



ST. JOHN'S NORWOOD  
Chevy Chase-Bethesda

# SAINT JOHN'S AT THE CROSSROADS

Volume 30 Number 11

November 30, 2014

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



My son discovered money at the age of two, and he went through a period that year where, whether awake or asleep, he wanted to have money in his hands - pennies to be specific. One penny was never enough, he had to have one in each hand to be fully content. One night while tucking him into bed I had an interesting experience (more like a paradox in the life of a priest): we were right in the middle of saying our prayers together, when all of a sudden he got excited about the pennies in his hands and decided instead to yell out the word "money" over and over again at the top of his voice! Here I was trying to give him a good foundation in God, and he's yelling "money!" as loud as he can. What crossed my mind in that moment was the verse in scripture that says "you can't serve both God and money," and I began to think to myself... what have I done?!

Most of us, including myself, when we think of the word "spiritual," tend not to think of money, and most of us find ourselves uncomfortable when the subject of money is brought up in church. But the truth is that when money is used to advance the work of God, to build others up, and to bring hope to a community, it can become one of the most powerful spiritual tools that we have at our disposal.

As we come to the close of our pledge campaign, I want to thank you for pledging a portion of your income to the work of God and to the building up of our church family. Our best years are still ahead of us as a community of faith, and together we form a beacon of light that shines with the warmth of God's love to all. May we continue to experience the joy in generosity, and the immeasurable satisfaction in giving to something we believe in.

Faithfully yours,

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.

**St. John's Holy Land Committee  
on Education and Outreach  
December 7, 12:15-1:15 p.m., Parish Hall**

Following the April 2014 pilgrimage to the Holy Land, interested pilgrims and parishioners agreed on October 5 to establish a working group at St. John's to consider follow-up education and engagement initiatives. We noted the many issues of concern to people of faith and conscience and agreed we should take action. The committee will meet bimonthly (every even month) on the first Sunday of the month from 12:15-1:15 p.m. with rotating chairs of the group. The next meeting will be on December 7 and is open to everyone interested.

We agreed the working group would be principled and conscience-driven in its work but non-partisan and non-political, and that it would focus its efforts in three key areas: 1) education on the Holy Land, including current and historical issues; 2) humanitarian projects (such as our recent support for Al Ahli Episcopal Hospital), keeping in mind the needs identified by the Diocese of Jerusalem; and 3) interfaith activities supporting increased contact and mutual understanding between Israelis and Palestinians and among Christians, Muslims and Jews, especially young people.

The Outreach Committee voted to approve the HLWG a subcommittee of Outreach and allocated \$2500.00 for initial projects.

Anne Derse

**Flower Guild ends suspense!**

**Dates to join in the fun of decorating for Christmas!**

On Wednesday December 17, we will be hanging wreaths. We will start at 10:00AM and should be done in time for the noon service.

On Tuesday December 23rd, we will be decorating the church, by stringing lights on window trees, garlands in the chancel and back of the church, and a large wreath on the back balcony. We will start at 10:00 AM and should be done in less than 2 hours.

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

Lizzie Glidden-Boyle and John Mertens

**The Gift Tree is Here!**

It's time for the annual Christmas Drive for the Samaritan Ministry Christmas Party! The Gift Tree with wish list is located in the West Avenue Lobby. Please provide the donations of unwrapped clothes and toys in the donation box in the West Avenue lobby by Friday, December 5th at 10 am. Any questions, please contact Cecelia Smith at [mariacsmith@verizon.net](mailto:mariacsmith@verizon.net) or Liz Everhart at [lizeverhart9@gmail.com](mailto:lizeverhart9@gmail.com)



**J2A Pilgrimage Fundraiser**

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 11:15 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](http://stjohnsnorwood.org)) and search "poinsettia".

**Ladies' Lunch**

The Ladies Lunch drew a huge crowd of St John's women. Good food, conversation and laughter abounded.

Thanks to all who helped and attended. Many commented they left nourished, happy and thankful! Thanks be to God!

If you forgot to pay please send it to the office or Margaret Uhar.

### Passages

*"If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it."*

1 Cor. 12:26

*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.

### Men's Retreat!

#### Save the Date!

The second annual St. John's Men's retreat will be this February 6-8. We will go to Berkeley Springs, WV. This is an opportunity to go away for a couple of days with other men from the parish and have a chance to reflect on your life, get to know other men in the parish better and deepen your journey to and with God.

The focus of the retreat is **Men and Their Work**. Led by Joe Clark, a retired Episcopal clergyman who with his wife, Meredith, is a member of St. John's, the retreat will have a mixture of discussion, study, relaxation, good food and company....what's not to like!

Sign up either by calling the office or on the bulletin board in the West Avenue lobby.

Questions, call Joe Clark @ [301-802-2976](tel:301-802-2976).



St. John's follows the Washington DC Public Schools for weather cancellations. When the WashingtonDC public schools are delayed or cancelled due to weather, all weekday activities and

services at St. John's are cancelled. Ministry heads will contact members concerning evening meetings and classes.



### Music Notes

Waiting can be hard – especially when we're waiting for something we look forward to so much, like Christmas. Everywhere you look, stores are decorated, lights are up, and Christmas music is playing. Although it sometimes feels like the Church is trying to put a damper on our holiday fun by withholding some of the best-loved carols until it's officially Christmas, we are actually "faithfully waiting" as we live and enjoy this season of anticipation.

On Sunday, November 30 at 5 pm, our choirs and handbell ringers will be offering their service of Advent Lessons and Carols. With scripture and music full of expectation, anticipation, preparation and prophecies, this beautiful evening service will be a wonderful place to being our yearly journey with Christ.

Anne Timpane

### An Introduction to Spiritual Discernment Adult Forum December 7

Listening Hearts Ministries began over twenty-five years ago as a grassroots effort to help people recognize and respond to God's call, to seek and discover God's path in their lives. The effort resulted in the writing of *Listening Hearts: Discerning Call in Community*, a book now recognized as a classic in the field. The ministry has provided spiritual discernment programs, workshops and retreats for congregations, vestries, and clergy across the country. Joe Gill, co-author of *Listening Hearts*, recently led "A Day of Discernment" for a parish in Pawleys Island, South Carolina. Joe, who is also the Maryland Secretary of Natural Resources, will provide an introduction to spiritual discernment. For more information about Listening Hearts Ministries, go to [www.listenhearts.org](http://www.listenhearts.org).

Anne Wake

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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 Dec. 7, 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 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 Choir  
and St. John's Choir – Nave
- 11:00 am Advent Wreath-Making and Brunch  
- Parish Hall
- 5:00 pm Advent Lessons & Carols service – Nave  
followed by Parish Hall reception
- 5:30 pm Youth Group – Youth Room

#### Monday – Friday December 1-5, 2014

Parish Office open 9 am – 2 pm

#### Monday December 1, 2014

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

#### Tuesday December 2, 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 December 3, 2014

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

#### Thursday December 4, 2014

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

#### Sunday December 7, 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  
"Listening Hearts" with Joe Gill  
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