



ST. JOHN'S

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

THE GOOD NEWS

November - December 2024

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

SUNDAY

9:00 a.m. - Christian Formation

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
6:30 p.m. AA Ladies

FRIDAY

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

Visit Stjohnsmlb.org for links and more info.

A WORD FROM THE INTERIM RECTOR:

Dear Friends,

Much like the transition time in which we find ourselves at St. John's, the months of November and December offer the Church the ending of one year and the beginning of a new year. November brings us All Saints' Day (Nov. 1 – celebrated this year on Sunday, Nov. 3), the Feast of Christ the King (Nov. 24) which is the final feast of the Church Year, and Thanksgiving Day (Nov. 28). I encourage you to savor each of these festivals as the days grow shorter and the calendar winds down. December 1 brings us the first Sunday of Advent and a whole new year in the Church's calendar; a time of hope, promise, and prayer; a time of preparations for the coming of Christ once again into our hearts and our homes, both as a child born in a manger and, as we look to the end of time, the time when he will “come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead.” (*Collect for Advent I*) Elsewhere in this issue, you will find the calendar for all these celebrations and more. This sanctification of time allows us to see every day as holy in the sight of God and an inspiration to our souls. It is a reminder to us that ALL time is holy – even times of transition in the Church! This interim time between rectors is a time for us to focus our prayer life, as we give thanks for all that St. John's has been in the past and continues to be, and for the exciting and glorious new life which is to come.

In Christ,

Mother Susan Davidson
Interim Rector





“Good News” January - February 2025 Schedule & Deadline

The deadline for the next issue of “The Good News” will be **Tuesday, December 10**. Please email or deliver your submissions to office@stjohnsmlb.org by **December 10, 2024**.

Search Committee Report

St. John’s search committee’s activities are continuing. While the meeting on September 22 was a starting point, the committee still needs more input from the congregation to make choices made in your best interests. To help us create a portrait of our church, questions need to be addressed by the members of our congregation. These will be discussed at upcoming meetings that will follow worship services. Please plan to attend these meetings ready to participate. **YOUR INPUT IS IMPORTANT!**



1. Describe a moment in your worshipping community’s recent ministry which you recognize as one of success and fulfillment.
2. How are you preparing yourself for the Church of the future?
3. Describe your liturgical style and practice for all worship services provided by your community.
4. How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?
5. As a worshipping community, how do you care for your spiritual, emotional, and physical well-being?
6. How do you engage in pastoral care for those beyond your worshipping community?
7. Describe your worshipping community’s involvement in either the wider church or geographic region.
8. Tell about a ministry that your worshipping community has initiated in the last five years. Who can be contacted about this?
9. What is your practice of stewardship and how does it shape the life of your worshipping community?
10. What is your worshipping community’s experience of conflict? Have you addressed it?
11. What is your experience leading/addressing change in the church? When has it gone well? When has it gone poorly? What did you learn?
12. Provide words describing the gifts and skills essential to the future leaders of your worshipping community.

Interim Rector and Music Director on Vacation

The Rev. Susan and Dr. Jerry Davidson will be on vacation in France October 26 - November 3.

While we are away, The Rev. Vanessa Cato will be our supply priest (yes, another familiar face from the congregation!) on October 27 and November 3 (All Saints’ Sunday), and Organ Scholar Sylvia Tammen will play and direct the choir. We are most fortunate to have such gifted persons among us!

Parish Brunch

St. John’s Annual Christmas Brunch will be Sunday, December 15 immediately following the 10 a.m. service. The main course will be provided, please bring a side or dessert to share! A sign-up sheet will be in the parish hall in November.

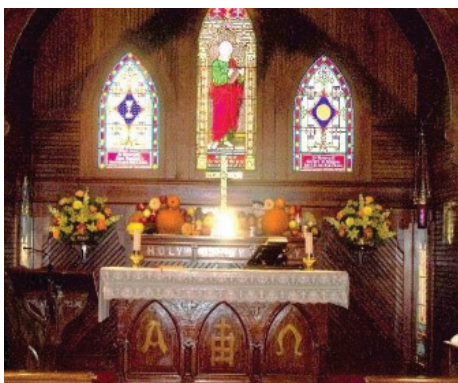


Tending to your Spiritual Life

Let us resist the temptation to believe that we are all too busy to make time for prayer and devotion in our lives. I encourage you – even urge you – to set aside just a few minutes each day to sit (or walk) in quiet contemplation of the beauty and wonder of this world which God has created for us and given to us to enjoy and maintain. I encourage to **use the Daily Office as it is given us in the Book of Common Prayer** in both the language of Rite I and Rite II: Morning Prayer, Noonday Prayer; Evening Prayer, and Compline (bedtime prayer) are all published in the BCP, both in their formal version and in a shorter version for Individuals and Families (beginning on p. 136). If you wish to join others around the world in the Daily Office, try going to missionstclare.com and you will find the services complete with hymns. It's a delightful way to begin or end the day! Also, beginning in November, you will find **that we are making a change from "The Upper Room" devotional booklets to those of "Forward Day by Day,"** a devotional booklet published by the Episcopal Church. I hope you will find them helpful in strengthening your prayer life! - Susan Davidson

A Worshiping Community

Thanksgiving Worship



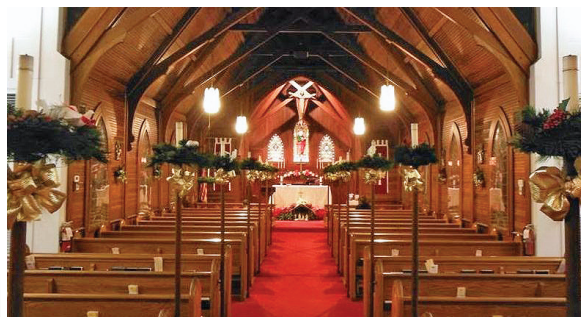
We will have Thanksgiving Worship on Thanksgiving Day, November 28 at 10 a.m. The service will be In-Person and Livestreamed. Visit the website and click on Worship Livestream the week of the service for the link.

Christmas Day Celebration



On Wednesday, December 25 at 11 a.m. The service is In-person only.

Christmas Eve Festival Celebration



Will be Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24 at 8 p.m. Come early and enjoy singing carols! The service will be In-Person and Livestreamed.

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

A Worshiping Community

St. John's Holiday Schedule



Thanksgiving Worship - Thursday, Nov 28, 10 a.m.
Parish Brunch - Sunday, Dec 15, following 10 a.m. service
Christmas Eve Festival Worship - Tuesday, December 24, 8 p.m.
Christmas Day Worship - Wednesday, Dec 25, 11 a.m.

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 for adults and children

Christian Formation for Adults is exploring a video series, "Reading the Images," by world-renowned New Testament theologian The Rt. Rev. N.T. Wright, retired Bishop of Durham (England) and professor of biblical theology at Oxford University. Join us!

Katie Wilson and Jan Louks have developed a program for our children. Children from age 5 – 16, meet in the chapel at 9:00 a.m.

Daughters of the King

Daughters meet on the first Sunday of the month following the morning service. If you are interested in becoming a Daughter, please join the meeting or contact Sarah Kendall at 702-203-6093, 537sarah@gmail.com, or Sally Razor, 859-585-5836, srazor@bellsouth.net.



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.

Outreach Focus – Sharing His Love

November



St. John’s Outreach Focus for the month of November has been designated for Daily Bread. They have several programs to assist the transition out of homelessness, providing hot showers, clean clothes, shoes and socks, toiletries, clean blankets, mats, and sleeping bags. Daily Bread accepts donations of new and gently-used clothes, both men and women, as well as the items listed above. Their future plans include Providence Place, a 120-unit permanent supportive housing community on Sarno Road, scheduled to open in 2026. Visit dailybreadinc.org to learn more.

December

No Outreach partner has been scheduled for December this year, but see next item below.



Gifts from the Heart

Gifts from the Heart (GFTH) will be open for business beginning on December 7th. Their goal is to collect 1,000 gifts for the Christmas Pop-Up Shop where parents participating in several approved programs can purchase gifts for their children at deeply discounted prices. Although St. John's will not be hosting a Giving Tree with ornaments this year, we encourage parishioners who wish to give to this very worthy cause to use one of the methods below:

Shop the wish lists - Purchase directly from either of these online registries:

Go to Gifts from the Heart Christmas Shop website and scroll to How to Give. Click on Amazon or Target this will take you directly to their page.

Donate directly using the GFTH website. Copy paste the link:

<https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/weblink.aspx?name=E343557&id=1>

Drop off new, unwrapped toys at Sorenson Moving & Storage, 950 W. Eau Gallie Blvd, Melbourne.

Volunteer in the gift shop: About 20 volunteers are needed to help throughout set up, shop hours and breakdown. For more information go to the website: <http://www.neighborupbrevard.org/gfth>

We are grateful for the generous support from our church family to help others!



Daily Bread



The upcoming duty days are January 2, and February 6, 10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. If you would like to volunteer, please email the office.

Outreach Focus – Sharing His Love

Responding to Hurricane Relief

Almost everyone knows someone whose life was impacted by one or both of the recent hurricanes. As a survivor of Hurricane Katrina, I can tell you that the needs of people in hurricane-ravaged areas will continue for years to come. The most important need is for money. If you are able to contribute financially to those in Florida, Georgia, Tennessee, or North Carolina, I encourage you to do so through Episcopal Relief and Development. They were on the ground in New Orleans and Mississippi immediately after Katrina and have been so in all of the states affected by Helene and Milton. They bring with them a staff of persons for the long term to address all sorts of needs, financial help, and disaster relief you may not even have imagined. You may contribute to them by going to episcopalrelief.org and be a part of the generous response of the Episcopal Church!

- Susan Davidson

Family Promise



Family Promise has large gaps in the congregational hosting and is housing the families at Holiday Inn Viera during these gaps. If you would like to help contact:

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 November 7, and December 5. A Zoom link for the Outreach meeting is on the St. John’s website calendar.



Stewardship November 10 is Pledge Sunday

WHY THE ANNUAL PLEDGE PROCESS?

Every November we take time to reflect and project how we can return our gifts of time, talent, and our money to help to preserve, protect, and sustain the life of St. John’s Episcopal Church of Melbourne for another year. Our treasurer, Keith Salmon, needs data from your submitted pledge card to build a realistic and responsible budget for the next year, and the Vestry needs to approve this budget. The budget is directly driven by the congregation’s pledge card response.

St. John’s has a small endowment fund that we expect will grow in the next few years, but we presently don’t use any endowment money to apply to our operating budget. The budget is developed on your pledge card response.

We are all reluctant to make commitments. Please understand that should some extreme circumstance arise that you cannot fulfill your pledge, arrangements or adjustments can be made with our Treasurer, Keith Salmon.



Stewardship (con't)

DO YOU WANT WEEKLY PLEDGE ENVELOPES?

Some people prefer to use weekly pledge envelopes, while others don't use them and just write checks.

There is a box on the pledge card for you to denote if you wish to use the pledge envelopes.

QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTION (QCD)

If a person is old enough and possesses an IRA or some other tax-deferred account, he or she should be able to realize some tax-saving benefits by donating to St. John's, utilizing a "qualified charitable distribution."

Some of our more mature members are familiar with the term "required minimum distributions" (RMDs). If you are a certain age, you are required to withdraw a percentage of your tax-deferred accounts and pay taxes on that withdrawal. A way of avoiding paying taxes on that required annual withdrawal is to donate to St. John's by taking a "qualified charitable distribution." Your financial advisor can explain the details of a qualified charitable distribution to be sent directly to St. John's Episcopal Church. You will have reached your annual RMD requirement without having to pay taxes on that withdrawal.

With our current 2025 stewardship campaign in progress, you are urged to consider this tax-saving strategy. Contact your financial/tax advisor (if you are old enough).

St. John's Endowment Fund

This is money that will be invested to provide a reliable source of income for generations to come. The fund is intended to be managed in perpetuity, meaning the principal will not be invaded. You may want to consider making a gift to the endowment fund as a direct gift of cash or as a planned gift. You can also consult your financial manager about utilizing gifts to the endowment fund to possibly reduce your taxes. For more information, Endowment Fund brochures are available in the parish hall, or you may contact The Endowment Committee: Shannon Brooks-Hamilton, Jack Kenworthy, Julie Miller.



Vestry Notes

Vestry approved Minutes are now posted on the bulletin board in the parish hall.

August

Keith Salmon, Treasurer: The Deficit is being reduced sooner than originally thought and expenses significantly less than 2 months ago since we no longer pay for the priest's pension, medical and salary. Restricted Funds used to float the Operating Budget should no longer be needed and pledges are where they should be but givers of record are down this year.

Outreach Committee: Vestry approved the Outreach committee's plan to forego an Outreach partner for December this year. Also St. John's will not be hosting Gifts from the Heart but does encourage individuals to purchase gifts. Vestry approved Outreach continue their partnerships in 2025 as they have this year.

Vestry Notes (con't)

Stewardship Committee: Pledge letter will go out in October prior to the November Pledge Sunday. Discussion on Pledge testimonials, committee would like two people to speak to the congregation. The Stewardship letter will have a best estimate of what a new pastor will cost, plus a 2%-3% increase in other expenses.

Senior Warden's Report: Rental property leases to be reviewed and real estate agent consulted regarding rent increases.

Junior Warden's Report: Pressure washed the Memorial Garden fence.

Rector's Report: Trish Seymour's funeral date TBD. May need two LEMs for the upcoming Stitzel baptism.

Financial Summary for August 31, 2024				
	August 2024 Budget	August 2024 Actual	2024 Annual Budget	2024 Annual Actual
Income	\$ 21,025	\$ 23,975	\$ 172,025	\$ 156,804
Expenses	\$ 22,008	\$ 12,542	\$ 175,901	\$ 160,622
Net	\$ 2,355	\$ - 2,051	\$ - 2,893	\$- 14,075
Outreach \$175 for Complementary Cancer Care				



Musings from Dr. D.

I grew up as a Methodist in the wilds of southeastern Arkansas where I served as our church's organist from age 13 until I graduated from high school and left for college. To me, one of the most impressive aspects of that long tenure was the ritual used for welcoming new members into the Methodist Church. Prospective members were always asked, "will you support the church by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, and your service?" I think that these four aspects of our spiritual lives are at the very core of our parish stewardship.

Let me urge you to pray daily. Pray for our clergy, for the parish, for those who are sick and in need, in thanksgiving for all that we have been given.

Worship with us regularly – in person if you can, but virtually via Youtube if necessary. Participate fully in the liturgy: singing the hymns (okay, if you think you "don't sing" at least read the hymn texts as they are being sung – God speaks to us sometimes extraordinarily clearly in this way), making the responses out loud, listening carefully to the lessons and the sermon, using the music played to move your mind into the presence of God. Make a pledge of financial commitment. I'm sure I don't need to remind you that the parish must have money to meet even its mundane requirements. Plus, I'm fond of saying, "Good music is expensive. Bad music is even more expensive!" Good music, well performed, is often cited as a primary reason why people join a particular parish. Bad or "lowest-common-denominator" music is often the reason people leave.

Finally, to me, service is the aspect most frequently omitted by so many. I am a firm believer that every parishioner should have a specific job to do in support of the worship, fellowship, and/or outreach of the parish. The opportunities are numerous: Altar Guild, Flower Guild, ushers, lectors, choir members, instrumentalists, organizers, greeters, office help,

Musing from Dr. D. (con't)

etc., etc., etc. Whatever your interests/abilities there's something for you to do and St. John's needs for you to do it. - Jerry Davidson

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.

Voting as a Spiritual Exercise

How often do you consider voting a spiritual exercise? Allow me to encourage you in that practice! In creating human beings, the Almighty God gave us free will. Free will allows us to make choices. The choices we make frequently impact not only our personal lives, but the lives of those around us, in our homes, in our communities, and in the wider world. I hope each adult member of St. John's will take the opportunity to VOTE ON NOV. 5. I will certainly not tell you for whom to vote(!), but I pray that you will consider the act of voting a holy moment; the privilege and importance of casting your vote for your candidate and for the various amendments which govern and affect our lives and relationships is an honor which many countries do not have. Further, I would encourage you to pray before you vote, and ask the Lord to guide your decisions, that they may give glory to God and benefit the people.

- Susan Davidson

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.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

BIRTHDAYS

November:

Sarah Kendall	11/6	Richard Muir	11/12	Megan Hambel	11/27
Roberta Ardinger-Smith	11/7	Sara Roley	11/14	Debbie Campbell	11/28
Lee Steininger	11/7	Ellen Huffman	11/14	Patti Coleman	11/30
Jimbo Windt	11/11	Caroline Harrell	11/23		

December:

Joe McLaughlin	12/1	Barbara Holliday	12/12	Sharon Tuten	12/24
Brenda Williams	12/9	Bailey Oas	12/14	John Seymour	12/30
John Burleson	12/10	Eddie Bennett	12/20		

ANNIVERSARIES

November:

David & Lesa Kaleel	11/7	John & Patti Coleman	11/28
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December:

Franny & Robert Boersma	12/15	Randy & Eloise Evans	12/27
Paul & Lorraine Burleson	12/19	Bill & Teresa Chernault	12/30
Hasty & Julie Miller	12/23		

From the History Book



Paul & Lorraine Burleson were married at St. John’s December 19th 1975 in a candlelight service with the Church being totally decked out in its Christmas beauty of greenery and candles and white ribbons. It was a lovely and memorable service, in a place of beauty that most brides could die for. The Christmas Eve Service at St. John’s to this day remains one of the most beautiful venues anywhere around, and the parish members should show great pride in decorating the Church at Christmas time. It should be a place where everyone in Melbourne should want to go to! – Paul Burleson

“If you don’t recount your family history, it will be lost. Honor your own stories and tell them too. The tales may not seem very important, but they are what binds families and makes each of us who we are.”

– Madeleine L’Engle

From the History Book



Best Friends are Family:

About twenty-five years ago I met Richard and Ellen Huffman at a Bull Creek Clean-up and Picnic that we held every February. He and Ellen were riding in a swamp buggy with my friends Albert and Margaret Henderson. I really did not get the chance to know him, but thought that they had to be good people to associate with Margaret and Albert. In 2006 and 2007 I was Senior Warden and Richard was Jr. Warden.

We got together every Friday Morning for Breakfast at Aloha Eatery on Wickham Road with Fr. Eric for Breakfast. I remember the first time that I walked into Aloha and saw Richard sitting there. He told me that he had been going to St. John's since 1958. I had been going to St. John's since 1966. We had never met each other at church. We knew each other from Bull Creek. I always assumed that he was a Baptist like Albert. Our terms as Wardens ended, but Richard and I continued eating breakfast together every Friday. After Breakfast Richard would always take off and go across the Causeway to go to MeMaws for Bible Study. In September of 2017 when I retired, I joined Richard and the rest of the Men at Friday Morning Bible Study. Over the years Richard and I have become close friends, and look forward to our Friday Mornings. – Paul Burleson



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.

Nov 3	Daughters of the King, 11:30 a.m., in the Chapel.
Nov 5	Outreach Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Zoom.
Nov 7	Daily Bread, 10:30 a.m.
Nov 21	Vestry Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Chapel & Zoom.
Nov 28	Thanksgiving Worship, Rite II, In-person only, 10:00 a.m.
Dec 1	Daughters of the King, 11:30 a.m., in the Chapel.
Dec 3	Outreach Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Zoom.
Dec 5	Daily Bread, 10:30 a.m.
Dec 15	Parish Brunch after the 10:00 a.m. service.
Dec 19	Vestry Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Chapel & Zoom.
Dec 24	Christmas Eve Worship, 8:00 p.m.; carols 7:75 p.m.
Dec 25	Christmas Day Celebration, Rite 1, 11:00 a.m.

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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