



ST. JOHN'S NORWOOD  
Chevy Chase-Bethesda

# SAINT JOHN'S AT THE CROSSROADS

Volume 30 Number 18  
February 1, 2015  
[www.stjohnsnorwood.org](http://www.stjohnsnorwood.org)

## J2A Pilgrimage 2015

When school lets out in June, nineteen of our many St. John's teenagers – those who have finished 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grades and have been in our two-year preparation class – are going to the Galapagos Islands, by way of Quito, Ecuador. Their two teachers, Rick Bradley and Stefanie Rardin, and I will accompany them. We'll be in the Galapagos from Sunday evening through Thursday morning, with Saturday and Friday being our out and in transit days. We'll stay on the island we arrive on, with a day trip to a second island.

I hope that I can answer questions you may have about this great adventure!

*How and why did we choose this destination?* For this group's trip, the young people looked only in this hemisphere, with the idea of avoiding the plane fares to Europe – the direction of the previous four biannual J2A pilgrimages. We found we could go to the Galapagos Islands, even though getting there does require a second plane fare, by cutting the price in these ways: we're not taking a cruise; we're staying a short time; our vendor, Wonder Voyage, specializes in spiritual, teen pilgrimages, and they cut costs on food and lodging. Many people think of the Galapagos as only luxury travel. It will definitely be a luxury to see this unique site on the equator, with its fearless endemic animals, but our expenses are in line with our previous pilgrimages.

*Who pays for this trip?* We pay for it in three ways. The families pay, if they can, about \$800. St. John's, as part of a continuing commitment to the entire Journey to Adulthood teen program, pays a bit under \$400 per teen this year: the church sets aside the same amount each year, so their per-person commitment varies with the size of the pilgrimage class. The remainder we raise via an auction, which alternates years with the Outreach auction. The parents of the teens organize the auction – on **Saturday night, March 7, 2015** – that's fun for the community, as many of us become both donors and

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## Rector's Corner

Dear friends,

I want to use today's corner to remind those who still receive the paper version of the Crossroads newsletter that this current issue will be the last of its kind. Next week we will be launching a new and improved electronic version - with many wonderful features designed for your ease of reading and staying connected to the life of our church community - and will be discontinuing the printed one. I know that those of us who appreciate the feel of a paper in our hands while enjoying a cup of coffee might experience this as a loss. I encourage us, however, to view this shift as the right economic and environmental choice as we continue to explore ways of being faithful stewards of our resources.

If you are curious to learn more about the exciting benefits and features of the new e-version, please refer to the lead article in the newsletter issue from two weeks ago. In the meantime, if you do not already receive any email correspondence from the church, the chances are we do not have an email for you. If that is the case, please contact the church office at [office@stjohnsnorwood.org](mailto:office@stjohnsnorwood.org) or you may send us your email address by going to the following link: <http://stjohnsnorwood.org/crossroads/>

Finally, if you do not have access to email, DON'T WORRY! We have not forgotten about you. The church office is prepared to mail out a limited number of print-outs of the e-version for those who may require it. Please contact the church office if that is you.

My favorite quote of the week:

No matter what field your work lies in  
If you do something real  
Something genuine in that field,  
It will live on after you  
And that part of you will be eternal.

-Ken Walsh

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.

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buyers collecting these services and experiences is another wonderful kind of St. John's bonding. Each of the teens donates services, and they'll all be helping out on that evening – and in addition, you'll get to know them during the four services on **Youth Sunday, February 22.**

*Why don't St. John's teens spend a week in tents in a nearby state?* We do know the value of that kind of week, giving service to others, and we are on our third decade of camping out during a week in July at Camp Joy in West Virginia, on a Youth Group-sponsored "mission trip", where our teens, anyone from 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades, help repair homes of people who need our skills and good will. Camp Joy, and Youth Group, have been life-affirming experiences for generations of teens at St. John's, including for Rick Bradley and Cynthia Grimes, our current leaders. Youth Group meets from 5:30 through 7:30 every Sunday evening, while the Journey to Adulthood program takes place during the Sunday church school hour, 10-11 am. The Rite 13 ceremony kicks off the J2A program, and our goodbye to the graduating seniors, at the Youth Appreciation third Sunday supper, is the conclusion of it. Throughout, we use a specialized curriculum. During the lead-up to the pilgrimage, which comes at the four-year mark in the program, the teens look at their environment through the lens of Self, Society, Spirituality, and Sexuality. Throughout, they maintain their focus on the goals of our church school: building connections and strengthening their characters.

*Why should St. John's have two programs, both serving teens?* We think this is the secret of our success. We maintain connections to our teens. Some amazing adults volunteer to teach them every Sunday. We pull teens from a dozen high schools because we have an attractive program for them. And just as choir and acolyting and Youth Group add spiritual value to teens' lives, so does this vibrant church school program, the Journey to Adulthood. The spiritual pilgrimage is embedded in it, and so is our continuation of church school through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. We manage to hold on to teens' attention as they are fifteen, sixteen, and seventeen years old. Those are crucially important years, as we all remember. Having our teens with us on Sunday has a big impact on our community.

*What makes a program attractive to teens?* I always hear *how busy they are.* Here are four attributes of our St. John's program: 1) adults who are interested in teens and committed to guiding them; 2) good habits of welcoming newcomers and drawing in people on the periphery, teaching these practices to one another, and developing social skills, which we see as a spiritual practice; 3) accepting people's

## Forum and Meeting of the Holy Land Committee

### February 1: Exploring Interfaith Engagement

At the February 1 forum, the Reverend Terri Murphy, Deacon at Ascension Episcopal in Silver Spring, will speak about the important work being done by the Episcopal Church in Montgomery County (MC) on interfaith engagement.

Reverend Murphy is involved with Youth Ministry projects with the Muslim and Jewish communities in MC and is a founding member of the MC Faith Community Working Group (FCWG). She is a member of the FCWG's Interfaith Clergy Response Team, which works with police, schools and other officials to respond to and address hate crimes that target religious groups in MC. She has participated in State Department programs for international visitors studying the U.S. experience of peaceful co-existence among different faith traditions.

Reverend Murphy will worship with us at 11:15 and then attend a special two hour session of the Holy Land Committee on Education and Outreach to be held from 12:30-2:30 in the Parish Hall. She will be joined there by Beth El Synagogue Rabbi Greg Harris and World Organization for Resource Development and Development President Dr. Hedieh Mirahmadi for an in-depth discussion on the opportunities for and the value of interfaith engagement. All three distinguished speakers have a deep commitment to and experience with interfaith work. Their presentation will contribute to St. John's consideration of interfaith activities.

Anne Derse

levels of belief and unbelief, as we try to practice, not preach; 4) sidestepping the didactic model, we investigate the week that has passed, in the news and at school; we share food and have fun. Nearly fifty teens come almost every Sunday, and about seventy teens come sometimes. These are unusual numbers, to be proud of as a parish. Our pilgrimage is far from the only reason we draw in teens, who commit their time and attention to the church, but yet it is a very special experience. I'd like to talk more about what that experience is, next week, in our first all-electronic Crossroads.

Nancy Derr, church school director

## Passages

*"If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it."  
1 Cor. 12:26*

Join us this week

Friday, January 30 at 11 am in the Nave  
as we celebrate the life of Steve Carey

Saturday, January 31 at 2 pm in the Nave  
as we celebrate the life of Marty Walker

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

## Women's Book Group February 2

The group will meet at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Chris Kenety. Please call Chris ([301-652-1637](tel:301-652-1637)) for directions or any other questions you may have. We will be discussing *Soldier Girls: The Battles of Three Women at Home and at War* by Helen Thorpe.

## Discovering God's Vision for Your Life You & Your Spiritual Gifts A Class for Lent

Called to be a minister? Who me? Yes, you...and here's your job description: "The ministers of the Church are lay persons, bishops, priests, and deacons...the ministry of lay persons is to represent Christ and his Church; to bear witness to him wherever they may be; and, according to the gifts given to them, to carry on Christ's work of reconciliation in the world; and to take their place in the life, worship, and governance of the Church." (Book of Common Prayer, p.855).

So how can you discover your calling, according to the gifts given to you? How can you discover a match between your gifts and the ministries of the church? Are you a good fit for Church School teacher, Vestry Member, Altar Guild, Samaritan ministry, Connections or Parish Life, to name a few? How can you live so that you carry on Christ's work of reconciliation in the world?

Join us Sundays, February 22 thru March 22, 12:30—3:30 pm in the Parish Hall for a serious (but never solemn) exploratory journey to discover your unique God-given gifts. Cost for all materials is \$40. Make checks payable to St. John's with "Spiritual Gifts" in the memo. Fill out a registration form (available in the church bulletin or on the Library bulletin board) and return both to the church office by February 8. For more info contact leaders Penny Winder, John Mertens, or Toni Hartman.

## Broadway & Chocolate February 15

What do Little Orphan Annie, Peter Pan, and two witches who loathe each other have in common? They'll all be characters represented by some of our talented soloists at this year's Broadway & Chocolate program on Sunday, February 15. This popular parish event features Broadway favorites from *Godspell*, the *Sound of Music*, and *Oklahoma*, sung (and rung) by our choirs and a star-studded line up of vocal and instrumental soloists. The show begins in the church at 7 p.m. and then moves to the Parish Hall for a celebratory reception following the performance. It's always a wonderful evening, and is still the biggest bargain in town at \$5 per person/\$15 per family. Hope to see you there!

Anne Timpane

## Felix Hora presents "Picturing Mary" Guided Tour February 28

Join parishioner Dr Joanne Allen (Lecturer in Art History at American University) for a tour of the exhibition "Picturing Mary" at the **National Museum of Women in the Arts** (1250 New York Ave NW; two blocks north of Metro Center). The exhibition features artworks depicting the Virgin Mary by Caravaggio, Botticelli, Dürer, Carpaccio and Rembrandt amongst others, many of which have been loaned from private European collections.

The tour will be on **Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup> at 11.30 am** (meeting in the entrance hall at 11.15am). Since tours are restricted to 20 people, **please email Joanne** if you are planning on attending ([joanne@postman.org.uk](mailto:joanne@postman.org.uk)). Please also bring cash so we can pay the entrance fees together (Adults \$10; Seniors (aged 60 and over) \$8; College students \$8; NMWA members Free; Students (grades K-12 - Free).

## Wednesday Morning Prayer in Lent

Wednesday Lenten Services at 7 am in St. Mary's Chapel: In addition to the Ash Wednesday Imposition of Ashes and Celebration of the Holy Eucharist at 7 am, February 18 in St. Mary's Chapel, a 7AM Morning Prayer service, led by the laity, will be held each Wednesday during Lent, beginning on February 25. The 7 am Wednesday Morning Prayer services will continue each Wednesday in St. Mary's Chapel through the Wednesday of Easter Week. Everyone is welcome.

Becky Neal and John Symons

# SAINT JOHN'S AT THE CROSSROADS

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## Calendar

### Sunday February 1, 2015

- 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 – Nave
- 5:00 pm Come As You Are communion service–  
Nave
- 5:30 pm Youth Group – Youth Room

### Monday – Friday February 2-6, 2015

Parish Office open 9 am – 4 pm

### Monday February 2, 2015

- 7:30 pm Women's Book Group [offsite]

### Tuesday February 3, 2015

- 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 February 4, 2015

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

### Thursday February 5, 2015

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

### Friday February 6, 2015

Men's Retreat through Sunday, February 8 [offsite]

### Sunday February 8, 2015

- 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 – Nave
- 5:00 pm Come As You Are communion service–  
Nave
- 5:30 pm Youth Group – Youth Room
- 6:00 pm Adoption Ministry - Lounge

### Last chance to RSVP for St. John's Wine Party to Benefit J2A Pilgrimage: January 31

Have some fun and do some good at a party to support the effort to send our "Journey to Adulthood" (J2A) teens on their pilgrimage this summer. All interested St. John's adults are invited to the Schugars' home (10004 Connecticut Avenue, Kensington) on Saturday, January 31 from 5:00 to 7:00 pm for appetizers and wine sampling. The goal of our share-a-bottle, donate-a-bottle format is to create a fabulous collection of wines to be auctioned at our big fundraiser in early March. Bring a bottle to share on the 31st and either bring, or pay for, another from the list in last week's Crossroads. Or Email your RSVP and any questions you might have to Carolyn at [frank.schugar@comcast.net](mailto:frank.schugar@comcast.net).

### Weather Policy

St. John's follows the Washington DC school schedule for weekday closures. If Washington DC schools are closed, weekday/daytime events are cancelled. Ministry heads will contact their members regarding evening activities.

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.

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 reserves the right to determine the content of *Crossroads* and edit for grammar or length requirements.