



ST. JOHN'S

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

November - December 2022

THE GOOD NEWS

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

SUNDAY

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

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

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

Visit StJohnsMLB.org for links

MONDAY

7:00 p.m. - AA meeting in Parish Hall

TUESDAY

6:30 p.m. - Boy Scouts

WEDNESDAY

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

THURSDAY

7:00 p.m. - AA meeting in Parish Hall

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

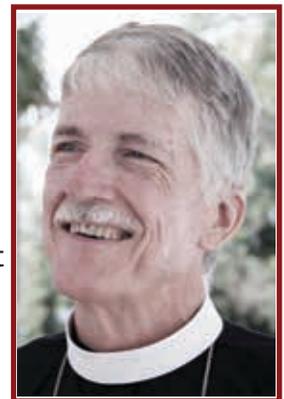
Dear Friends,

Advent comes from the Latin adventus meaning "to come." Just as Lent is a season of preparation for Easter (and especially for Baptisms to be held at the Easter Vigil), so Advent is a season of preparation for the coming of Christ into our world.

One of the things that amazes me about Thanksgiving preparations is how the presentation for such a celebration always far outstrips the event! Vast planning and preparation are invested in a meal that is gone in, perhaps, thirty minutes!

Alas, the same is true of Christmas. Days and weeks of preparation, then a brief flurry of wrapping paper and it's over. But for many, the joy has been taken out of the preparation by the pressure to "perform," to spend more than we can afford, to find the right balance of who to buy for and what to spend, a perfect spread of food, a family gathering without drama, etc.

It is trite to say that the meaning of Christmas is not in presents and decorations, yet there is something important about these things! Many years ago (Christmas of 1999), Charlene and I had a Ugandan bishop and his wife stay with us for a couple of days right before Christmas. We took them out one evening to see the Christmas lights. Lots of little white lights were the fashion and some were so brightly lit that that you could read a book sitting on the street!



Continued on Page 2...

I remember the bishop's wife gasping in horror and commenting at all the electricity being wasted. (Electricity is still available to only about 22% of the population in Uganda and it is very expensive even where available.)

The bishop, who had lived in northern Virginia for two years while studying at the Virginia Theological Seminary, gently chastised her saying, "No, no, no. They are celebrating!" There is something Godly and right about a little extravagance in our celebration of the Lord's coming. This does not mean that we measure our celebration by our extravagance, or lack thereof, but whatever it is, we focus on the coming of Jesus, and nothing less!

When a woman went a little overboard in her devotion to Jesus by pouring very expensive ointment on him, some criticized her, and Jesus by extension, for not selling the ointment so that the money could be given to the poor (Matthew 26:6-11). But Jesus rebuked them saying, "For you always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me." Extravagant love for Jesus is a good thing, and while we are to be reasonable and balanced, extravagance that flows from a heart full of love is always received with joy by the Savior.

The danger, of course, is that our extravagance is often more to one up the neighbor, or to make ourselves feel or appear generous and talented rather than as a simple expression of love for Jesus. As you move through your preparations for the holiday season try this little discipline: Each time you put up a decoration or purchase a gift, pause to give thanks to God for His extravagant gift of love to us in Jesus, and dedicate every gift and every decoration to Him. Give thanks that you have the freedom to decorate, money to buy presents and people around you to love. I believe that will dramatically alter your holiday both by taking some of the 'humbug' out of your holiday responsibilities and by keeping your focus where it belongs. Remember, we are preparing for His coming, His Advent. And that lasts far beyond a frenzy of ripped wrapping paper or a few twinkling lights!

How can you change your planning and preparation now to both reduce the stress of the holidays and keep your eyes on Jesus?

In Christ,

Fr. Eric Turner
Rector

Need Prayer?

Did you know St. John's has pray-ers ready to pray with you at the altar after each Sunday service? All you need to do is come up to the altar to let the pray-er know about your petitions. We will pray with you and you will soon be on your way to enjoy Fellowship Hour with your friends in the Parish Hall. These prayers will remain confidential between you and the pray-er.

If you would like to be one of our pray-ers, please let Fr. Eric know.

“Good News” January - February, 2023 Schedule & Deadline



The deadline for the next issue of “The Good News” (January - February 2023) will be Tuesday, **December 13**. Please email (preferred) your submissions to office@stjohnsmlb.org or get them to the church office by December 13, 2022.

St. John's Episcopal Church
610 Young Street • Melbourne, FL 32935
Phone: 321.254.3365

Web: www.StJohnsMLB.org

Church Email: Office@stjohnsmlb.org

Bishop Gregory O. Brewer

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

Priest Associate - Fr. Terry Highland
[redeemcec@aol.com](mailto:redemcec@aol.com) • Cell: 321.831.2587

St. John's Church Workday

Mark your calendars and plan to come out and enjoy the weather and your church family to help with cleaning up the church grounds and special projects inside the church buildings.

Date: Saturday, 12 November 2022 from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM



Rain Date: Saturday, 19 November from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

There will be a board listing the tasks/projects that need to be done posted in the Parish Hall. Please sign up to accomplish the task/project.

If you cannot make it on Saturday, 12 November, please feel free to work on the task/project anytime during the month of November. The goal is to have St. John's church and grounds ready for the Christmas season.

If you have any questions, please contact the Jr. Warden at 321-446-7208 or FARXPERT@gmail.com

SHARING HIS LOVE

Thanksgiving Baskets



The holidays are fast approaching!

We are continuing our annual Thanksgiving Basket Outreach. If you are aware of a family that could benefit from food for the holidays please contact Linda Fletcher, lcalvert1956@yahoo.com, phone 321-704-7100, as soon as possible so that the number of baskets needed can be determined.

- All basket recipients are kept strictly confidential.
- Donation sign-up sheets will be in the Parish Hall November 6.
- Contributions must be dropped off by November 20.
- **Basket delivery will be made the afternoon of the 20th.**

Thank you for your generosity and support of our Thanksgiving Outreach.

Blessings, The Outreach Team

SLA Crafts Christmas Sale!



Solar Light for Africa will again hold two opportunities for you to get a jump on Christmas while supporting our work in Uganda!

Champagne and Sweets will be Friday, December 2, 7 – 9 p.m.

Muffins and Mimosas will be Saturday, December 3, 9 – 11 a.m.

Both events feature Charlene Turner's homemade treats (free) and handmade crafts purchased in Uganda. Support SLA's work and support Ugandan artisans!

Both events will be at the Turners' home, 4581 Bellaluna Dr., West Melbourne, 32904. Contact Charlene at charlene@solarlightforafrica.org or 321-615-0206 for more information.

Bring a friend!

A WORSHIPPING COMMUNITY

Thank You to the Altar Guild! The upcoming season of Advent and Christmas is one of the busiest for the Altar Guild, the ministry team you rarely see. They are in the church before the service begins, and working their labor of love well after parishioners have gone home. Thank you, St. John's Altar Guild, for prayerfully preparing the vessels, linens, and vestments for worship; and reverently setting the altar with communion bread and wine.



We will have Thanksgiving Worship on **Thanksgiving Day, November 24, at 10 a.m.** The service will be in-Person and Livestreamed. Visit stjohnsmlb.org and click on Worship this Week for the link to the service



will be **Sunday, January 1, 2023 at 10 a.m.**

Christmas Open House at the Turner's



Will be **Sunday, Dec. 11, 4-7 p.m.**
4581 Bellaluna Dr.,
Melbourne

Come and bring a friend!

Christmas Brunch



St. John's Annual Christmas Brunch will be **Sunday, Dec. 18** immediately following the 10 a.m. service
Main course provided, please bring a side or dessert to share!

A WORSHIPPING COMMUNITY



Festival Christmas Celebration will be **Christmas Eve, Friday, December 24 at 8 p.m.** Come early for a good seat and to enjoy singing some Carols!

The service will be In-Person and Livestreamed. Visit stjohnsmib.org and click on Worship Livestream the week of the service for the Livestream link.

Christmas Day Celebration on Sunday, Dec. 25 will be at 10 a.m. Please be aware that this service will be In-Person only.



will be Friday, January 6, 2023, at 7 p.m. Service will include other Episcopal Churches.

Holiday Schedule



Thanksgiving Worship - Thur., Nov. 24, 10 a.m.
Christmas Open House at the Turner's - Sun., Dec. 11, 4-7 p.m.
Parish Christmas Brunch - Sun., Dec. 18, following 10 a.m. service
Christmas Festival Worship - Sat., Dec. 24, 8 p.m.
(Carol sing preceding)
Christmas Day Worship - Sun., Dec. 25, 10 a.m.
Festival of Lessons and Carols - Sun., Jan. 1, 10 a.m.
Epiphany Worship. Fri., Jan. 6, 7 p.m.

GROWING SERVANTS OF CHRIST

Daughters of the King



The St. John's chapter of the Daughters of the King are ready and waiting to pray for you!

If you have any prayer requests, please talk with one of the Daughters (a list is on the Parish Hall Bulletin Board), or put your prayer request in our Prayer Box, next to the candles in the sanctuary. Either method will immediately get the Daughters lifting up your concern to our Lord. We will occasionally check back with you to see how you are doing.

Please know that your request will remain confidential within our group. If you want Fr. Eric to be aware of your request, please speak with him separately and he will be happy to pray with and for you, also.

The Daughters consider praying for you an honor and a privilege when you entrust us with your prayer concerns. How can we pray for you?



Growing Servants of Christ!

We will gather online the first Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. to prayerfully study each of St. John's ministries. Please join us November 3, and December 1 to discover a ministry right for you. StJohnsMLB.org and click on the calendar for the Zoom link.



Choir at St. John's

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.



Choral Evensong

Was a glorious evening! Thanks to Charlene Turner, Kathy Oas, Laure Bennett, and Peg McRee who were the stars of the kitchen crew for the dinner, and thanks to Dr. Jerry Davidson and all the musicians he recruited (too many to name here) that made our evening wonderful!

Our next Choral Evensong will be Sunday, March 12. Don't miss it!

ST. JOHN'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH



Concert in the park

**NOVEMBER 13
5:30 PM**

FREE



**RAIN
OR
SHINE**

EAU GALLIE HIGH SCHOOL STAGE BAND

**FREE
DINNER
5 PM**

**INDOOR IF IT RAINS!
BRING YOUR LAWN
CHAIRS**

610 YOUNG STREET MELBOURNE FL 32935

MORE INFO? STJOHNSMLB.ORG

St. John's Concert in the Park Series

There have been some questions about how Evensong and our concert series fit together, and what the future might look like, so here is how the team working on this got where we are and where things are moving.

Is Evensong a part of the Concert Series? Well, yes and no.

A bit of history: doing Choral Evensong and re-launching Sunday 'Concert in the Park' series developed on completely separate tracks. Conversations were happening about re-launching 2nd Sunday concerts with better support and funding, and when it came up at last spring's vestry retreat, we decided to pull the trigger. We began development and Skip Alcorn and Katie Wilson stepped to the front as coordinators. Charlene stepped up to handle food (a new addition to the series) and Marie Salmon agreed to help with publicity. The team was focused on finding fun, attractive and engaging musical acts and the vestry committed \$1,000 to pay musicians, subsidize the food, and get some real publicity.

At the same time, Fr. Eric was talking with Dr. Jerry Davidson, our new Organist and Choirmaster, about what his work here might look like. "Dr. D" was very keen on starting up a Choral Evensong, which he'd had good success with in prior parishes. Fr. Eric was immediately enthusiastic about this as Evensong is right in our wheelhouse as Episcopalians. St. John's will grow best by playing to our strengths.

We should note that St. John's is in a rare and blessed place to have someone of Dr. Davidson's caliber as our Organist and Choirmaster. If we can effectively get the word out in the community, this can attract new people, especially singers and others interested in church music. A well-publicized Evensong is a great way to do this.

When the Concert team began to consider all this, it seemed obvious that we did not want a concert series to compete in any way with Evensong, or vice versa. So, the decision was made not to schedule Evensong and a concert in the same month, as that would crowd both the calendar and our volunteers. It seemed best simply to have two of the music events as Evensong, even recognizing that this is a different type of event. Still music, but different in character, publicity needs, etc.

So that's the way we launched. The Concert in the Park team is handling food and publicity for Evensong, although we recognize that it is different both in character and needs. For example, we have secured radio advertising for Evensong on WFIT, the local PBS affiliate for the week leading up to it. There is good overlap between the demographic of PBS radio and those who might be attracted to a Choral Evensong. On the other hand, we will be advertising on "The Beach" (98.5 FM, WSBH) for the November concert featuring the Eau Gallie High School Stage Band.

We have ordered yard signs for Evensong and a separate set for the other concerts. (Sadly, the company we ordered the Evensong signs failed - twice - to get us the signs, so we did not have them for the October 9 Evensong.) These will go up the week before each event and simply say "This Sunday . . ." We did this to save the expense of having to order new signs every month.

We are also using social media advertising and Marie is busy posting it on various free community event calendars, etc. We are creating posters for each event that will be distributed around the community.

The team met recently and made an important shift going forward. The plan had been to continue the tradition of our prior concert series of a consistent "2nd Sundays in the Park" schedule both to clarify the schedule and because there is a nice alliteration to it. Unfortunately, this was presenting too many conflicts and would have meant skipping several months. Therefore, we will no longer be locked into the second Sunday of the month. We will continue on a monthly basis, planning events for October and November, skipping December, then monthly, January thru May. Annually, two of these will be Evensong and the other five will be "Concerts in the Park," which is now how we will refer to it.

I hope this helps everyone understand how we got to where we are, what we are trying to accomplish, and how you can help!

The Concert in the Park Team

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!

A New Bishop

The Diocese of Central Florida is in search for a new Bishop as Bishop Brewer will retire in June of 2023. A slate of three nominees has been announced and information about them can be found at dcfsearch.org.

The final selection will be made at a special Electing Convention to be held on Saturday, January 14, 2023. The delegates will be those who served as St. John's delegates at the 2022 Annual Diocesan Convention: Deborah Miller-Caldwell, Lee Steininger, Katie Wilson and Fr. Eric Turner.

The three candidates will be on a Diocesan Tour, providing an opportunity for members of the Diocese to meet and hear from them personally. Of course, it is most important for the delegates to be there, but all members of the Diocese are welcome. The session for our area will be at Trinity Episcopal Church, Vero Beach on Wednesday, Nov. 9, 7 – 9 p.m. If you cannot attend that meeting and want to go to another, you will find the schedule at dcfsearch.org.

Please keep this process in your prayers!

SHARING HIS LOVE

Outreach Focus

November

ST. JOHN'S OUTREACH FOCUS for the month of November has been designated for Daily Bread. Daily Bread is a ministry well known to the people of St. John's as we already provide a team to serve the first Thursday of the month. But Daily Bread provides so much more in services to the homeless and needy of our community. These funds go to support the entire operation. Visit dailybreadinc.org to learn more



Gifts From the Heart Christmas Shop



Gifts from the Heart
Christmas Shop

This year, 8 local nonprofit organizations - Neighbor Up Brevard, Club Esteem, Love In the Name of Christ, Family Promise of Brevard, Community of Hope, Eckerd Connects, New Life Mission

and Women's Center of Brevard - are partnering to make possible an innovative alternative Christmas experience for the families in their respective programs. It's called **Gifts from the Heart (GFTH) Christmas Shop** and its purpose is to affirm the dignity of those parents by offering them the opportunity to purchase gifts for their children at a dramatically reduced and affordable cost. Instead of watching while their children are given presents by others, the parents are given a "hand-up" to purchase gifts on their own. A parent may purchase up to 3 toys/child at one of two GFTH locations, one in Eau Gallie and another in Rockledge. Both host locations are churches.

The Shop opens on Dec 3 and almost 3,000 new toys are needed before that time for the over 900 children served by the eight partnering organizations. St. John's will be sponsoring a "Giving Tree" again this year with ornaments suggesting a particular gift. **The ornaments will be available at coffee hour after the 10:00am service during the month of November.**

For those who are not attending church in person, please consider donating toys via their online gift registries at Amazon.com or Target or Walmart. The best way to access the links is via their website at www.giftsfromtheheartshop.org under the "How to Help" page. They are also looking for volunteers to help stock shelves, assist customers, and wrap gifts. If you have any questions, please contact Susan Badgio at 321-446-4266 or badgio99@gmail.com. Thank you for your support and generosity!

December

ST. JOHN'S OUTREACH FOCUS for the month of December is the Wholeness to Freedom Food Pantry. The food pantry, located on Ferndale Ave. in Eau Gallie, is able to serve the needs of the community in our own backyard with the help of generous donations of food and money to make an immediate and important impact on families in need. This is the food pantry that receives the non-perishable foods we collect and deliver to them monthly. The collection basket is located at the back of the church. For more information visit their website at wholenesstofreedom.org.



Daily Bread



The upcoming duty days are November 3, and December 1, 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.



Outreach Meeting

We will have a couple of months in 2023 where we will be supporting new organizations. If you would like to submit an organization for consideration, please submit the information to Linda Fletcher or Fr. Eric. Upcoming Outreach team meetings are November 1, and December 6. 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 November 1, simply click on the Zoom link found in the church calendar on the St. John's web page.

Family Promise has Resumed!



Thanks to the terrific work by our volunteers, the August hosting went extremely well. We had two families of three each, including a delightful grandmother and her wonderful two teenage girls, both at Rockledge HS. During our hosting week the family found housing and were ecstatic. Both of our families were a pleasure.

FPOB is also hosting a golf tournament November 4 and 5. The Steinger family is entered representing St John's and Fr. Eric is leading another foursome for those who would enjoy a day of golf and comradery. If interested in playing please contact Eric.

Anyone can buy golf balls for the Helicopter Golf Ball Drop on Nov 5th and a chance to win \$5,000.00. You don't have to be present to win. Entry forms are in the parish hall or at the FPOB website, familypromiseofbrevard.org. Proceeds go to FPOB.

We are looking forward to the next hosting, December 11-18. Our FP Captains are making preparations now.

New guidelines are in place and volunteers do not need to complete the training. Friends and family are welcome to help but the caveat is that one trained volunteer must be present. This really opens up the number of possible volunteers, so sign up. However, we do need many more trained volunteers in order to cover all of our responsibilities. We have people who can help with the training. Just ask!

FPOB wants to keep the shelter program in place and Fr. Eric and many at St John's want to be a part of it. We need everyone's support. Please give your full support to this important ministry.

God Bless, Lee Steinger
leestein645@aol or 321-243-4597

History of St. John's

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 stjohnsmlb.org, point to About and click on A Not-So-Brief History of St. John's.

The Sacred Windows of St. John's

St. John's is blessed with beautiful stained glass in a variety of styles, 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. Visit stjohnsmlb.org, point to About and you'll find the link there.

Messages 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

The Vestry met on September 15, 2022 in person and virtually via Zoom. They accepted the resignation of Mike Milner and voted to accept Steve Bradley in the vacancy until the end of the year. If Steve is unwilling to accept, the Vestry position will remain vacant until next year. For 2023, there will be three 3-year terms and two 2-year terms to be filled.

The Junior Warden reported the air conditioner and two doors on the St. Nick/Wavecrest rental building will need repair. A solution of purchasing two window A/C units and the installation of electrical lines to support them is being pursued. The roof in the old section of the Parish Hall will need to be replaced. The Vestry voted to move funds from Restricted Reserve to Capital Projects to cover the air conditioners for Nick House, and other repairs.

Jack Kenworthy will lead a team for the 2023 Stewardship campaign. Updated Diocesan Covid restrictions were reviewed and St. John's will maintain current protocol – masks are optional, no common cup but wine by intinction for communion. Jamie and Shannon Hamilton, and Deborah Miller-Caldwell will join Fr. Eric at a presentation called “What's Next” held at Christ Church in Viera. The Vestry was presented with a proposal from Andy Weeks regarding recognition of the 60th anniversary of the St. John' campus development.

St. John's Stewardship Summary: August 2022			
	Aug 2022 Budget	Aug 2022 Actual	2022 YTD Actual
Income	\$17,775	\$16,559	\$145,353
Expenses	\$17,775	\$17,333	\$159,397
Net	\$ ----	\$ -774	\$ - 14,044

Vestry Notes (con't)

Upcoming Meetings: The Vestry met on October 20 (notes not available for this newsletter), and will meet on November 17, and on December 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.

Stewardship 2023

GUIDED BY SCRIPTURE

Among other things, fall brings the Annual Stewardship Campaign. By the time you receive this newsletter, you should already have received your pledge packet, if you are a pledger or regular giver. If you have not received one and would like to, please send a note to office@stjohnsmlb.org.

Pledge packets were handed out at church on October 23 and those not picked up then were mailed on October 24. We ask that you give prayerful consider to your giving to the Lord here at St. John's and return the Pledge Card by Sunday, November 13, our designated Pledge Sunday. If you cannot bring it that Sunday, you can mail it to the church office, or drop it in the offering plate any other Sunday.

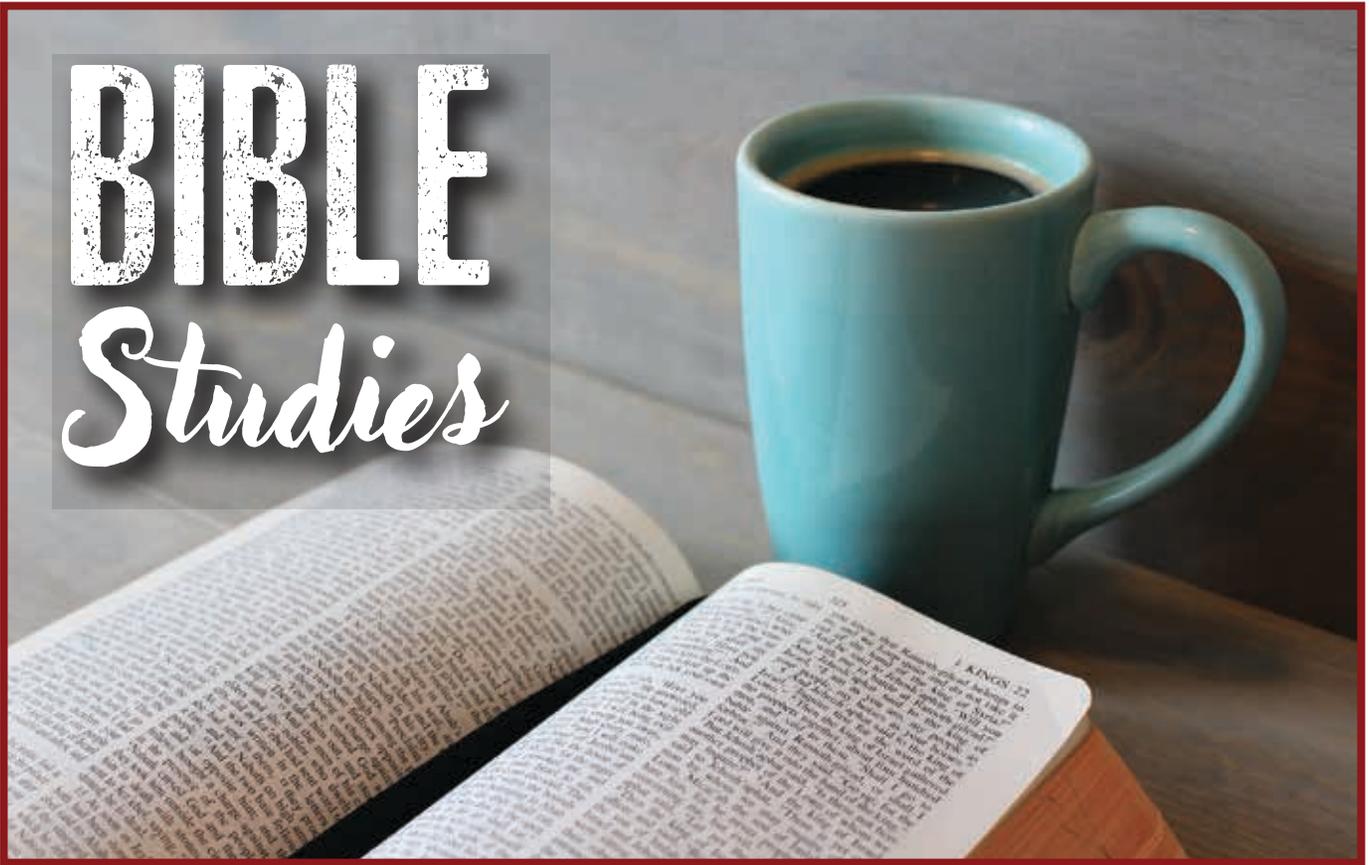
Why I give to St. John's: Skip Alcorn

When I think about that statement, i.e. "Why I give to St. John's", I can't help but think about what St. John's gives unconditionally to all of us. Not only does it provide a beautiful, physical place to come to and worship; to pray, and reflect on our spiritual relationship with God, but so much more! There are opportunities extended to engage in community (and worldwide) outreach activities, fellowship dinners, Bible studies, the Alter Guild, Daughters of the King, weddings, Christenings, and celebrations of life, or to participate as an active member of the Vestry, to just name a few. In return, we all have an equal opportunity to "pay it forward", or to give back with our time, energy and treasure in support of the Church and our congregation. I try to do my part. Though small as it may be by comparison to others, I feel that I have a personal obligation to help St. John's Church meet its goals, objectives and community obligations; and to remain as a strong standard bearer for Christianity, for many decades to come.

On a practical level, I also know that the Church also has to operate as a business, and deal with everyday financial challenges familiar to us all. There are operating costs such as personnel payroll, utilities (water, electricity, trash collection, etc.); also, office, kitchen, and janitorial supply expenses as well. How about the really big capital expenses like roof repairs and replacements, central A/C & heating system replacement, bathroom remodeling, flooring replacement the list is long. I'm not an accountant, but I know that the funds to cover all of these categories have to come from somewhere, and they don't just magically appear (I frankly don't know how Fr. Eric sleeps at night knowing all of this stuff). Well, the answer is that it takes a little effort from me, and from us all. That's why I give to St. John's, and that in my small way of contributing time, energy and treasure, I'm helping to assure our Church's future. In Christ, Skip Alcorn.

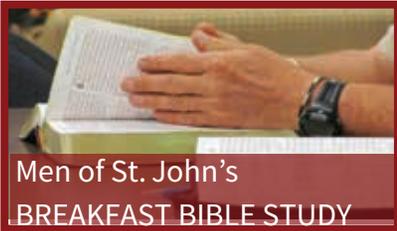
Why I continue to pledge: Andy Weeks

I came to this parish 10 years ago and I have been supporting it with my financial pledge, my time and my talent ever since. I have done so because I value the preaching, support, education and fellowship St. John's affords me, and because I know that it takes all of us giving to mutually benefit all of us. 2021 and 2022 made this painfully more obvious for me personally. I have never been so ill and so helpless. And yet, the generous members of this congregation prayed for me constantly; ran endless errands and doctor's appointments for me; kept me going when I was absent and welcomed me back (after many months) with kindness and patience. All of this has made me so much more keenly aware of how much I benefit from being a member, and how valuable my contributions are to other members as I have learned so much more about them. And working on The Sacred Windows project made me so much more aware of the many contributions members have been making since 1897. So, for 2023, I will pledge again to the limit of my resources, not because I should, but because I can! In faith, Andy Weeks.



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Guided by Scripture



**Men of St. John's: TGIF –
Men's breakfast and Bible study, Fridays, 8 a.m.**

TGIF, our men's breakfast and Bible study gathers every Friday, 8 a.m. at La Loma Coney Island, 1180 Aurora Road, Melbourne.

Adult Christian Education – gathers in person, in the Chapel (to the right, just before entering the Parish Hall), at 9 on Sunday morning and is also available via Zoom video conferencing.

We are studying the Gospel of Mark, the shortest and earliest of the accounts of Jesus, raw and fast moving. Join in any time!

Youth Christian Education (middle and high school), under the leadership of Katie Wilson, is gathering in the Parish Hall, at this time in-person only.

Staying in Touch with Parishioners

Angie Brown's granddaughter, Amanda Coleman is recognized this month.



Blessings to St. John's, from Amanda and Checca. Twenty-one years ago I was baptized at St. John's, and since the age of three I have been riding horses. My first horse was named, "Jet Ski." I rode in horse shows in Florida and Georgia, winning belts, buckles, saddles, and a horse trailer. During these years I competed in barrels, poles, and goat tying. During my school years I competed in Jr. and High School rodeos for the state of Florida and did very well. I was fortunate to travel to Texas with my horse where I met many rodeo riders and knew that was where I belonged. At the age of 18, with my parent's blessings (but not my Nana's) I took off for Texas on my own, with my horse, where I turned my attention to Break away Roping which I have excelled in. My horse, rope, and I have competed in rodeos throughout Texas and also in Oklahoma, California, Idaho, Washington and Montana, to name a few.

For the last three years Checca and I have competed in "Cowboy Channel Rodeo." We competed in 100 Rodeos in 100 days – this competition will finalize in Las Vegas in December. I will be coming to Florida for Christmas! When people ask what I would like to do when I grow up, I simply say "I'm doing it now!" See you at the Rodeo,

Love Amanda Coleman, Checca, and my rope

We would love to see your family animal (furry, feathered, etc.) in one of the upcoming newsletters. Email a photo along with the little one's name and some interesting facts to office@stjohnsmlb.com. You may also drop the photo into the office.

Staying in Touch with Parishioners (con't)

Musician's Musings from Dr. D.

I am fond of saying, "I like myself the most when I'm accompanying congregational hymn-singing." In his preface to *Hymnal Studies Five; A Liturgical Index to The Hymnal 1982*, The Rev. Dr. Marion Hatchett says,

"One of the most important parts of the planning and preparation for any service is the choice of hymns. Hymns are one of the most vital elements in the participation of the congregation. Hymns set the mood for the rite. Hymns provide a congregational response to lessons and sermons and other important elements in the rites. Hymns are the people's take home package. Because of the musical association people commit hymns to memory more easily and readily than prayers or psalms or other scriptural passages; therefore, the texts of hymns are more likely to recur to people than other texts- People's theology is probably influenced more by the hymns they sing than by the lessons and sermons they hear or the prayers they pray."

In planning for the music for our worship together the hymns are always selected first, using the suggested hymns for each Sunday found in *Liturgical Music for the Revised Common Lectionary* by the Rev. Carl Daw and Thomas Pavelechko and this guide is supplemented by a list of hymns that have been sung at St. John's over the past several years.

Sometimes we sing hymns "In due course," *i.e.*, simply because they are familiar and need to be sung occasionally. For example, the uber-familiar "Onward, Christian soldiers" is not recommended in *Liturgical Music* for any Sunday - many find it unacceptably militaristic - but we sing it occasionally. Look for it as the closing hymn for the first Sunday of Lent as we launch ourselves into the Forty Days of abstinence, fasting, and prayer.

After the hymns are in place then comes selections for anthems, motets, solos, instrumental music, etc., and some care is expended that these, as well, amplify and illuminate the readings and the themes of the day. The threads that unite what we do liturgically are not always apparent; some are much more subtle. Do you ever ask yourself "Why?" ...did we sing that? ...listen to that? If you do, then it is just one more way in which you enter more deeply into the worship life of the parish. Blessed are they who think and listen, as theirs will be great rewards of spirit. —*Jerry Davidson*

Family Dinner Night

After taking a break for November and December, Family Dinner Night will return on Tuesday, January 10 at the Pizza Gallery and Grill, in the Avenues at Viera, 6 p.m. Come on out for great food and friends! And bring a friend to introduce to your St. John's friends!



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.

Staying in Touch with Parishioners (con't)



November

Elizabeth Murrey - 11/2
Sarah Kendall - 11/6
Roberta Ardinger-Smith - 11/7
Lee Steininger - 11/7
Jimbo Windt - 11/11
Richard Muir - 11/12
Ellen Huffman - 11/14
Sara Roley - 11/14
Terry Highland - 11/20
Megan Hambel - 11/27
Debbie Campbell - 11/28
Patti Coleman - 11/29

December

Joe McLaughlin - 12/1
Eric Turner - 12/9
Brenda Williams - 12/9
Charlene Turner - 12/10
Barbara Holliday - 12/12
Bailey Oas - 12/4
Edie Bennett - 12/20
Sharon Tuten - 12/24
John Seymour - 12/30



November

David & Lisa Kaleel - 11/7
John & Pattie Coleman - 11/28

December

Robert & Franny Boersma - 12/15
Eric & Charlene Turner - 12/15
Paul & Lorraine Burseson - 12/19
Hasty & Julie Miller - 12/23
Randy & Eloise Evans - 12/27
Bill & Teresa Chernault - 12/30

Sunday Ministries

	Nov 6	Nov 13	Nov 20	Nov 27
Greeters	A. Weeks	A. Weeks	A. Weeks J. Miller	A. Weeks
Ushers	B. Chernault J. Miller	L. Fletcher J. Bond	J. & S. Hamilton	B. Chernault J. Miller
LEM	J. Bond	J. Hamilton	K. Oas	R. Huffman
Altar Guild	L. Bennett	M. Salmon	D. Miller-Caldwell	K. Oas
Counter	K. Wilson	G. Bradley	K. Wilson	K. Wilson
Audio/Visual	B. Kendall V. Mitz	B. Kendall V. Mitz	B. Kendall V. Mitz	B. Kendall V. Mitz

	Dec 4	Dec 11	Dec 18	Dec 24	Dec 25
	10:00 am	10:00 am	10:00 am	8:00 pm	10:00 am
Greeters	A. Weeks	A. Weeks	A. Weeks J. Miller	A. Weeks	A. Weeks
Ushers	L. Fletcher J. Bond	J. & S. Hamilton	B. Chernault J. Miller	L. Fletcher J. Bond	J. & S. Hamilton
LEM	D. Miller-Caldwell	J. Bond	J. Hamilton	K. Oas	R. Huffman
Altar Guild	L. Bennett	M. Salmon	D. Miller-Caldwell	K. Oas	L. Bennett
Counter	G. Bradley	K. Wilson	K. Wilson	K. Wilson	K. Wilson
Audio/Visual	B. Kendall V. Mitz	B. Kendall V. Mitz	B. Kendall V. Mitz	B. Kendall V. Mitz	B. Kendall V. Mitz

Nov 1	..... Outreach Meeting, 7 p.m. by Zoom
Nov 3	..... Daily Bread, 10:30 a.m.
Nov 3	..... Growing Servants, 7 p.m. Zoom Gathering
Nov 6	..... Daughters of the King, Chapel & Zoom, at 11:30 a.m.
Nov 17	..... Vestry Meeting, In-person & Zoom, 7 p.m.
Nov 24	..... Thanksgiving worship, 10:00 a.m.
Dec 1	..... Daily Bread, 10:30 a.m.
Dec 1	..... Growing Servants, 7 p.m. Zoom Gathering
Dec 4	..... Daughters of the King, Chapel & Zoom, at 11:30 a.m.
Dec 6	..... Outreach Meeting, 7 p.m. by Zoom
Dec 11	..... Family Promise hosting until Dec 18
Dec 15	..... Vestry Meeting, In-person & Zoom, 7 p.m.
Dec 24	..... Christmas Eve Worship, 8:00 p.m., Carols, 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary
Dec 25	..... Christmas Day Celebration, 10:00 a.m.
Jan 1	..... Lessons and Carols, 10:00 a.m.
Jan 6	..... Epiphany Worship, 7:00 p.m.
Jan 10	..... Family Dinner Night, Pizza Gallery, Avenues at Viera, 6:00 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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