



ST. JOHN'S

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

THE GOOD NEWS

September - October 2024

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

SUNDAY

9:00 a.m. - Christian Education begins again Sept. 8.

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

THURSDAY

9:00 a.m. - Staff meeting
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 INTERIM RECTOR:

Dear Friends,

“Honor the space between the Already and the Not Yet.” This is the challenge and hope of our Transition Time at St. John's. A time to give thanks for all that has been in this wonderful parish, to look forward to a future filled with new and exciting things, and to live to the full this special time which is filled with the grace of God. How can we best honor this important time in ways which give glory to God and build up the Church? Let us not just mark time in more-or-less patient waiting but let us use the time well to grow in love and service to the Lord, so that the next Rector, at his or her arrival, will find a thriving and energetic parish ready and excited to enter into a new life. I'd like to encourage each of us to explore ways in which we might do just that.



Every person becomes a member of the Body of Christ at Baptism and is given gifts by the Holy Spirit for ministry. God calls us to use these gifts at different times and seasons of our lives. Please consider how you might use your gifts in new ways during this “Space Between the Already and the Not Yet.” Do you play an instrument or love to sing? Talk to Jerry Davidson about participating in the music of the church. Are you a detail-oriented man or woman who loves beautiful things? The Altar Guild and the Flower Guild are looking for a few new members to help prepare the altar for the service of the sanctuary. Speak to Kathy Oas or to me about learning how to do that. We are always looking for new ushers, lectors (readers), Eucharistic Ministers (chalice bearers), etc.

Continued on Page 2...

For all of these, **we will train you!** On **Sunday, September 8**, you may sign up for any and all of these and receive training following the Eucharist. (Yes, you will have time in between to enjoy coffee hour!) There is no better time than the present to exercise your gifts for ministry to the church.

This is an opportunity to try on something new; to let the Holy Spirit urge us on to use our gifts for exciting, new things. Let us honor this space between the Already and the Not Yet, which is charged with the loving Presence of the living God.

In Christ,

Mother Susan Davidson
Interim Rector



“Good News” November - December 2024 Schedule & Deadline

The deadline for the next issue of “The Good News” will be **Tuesday, October 15**. Please email or delivery your submissions to office@stjohnsmlb.org by **October 15, 2024**.



Senior Warden’s Report

The search is moving forward but remember this takes time so please be patient!

I would like you to look at our campus as though you were a visitor. Make note of things inside and out that could be done to improve our appearance and report them to me or to our Jr. Warden, Paul Mitz.

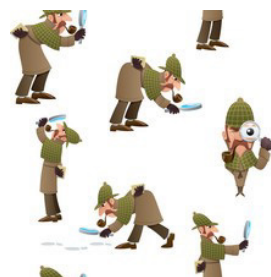
On September 22 at 5:00 p.m. we will have a pot luck dinner to learn more about the search process and to give you an opportunity to ask questions. I encourage all of you to attend as The Rev. Canon Ellis Brust will be leading the program. God Bless,
- Kathy Oas, Sr. Warden

Search Committee Report

To create a more accurate portrait of this congregation, its hopes, desires, and aspirations, the search committee will be hosting a potluck meeting on:

**September 22, at 5:00 p.m.
in the Parish Hall**

**The meeting will be coordinated by
The Rev. Canon Ellis Brust**



It will be Zoomed for those who cannot attend in person. During this meeting we will discuss four words to express our feelings and experiences at St. John’s:

Hopes – Hurts – Hinders – Help

This exercise will aid us in creating a vision of where the church is and where it is going, and to help us search for a person that can lead our organization in the coming years. We fervently invite your participation in this very important event. – Search Team

A Worshiping Community

Evening Prayer at St. John's



We look forward to seeing you at our weekly Evening Prayer (Vespers) service 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. - Jamie Hamilton

Prayer at the Altar

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 Mother Susan.

Guided by Scripture

Christian Formation classes for children and adults will begin on Sunday, September 8 at 9 a.m.

Katie Wilson and Jan Louks have been developing a program for our children. If you have children from age 5 – 16, please come and REGISTER them on Sunday, Sept. 8 in the Chapel.

Adults will meet with Mother Susan in the parish hall and begin by exploring the History of the Bible in English. How much do you know about the Bible? Want to learn more? Join us!

Daughters of the King



Please join us in the chapel after the service on Sunday Sept. 8 for our next meeting.



In August the Daughters met at Life Recaptured for lunch, and a leisurely browse through the boutique. Brandy Crisafulli, the President greeted us and brought us up to date on the program to end sex trafficking in Brevard County through Awareness, Prevention, & Restoration.

Daughters of the King - Prayer Box

A prayer request box is available in the Sanctuary beside the Daughters of the King banner. The Daughters have taken a vow to pray for others and we take this vow seriously. All prayer requests are strictly confidential, and we, as Daughters, honor that confidentiality.



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

September

The Children's Hunger Project is the focus for the month of September. Brevard County teachers recognize which children lack weekend nutrition. The pre-packaged meals require no cooking and are distributed directly into qualifying elementary aged student's backpacks as determined by the teacher. 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 the group needs to raise \$40,000 every month. For more information visit TheChildrensHungerProject.org.



October

The October Outreach focus is New Life Mission. They work to permanently break the generational cycle of homelessness by providing homeless women and their children housing, access to health care, child care, counseling, transportation, education, nutrition, job training, and life skills education in a safe setting. They recently established the New Life Village in Melbourne which will eventually serve 100 families carrying them from homelessness to self-sufficiency. For more information on this organization please visit NewLifeMission.org.



Daily Bread



The upcoming duty days are September 5, and October 3, 10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. If you would like to volunteer, please email the office.

Outreach Focus - Sharing His Love (con't)

Family Promise



As this is being written, Family Promise is St John’s outreach focus and your giving makes a difference. Thank You! Your previous donations provided groceries and 22 dinners for two weeks in July, however the need is still there. Family Promise has large gaps in the congregational hosting and is housing the families at Holiday Inn Viera during these gaps. Stay tuned for more details on how we can help.

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 Meetings

The Outreach Committee will meet the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. on Zoom. Upcoming meetings are September 3, and October 1. A Zoom link for the Outreach meeting is on the St. John’s website calendar.

Stewardship A Message from the Stewardship Team

It is August, and St. John’s parishioners are experiencing some uncertainty. We are in the midst of a search process to select a future rector for St. John’s Episcopal Church, a daunting task. We are outside of our comfort zone. As stewards of St. John’s, we are all charged with preserving, protecting, and sustaining the life of St. John’s Episcopal Church in Melbourne.

During the next several months, we all need to “step up our game” to help any way we can. We are all familiar with the three elements of stewardship:

- We offer our time to do what we can do for the church
- We offer our skills and talents to help the church
- We contribute money to make all the wonderful things happen at St. John’s

Of particular note we want to attract the most talented, highest quality pastor that we can find through our detailed search process. We want to be in a position to be able to offer an appropriate salary. We can accomplish this by significantly increasing our 2025 OPERATING FUND. This fund contains the dollars used to pay salaries, utilities, insurance, maintenance, office expenses, and other expenses. When you receive the pledge packet in October, your annual pledge is your donation to the OPERATING FUND. That annual pledge allows our treasurer and the vestry to formulate a realistic and responsible 2025 budget.

We also participate in other special offerings and other worthwhile outreach programs. While these offerings all have great value, please be aware that those monies do not go toward the OPERATING FUND. As we go through these aforementioned uncertain times, we look forward to finding that person who will be leading St. John’s in the future. We want this process to be exciting and positive.

Your St. John's Giving - Where do the Dollars Go?

When money is given to St. John's, how and when it is given (and any specifics designated on the donation) make a difference. Here are some guidelines:

PLEDGE DOLLARS

When a pledge card is completed by parishioners, any money is considered "pledge" when:

- It is marked that way on a check
- It is in a regular donation envelope
- It is given with no clear designation

Cash must include parishioner information for credit toward your pledge.

ALL PLEDGE DOLLARS GO INTO ST. JOHN'S OPERATING FUND.

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

Any gifts given in "special offering" envelopes (Easter, Christmas, Pentecost) are above and beyond your pledge amount and do not count toward your pledge balance.

SPECIAL OFFERING DOLLARS GO INTO THE ST. JOHN'S OPERATING FUND.

RESTRICTED FUND OFFERINGS

Any gifts specifically designated for "flowers," "memorial garden," "outreach" are above and beyond your pledge and **are not** counted toward your pledge balance. The amounts are held in restricted accounts and only used for those purposes.

Any dollars given to St. John's have potential income tax implications. Givers can receive a "pledge statement" to indicate money given and how it is allocated against the pledged amount. Givers can receive a "giving statement" that reflects all dollars given, including "pledge" and other designated funds.



Vestry Notes

The Vestry Minutes and the Financial Report are now posted on the bulletin board in the parish hall

June 20, 2024

Keith Salmon, Treasurer, Concern regarding the deficit. A suggestion to speak to the parishioners made; and another to mail letters to determine if pledges are up to date. It was mentioned that donations tend to drop in the summer.

Kathy Oas, Sr. Warden: a contract has been signed and sent to the bishop for approval to retain the Rev. Susan Davidson as Interim Rector.

Canon Dan will be here July 7 to discuss with the congregation the process of finding a new Rector. This will also be on Zoom.

Vestry Notes (con't)

To accommodate many groups a lock with multiple codes will replace the lock on the parish hall. A new St. John's sign will replace the damaged sign at US 1 and Young St.

Fr. Eric left the meeting at this point for the election of the Search Committee. Pending their acceptance, they will be introduced to the congregation on Sunday. Susan Badgio, Gail Dunbar, Peter Fischel, Linda Fletcher, Jamie Hamilton, Peg McRee, Veronica Mitz, Whitney Waite, Andy Weeks.

July 18, 2024

A thank you note from the Vestry was sent to Bill and Teresa Chernault for their 6 years of service as custodians of the church and hall.

Keith Salmon, Treasurer, presented the June financial report. There is concern over the growing deficit and a suggestion was made that a letter be sent out to parishioners.

It was recommended that the church obtain a credit card for purchases that cannot be invoiced.

The last audit was completed in 2018. The process is underway to prepare a new audit which will keep us compliant with the Diocese.

Kathy Oas, Sr. Warden, mentioned the high cost to maintain the HVAC. The installer charges \$800/year. Kathy will check the contract and if we are not obliged to use them our Jr. Warden can handle the maintenance.

The concert series has been put on hold for 2024-2025.

Neighbors have complained about the homeless sleeping in the park and using drugs. It was agreed to contact the mayor for suggestions in dealing with the issue.

Financial Summary for July 31, 2024				
	July 2024 Budget	July 2024 Actual	2024 Annual Budget	2024 Annual Actual
Income	\$ 19,207	\$ 20,697	\$ 151,000	\$ 132,829
Expenses	\$ 16,852	\$ 22,748	\$ 153,893	\$ 146,904
Net	\$ 2,355	\$ - 2,051	\$ - 2,893	\$- 14,075
Outreach \$590 for Complementary Cancer Care				

Music at St. John's



The choir will start rehearsals September 4 in the choir loft. Please consider joining the music team.

Musing from Dr. D.

Each Sunday the prelude and postlude are intended as a sort of musical “airlock,” i.e., they help to prepare us to enter the presence of God and then, at the end, to usher us back in to the secular world where we can once again engage in missionary work in our community. It’s when they’re mistaken for “background music” or — as one wag put it — “heavenly muzak” that we miss the point rather badly. It’s easy to get into the habit of conversing during preludes and postludes and it’s not good. All those who prepare liturgy and music for our worship do so with a sense of reverence for the task, bearing in mind that in addition to assisting with preparation for worship it is also a gift to God. We’re very fortunate at St. John’s in that we have a number of talented musicians — and we will have more joining us in the near future — and it’s only “meet, right and our bounden duty” that we should afford them and their efforts the grace of our listening attentively.

There is a website that you probably don’t know about but should. It is called “Ship of Fools” (<http://shipoffools.com>) and describes itself as an “online magazine of Christian unrest.” Within the site you’ll find reports of the “Mystery Worshipers,” volunteers who visit churches of all denominations worldwide and leave a first-timer’s impression of services on the website.

The report always answers a number of questions: What was the name of the service? How full was the building? Did anyone welcome you personally? Was your pew comfortable? How would you describe the pre-service atmosphere? What were the exact opening words of the service? What books did the congregation use during the service? What musical instruments were played? Did anything distract you? Was the worship stiff-upper-lip, happy clappy, or what? Exactly how long was the sermon? On a scale of 1-10, how good was the preacher? In a nutshell, what was the sermon about? Which part of the service was like being in heaven? And which part was like being in... er... the other place? What happened when you hung around after the service looking lost? How would you describe the after-service coffee? How would you feel about making this church your regular (where 10 = ecstatic, 0 = terminal)? Did the service make you feel glad to be a Christian? What one thing will you remember about all this in seven days time? The next time you attend a service at St. John’s, how would YOU answer these questions if you were the “Mystery Worshiper.” Are we attractive to the first-timer? How? What needs attention?



Seaside Stitchers

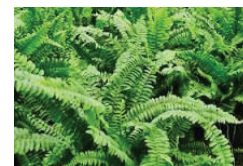
The Stitchers are always thrilled to receive new members and would welcome you to visit them in the Parish Hall when they meet on the 1st Monday, and 2nd and 3rd Thursday of the month. If you are interested in joining the sewing group contact Shirley Muzzy 321-254-2206 or shirleymuzzy@aol.com for more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

Garden Improvements

The Snow-on-the-Mountain bushes in the entry way to the Memorial Garden have been destroyed by caterpillars. After growing there for years these teeny tiny caterpillars demolished the bushes in a couple of days. I think that snake plants would be a good option against the church wall and if you have any that you can spare I would appreciate it. I could also use some more ferns for the back wall of the hall. Any other plants you think would work would be welcome. Please call me at 321-544-3262 or email me at amylacy24@gmail.com. – Amy Lacy



Thank you!

A big thank you to Veronica Mitz for providing the beautiful new sign at the corner of Young and Harbor Road directing people to our church.



Birthdays and Anniversaries

BIRTHDAYS

September:

Kevin Kuhn	9/4	Christina Burleson	9/15	Linda Miller	9/23
Austin Stitzel	9/6	Cindy Tuten	9/15	Teresa Chernault	9/25
Tim Tuten	9/10	Andy Weeks	9/16	Paul Burleson	9/27
Eloise Evans	9/10	Gail Dunbar	9/20	Bill McDanel	9/27

October:

Steve Johnson	10/5	Wally Burleson	10/19	Yvonne Hayes	10/26
Susan Badgio	10/6	David Brotherton	10/20	Jim Hester	10/26
Grace Heusinkveld	10/6	Justin Archey	10/22	Natalie Chartier	10/26
Patty Stitzel	10/6	Vicki Crane	10/22	Vanessa Cato	10/26
Richard Huffman	10/10	Joan Roddan	10/24	Lacey Brotherton	10/27
Peg McRee	10/17	Keith Salmon	10/24	Rudy Tuten	10/28
Gemma Langenbach	10/18			Jim Windt	10/31

ANNIVERSARIES

September:

Bob & June Stitzel	9/5	Steve & Ginny Bradley	9/11	John & Trish Seymour	9/12
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October:

Timothy & Christine Bamberger 8/1

From the History Book

The anniversary of the Philadelphia 11, in July brings-to-mind a paragraph in the Mission of St. John's history book. At the 1967 Annual Convention, the three St. John's delegates voted not to allow women on the vestry. Other delegates saw the issue differently and it easily passed. On their return to Eau Gallie the delegates said in their defense they voted their conscience. It was immediately decided by the parish that future issues would be discussed at a special parish meeting and delegates instructed on their vote.

Good News Changes Coming in 2025

The first St. John's newsletter, The Journal was published sixty years ago in April 1965. It became a valuable tool in communicating to the parish. With costs rising it has been decided that the Good News should be emailed with only a few mailed. We will maintain the layout as it is now but it will save the church a considerable amount of money to email it.

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.

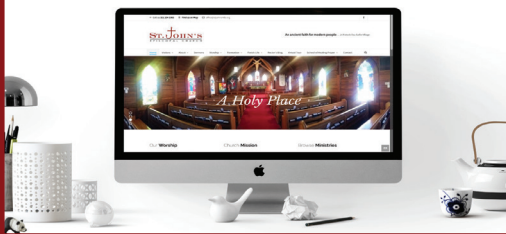
And, of course, we need to keep track of the church's property. Please contact Kathy at kmoas40@gmail.com; Paul at 321-288-4050, or email the church office.

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 - will be sent periodically to promote events.

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.

A General Thanksgiving Prayer



Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love.

We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side.

We thank you for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us.

We thank you also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone.

Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for the truth of his Word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through which he overcame death; and for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom.

Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know Christ and make him known, and through him, at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things. *Amen.*

BCP, p.836

Sept 2 Labor Day.
 Sept 3 Outreach Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Zoom.
 Sept 5 Daily Bread, 10:30 a.m.
 Sept 8 Daughters of the King, 11:30 a.m., in the Chapel.
 Sept 8 Rehearsal for Liturgical Minister, 11:30 a.m., in the Church.
 Sept 19 Vestry Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Chapel & Zoom.
 Sept 22 Search Committee Pot Luck, 5:00 p.m., Parish Hall.

 Oct 1 Outreach Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Zoom.
 Oct 3 Daily Bread, 10:30 a.m.
 Oct 6 Daughters of the King, 11:30 a.m., in the Chapel.
 Oct 17 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.



610 Young Street
Melbourne, FL 32935