



ST. JOHN'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE GOOD NEWS

July - August 2024

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

SUNDAY

9:00 a.m. - Christian Education on hiatus July and August

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

MONDAY

5:30 p.m. - AA. Parish Hall

TUESDAY

5:30 p.m. - Scouts in the Parish Hall

WEDNESDAY

7:00 p.m. - Choir Rehearsal on hiatus for the summer

THURSDAY

9:00 a.m. - Staff meeting in the Rector's office

6:00 p.m. Evening Prayer

FRIDAY

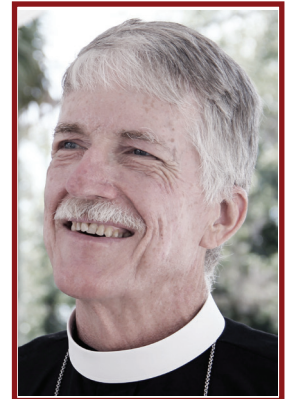
8:00 a.m. - TGIF (Men's Breakfast and Bible study), La Loma Coney Island, 1180 Aurora Road, Melbourne

Visit Stohnmlb.org for links and more info.

A WORD FROM THE RECTOR

Dear Friends,

There are mixed emotions as I sit to write this, my last letter to all of you. I must begin with a thank you to the one person who has made it possible for me to serve as your rector, my wife Charlene! Without her love, support, cheerleading and forgiveness I don't think I'd have made it. She has been God's gift for me!



I am thankful to God and grateful to you for the 19½ years Charlene and I have had among you. It has been a privilege to serve you in this wonderful place. So, there is a sadness as I prepare to retire.

Yet, I wouldn't be honest if I didn't also say that there is great excitement for the next chapter in our lives, and also for the next chapter in the life of St. John's! Charlene and I have many plans and we're getting serious about some "bucket list" things. In the near term, we will leave for Uganda on July 10 to do some installations (including one paid for by St. John's donations in May) and enjoy some relaxation both in Uganda and in Dubai. In late September we will leave for a true "bucket list" trip, celebrating both my retirement and our upcoming 40th wedding anniversary (Dec. 15). We'll visit friends in Barcelona, then do a pilgrimage hike known as the "Camino de Santiago." We will hike from Sarria to Santiago, Spain, ending at a renowned Catholic Cathedral there, and hopefully continue with a visit to the coast of Portugal. After that will come some more sightseeing before we return in mid-October. In November we go to London for the wedding of a long-time family

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friend. No moss growing here!

I am excited to watch (from a distance!) the next chapter in the life of St. John's. I pray that God will bring you together with a new priest and a new vision for your life. St. John's needs to find a new growth footing for the decades ahead and I pray that you find it together with your new rector.

If I may be so bold, I will share a couple of thoughts about this transition. Do not compare this new person to me, or any other past clergy here at St. John's. Let them stand on their own two feet. This is not the time to look back or compare to the past. This is the time to embrace a new vision and a new future. This will mean changes, perhaps some painful, but it is a transition that St. John's must make.

And let me add that this applies to your new clergy spouse as well. Charlene has been a big presence here at St. John's and has made huge contributions to the life of the parish. Not all spouses will be either willing or able to do what she has done. Please do not compare the new clergy spouse to her, or expect that person to step into all that Charlene has done. Let them also find their own footing in the life of the parish.

Love your new priest as you have loved me, and even more so. Accept them as they are. Don't try to fashion them into your idea but let them be the leader that God has made them to be. Trust the work of the Holy Spirit in this, and I believe you will find fruit you never imagined.

Perhaps the most painful part of all this is that I must separate from the life of St. John's. After June 30, I cannot be your priest. You will need to make room for others to enter that role. I can't come back to do or even assist in your funerals, weddings, baptisms, etc. I'll be happy to see you around town, and to hear about all that God is doing in your life and in St. John's, but I cannot be your priest anymore.

It is truly said that the only constant in life is change. Embrace it, trusting the Lord will be with you in all of it!

"I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ." *Philippians 1:6*

In Christ,

Fr. Eric Turner
Rector

Thank you, Father Eric!

You have served St. John's with dedication, and devotion, and you have made a difference in the lives of so many. We will not forget you and all that you have done for us.

As you retire, may the Lord continue to richly bless you and keep you in His loving care.

– from your grateful parishioners



Message from the Interim Rector

It is an honor and a privilege to serve as Interim Rector of St. John's during this time of Transition. For the past five years, since moving to Melbourne, Jerry and I have made St. John's our parish home, even during times when we were serving in other congregations. I am looking forward to serving with the Vestry and all the various organizations that make St. John's such a loving and vital community, filled with joy, generosity, and blessings to share. -Susan Davidson

The Reverend Susan Davidson is a priest of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut and Licensed to serve in the Diocese of Central Florida. She was ordained to the Priesthood in 1995 and has served as Rector, Vicar, or Priest in Charge at churches in the Dioceses of Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas, Connecticut, and Central Florida. Susan and her husband, Dr. Jerry Davidson (Music Director of St. John's) have two adult sons and three adult grandchildren.



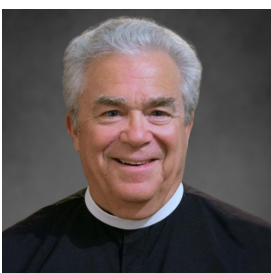
Senior Warden's Report

The search for a new priest is the responsibility of the vestry and in this *Good News*, and each following newsletter I will keep you up to date on their progress.

- The guidelines for the search have been handed to the vestry by The Rev. Canon Dr. Dan Smith, Canon to the Ordinary and are as follows:
- Each member of the vestry will submit 2-3 names they feel would be good members of the search committee.
- At the June 20, vestry meeting the vestry will sort the names and present 7-8 church members for the search committee.
- The list of names will be presented to Canon Dan, who will arrange a meeting and give the committee their instructions.
- The search team will create a church profile which will be matched with clergy profiles.

Please be patient as this is a slow process, but we will keep you informed when we have information to share.

I am happy to tell you that our interim priest starting July 1, will be the Rev. Susan Davidson! Please keep Susan, the search committee, and the vestry in your prayers as we proceed in this process. God Bless, - Kathy Oas



The Rev. Canon Dr. Dan Smith at St. John's

July 7th, The Rev. Dan Smith will deliver the sermon at the 10:00 a.m. service. He will also talk briefly at coffee hour about the upcoming steps and take time to answer questions.



“Good News” September - October 2024 Schedule & Deadline

The deadline for the next issue of “The Good News” will be **Tuesday, August 20**. Please email or delivery your submissions to office@stjohnsmlb.org by **August 20, 2024**.

A Worshiping Community

Evening Prayer at St. John’s



Evening Prayer is a rite of thanksgiving and praise that is part of the “prayer offices” in the Anglican tradition that dates to the 3rd century. Many scholars hold that it is based on an evening ritual practiced by Jews in the 1st century BCE.

Our weekly Evening Prayer (Vespers) service is on Thursdays, 6 p.m. This brief gathering (about 15 – 20 minutes) will be an opportunity for renewal of focus, in the course of our busy lives.

If you would care to assist as a reader for these services, please email me at mailjbh@gmail.com or speak with Mother Susan. Thanks, Jamie Hamilton

Guided by Scripture

Adult and Youth Christian Education

Christian education is on hiatus for July and August. Classes will resume in September.

Daughters of the King

Our chapter will not meet during the summer but will enjoy lunch at a local restaurant. All are welcome to the lunches and information will be in the service bulletin.

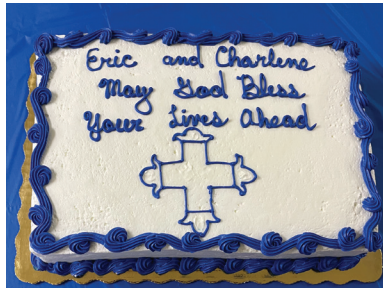


A prayer request box is available in the Sanctuary beside the votive candles. The Daughters have taken a vow to pray for others and we take this vow seriously. In lieu of access to the prayer box, please give prayer requests directly to any Daughter listed on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall. All prayer requests are strictly confidential, and we, as Daughters, honor that confidentiality.

Prayer is available at the altar after Sunday service. If you need prayer, we encourage you to come to the altar. If anyone in the congregation would like to be an intercessor in prayer at the altar after the service, please see Sarah Kendall.

Guided by Scripture

Daughters of the King Host Coffee Hour



Daughters of the King hosted the coffee hour on June 9, to celebrate Fr. Eric's retirement. Fr. Eric and Charlene will be greatly missed but this is a new and exciting journey they are traveling. The Daughters wish them well.



Unfortunately, we do not have a photo of Fr. Eric with the cake as someone cut into it before DOK could snap the picture.



Institute of Christian Studies

ICS provides general courses for individuals interested in personal spiritual formation. The following General Study Courses are available:

Every Member a Minister, *Instructor:* The Rev. Cynthia Brust
July 13, 2024, *Location:* Christ Episcopal Church, Melbourne - \$25

Take Your Place, *Instructor:* The Rev. Kim Spear and Dan King
July 13, 2024, *Location:* St. Edward's, Mt. Dora - \$25

Command and Promise: God's Two Ways of Speaking, *Instructor:* The Rev. Jared Jones
July 20, 2024, *Location:* Holy Cross Episcopal Church, Sanford - \$25

The Book of Common Prayer, *Instructor:* The Rev. Dr. David Johnson
August 17, 2024, *Location:* Resurrection Episcopal Church, Longwood - \$25

For detailed information and registration contact the Episcopal Diocese of Central Florida at the following link: <https://icscourses.org/course-curriculum/general>.

Men of St. John's



TGIF, our men's breakfast and Bible study gathers every Friday, 8 a.m. at La Loma Coney Island Restaurant, Aurora Rd and will continue through the summer.

Outreach Focus – Sharing His Love

July and August Family Promise of Brevard

The Outreach focus for the months of July and August is Family Promise of Brevard. All donations in the blue or lilac envelopes, or clearly marked for Outreach, will go directly to Family Promise.



Working with the community, Family Promise provides temporary housing, meals, and services. Families in danger of losing their housing are helped by landlord mediation, rental assistance, utility support, and security deposits. They also work with single fathers and families with teenage boys, who often fall through the gaps of traditional support systems.

The 2023 impact in Brevard County alone helped 2,480 families. 98% of those helped maintained stable housing. 10,000 meals were provided and 9,440 volunteer hours worked. Visit familypromiseofbrevard.org for more information.



Family Promise

St John's Family, as mentioned in an earlier communication we are temporarily shifting to a Support Parish with Family Promise. As you see below, Mark Sexton, Director of Programs; and the Family Promise team is grateful for our support and cares about us.



As a Support Parish we will receive emails, announcements, and mailings to ask us to occasionally provide a meal, groceries, and to help other churches that are hosting. Thank you for keeping your hearts open to serving the families that need the Christian community's support.

We received this email from Mark Sexton of Family Promise regarding our transition to being a Support Parish:

St John's has been an amazing partner of FPOB and have certainly earned this break. I will shift your status from Hosting to Support so that if there are members of your team that are still willing to help with meals at the hotel or as a support to other host congregations, you will still get contacted when the need comes up. Once the dust has settled, we would be happy to revisit the status and would love an opportunity to meet the new team once they are in place.

Fr Eric has been an amazing champion for both Family Promise and the families we serve. We hope to still see him around town and at community events.

If there is anything we can do to help during this period of transition, please let me know! Thanks, Mark

Contact: Ben Kendall 832-229-0142 (cell), ben.kendall@gmail.com (email)

Contact: Linda Fletcher 321-704-7100 (cell), lcalvert1956@yahoo.com (email)

Contact: Gail Dunbar 321-419-4810 (cell), gailbeverly@bellsouth.net (email)

Outreach Focus – Sharing His Love

Outreach Meetings

The Outreach team will take a break in July and will meet again in August. We will now meet the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. by Zoom. Upcoming meetings are August 6, and September 3. A Zoom link for the Outreach meeting is on the St. John's website calendar.

Daily Bread



The upcoming duty days are **July 4**, and **August 1**, 10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. We are in urgent need of volunteers to continue our participation in the program. To volunteer please leave your contact information on the Parish Hall credenza.

Vestry Notes

April 18, 2024

Fr. Eric will prepare a note for the Good News providing the context and explanation for the deficit showing for the month of March, most of which is due to a large bill being paid early. Treasurer Elizabeth Chludzinski noted that expenses are going up. Paycor (our payroll service) has gone up 68% to \$193 per month. Triple D Grounds Maintenance has gone up 28% to \$430 per month.

Jack Lester, who has been mowing the Memorial Garden is graduating high school and going to the military, so a new person is needed.

Fr. Eric reported that Lent and Easter went nicely. The diocese is reminding us of the need for abuse prevention training online.

Deborah Miller-Caldwell, Jr. Warden, has moved and therefore stepped down from that position. Please be in prayer for a new Jr. Warden.

The Parochial Report was reviewed and accepted by the vestry.

May 16, 2024

Elizabeth Chludzinski, Treasurer, needed to transfer \$5,000 from the Restricted account to make payroll and cover bills. Started May with \$1,763 in the Operating account. That is calling it close.

Kathy Oas, Sr. Warden's reported that the flagpole in the park was vandalized. The Scouts, who donated and installed it, were notified and they will replace the pole.

Keith Salmon was elected Treasurer as Elizabeth resigned due to personal commitments. Paul Mitz was elected Jr. Warden.

Vestry Notes (con't)

Fr. Eric announced that he is retiring effective June 30. The announcement will be made Sunday May 19 and letters will go out that afternoon.

Canon Dan Smith from the Diocese of Central Florida then went over with the vestry what the process will look like for Fr. Eric's departure, the interim period, and seeking a new rector. The parish will be updated as progress is made.

Musing from Dr. D.

This quote from Kendall Lockerman showed up as a Facebook post some time ago. It's a good reminder of who we are and what we are about. I've just finished reading a book entitled "52 Churches" in which a couple decide to visit a different church in their area each Sunday. What they found makes me even more happy to be not only an Episcopalian but also a part of St. John's.

I am an Episcopalian because a friend invited me to church. I am because of six centuries of music that is so beautiful it brings tears to my eyes. I am because we are a body of believers who can say that we are truly sorry and we humbly repent. I am because we have women behind the altar and men on the altar guild. I am because all are welcome to the table of the feast that fills my heart. I am an Episcopalian because this is where I found my life, and because this is where God blessed me just the way I needed to be blessed. -Kendall Lockerman.

Ken Lockerman (1944 – 2020) was a member of St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, Atlanta and wrote poetry.

Music at St. John's



The choir is on hiatus for the summer. In the mean-while do please consider joining the music team in September when rehearsals begin again.

Worship Volunteers

Worship volunteers are needed for a variety of roles at the Sunday services.

We will train you! All that is needed is a willing heart. Prayerfully consider one or more of the following ministries.

- **Ushers and Greeters:** to welcome the Sunday worshipers.
- **LEM'S and Lay Readers:** needed to read lessons and assist with Communion.
- **A/V & Livestream:** to run our sound and livestream systems. Only moderate comfort with a computer is required. We will train you!
- **Altar Guild:** the parish ministry that cares for the altar, vestments, vessels, and altar linens of the parish.

Please contact the church office at office@stjohnsmlb.org for more information, or any volunteer serving on Sunday.



News from the Diocese

Bishop Justin Holcomb sent a letter to clergy and diocesan leaders providing an update on the status of Canterbury Retreat and Conference Center, the Diocesan retreat center located in Oviedo. Canterbury has struggled financially for some time, and this was accelerated during COVID. Sadly, recent analysis of the finances, debt and potential for Canterbury has made it clear that operations as a retreat and conference must come to an end. The Diocesan Board and the Canterbury Board will begin to study what would be the best use of the property as well as how to manage the approximately \$2 million in debt (which goes to the Diocese if Canterbury dissolves). Please pray for wisdom in this process.



Birthdays and Anniversaries

BIRTHDAYS

July:

Judy McClendon	7/2	Michael Irsfeld	7/8	Jerry Davidson	7/26
Jordan Evans	7/4	Ben Stitzel	7/12	Al Sykes	7/27
Aaron Stitzel	7/4	Sam Williams	7/18	Ron Hollerand	7/29
Don Millar	7/4	Deb Miller-Caldwell	7/22	Judy McLaughlin	7/29

August:

Julie Miller	8/2	Jack Kenworthy	8/16	Dennis Stitzel	8/20
Nick Hernkind	8/5	Hal Martin	8/17	Brittany Tuten	8/23
Nancy Steininger	8/11	Lesla Kaleel	8/19	Mason Evans	8/29

ANNIVERSARIES

July:

Grant & Debra Ball	7/26
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August:

Richard & Ellen Huffman	8/1	Jim & Susan Badgio	8/17
Andrew & Jen Lester	8/11	Dennis & Patty Stitzel	8/20

Seaside Stitchers

The Stitchers are always thrilled to receive new members and would welcome you to visit them in the Parish Hall when they meet on the 1st Monday, and 2nd and 3rd Thursday of the month. If you are interested in joining the sewing group contact Shirley Muzzy 321-254-2206 or shirleymuzzy@aol.com for more information.

St. John's Pet Cemetery

Our Pet Cemetery is located on the East side of the sanctuary and lovingly maintained by Amy Lacy and Laure Bennett. Please contact the office if you would like to have your pet laid to rest there.

Loaning of Church Items

If you would like to borrow tables, chairs, cribs, linens etc. please speak with Kathy Oas, Sr. Warden or Paul Mitz, 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 Kathy at kmoas40@gmail.com; Paul at 321-288-4050, or call the church office at 321-254-3365.

Exit Doors in an Emergency

In the unlikely event of an emergency exit routes from the parish hall are posted on the bulletin board. If you are new to St. John's please take the time to review these routes.

Apart from the main door into the Sanctuary there are also exit doors in both the right and left sacristy, either side of the altar.

KEEPING UP WITH ST. JOHN'S ONLINE



St. John's Chat - an email list to receive the latest updates from St. John's. You can also share things with the parish this way.

St. John's Weekly eNews - includes a short reflection from the rector and news about important events and what's happening Sunday. The eNews drops drops into your email Thursday afternoon at 4 p.m.

St. John's YouTube Channel - you will find worship live streams and sermons, and links to all past and upcoming worship services. **Visit stjohnsmlb.org and click on Worship Live Stream.**

St. John's Website at stjohnsmlb.org. A variety of information including schedules, the calendar, archives of the "Good News", Sunday Ministry schedules, the latest eNews and much more.

Visit Facebook - search for "St. John's Episcopal Church, Melbourne" and like our page. You will receive updates in your newsfeed, notifications when we are live, and more.

To subscribe or to contact St. John's - email office@stjohnsmlb.org or phone 321-254-3365.



July 2 No Outreach Meeting in July.
 July 4 Independence Day!
 July 4 Daily Bread, 10:30 a.m.
 July 14 Daughters of the King lunch meeting at restaurant, 11:30 a.m.
 July 18 Vestry Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Chapel & Zoom.

 Aug 4 No Daughters of the King meeting in August.
 Aug 6 Outreach Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Zoom.
 Aug 8 Daily Bread, 10:30 a.m.
 Aug 15 Vestry Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Chapel & Zoom.

Many meetings include Zoom. Check the web page calendar for details.

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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