

ST. JOHN'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE GOOD NEWS

September - October, 2026

WEEKLY SCHEDULE SUNDAY

8:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist, Rite I
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 Parish Hall

WEDNESDAY

10: a.m. – Bible Study
7:00 p.m. – Choir Rehearsal.

THURSDAY

9:00 a.m. – Staff Meeting
6:30 p.m. – Ladies AA

FRIDAY

8:00 a.m. – TGIF (Men's Breakfast and Bible study), La Loma Restaurant.

Visit StJohnsmlb.org for links and more information.

A WORD FROM THE RECTOR

Trying Something New: Growing Together at St. John's.



One of the things I have come to appreciate at St. John's is the willingness of this parish to try new things. Since I have been here, I have had the opportunity to experiment with different ideas, introduce new opportunities for fellowship, and dream about what St. John's might look like in the years ahead. What has encouraged me most is the willingness to say, "Let's give it a try." Not every experiment will become a permanent part of our life together, and I think that is perfectly fine. Sometimes we must try something before we know whether it will work. Sometimes we discover that an idea needs to be adjusted, and sometimes I find out that an idea is simply not a fit. I believe that is part of what it means to be a living church. We are not simply preserving what has always been; we are listening for where the Holy Spirit may be leading us and having the courage to take the next step. This fall, I originally wanted us to start small groups throughout the community, but I have felt led to try something a little simpler first. I am particularly excited about this experiment because I believe it has the potential to shape the future culture of St. John's.

Beginning **Wednesday, October 7**, we will be experimenting with a six-week small group experience here at St. John's. Each Wednesday evening from **5:30–7:00 p.m.**, we will gather for dinner, fellowship, and conversation around the sermon series we have

experienced together on Sunday mornings. The idea is simple: we worship together on Sunday, and then we have an opportunity during the week to go a little deeper. We will talk about Scripture, ask questions, share our experiences, and explore what it means to take what we hear on Sunday and live it out during the week. Dinner will be provided because there is something important about sitting around a table together (if you would like to help be on the dinner team, please let me know). Jesus did a great deal of teaching around tables, and I think sharing a meal helps us become more comfortable with one another. My hope is that these six weeks will give us a chance to get to know people we may not know very well, hear stories we might not otherwise hear, and discover that we have more in common with one another than we sometimes realize.

There is also a larger purpose behind this six-week experiment. My hope is that this will be a steppingstone toward having small groups meeting throughout our community beginning next spring. Before we can send groups out into the community, however, we need to learn how to do this well. These six weeks are designed not only to deepen our own faith but also to train and equip the members of St. John's to lead small groups. I want us to learn what it looks like to facilitate a conversation, encourage participation, pray together, study Scripture together, and create an environment where people feel comfortable sharing their lives and growing in faith. I also want to be very clear that participating in this six-week experience does not mean that you are signing up or obligating yourself to lead a small group in the future. There is no hidden commitment waiting for you at the end of the six weeks. Instead, my hope is that we will equip and empower people so that, should the opportunity arise and should you ever feel called to lead, you will be ready. Some may discover that leading a group is something they would love to do. Others may simply discover that being part of a group is a meaningful way to grow, both are valuable.

I believe this is important because the future of St. John's will not be built simply by having more people sitting in the pews on Sunday morning. Numerical growth is a wonderful thing, but we also need spiritual growth and relational growth. We need to become a parish where people know one another, where generations learn from one another, where families build friendships with other families, and where newcomers quickly discover that they have a place among us. It is easy to come to church, sit beside the same people, visit for a few minutes after worship, and then go home.

There is nothing wrong with that, but I believe God is calling us to something deeper. Small groups give us an opportunity to move from simply attending church to genuinely sharing life together. Small groups create space for discipleship, prayer, friendship, questions, laughter, and encouragement. They help us become the kind of parish where people are not only welcomed through the doors but are known, loved, and supported. That kind of culture does not happen by accident. It happens because people are willing to invest in one another.

So, I invite you to join me in this experiment. Come on Wednesday evenings from **October 7 through November 11**, from **5:30 – 7:00 p.m.** Bring a friend. Come for dinner. Come for the conversation. Come because you want to learn more about Scripture. Come because you would like to meet someone you have not yet had the opportunity to know. Come because you are curious about what small groups might look like at St. John's. And perhaps come simply because you are willing to try something new. I do not know exactly where these six weeks will lead us, and that is part of the excitement. What I do know is that I am grateful to serve a parish that has been willing to experiment, dream, and grow. I look forward to seeing what God will do through this next step. My prayer is that

Looking Ahead

Choir Rehearsals Resume in the Choir Loft
Wednesday, September 2, 7:00 p.m.

Blessing of the Animals
Saturday, October 3
11:00 a.m. – 12 noon, in the Park

Small Group Experience
Each Wednesday
October 7 -November 11
5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

November-December Good News
Tuesday, October 20
Last Day to submit changes or additions:
email to office@stjohnsmlb.org.

2nd Annual Pig Roast in the Park
Saturday, November 14, 5:00 p.m.
An Outreach program

St. John's Second Annual Pig Roast

Last year, St. John's gathered for our very first Pig Roast, and it was such a wonderful time of food, laughter, fellowship, and community that we're doing it again!

Saturday, November 14th, St. John's will host our Second Annual Pig Roast, and this year I want to encourage us to think about the event a little differently.

Yes, there will be great food. Yes, there will be plenty of conversation and laughter. And yes, we'll have a wonderful opportunity to spend time together as the St. John's family.

But this is also an outreach event.

One of the greatest gifts we can give someone is an invitation to experience the community we love. There are people all around us who may have driven past St. John's countless times without ever stepping onto our property. They may have wondered what happens here, who we are, or what kind of people make up this church.

The Pig Roast gives us a wonderfully simple way to answer those questions.

There is no pressure. No formal worship service. No expectation that someone has to know anything about the Episcopal Church. Just a good BBQ dinner, a beautiful property, and an opportunity to meet some genuinely wonderful people.

Think of it as a low-risk invitation to come and see.

That is where I want to challenge each of us.

Tickets are **\$20 per person**, or you can **sponsor a table of six for \$50**. I would especially encourage our members to consider sponsoring a table and then filling those seats with people who are not currently part of St. John's.

- Invite a neighbor.
- Invite a coworker.
- Invite a friend.
- Invite a family member.
- Invite someone who has been looking for a church.
- Invite someone who hasn't been looking for a church at all!

The goal isn't simply to have a full room. **The goal is to build relationships.**

When our guests arrive, they'll get to experience something that is difficult to communicate through a website, newsletter, or Facebook post: **the people of St. John's**. They will get to sit at a table with us, share a meal with us, hear our stories, see our property, and discover what makes this community special.

And who knows what might happen from there?

Maybe they'll come back for worship. Maybe they'll join us for another event. Maybe they'll become involved in one of our ministries. Or maybe they'll simply leave knowing that there is a place called St. John's where people are welcomed, loved, and invited to share a meal.

That is Outreach.

So let's fill the tables—not just with members of St. John's, but with people who haven't met us yet.

Sponsor a table. Invite your friends. Bring your neighbors. Come hungry, and most importantly, come ready to welcome someone new.

We can't wait to see you at the **Second Annual St. John's Pig Roast on Saturday, November 14th!**



A Worshiping Community



Music Ministry



Our choir is resuming weekly rehearsals at 7 p.m., on Wednesdays, in the loft on September 2. We welcome both experienced singers and eager learners, so if you are interested in joining, feel free to reach out to sylvia.tammen1@gmail.com. (Even if you're most confident singing along with the melody rather than the harmony, that's a very valuable contribution!)



St. John's is blessed to have such a dedicated group of singers — and such a supportive congregation of listeners. I look forward to making more music with you and for you in the season ahead!



Daughters of the King



The St. John's Chapter welcomed three new members this quarter, Judy Bell-McLaughlin, Sandra Pekar and Nelia Perez. The Daughters are women to whom parishioners can look for love and for help in time of need or loneliness, never forgetting that prayer is the foundation from which our service grows. Meetings are held in the chapel after the 10 a.m. service on the first Sunday of every month, and we always welcome new members. If you are interested in joining the Daughters of the King please contact Sallie Razor, Co-President, srazor@bellsouth.net.

Blessing of the Animals

To commemorate the Feast of St. Francis, the patron saint of animals.

Saturday, October 3, 11 a.m. – 12 noon.
In the St. John's park, by the Gazebo.



Guided by Scripture



Prayer Request Box in the Sanctuary.....

beside the Daughters of the King banner.

The Daughters have taken a vow to pray for others and they take this vow seriously. All prayer requests are strictly confidential, and they, as Daughters, honor that confidentiality.

Sunday Christian Formation

Adults, Sunday, 9:00 a.m.
in the Parish Hall.

The class is led by Amie Rutherford.

The Youth meet in the Chapel.

Small Group Experience

October 7 -November 11
5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Join Fr. Timothy for
dinner, fellowship, and conversation.

Bible-in-a-Year Bible Study

Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. in the
Rector's office.

TGIF Men's Breakfast and Bible Study

Join us for our Men's Bible Study Friday
mornings, 7:30 – 9:00 a.m. at
La Loma Restaurant, Aurora Road.

Sharing His Love - Outreach

September Outreach Focus: St. John's Parish Programs

The donations for September will allow St. John's immediate response and allow the church to set new projects in motion such as the Pig Roast, and Low-Country Boil, which will benefit the church as a whole, designed to invite others to come see our church.

September and October Outreach meetings:

The Outreach Committee meets the first Thursday 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.

October Outreach Focus: Complementary Cancer Care

One idea started the organization:

Give anyone dealing with cancer the tools to heal mind, body, heart, and soul.

A state where someone experiences less suffering and feels more whole, no matter their diagnosis or prognosis or their stage of treatment or recovery. The services are free to anyone affected by cancer, and the programs complement medical treatment and fill gaps between patient and person, encouraging self-expression, relief from stress and anxiety, a sense of community.

- The Mind Body classes are via Zoom, or in-person;
- Many classes are on YouTube, and may be accessed through their website.
- Several support groups are available including an Oncology Advocate.

Thank you!

To the Altar Guild and the Flower Guild for quietly preparing the sanctuary and church for worship. The unseen duties that consistently provide us with a special service each Sunday.

The Children's Nursery

The nursery is available during the Sunday service.

Stewardship

A Message from the Stewardship Team

In a couple of months, we begin our Stewardship Campaign. At this time we recognize that as Christians we believe that not only are we a gift from God, but that all we possess are gifts from God. 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 wonderful things happen at St. John's.

This coming year our focus is to add programs and services that would allow us to “build for the future.” Father Timothy has a vision for the future of St. John's, and he is outlining plans for our church. The vision and plans encourage us to increase our *2027 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 2027 budget.

We also participate in other special offerings and other worthwhile outreach programs. While those offerings all have great value, please be aware that those monies don't go toward the *OPERATING FUND*.

Thank you for your prayerful and generous consideration during the upcoming Stewardship Campaign.

Stewardship Team:

Whitney Waite, Peter Fischel, Jack Kenworthy



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

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

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.

- 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.

Donate to St. John's Online!



Who Are the Seaside Stitchers

But the most exciting part of those first Mondays is the Show and Tell. From the piles and bags, the ladies take it in turns to show what they have made at the Thursday sewing sessions, and at

home over the last month. It doesn't matter if you have made one item or thirty items, or have been too busy to sew this month. We just love to affirm each other and "ooh!" and "aah!" over the beautiful things that have been made. At the end of the morning there are quilts and bed runners for Vitas Healthcare and St Francis Hospice; quilts for a girls school in the Bahamas; Children's clothes (shorts and tops and dresses) for the local schools, and for Friends of Children of Brevard, and bags to put them in; Baby clothes, quilts, bibs and burp cloths for Brevard Health Alliance; Adult bibs, fidget blankets, walker bags, and soft butterflies and bones for the Alzheimer Foundation, Florida Shores Assisted Living, and other places; Pet beds and dog bandanas for Companion Animal Care of Brevard; Place mats for Meals on

Wheels; Christmas stockings for various charities, and various items for Grand Villa, Sarah's Care, Community of Hope, and Daily Bread.

On the first Monday in July 361 items were donated by these wonderful ladies. It is the same story every month. Mostly the items are stitched, but some of the ladies knit slippers, hats, shawls, and blankets too.

The ladies of Seaside Stitchers also meet in St John's Parish Hall on two Thursdays each month. If you are around you will see a steady stream of sewing machines being wheeled in from around 9am. Shirley Muzzy, one of the Founding Members of the group oversees the setting up of the tables containing donated fabric and notions, and Harvey, whose late wife was also a founding member, ensures each table has electricity, and the ironing boards and cutting table are ready for the ladies to get to work. From time to time some of the ladies demonstrate skills, or show how to make a new item for donation. We are all willing to help new sewers.

And we do cut, and piece, and sew, but this group is so much more than a workshop to make items for worthy causes. Not only are we caring for those Jesus called us to – the poor, the sick,

and the needy – we also care for one another. Many of the women live alone, and this warm, friendly, and caring group is a lifeline combatting loneliness. Our meetings are full of chatter and laughter, but they are also a place where we listen to each other, and support one another. People bring snacks to share, and some stay to eat lunch together. A few times a year we have a luncheon, and in December we have a Christmas party.

Seaside Stitchers, formed 30 years ago in Melbourne, has been meeting at St John's for about 12 years, and a few of the ladies are members of the congregation of St John's. The group is open to both men and women, though we only have two men at present. Anyone can join, and the subscription is low so no one is excluded because of cost. The group has charitable status, and donates a certain sum each year to St John's to cover overheads. We always make sure we leave the hall clean and tidy.

We are very grateful to St John's for allowing us to meet in the Parish Hall, and hope that they will continue to do so, thus supporting the Christian ministry of this wonderful Seaside Stitchers group for many, many more years to come. *Vanessa Cato, Member.*



Birthdays and Anniversaries



BIRTHDAYS

September:

Karin Kuhn	9/4	Asher Rutherford	9/19
Austin Stitzel	9/6	Gail Dunbar	9/20
Timothy Rutherford	9/7	Linda Miller	9/23
Tim Tuten	9/10	Teresa Chernault	9/25
Christina Burleson	9/15	Paul Burleson	9/27
Cindy Tuten	9/15	Bill McDanel	9/27
Andy Weeks	9/16	Lois Ponder	9/28

October:

Steve Johnson	10/5	Vicki Crane	10/22
Grace Heusinkveld	10/6	Joan Roddan	10/24
Susan Badgio	10/6	Keith Salmon	10/24
Patty Stitzel	10/6	Jim Hester	10/26
Natalie Mills	10/13	Natalie Chartier	10/26
Peg McRee	10/17	The Rev. Vanessa Cato	10/26
Gemma Langenbach	10/18	Rudy Tuten	10/28
Wally Burleson	10/19	Jim Windt	10/31
Justin Archey	10/22	Zack Edmonds	10/31



ANNIVERSARIES

September:

Bob & June Stitzel	9/5
Steve & Ginny Bradley	9/11

October:

None known

Vestry Notes

Vestry approved Minutes and complete Financial Reports are now posted on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall.

June 18,2026

- **Opened with Prayer**
- In Attendance – Timothy, Keith, Gary, Paul, and Jason
- **Minutes reviewed from previous month** – Gary moved to approve Paul 2nd
- **Kathy Oas guest report** – Praised the Website updates and improvements - appreciates two new volunteers running the kitchen - believes Tripple D the lawn maintenance company is doing a great job - metal railings need to be maintained and painted – suggests changing the name of nursery to children’s ministry - She offered that she is available to help if needed.
- **Treasurer report**
 - A large donation was made to the endowment
 - Financially we are doing very well
 - Paul moved to approve Jason 2nd
- **No Sr. Warden report**
- **Jr. Warden report**
 - Rails are on the schedule/ there is a plan.
 - Gate for the courtyard needs to be addressed.
 - Maintenance on sprinklers, and outside lights for the Shady Lane house.
 - There is a plan to paint the rental house.
 - Will install trim on sacristy door.
 - Will install dog trash can in park.
 - Maybe a workday for the church when it cools down.
 - Gary, Paul, and Jason will be on call the week of the Soul in the City.
- **Rector Report**
 - Prayer cards passed out to Vestry members to pray for the congregation
 - Vestry members are going to look out for different ministries, Keith will report for Altar Guild, Gary will look out for Monday night AA group, Jason will advocate for the Acolytes.
 - We need to look for who needs help and who can help in our church.
 - Move to fund a Discretionary checking account with the money that has been given to the Discretionary fund. Gary moved to approve, Keith 2nd
 - Paint and repair the railing, complete Nursery work then rename the space.
 - Will add a Tuesday cleaning of the Parish Hall for the groups that are using it.
- **Meeting Closed with Prayer.**

St. John’s Stewardship Summary for June 2026				
	June 2026 Budget	June 2026 Actual	2026 YTD Budget	2026 YTD Actual
Income	\$22,319	\$31,893	\$133,913	\$139,340
Expenses	\$21,688	\$21,036	\$130,131	\$122,764
Net	\$630	\$10,857	\$3,782	\$16,577
Outreach	For June: Nana’s House: \$810.			

St. John's Stewardship Summary for July 2026				
	July 2026 Budget	July 2026 Actual	2026 YTD Budget	2026 YTD Actual
Income	\$22,319	\$19,391	\$156,232	\$158,731
Expenses	\$21,688	\$21,880	\$151,819	\$144,644
Net	\$630	(S2,489)	\$4,413	\$14,087
Outreach	For July: Providence Connects \$ 960.			

KEEPING UP WITH ST. JOHN'S ONLINE

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,"

Facebook: search for "St. John's Episcopal Church, Melbourne" and like our page. You will then 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.

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 your pet laid to rest there.

Fellowship Coffee Hour

Kat Rizza has volunteered to head up the after-service coffee hour and would urge you to contact her if you are able to help with set-up, or clean-up. Finger food is also welcome to place on the table in the parish hall. **For details contact [kat.rizza @ yahoo.com](mailto:kat.rizza@yahoo.com).**

Sunday Ministry Schedule

	Sept 6 10 a.m.	Sept 13 10 a.m.	Sept 20 10 a.m.	Sept 27 10 a.m.
	A. Weeks	A. Weeks	A. Weeks	A. Weeks
Ushers	J. Bond J. Miller	B. Chernault P. Pedro	J. Miller P. Pedro	B. & T, Chernault
Reader/ Chalice Bearer	K. Oas	J. McLaughlin Acolyte	M. Salmon	K. Oas
Altar Guild	K. Oas	N. Perez	M. Salmon	K. Oas
Counter	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
	Sept 6 8 a.m.	Sept 13 8 a.m.	Sept 20 8 a.m.	Sept 27 8 a.m.
Greeter/Usher				
Reader	Sylvia Tammen			

	Oct. 4 10 a.m.	Oct 11 10 a.m.	Oct 18 10 a.m.	Oct 25 10 a.m.
Greeter	A. Weeks	A. Weeks	A. Weeks	A. Weeks
Ushers	J. Bond J. Miller	B. Chernault P. Pedro	J. Miller P. Pedro	B. & T. Chernault
Reader/ Chalice Bearer	A. Rutherford Acolyte	M. Salmon	K. Oas	J. McLaughlin Acolyte
Altar Guild	N. Perez	M. Salmon	K. Oas	N. Perez
Counter	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
	Oct 4 8 a.m.	Oct 11 8 a.m.	Oct 18 8 a.m.	Oct 25 8 a.m.
Greeter/Usher				
LEM	S. Tammen	S. Tammen	S. Tammen	S. Tammen

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 exit doors in both the right and left sacristy, either side of the altar.

Calendar:

Sept 3	Outreach meeting, 7 p.m. on Zoom.
Sept 6	Daughters of the King meeting, 11:30 a.m., Chapel.
Sept 17	Vestry Meeting, 6 p.m., Chapel & Zoom.
Oct 1	Outreach meeting, 7 p.m. on Zoom.
Oct 3	Blessing the Animals, 11:00 a.m.- 12 Noon, in the Park.
Oct 4	Daughters of the King, 11:30 a.m., in the Chapel.
Oct 7,14,21,28	Small Group Experience, 5:30-7:00 p.m., Parish Hall.
Oct 20	Vestry Meeting, 6 p.m. Chapel & Zoom.

ZOOM and Livestream Links

All Zoom meeting and Livestream event links are available by visiting stjohnsmlb.org>Calendar, or by sending an email to office@stjohnsmlb.org.



610 Young Street
Melbourne, FL 32935