Diocese of Washington and United Church of Christ Potomac Association

·WEHTS/Seabury Connector provides medical transportation, home delivered meals and discounted taxi cab vouchers for Washington DC adults aged 60 and over.

All loose plate offerings on November 23 will benefit Seabury. Checks should be written to St. John's, with "Outreach – Seabury Resources" written in the memo line.

Langdon Healy

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

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

The Rev. Sam Gouldthorpe+

uncle of Cathy O'Donnell

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

Men's Chill Grill

Sunday, November 23

5:45 pm

Parish Hall

Bring a beverage to share!

\$5 donation

Adult Forum

November 23

Our former Rector, Susan Flanders, will talk about and read from her just-published memoir, [Going to Church: It's Not What You Think!](#) Her book is the story of her life in the church, a good part of it at St. John's, and how her theology, concerns and hopes for the church have evolved. She will bring books to sell - \$20, cash or check - and will be happy to sign your copies.

Meals on Wheels

An Opportunity for Service

St. John's has been involved in running a Monday AM Meals on Wheels route for the Bethesda-Chevy Chase area since the 1980s. We have lost several of our participants and are in need of one or two people to take over one Monday each month- either the 1st or 2nd Monday. We pick meals at the Christian Church, 8814 Kensington Parkway, at 9:15-9:30 AM and deliver in the Bethesda-Chevy Chase area to 5-6 people who live in houses or apartments. It takes about 1- 1 1/2 hours each month. Over the years we have found this to be a rewarding experience.

If interested, please call Nellie Worsley 301-656-3961

Thank you

I offer my most humble gratitude to the St. John's community in the last three weeks since Ken's sudden passing. I have been blessed by food, notes, flowers, service, hugs, and prayers that have been overwhelmingly received. Thank you so much for your love and care. --

Sarah Thomas

Music Notes

The apostle Paul had this advice for all Christians, "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances . . ." Perhaps no one has taken Paul's words more seriously than Martin Rinkart, the Lutheran pastor who wrote the hymn "Now thank we all our God."

Born in Eilenburg, Germany, Martin Rinkart (1586-1649) was poor, but could sing well, and was accepted as a chorister at St. Thomas School in Leipzig, the same church where Johann Sebastian Bach would one day be organist. Later, Rinkart graduated from the University of Leipzig and became a teacher, a cantor and pastor in several churches.

During most of Rinkart's 31-year pastorate in Eilenburg, the city was caught in the midst of a war that had Protestants and Catholics competing for economic and political gains. In 1637, the city was hit by a plague that killed 8,000 people. While other pastors fled or died, Rinkart was left with the task of burying over 4,000 of the dead, as many as fifty a day, including his own wife.

Despite all this suffering around him, Rinkart was still able to write this joyful hymn of thanksgiving.

*Now thank we all our God with heart, and hands, and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done, in whom his world rejoices;
Who from our mother's arms hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.*

*O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us!
With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us in his grace, and guide us then perplexed,
And free us from all ills in this world and the next.*

*All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,
The Son, and him who reigns with them in highest heaven,
Eternal, Triune God, whom earth and heaven adore;
For thus it was, is now, and shall be, evermore.*

"Now thank we all our God" was sung when the Thirty Years' War ended in 1648, and on many occasions of national rejoicing since then. The hymn is often sung at weddings, funerals, and throughout the year in worship, especially in this season of Thanksgiving when people of all faiths gather together to give thanks for all the blessings of this life.

Anne Timpane

SAINT JOHN'S AT THE CROSSROADS

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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.

The next issue of *Crossroads* will be dated Nov. 30, 2014.

Final article drafts must be submitted to the Parish Office by the *Sunday* prior to publication.



AN ADVENT SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS

Sunday, November 30 at 5 P.M.

Calendar

Sunday November 23, 2014

Outreach Sunday for Seabury Resources for Aging 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
Bible Study - Library
- 11:15 am Holy Eucharist with sermon
and music led by the St. John's Choir
- 12:30 pm Ladies' Luncheon - Parish Hall
- 5:00 pm Come As You Are communion service -
Nave
- 5:30 pm Youth Group - Youth Room
- 5:45 pm Men's Chill Grill - Parish Hall

Monday - Wednesday, November 24-26, 2014

Parish Office open 9 am - 2 pm

Tuesday November 25, 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 Communications Committee-Lounge
- 7:30 pm Endowment Meeting-Library

Wednesday November 26, 2014

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

Thanksgiving Day, Thursday November 27, 2014

- 10:00 am Holy Eucharist with music - Nave

Sunday November 30, 2014

- No Church School Today
- 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 Combined service of Holy Eucharist with
sermon and music led by the Alleluia
and St. John's Choirs - Nave
- 11:00 am Advent Wreath-Making and Brunch
- Parish Hall
- 5:00 pm Advent Lessons & Carols service - Nave
followed by Parish Hall reception