



ST. JOHN'S

E P I S C O P A L C H U R C H

September - October 2022

THE GOOD NEWS

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

SUNDAY

9:00 a.m. - Adult Christian Education
(In-person and Zoom). Resumes
September 11.

9:00 a.m. - Youth Christian Education
Parish Hall (In-person only). Resumes
September 11.

10:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist, Rite II
(In-person and Livestream)

Visit StJohnsMLB.org and click on
Calendar for the links

TUESDAY

6:30 p.m. - Boy Scouts

WEDNESDAY

7:00 p.m. - Choir Practice in Sanctuary

7:00 p.m. - Bible Study led by Father Eric
(online).

FRIDAY

8:00 a.m. - TGIF (Men's Breakfast and
Bible study), La Loma Coney Island,
1180 Aurora Road, Melbourne.

A WORD FROM THE RECTOR

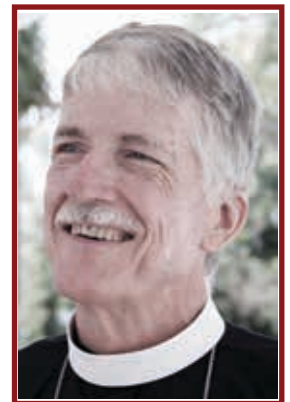
Dear Friends,

I am torn.

As we are in another election cycle, I am tempted to again write essentially the same letter I have written many times before. Eschewing partisan politics, I would encourage everyone to do two broad things: 1) As Christians, remember that our ultimate hope is in Jesus, not in the structures and politics of this world. 2) As responsible citizens, do your research, don't get sucked in to the sound bites and divisive rhetoric, and cast your votes for candidates that you believe will make this a better place for all. I don't really think you need me to say that again.

I continue to believe that as your pastor, I should avoid partisan politics. Yet I do believe that the issues besetting us are very important. Healthcare, immigration policy, abortion, pandemic responses, etc. are questions where lives literally hang in the balance. Yet these issues and many more have taken on such partisan overtones that it is impossible to express a clear opinion without being heard as partisan. If I speak pro-life, then I must be a woman hating Republican (and all the baggage that comes with it today). If I speak for compassionate immigration policies, then I must be one of those open-border, everybody-come-on-in Democrats (and all the baggage that comes with it).

So, I am torn. There are truly important matters hanging in the balance. The rhetoric has, again, gotten even worse and more divisive, and this isn't even a presidential cycle (though I certainly understand that those



Continued on Page 2...

overtone are behind much of what we see and hear). I want to speak clearly and forthrightly on matters that I care deeply about. Yet, I am more committed to speaking Jesus and our faith, and I will not let that be clouded by partisanship.

As I have been thinking about this, I have also been preparing for Sunday, August 21 when the Gospel is Jesus' healing a woman on the Sabbath, then being sharply criticized by the Pharisees for violating the Sabbath. Jesus responded, essentially, that there could hardly be a more appropriate way to keep the Sabbath than by setting this woman free from her bondage. (Luke 13:10-17)

The point is that so often the Pharisees focused on peripheral things, man-made legalisms in this case, and fail to see opportunities to carry on the mission and work of God in Christ. This helps me remember that the mission of the church is not to maintain the church. Continuing the work of Jesus is the mission of the church.

This is not a simplistic "Just trust in Jesus and everything will be OK." It is a resounding reminder that all we actually have to offer the world is Jesus and his work. The way to address the divisions and vitriol that beset us is not to be one more opinion in the cacophony. The world does not need one more opinion.

The world needs a different kind of community. A community that loves and cares for others, even sacrificially. That seeks to heal individuals of the things that oppress them not thru political action but thru meeting the needs of the human heart with the love of Jesus.

As I write this, we are in the midst of our first Family Promise hosting week since the pandemic began. Earlier this month, we re-launched our work with Daily Bread. Supported by St. John's, Solar Light for Africa, was able to serve some of the poorest of the poor, bringing light in the name of the Light of the World. I could go on.

We do these things not because we're nice people (though I'm thankful that we are!), but because Jesus loved us first and calls us to love others in turn. To love them not just with "thoughts and prayers" but with concrete action that touches lives, opening possibilities for healing and faith.

So, in the end, I'm not really torn. The vision is quite clear. Let us continue to be this kind of church – a mission church – and strive to be even more so, not as an avoidance of our societal challenges but as an offering of the only real medicine we have.

In Christ,

Fr. Eric Turner
Rector



“Good News” November - December 2022 Schedule & Deadline

The deadline for the next issue of “The Good News” (November - December 2022) will be Tuesday, **October 11**. Please email (preferred) your submissions to office@stjohnsmlb.org or get them to the church office by October 11, 2022.



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Bishop Gregory O. Brewer

Rector - Fr. Eric Turner
Eric@stjohnsmlb.org • Cell: 321.615.0205

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A WORSHIPPING COMMUNITY

Worship Volunteers are needed for a variety of rolls.

We will train you! All that is needed is a willing heart!

LEM'S and Lay Readers: We need a few more folks to take part in the service by serving at the altar, reading lessons and assisting with Communion.

A/V & Livestream: We need a couple more people who will learn to run our sound and livestream systems. Only moderate comfort with a computer is required - we will train.

Ushers and Greeters: To welcome the Sunday worshippers.

Please contact Linda Fletcher at lcalvert1956@yahoo.com or the church office at office@stjohnsmlb.org for more information.

Choir at St. John's



Choir rehearsals will begin again on Wednesday, September 7. NOW is the time to consider joining our choir. If you read music, we'd love to have you; there are no auditions - all that is required is a love of singing and a willingness to be faithful. Let Jerry (or, if you prefer, Dr. D.) know that you'd like to be a part of this important ministry. We think you'll be glad you did. Email him at jfd112@gmail.com.

GROWING SERVANTS OF CHRIST

Daughters of the King



The Daughters of the King have a prayer box next to the candles in the sanctuary for individuals' confidential prayer requests. A Daughter monitors the box weekly so requests can be prayed for immediately.

Each Sunday, a Daughter will process the prayer box to the altar for these requests to be offered up to our Lord and blessed by the priest. These requests remain confidential within our group as we pray over them daily. If you want Fr. Eric to be aware of the request, please inform him separately; the Daughters will not pass along any requests. We take our confidentiality seriously and are honored that we are entrusted with these petitions.

Prayer is available at the altar after each Sunday service, and Daughters, as well as others, are involved as "intercessors." If you need prayer, we encourage you to come to the altar. It is a privilege and honor for us to pray for you. Thank you for entrusting us with your heart-felt petitions. How may we pray for you?



Growing Servants!

One of the important goals for the vestry has been to create pathways to service and leadership in the life of St. John's. We don't want people to miss out on the life-changing ministry of service, whether that is pulling weeds, serving at the altar in worship, scooping beans at Daily Bread, or in one of many leadership roles in the life of the church.

We find that people sometimes don't know what they might be able to do, are not confident they would be well received, or just want to learn a little more before jumping in. We are launching a monthly program that will last for about an hour, on zoom, comprising a brief Bible study on some aspect of service or leadership, and a general discussion about some area of the life of the church.

We will gather online from 7 - 8 p.m., on the first Thursday of each month, beginning October 6. Go to StJohnsMLB.org and click on the calendar for the Zoom link.



Second Sundays Concert Series



St. John's is excited to launch the new concert series on October 9, with an Evensong service under the direction of Dr. Jerry Davidson. Choir members from St. John's and other area churches will participate. Rehearsal will begin at 4:40 p.m., a light dinner will be served for musician and everyone 6 p.m. and Evensong will begin at 7 p.m.

Future concerts in the series will feature one additional Evensong service, and several concerts in the park featuring area ensembles and musicians. All events will include a meal. The stage band from Eau Gallie High School will play November 13.

Katie Wilson and Skip Alcorn will co-chair the project and Charlene Turner will be in charge of the food. If you would like to help with this, please contact Fr. Eric at eric@stjohnsmlb.org; Katie, Skip, or email office@stjohnsmlb.org.

KEEPING UP WITH ST. JOHN'S ONLINE



St. John's Chat is an email "list" that allows you to keep up with the latest news at St. John's, prayer list updates, etc. You can also share things with others at St. John's. To subscribe, please just send your email address to Fr. Eric at eric@stjohnsmlb.org.

If you are on **Facebook**, you can also search "St. John's Episcopal Church" and like the page. Then you will get updates in your newsfeed, which you can respond to, or share with your friends.

St. John's **Weekly eNews** is a weekly (clever, huh?) email newsletter giving information on upcoming activities, what will be happening on Sunday, and other things. It generally includes a reflection from Fr. Eric on the lessons for the coming Sunday along with links and other information. This comes out every Thursday afternoon at 4 p.m. To subscribe, please send your email address to Fr. Eric at eric@stjohnsmlb.org.

St. John's now has a **YouTube Channel** which is where we post worship live streams and sermons. Visit [YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com) and search for St. John's Episcopal Church, Melbourne Florida, then follow us! You can also find links to all past and upcoming worship services by visiting stjohnsmlb.org and clicking on Worship Live Stream.

And, of course, there is **St. John's Website** at stjohnsmlb.org. You will find a variety of information there including schedules, the church calendar, archives of the "Good News", Sunday Ministry schedules, the latest eNews and much more. Poke around!



Thank You!

Reception for Jr. Warden

Many thanks to Laure Bennett, Peg McRee, Charlene Turner and all the others who helped with the reception for me. The reception was beautiful and so special; it really touched me to be honored by all of you! The past 9.5 years has been a privilege to serve as Jr. Warden. at St. John's and it has been a blessing to me. *God Bless, Kathy Oas*

Thank You!

Breezeway and Memorial Garden



"If you peek into the entranceway of the Memorial Garden you will find some new additions. Debbie Ball has graciously donated 3 different types of bromeliads from her property and Amy Lacy planted them."

– Amy Lacy

We would like to offer our thanks to Amy who volunteered to clear away the weeds and maintain the Memorial Garden and the walkway leading to it, and has spent many hours and a lot of hard work doing just that. As she has requested above, take a few moments after service to view the new plants that Debbie donated.

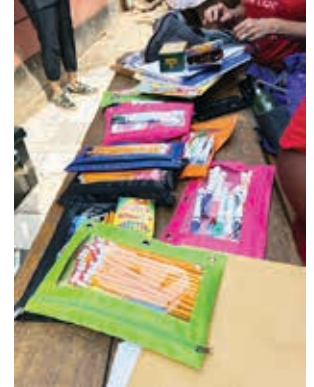
SHARING HIS LOVE

Thank You!

Thank you all so much for shopping on our Amazon wish list for Uganda! Thanks to the donations of so many friends we were able to bless children at all five of the schools where we installed solar. For many of these kids it was their first experience with crayons and markers. They loved the parachutes and soccer and beach balls. All the gifts were received with great joy! Thanks again!! – Charlene Turner



Children enjoying a parachute game



Supplies ready to go!

Thank You!

Thank you all so much to our St John's family and the family of Gloria Kenworthy! In the month of March SLA was the beneficiary of the outreach money from St. John's, and also the family of Gloria Kenworthy asked for any donations in her memory be given to Solar Light for Africa. We were able to choose a school in the slums of Kampala to install light, with these donations. It was one of the most memorable sites we did this year. The school is available for students who cannot afford to pay for regular education. Even though school is free, there are still charges for uniforms, supplies, food etc. and these children come from families who have nothing to invest in their education. The school is named People Concern Children's Project and is located in a very small building tucked back in the corner of an alley, in an area called Kabalagala, which is on the outskirts of Kampala. (If you want to get a feel for life in the slums of Kampala, watch the movie "Queen of Katwe" from Disney.)



The Dedication of the system



Working in a tight alley
Yes, Fr. Eric on a ladder!

The headmaster shared with us that most of these children come from families where there is no father and most of their mothers are prostitutes. Because of this situation, the children do not want to be home in the evening when their mothers are "working," so they come to the school – the only safe place they know. Before our arrival they would be at the school at night in the dark, and there's not much you can accomplish in that situation. While there is grid power available in the area, the school is nowhere near being able to pay for it. We were able to install bright light in all the rooms, and better security lights in the alley leading to the school.



Older students in class

We have worked in very poor schools in Uganda, but nothing quite compared to what we found at this school. Yet, we found the children to be incredibly happy, and grateful for even just our visit. The teachers at the school get no salary, yet they feel in their hearts the need to educate these children, in this difficult situation. We were able to leave a lot of our school supplies which brought both the teachers and the students great joy.

Thank you again for your support of our work and Uganda, it truly does make an incredible difference!

– Charlene Turner

Family Promise has Resumed!



I am delighted to report that we resumed our Family Promise (FP) hosting the week August 14th after a two-year hiatus due to the COVID pandemic. We welcomed two families and because of the superb support of the St. John's congregation we were well prepared. The families included a grandmother caring for her two teenage granddaughters, and couple with a three-year old son. Our Set Up/Tear Down team with Linda Fletcher as Captain, set up cots in the nursery and parish hall for sleeping, and our volunteer chefs (at least one each night), under the leadership of Gail Dunbar, Sarah Kendall, and Ben Kendall, prepared a hot meal each evening. We had 14 overnight hosts (two each night) who slept in the church to handle any emergencies. The families left us each weekday morning to go to the Family Promise of Brevard (FPOB) Resource Center in Rockledge to seek housing (and employment if needed). They returned to us for a hot dinner each evening and overnight stay.

Saturdays are considered free time and may be spent at St. John's or they may visit family or friends locally, take in a movie, or go to the zoo, both outings complements of FPOB. On Saturdays St. John's must have two volunteers on site all day to be sure there is support for any emergencies. Sunday is a transition day for the families as they move to another host church. The Family Promise program is nationwide. FPOB is one of over 200 affiliates and has a record of being one of the best. The families we are hosting have passed a very stringent screening process. In general, they have made some bad choices or simply had some bad luck. The overall success rate, defined as finding housing and stabilization after entry, is about 87%. The average time to "graduate" is about 37 days. Really incredible and we are very privileged to be a part of it. We have over 40 volunteers at St. John's who sustain our participation. Many do two or more tasks, one person in particular works the dinner program, stays overnight, helps with the set up and tear down, sets up a relaxation area in the parish hall including videos, and works full time to boot. Another volunteer stays overnight multiple times, and is captain of the Set up/Tear down team. As you can readily see, we can use more volunteers. Physical abilities or special skills are not required. There is something for everyone. One area we need a lot of support is visiting and dining with the families at dinner. That's all! It's fun, the meal is always superb, and it's FREE. Join our team and support these families who deserve our support. Our next hosting is December 11 - 18. I know we are approaching Christmas, but wouldn't it be crazy if every St. John's member was involved?

To make it happen, please contact me.

Lee Steininger
leestein645@aol or 321-243-4597

SHARING HIS LOVE

Outreach Focus

September



The Children's Hunger Project: is the Outreach Focus for the month of September. **Feeding Brevard's Most Vulnerable Children** – TCHP does not depend on parental involvement, instead looking to Brevard County teachers who know which children lack weekend nutrition. You can help ensure that children have meals on weekends. During the school year the project serves over 2,000 meal packages every week to over 45 elementary schools and to maintain the current service costs about \$40,000 per month. The pre-packaged meals are distributed directly into qualifying elementary aged student's backpacks on Friday afternoons and require no cooking. St. John's will host a speaker from TCHP at the Sept. 4 service. For more information visit TheChildrensHungerProject.org. All offerings in the blue or lavender pew envelopes, or specifically marked "outreach" in the month of September will go to The Children's Hunger Project.



Daily Bread



St John's is now serving at Daily Bread the first Thursday of the month. The upcoming duty days are September 1, and October 6, 10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. If you are interested in serving

on this worthwhile team, contact Jackie Bond at jbfromgb58@gmail.com.

October



ST. JOHN'S OUTREACH FOCUS this month has been designated to go to **New Life Mission**. New Life Village, their newest expansion, is located on 25 acres in Melbourne, is a gated and secure property that New Life Mission purchased in 2021. This offers the opportunity to provide stable housing for more families, an education center, family counseling, kids club, financial coaching, life skills facilities, vegetable garden, Bible study classrooms, gated security for residents and children, and land to add multipurpose space for classes, chapel, and dorms. Most importantly, this Village will be ONE physical location; providing all these services plus the spiritual and emotional village to carry families from homelessness to self-sufficiency. With God's provision, it will serve 100 families, and with your help, New Life Mission is poised and ready to serve the community for decades to come. The other campuses can then be used for affordable housing for New Life Mission graduates. For more information on this organization please visit NewLifeMission.org. All offerings in the blue or lavender pew envelopes, or specifically marked "outreach" in the month of October will go to The New Life Mission.



Outreach Team



Upcoming Outreach team meetings are September 6, and October 4. Help us help others. For more information contact Linda Fletcher at lcalvert1956@yahoo.com or Fr. Eric at eric@stjohnsmlb.org, or call the church office at 321-254-3365. To join the meeting on September 6, simply click on the Zoom link found in the church calendar on the St. John's web page.

From the Treasurer

St John's Endowment Fund

Did you know that St. John's has established an Endowment Fund? An initial deposit of \$10,000 was made to open the account with the Episcopal Church Foundation and we are open to receiving any gifts from large estate gifts to small cash donations. The money will be invested to provide a reliable source of support for community Outreach and other projects (except not for general operating expenses) for generations to come. If you think you may be interested in participating in this endowment endeavor, you may contact a member of The Endowment Committee: Shannon Brooks-Hamilton, Jack Kenworthy, or Julie Miller. Alternatively, contact Steve Bradley, St. John's Treasurer.

Financial Status

Pledge income has been right in target for 2022 (Thank You!), although there has been a shortfall of a little over \$2,000 in other income streams (mostly in anticipated giving from those who give but do not submit a pledge card). In addition, some expenses have been significantly over budget this year, both in facilities and in operations. While we anticipated a deficit of about \$6,000 at the end of July due to the normal ebb and flow of income and expenses, the actual deficit is \$13,271, about \$7,000 higher than anticipated. We are able to cover the expenses (due to built up reserves), but this is rather alarming. If you are able to help out at this time, it would be much appreciated! Thank you!



Vestry Notes

Vestry Meeting Notes: Thursday, June 16, 2022 and Thursday, August 18, 2022

The Vestry met on June 16, 2022 in person and virtually via Zoom. As planned at the beginning of the year, the Vestry accepted the resignation of Kathy Oas from the role of Junior Warden effective July 01, 2022 with appreciation for her 9 years of service. Deborah Miller-Caldwell was elected to the Junior Warden role. The Vestry also accepted the resignation of Lee Steinger as a Vestry member and took nominations to fill the vacancy. Kathy Oas offered to serve on the Vestry for the remaining months of the 2022 year. There being no other nominations and the Vestry elected Kathy Oas. At the Annual Parish Meeting in January 2023 someone will be elected to fill the remaining two years of Lee's term.

Funds to replace Fr. Eric's broken laptop computer were approved. The Vestry heard presentations of needed repairs throughout the campus, discussed actions to renew a Ten-Year Plan for campus upgrades, much of which has been accomplished. The need for a Concert Series initiative discussed at the spring Vestry planning session, and the program formerly known as Leadership Training would be re-launched in the fall as Growing Servants.

St. John's Stewardship Summary: June 2022			
	June 2022 Budget	June 2022 Actual	2022 YTD Actual
Income	\$18,225	\$19,710	\$109,850
Expenses	\$16,960	\$17,061	\$117,377
Net	\$ 1,265	\$ 2,649	\$ -7,527

Vestry Notes (con't)

The Vestry met on August 18, 2022. Steve Bradley, Treasurer, announced that he and Ginny are building a house in North Carolina to be closer to family and plan to move in about 8-12 months. He will be greatly missed!

Deborah Miller-Caldwell, Jr. Warden reported that bids are being collected for replacement of some of the parish hall roof. The Boy Scouts that meet in our hall have offered to put up a flagpole in the park. The vestry accepted this kind offer and agreed that it would be located just north (toward the street) of the gazebo. It will have a permanent, solar powered light, so it will not be necessary to take it up and down. Wavecrest Academy, which rents St. Nick House, will add the NW corner room to their usage to accommodate growth in the school. Deborah will organize the cleaning out of the room and the school will decorate as they see fit. This will add \$75 to the monthly rent.

Katie Wilson and Skip Alcorn reported that plans for the Second Sunday concert series are going well. The first event will be an Evensong on October 9 and the second will be the Eau Gallie High School Stage Band on November 13. There will be no December concert due to a very crowded calendar. There will be a meal with each event, coordinated by Charlene Turner. Money was set aside to pay the musicians and for publicity. \$1,000 seed money was placed in a new restricted fund for this purpose.

St. John's Stewardship Summary: July 2022			
	July 2022 Budget	July 2022 Actual	2022 YTD Actual
Income	\$17,325	\$18,944	\$128,794
Expenses	\$22,994	\$24,688	\$142,065
Net	\$ -7,699	\$ -5,744	\$ -13,271

Upcoming Meetings: The next meeting will be September 15. As will be our new practice, documents in preparation for the meeting will be posted on the church website. Visit stjohnsmlb.org, point to About and click on Vestry Documents.

Rector's Vaction: Fr. Eric Turner will be on vaction Aug. 29 - Sept. 4. Fr. Terry will preach and celebrate on Sept. 4.

Diocesan Clergy Conference

Will be held at Canterbury Retreat and Conference Center in Oviedo October 24 – 26. Please pray for the clergy of the Diocese during this time.

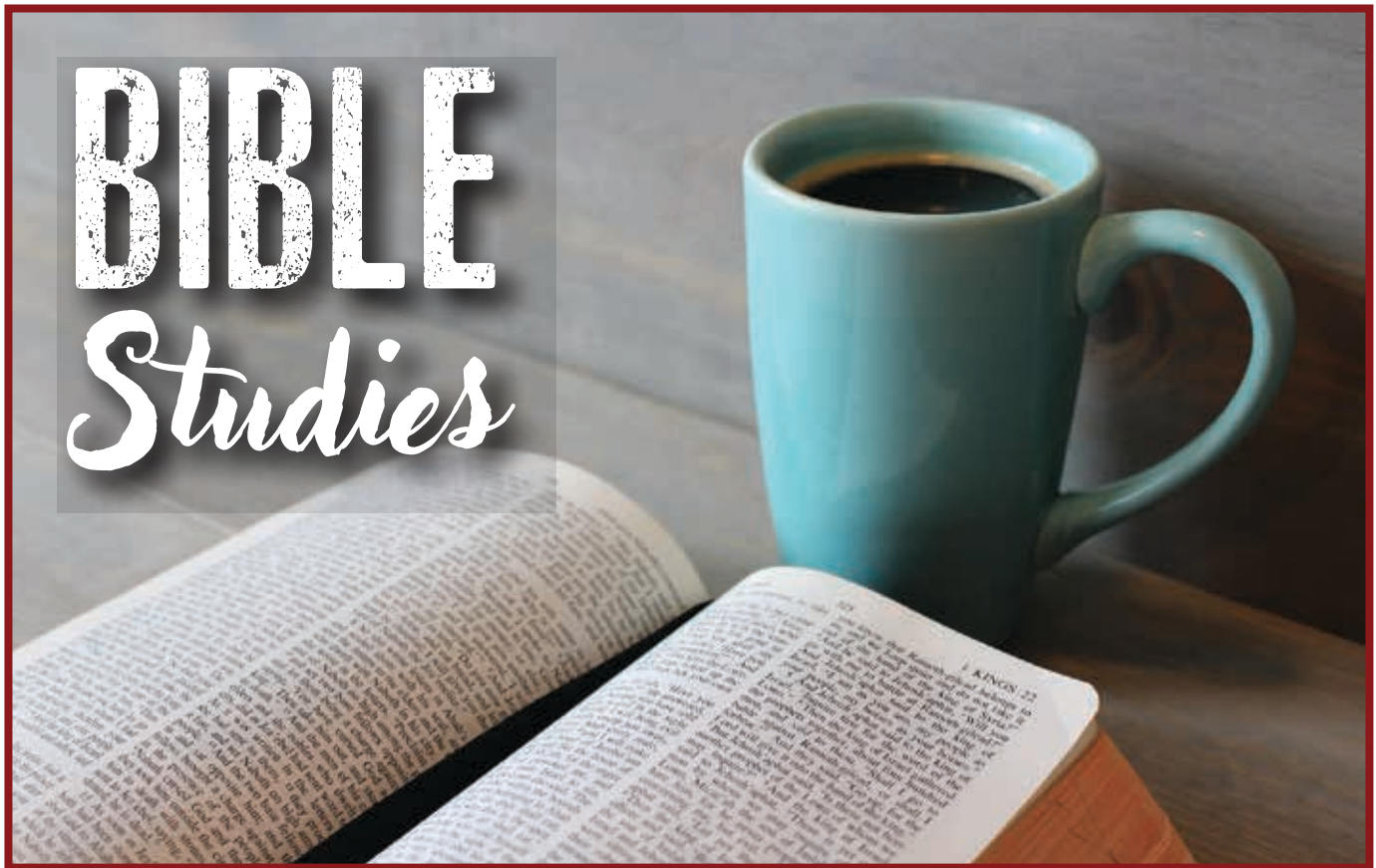
Loaning of Church Items

If you would like to borrow tables, chairs, cribs, linens etc. please speak with Fr. Eric or Deborah Miller-Caldwell, Jr. Warden, first as there might be an event on the schedule where these items are needed. And, of course, we need to keep track of the church's property. Please contact Debra at farxpert@gmail.com, Fr. Eric at eric@stjohnsmlb.org, or call the church office at 321-254-3365.

St. John's Stained Glass Windows

St. John's is blessed with beautiful stained glass in a variety of style, both traditional and contemporary. Andy Weeks has done a good deal of work assembling history and information about these windows, leaning heavily on work done previously by Bob Oas and others. Fr. Eric has also added some supplemental information regarding the meaning and message of some of the windows. A printed version is available in the church for you to peruse as you look at the windows.

Also, a new page on the church website is being developed to highlight the windows, using the same text. Watch for additional information when this is available!



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Guided by Scripture

We hope that you are able to find one that meets with your regular schedule!

Wednesday evening at 7 p.m. The study will re-launch mid-September. We are presently evaluating whether to continue having this study online, move to in-person or hybrid. Details will be announced soon.



Men of St. John's: TGIF –

Men's breakfast and Bible study, Fridays, 8 a.m.

We are meeting in person at La Loma Coney Island, 1180 Aurora Rd.

Adult Christian Education – Sunday morning Adult Christian Education gathers in person and via Zoom at 9 a.m. in the Chapel. For the Zoom link, visit stjohnsmlb.org and click on Worship Live Stream or email office@stjohnsmlb.org. Returning September 11. We are studying the Gospel of Mark, the shortest and earliest of the accounts of Jesus, raw and fast moving. Join in anytime!

Youth Christian Education – Sunday mornings, 9 a.m. in the Parish Hall, for Middle and High School students. Returning September 11. At this time in-person only.

School of Healing Prayer - The next session of Healing Prayer has been postponed until 2023.

Staying in Touch with Parishioners

Family Dinner Night



Our next Family dinner Night is scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 25, 6 p.m. at Beef O'Brady's, at the

corner of Wickham and Lake Washigton. Come on out for great fellowship, friends and food! Bring a friend - this is a great way to introduce someone to some of your St. John's friends!



Seaside Stitchers

It's that time of year, in September the Seaside Stitchers will deliver shoes and complete outfits to five elementary schools in the area. The socks, shoes, and underwear are purchased with donations from local businesses. The Stitchers meet in the parish hall on the first Monday, and the third and fourth Thursday of the month at 9:30 a.m. All are welcome, no experience necessary. They would love to welcome you to their group. If you are new to sewing you will enjoy the instructional classes. Contact Shirley Muzzy (321-254-2206 or shirleymuzzy@aol.com) for more information.



History of St. John's Online

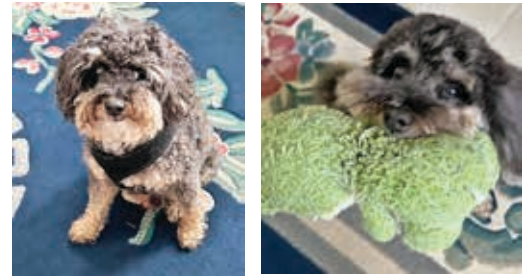
Some of you will have seen the book, "The Mission of St. John's." It is a rather detailed and carefully documented history of St. John's, published in 1981, running over 260 pages with extensive indices, etc. Until this time, there have been just a few dog-eared copies floating around, but it is now published digitally (as a PDF) and is available on the church website. Visit stjohsmlb.org, point to About and click on A Not-So-Brief History of St. John's.



Pet Cemetery at St. John's

Finding comfort in the ability to visit their pets at St. John's, Steve and Ginny Bradley refurbished the pet cemetery that is located on the East side of the Sanctuary. Please call St. John's if you would like to have your pet laid to rest there.

Meet Our Furry Friends



Hello, my name is Kobi. Mom and Dad (you may know them as Mary and Terry Highland) rescued me back in March 2019 when I was 7 years old. I'm 10 1/2 years old now and I LOVE my toys! I hold one in my mouth and take it for walks every morning with Mom or Dad - all the neighbors think I'm adorable trotting down the street with my fuzzy toy in my mouth! I love playing fetch, too. Mom and Dad throw my toys for me until they get too slimy, then Mom and Dad make a face and give up playing. But my favorite thing is to snuggle up to Mom and Dad - I can so easily con them into giving me lots of rubs. We all love it!

We would love to see your furry (or feathered) friend in one of the upcoming newsletters. Email a photo along with the little one's name to office@stjohsmlb.com. You may also drop the photo into the office.

Staying in Touch with Parishioners (con't)

Musician's Musings from Dr. D.

There are few musicians who enjoy applause any more than I do. It's a thrilling moment, especially when you feel you've performed well, to have your work acknowledged by your listeners. As a performer I'd not like to think about doing without it!

In the church, however, applause is only rarely appropriate. One of the points made very clear to me as a student at Union Theological Seminary many years ago is that musical offerings in the church are absolutely not performances; they are gifts to God. There are, I believe, two major reasons why applause may not say what we think it does - or what we want it to - in Church.

First, it makes our offerings appear to be entertainment rather than acts of worship and praise. Musical offerings in any parish that takes its worship seriously are carefully planned so that they illuminate the texts being read and sung, and help to bind the community together. Many churches today, alas, view their music as purely "crowd-pleasing" entertainment and miss a much loftier goal. Some churches are wildly successful at this — look at the TV evangelists — but it's still a reversed cart-and-horse situation. If we want to compete with them (and I absolutely don't think we want to) or with TV as an entertainment medium then we need to be ready to put millions of dollars behind our productions and accept the lack of close-knit worshipping community that inevitably follows.

Second, when you applaud one group or individual what does it say about other groups or individuals? We have to be very careful that our signs of appreciation do not inappropriately single out. It might be tempting to applaud the choir, for example, after a rafter-ringing, stand-up-and-cheer anthem for which they have sung their hearts out. If you do, however, think then about the Altar Guild, whose efforts are rarely publicly acknowledged or praised but who work tirelessly and well, or the acolytes, or the lectors, or the lay eucharistic ministers, or Sunday School teachers (the list goes on and on...) who will never be in a position to receive applause but who richly deserve it.

On the other hand, I believe that, in the church, applause is appropriate when acknowledging an individual or event that merits special, one-time praise. A parishioner elected to high office, a special prize won, an achievement appropriate for mention, etc., all are great opportunities for us to express corporate praise with applause.

St. Paul exhorts us that our worship be conducted "decently and in good order." In this pursuit we must be careful that our actions and expressions in our liturgy do not cheapen either the gift or the giver. - Dr. Jerry Davidson

P.S. Please continue to applaud heartily (when deserved) at concerts and entertainments. The performers love it!

Staying in Touch with Parishioners (con't)



September

Karin Kuhn - 9/4
Austin Stizel - 9/6
Tim Tuten - 9/10
Eloise Evans - 9/10
Christina Burlison - 9/15
Cindy Tuten - 9/15

Andy Weeks - 9/16
Gail Dunbar - 9/20
Linda Miller - 9/23
Teresa Chernault - 9/25
Paul Burlison - 9/27
Bill McDanel - 9/27

October

Steve Johnson - 10/5
Grace Heusinkveld - 10/6
Susan Badgio - 10/6
Patty Sitzel - 10/6
Richard Huffman - 10/10
Gemma Langenbach - 10/18
Wally Burlison - 10/19
Jim Williams - 10/19
David Brotherton - 10/20

Justin Archey - 10/22
Vicki Crane - 10/22
Joan Roddan - 10/24
Keith Salmon - 10/24
Yvonne Hayes - 10/26
Jim Hester - 10/26
Lacey Brotherton - 10/27
Ruby Tuten - 10/28
Jim Windt - 10/31



September

Bob & June Sitzel - 9/5
Steve & Ginny Bradley - 9/11

John & Trish Seymour - 9/12

October

None Known

Sunday Ministries

	Sept 4	Sept 11	Sept 18	Sept 25
Greeters	A. Weeks	A. Weeks	A. Weeks J. Miller	A. Weeks
Ushers	S. & G. Bradley	L. Fletcher J. Bond	J. & S. Hamilton	J. & J. McLaughlin
LEM	R. Huffman	D. Miller-Caldwell	J. & J. McLaughlin	J. Bond
Altar Guild	K. Oas	L. Bennett	M. Salmon	D. Miller-Caldwell
Counter	G. Bradley	K. Wilson	K. Wilson	K. Wilson
Audio/Visual	B. Kendall V. Mitz	B. Kendall V. Mitz	B. Kendall V. Mitz	B. Kendall V. Mitz

	Oct 2	Oct 9	Oct 16	Oct 23	Oct 30
Greeters	A. Weeks	A. Weeks	A. Weeks J. Miller	A. Weeks	A. Weeks
Ushers	B. Chernault J. Miller	S. & G. Bradley	J. & S. Hamilton	L. Fletcher J. Bond	J. & J. McLaughlin
LEM	J. Hamilton	K. Oas	R. Huffman	J. & J. McLaughlin	D. Miller-Caldwell
Altar Guild	K. Oas	L. Bennett	M. Salmon	D. Miller-Caldwell	K. Oas
Counter	K. Wilson	G. Bradley	K. Wilson	K. Wilson	G. Bradley
Audio/Visual	B. Kendall V. Mitz	B. Kendall V. Mitz	B. Kendall V. Mitz	B. Kendall V. Mitz	B. Kendall V. Mitz

Sept 6 Outreach Meeting, 7 p.m. by Zoom
 Sept 8 Daily Bread 10:30 a.m.
 Sept 8 Growing Servants, 7 p.m. Zoom Gathering
 Sept 11 Sunday School resumes 9:00 a.m.
 Sept 11 Daughters of the King, Chapel & Zoom, at 11:30 a.m.
 Sept 15..... Vestry Meeting, In-person & Zoom, 7 p.m.
 Sept 23 Family Dinner Night at Beef O’Brady’s,Wickham Rd, 6 p.m.

 Oct 2 Daughters of the King, Chapel & Zoom, at 11:30 a.m.
 Oct 4 Outreach Meeting, 7 p.m. by Zoom
 Oct 6 Daily Bread 10:30 a.m.
 Oct 6 Growing Servants, 7 p.m. Zoom Gathering
 Oct 9 Evensong 7 p.m.
 Oct 20 Vestry Meeting, In-person & Zoom, 7 p.m.

ZOOM and Livestream Links: All Zoom meeting and Livestream event links are available by visiting stjohnsmlb.org > Parish Life > Calendar or by sending an email to office@stjohnsmlb.org.



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