

THE EVANGELIST

Newsletter for
Saint John the Evangelist
Episcopal Church



February 2014

Church of the Open Door Since 1881

Vol. CX, No. 2

Project Home Needs YOU!

Visit this link to sign up:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0E4CA9AB2AAA8-project>

Project Home is coming to St. John's for the month of February. During February, we will be providing homeless individuals and families with a place to sleep, some snacks, and hosts who have compassion for the serious challenges that homelessness creates.

We need YOU!

We need volunteers—four every day—to help welcome and provide care for our guests.

The first two would be onsite from 5:30 to 8:30 pm and help prepare evening snacks, engage with children and youth, and maybe lend a sympathetic ear to one or more of our temporary residents.



This adorable girl was served through Project Home, and enjoyed a chance to paint a picture that reflects her positive outlook despite the challenges in her living situation.



Overnight volunteers come at 8:00 pm, secure the church for the night, and sleep there. They awaken families around 6:00 am on weekdays to help them prepare for their day of work or training, and 8:00 am on weekends. Please think of all your blessings, and commit to helping those who are less fortunate.



Beds like these will provide some measure of comfort for families who stay at St. John's in February. What families need even more are kind and nurturing hosts to make them feel welcome at St. John's.

Come...

Join Us In Epiphany

Sundays

8:00 am Service:

Holy Eucharist Rite I

9:00 am Sunday Forum:

Fireside Room

10:00 am Service:

Sung Eucharist Rite II

February 9: New Member Sunday

February 16: Evensong Concert, 4:00 pm



Evangelist Deadline

March Issue

February 12 at 4pm

All groups and individuals are **encouraged** to submit news and items of interest to *The Evangelist*. E-mail (church@stjohnsstpaul.org), mail, or bring your **written and titled piece and/or photos** to the church office *before* the deadline shown above. Thank you!

St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church
60 Kent Street
St. Paul, MN 55102
651-228-1172
651-228-1144 (fax)
www.stjohnsstpaul.org

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday
9:00 am to 4:00 pm

From the Reverend Jered Weber-Johnson

Dear Friends in Christ,

Before the era of handheld Global Positioning (GPS) devices and the ubiquity of smart phones, my father insisted I learn how to navigate in the woods and in the world with only my wits, a compass, and a map. I learned how to look at trees, to read on which side moss was growing, to look at celestial bodies and landmarks, to orient myself and find my way. I'm grateful for those skills. Yet, I remember one of his lasting pieces of wisdom on orienteering in the wilderness and in unfamiliar surroundings, that if possible I should climb above the tree line to get a clear view of the horizon. One doesn't need a map or a trail or even a compass above tree line. Without the crowd of branches and the press of tree trunks, one's vision is only limited by the curvature of the earth. From up high the route is clear—just pick a point, plot a course, and off you go.

In his popular metaphor for leadership Harvard professor Ronald Heifetz describes a dance. To get an accurate sense of what is happening, to plot a clear a path across the dance floor, and to understand the dynamics of the dancers relating to the music, you have to get distance from the fray; you need to go up to the balcony.

No matter the metaphor, to lead in one direction or another requires, at some point, the ability to get perspective—to get to higher ground and see the lay of the land. You could say that this is exactly the work we've been doing here at St. John's in the past year. Our Strategic Planning Team has been hard at work interviewing our commissions and choirs, listening to our vestry members and key stakeholders in the ministries of St. John's, and listening to experts and leaders from the wider city and Episcopal Church leadership, discerning together what our specific charisms are, and how we can best employ our gifts for the edification of our members and in service to the world. After almost a year of work, numerous hours and meetings and interviews, our Strategic Planning team presented a Strategic Framework at the Annual Meeting of St. John the Evangelist on January 26th.

The strategic framework is a bit of needed perspective, a pulling back to get as much of the picture as we possibly can, within the frame of reference of here and now. It gives us a vision of who we believe ourselves to be as a community, and who we would like to become. It answers questions about what we value most. You can read more about that framework and how it will ultimately inform a long-range plan in the coming year. From this vantage, we are plotting a course and setting a direction.

And with this work behind us we will undertake together the most important part of any planning process: we will plunge back in. We will climb off our perch, come down from the balcony, and re-enter the fray—whether it be back into the forest or onto the dance floor. The work of living into and following the path will fall to each of us. Be watching and listening for opportunities to engage the planning process even further in the weeks and months to come.

In the meanwhile, I thank you for your prayers for St. John's and for your generous support of our mission and ministry.

See you in church!



From the Reverend Kate Bradtmiller

Dear People of St. John's,

This month, as we do quarterly, we will welcome new members of St. John's during the Sunday service. Especially with the Annual Meeting having just happened, many of you may be wondering what constitutes membership in the church, and thus the right to vote at an Annual Meeting and participate in parish decision-making.

A member in good standing is defined by the Episcopal Church as someone who is at least 16 years old, and has been confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church. He or she is also "faithful in corporate worship," meaning regular attendance at church and/or in receiving communion. Finally, she or he is "faithful in working, praying, and giving for the spread of the Kingdom of God," giving of his or her time, prayer, and financial support to the church.

These three form a fairly simple definition of membership, a concrete outline of what we must do in order to be members at St. John the Evangelist, and indeed at any Episcopal Church.

The same can be expanded to our belonging in the body of Christ, where each of us brings our unique gifts to be part of a larger whole informed by our belief in God. We are nurtured by our community of support, the church, and fed by the Eucharist. We give of ourselves in service to the world and one another, through our prayers, our gifts, and our treasure. In 1 Corinthians chapter 12, Paul compares the body of Christ to a human body, in which each part has a unique role without which the whole body could not thrive. "For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ."

We are the hands, eyes, heart, and feet of Christ, and also of our community of St. John the Evangelist. Welcome, members new and old, to our corporate body! I invite you to explore how your talents are transformed and expanded by the talents of others in our church, for the good of the world.

Faithfully yours,

Kate



Vestry Members

Bob Baumann, *Clerk of Vestry*
Kathy Brown, *Membership*
Marilyn Conklin, *Music*
Tricia Durst, *Fellowship*
Mary Gilbertson, *At Large*
Phyllis Goff, *At Large*
Tony Grundhauser, *Stewardship*
Rex Haberman, *At Large*
Gary Hagstrom, *At Large*
Jennifer Kinkead, *Faith in Action*
Anneke Krall, *Formation*
Suzanne McInroy, *At Large*
Don Postema, *Junior Warden*
Rick Rinkoff, *Treasurer*
Libby Snelson, *Senior Warden*
Jerry Woelfel, *Personnel*

Volunteer Positions

Artaria String Quartet, *Artists in Residence*
Phillip Baird, *Verger*
Alden Drew, *Historian/Archivist*
Paige Hagstrom, *Coffee Hour Coordinator*
Jim Johnson, *Planned Gift Chair*
Dusty Mairs, *Parish Coordinator*
Diane Power, *Altar Guild*
George Power, *Columbarium*
Jill Thompson, *Lay Reader Coordinator*

Clergy

The Reverend Jered Weber-Johnson, *Rector*
The Reverend Kate Bradtmiller, *Associate Rector*
The Reverend Barbara Mraz, *Deacon*

Staff

Lizza Berry, *Youth and Children Choirs Director*
Sarah Dull, *Office Administrator*
Jayson Engquist, *Director of Music and Organist*
Kate Graber, *Handbell Choir Director*
Jean Hansen, *Youth and Family Minister*
Ivan Holguin, *Assistant Building Manager*
John Oldfield, *Office of the Treasurer*
Chris Tegeler, *Building Manager*
Longkee Vang, *Youth Ministry Assistant*
Dunfa Weretti, *Building Assistant*

Strategic Planning Commission Update

by Phyllis Rawls Goff and Gabrielle Lawrence

The work of the commission has focused on understanding who we are, affirming our mission, and developing our vision. Over the course of the last year we have collected information and input on our community and programs. We reviewed our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities for growth, and potential threats. We ultimately identified key priorities and developed goals in six distinct areas. The entire congregation was updated frequently on the process and often participated with us in a variety of ways. The process has focused on finding our internal compass. Our next steps are to understand the community to discover where we can connect.

Our mission is our collect for St. John's: *Gracious God, by your love you have called us to proclaim with joy the good news of your Son. So build us up in the knowledge and love of Him that we may welcome all people into this community of faith and show forth our service to you in our service to others.*



Our Draft Vision

At St. John's, we pride ourselves on being more than a church building or even a worshipping congregation. We are a growing, engaged community that cares about its members and serves the world. In the years ahead, we will build on our strong foundation. We will offer vibrant and meaningful worship, music, programs and faith formation opportunities. We will cultivate innovative partnerships in the city around us, responding to our evolving community's needs. We will serve as an inclusive cultural center in our neighborhood, nurturing and welcoming both longtime members and visitors of all ages, backgrounds and experiences.

Priority Areas

Below are the six priority areas we identified.

1. Faith formation (build us up in the knowledge and love of Him)
2. Liturgy and Music (proclaim with joy)

3. Programs (show forth our service to you in our service to others)
4. Membership (welcoming all people into this community of faith)
5. Building and infrastructure
6. Financial sustainability

We have explored these components thoroughly and are now finalizing goals in each area. We will be presenting a final version to the congregation in late January. The vestry has appointed six commissions who will develop work plans based on the priorities established in the plan and include focused conversations with community organizations and leaders to determine the areas where our congregation can serve.

Strategic Planning Commission

Your St. John's Strategic Planning Commission members are (in alphabetical order):

- Alden Drew
- Steve Elliott
- Julia Ferguson
- Phyllis Goff, co-chair
- Jim Johnson
- Gabrielle Lawrence, co-chair
- Craig Lemming
- Betty Myers
- Catherine Saint Hill
- Revered Jered Weber-Johnson

Thank you, parishioners of St. John's, for joining with us on this journey and the journey to come.

Introducing: The Verger

by Phillip Baird

By this time I rather suppose everyone has seen this man in special vestments carrying a rather large stick processing up and down the aisle of St. John's and wondering what and why is this operation taking place.

I was invited by Rector Jered last summer to consider the opportunity of becoming a Verger for St. John Parish. I was aware of what vergers do, at least in ceremony from cathedral days. We discussed at length the possibilities and opportunities of service beyond the ceremonial aspects. So on the first Sunday of Advent last year my first appearance with the remnants of a flag pole, acting as a virge, I proceeded to make my first entrance with choir and clergy dutifully following behind. It all went so well they decided and accepted the reverse order and followed me again at the conclusion of the service. Of course the 8 o'clock congregation possibly wondered if I were Jacob Marley's ghost or some unusual trappings.

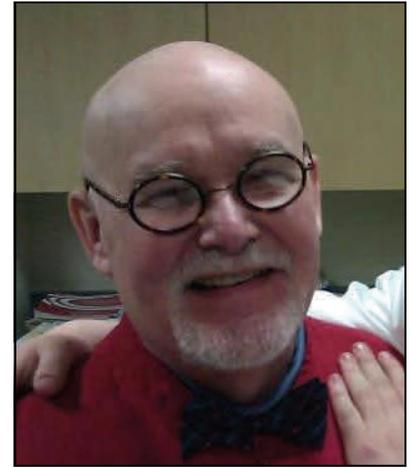
Within the first week of the first voyage, a proper "virge" arrived—a mahogany staff about a meter long, with a Latin Cross on the top. In the days when liturgical street processions took place such as Corpus Christe and Rogation, a Church of England verger would wave the crowds back with the virge so the liturgical procession could pass. So the "stick" did have a very practical purpose.

As Anglicans often do, they take what is practical and necessary, dress it up a bit, and give it status. Therefore, the costume or vestments of a verger. The under gown is a simple black cassock for parish church, purple for cathedral. Over the top is a sleeveless "chimere" with a liturgical color velvet trim. The Morse clasp holds the two sides parallel. The great seal of the Vergers Guild is attached to the velvet trim. The white collar bands are worn by English clergy, law professionals, vergers, or others in the service of the church. Lastly comes the black velvet Canterbury cap harking back to Medieval time. The priest will wear his biretta. Remembering all this classic clothing/vestment was very practical in cold drafty churches and cathedrals.

Vergers petition to and are members of the international guild of Vergers and verger ministries. They are presented firstly by parish rector and assigned a mentor to study for and pass the guild examination. The purpose

of a verger is more than the grand entrance and exit of a Sunday morning. It usually entails those assignments to assist the rector when called upon; to see that all things are in good order for worship; to assist altar guild if needed, and any other matters for the good of the order. The action is both ceremonial and functional.

I am very honored to be the first verger for St. John the Evangelist Parish Church and truly look forward to years of service. Remember I may look ever so solemn or out of central casting, as one chap mentioned, under all that proper vestment, is a verger with a twinkle in his eye and a ruddy laugh.



New Member Profile



Sarah Clements and Devin Bruce

Sarah Clements and Devin Bruce moved to the area near St. John's last June, a month after Sarah graduated from veter-

inary school. Devin is finishing law school at University of St. Thomas. They are both originally from Indiana and met during their undergraduate years at Purdue. They initially thought that finding a church right across the street seemed too easy, but after visiting a few churches in the area, St. John's was the most inviting. They love the way St. John's gets involved in the community.

Now that they are living here, they enjoy getting outside and exploring what Minnesota has to offer—new restaurants, parks, and a weekly stop in a Twin Cities coffee shops before heading to the dog park with their rescue puppy, Kaenga. While Sarah likes to focus on quilting and puzzles in her spare time away from her career as a veterinarian in Prior Lake, Devin is active in state legislative politics.

New Member Profile



Troy and Judy Stack-Nelson, Linda and Michael

The Stack-Nelsons have been attending St. John's for about two years, and they became members last October. Although long-time Lutherans, when they were looking for a church not too far from the home they had recently purchased on the West Side of St. Paul, they heard good things about the youth and music programs here, and after visiting and finding the people friendly, the preaching excellent, and the ministry vibrant, they decided to join. Troy is a customer service supervisor for Whole Foods Market, Lake Calhoun. Judy has taught and continues to teach religion at various colleges in the Twin Cities area and has been on staff at St. John's over the last few months helping out with new member ministries and programming for education and formation while the Assistant Rector was on maternity leave. Both children sing in the choir at St. John's and attend Nova Classical Academy where Linda is a senior and Michael is a freshman.

New Member Sunday



In mid-January, we began the first 2014 series of new member gatherings in preparation for their formal welcome into the church. For three weeks, members gathered to discuss their experiences and what membership entails.

Please join us on Sunday, February 9, to formally welcome our new members to St. John's.

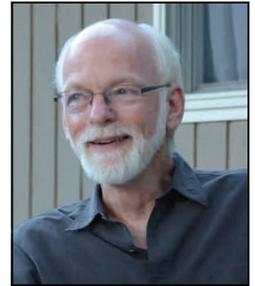
After the service, the new members are invited to a welcome brunch sponsored by the St. John's vestry. If you want to learn more, contact Lea Anne Schmidt at 651-488-2131.

2014 Vestry Candidates

Don Postema – Senior Warden

As Don tells it, he first came to St. John's in 1997 for love —of Gabrielle Lawrence. The two were married at St. John's in 1998, and have been involved in the church since then.

They revived the Faith in Action Commission, and Don has been on the steering committee for Faith Builders, a coalition of local churches that work on a Habitat for Humanity home each summer, since 1999. After a stint on the Vestry (2007-2010), he co-chaired the Search Committee that brought Jered and Erin to St. Paul. Don is currently the Junior Warden, a Building Commission member, a Lay Reader, and a Chalice Bearer. In his religious life, he has tried Baptist, Christian Reformed, Presbyterian, and Methodist until finding his home in the Episcopal Church. Don is a Professor of Philosophy in Bethel University's College of Arts and Sciences. He is also an Ethics Consultant for Regions Hospital and Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare, and chairs the HealthPartners Ethics Committee. He enjoys canoeing and camping, cooking and baking, and is searching for the perfect pastry. Gabrielle and Don have five adult children who are living in an array of US cities they love to visit.



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Jerry Woelfel – Junior Warden

Jerry is happy to stand for election as Junior Warden, having retired last year from Securian Financial Group after 35 years doing human resources work. Jerry and Becky Garthofner joined St. John's about 12 years ago after moving into the neighborhood one block east. Jerry has been a long term member of our Personnel Committee and currently serves as chair. He is also in his second year as an at large member of the Vestry. Other work at St Johns has included stewardship, rector, and music director searches, and Project Home. Jerry also serves on the Human Resources committee for the Episcopal Church in Minnesota and is a convention delegate for St Johns.



Jerry and Becky enjoy all kinds of outdoor activities, and going to their cabin on Red Cedar Lake in Wisconsin.

Vern Kassekert—At Large

Though Vern is a lifelong St. Paul resident, he and his wife Rosanne only recently discovered and joined St. John's. They have three adult children and seven grandchildren, and live in Highland Park. A graduate of the University of Minnesota, Vern served 43 years as a pharmacist. He was appointed by Governor Ventura for four years to the Minnesota State Board of Pharmacy, reappointed by Governor Pawlenty, and spend two years as board president. Vern and Roseanne have become regular participants at the Sunday Forum and are members of a St. John's house group. Now retired, Vern volunteers at Keystone Community Services Food Shelf. Vern also helps out with St. John's food shelf collection, and volunteers weekly to help with communication and administration.



Holly Weinkauff—At Large

Holly Weinkauff has been a member of St. John's since 2008 when she and her family moved to St. Paul from New Mexico. Holly grew up in the Episcopal Church. She now has an even deeper understanding and respect for its traditions, its commitment to thought and reason and its openness to all people. She and her family are very grateful to have St. John's as their spiritual home. She has been involved with the Hearts to Home committee and looks forward to contributing to St. John's in a new way. Holly lives in St. Paul and is the owner of Red Balloon Bookshop. When she's not at work or with her wonderful family (husband Don and children Madeline, Eli, and Roan) she enjoys reading, cooking, music and hot yoga classes.



Kevin Wall—At Large

Kevin sites St. John's as a tremendous source of support, joy and guidance over the 17 years he has been here. He and now wife Michelle began attending St. John's in 1997, when Michael Tippet was Interim Rector. After a period of being "regular attendees," Kevin and Michelle completed the membership classes and formally became members in 2002.



Their son Elliot, now 12, and daughter Cecelia, now 9, were both baptized at St. John's by Frank Wilson. Kevin is familiar with the children's ministry with both kids in children's choir and Godly Play, and stays up to speed with things in the youth and family commission where his wife Michelle currently serves. Kevin says he has been fortunate to regularly contribute to the music ministry at St. John's, playing drums and various percussion pieces, both as a soloist and accompanist in the worship services. Most recently Kevin served on the selection committee for our new Director of Music.

Colleen Swope—Faith in Action

Colleen Swope and her husband, Charles, joined St. John's in May 2011. They were drawn to the church because of the culture of acceptance. They were also drawn by "wonderful music" and "fabulous clergy." Colleen joined the Project Kathleen committee the summer she joined St. John's. She firmly believes in affordable and safe housing for all—as affirmed by her time on the Nokomis Healthy Seniors board, where they worked to keep seniors safely in their homes for as long as possible. In 2013, she became co-chair of what is now Hearts to Homes. The committee has worked on new ideas for our families with our new partner the YWCA. In the fall of 2013, Colleen became one of the teachers for Godly Play with the 5th and 6th graders. She is continually amazed at what she learns from her class. Colleen knows St. John's is what she has been looking for spiritually and loves the outreach she's joined.



Lea Anne Schmidt—New Member/Welcome

Lea Anne has been a member of St. John's for four years. She and her husband Patrick feel lucky to have been introduced to such a beautiful community and church in which to raise their family. She has enjoyed learning about the Family/Children/Youth Ministries by watching her three kids—Ailsa, Aidan, and Simon—participate in Godly Play and Rite 13. With the arrival of their fourth child, she will get the opportunity to use the nursery too! Lea Anne has served primarily on the Welcome/New Member Ministry Commission along with the Thursday night women's group. Professionally, she works with families and young children as a Speech Language Pathologist for the Saint Paul Schools. She is excited to serve on the Vestry and be a part of all the exciting things happening here at Saint John's.





Faith in Action

Project Home Comes to St. John's for February

Overseen by the St. Paul Area Council of Churches, Project

Home provides 40 beds of emergency shelter for children and their parents in Ramsey County each night. This February, it is St. John's turn to provide beds.

Project Home Statistics

- In 2012, to provide these shelter beds, the St. Paul Area Council of Churches worked with 24 hosts congregations, synagogues, and schools, plus volunteers from many more congregations, synagogues, and schools.
- In all, 617 families (including 1,166 children) accessed safe, comfortable overnight shelter.
- Shelter beds were slept in a total of 12,630 times.
- Sixty percent of guest children were age five or under.
- A third of parents served were between 18 and 24.

Project Home at St. John's

As a Parish, we are combining our efforts with those of St. Clements Episcopal Church and our companion parish, Holy Apostles Episcopal Church. We are asking the members of these congregations to band together and volunteer their time to help us provide an invaluable service to those greatly in need.

We need two types of volunteers: Evening Shelter Hosts and Overnight Shelter Hosts. Evening hosts work between 5:30 and 8:30 pm. These hosts must have a friendly and caring attitude, be reliable, have energy and love children, and respect and understand parents. Tasks include:

- Helping the Site Coordinator distribute bedding and care packs to new families.
- Preparing and serving an evening snack.
- Tidying up kitchen facilities and eating area.
- Engaging children and youth in activities like homework, reading, games, videos, etc. with parent's permission.

Hearts to Homes - Monday, February 24 at 6:00 pm in the Fireside Room. To learn more, contact Colleen Swope at 651-246-4292.

- Being available to talk with adult guests if they wish to converse.

Overnight Shelter Hosts need to have the same qualifications as Evening Hosts, and their tasks include:

- Encouraging children to slowly stop their activities, and get ready for bed.
- Modeling shelter rules and reminding families of the shelter rules when needed.
- Securing the facility for the evening.
- Sleeping in the designated volunteer area.
- Waking families around 6:00 am on the weekdays and 8:00 am on the weekends.
- Setting out a light breakfast for the families.

Hunger Is Not a Game!

By Vern Kassekert

I am proud of St. John's the Evangelist Episcopal Church. We have been sponsors of food collection for the needy in our area for a long time. The need out there is real. The people who need help are our neighbors and relative, the elderly and the sick. According to the Steering Committee of the Twin Cities Hunger Initiative, of those who visit food shelves:

- 50 percent are children
- 11 percent are children that skip meals regularly due to a lack of food
- 43 percent are parents who skip meals because they don't have enough food
- 20 percent are senior citizens
- 43 percent have jobs, but need to choose between paying for food and paying other bills like rent, utilities, or medications

Just a reminder, you can donate elsewhere, of course, or you can bring your non-perishable food item to our church and leave it in the back in a special bin we have set up or leave it in the Undercroft.

As Jimmy Carter asserts, "We know that a peaceful world cannot long exist, one-third rich and two-thirds hungry."



Musical Notes

FROM THE ORGAN BENCH



Evensong and Sacred Opera

Amahl and the Night Visitors and Evensong (sung Evening Prayer) will be presented at St. John the Evangelist on Sunday afternoon, February 16, 2014 at 4:00 p.m. The public is invited to attend this special music presentation telling of the Wise Men's journey following a star with music by Gian-Carlo Menotti.

Amahl and the Night Visitors is an opera in one act by Gian Carlo Menotti, with an original English libretto by the composer. It was first performed by the NBC Opera Theatre on December 24, 1951, in New York City at NBC studio 8H in Rockefeller Center, the studio from which it was broadcast live on television as the debut production of the *Hallmark Hall of Fame*. It was the first opera specifically composed for television in America. Menotti was commissioned by Peter Herman Adler, director of NBC's new opera programming, to write the first opera for television. The composer had trouble settling on a subject for the opera, but took his inspiration from Hieronymus Bosch's *The Adoration of the Magi* hanging in The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. As the airdate neared, Menotti had yet to finish the score. The singers had little time to rehearse, and received the final passages of the score just days before the broadcast. After the dress rehearsal, NBC Symphony conductor Arturo Toscanini told Menotti, "This is the best you've ever done."

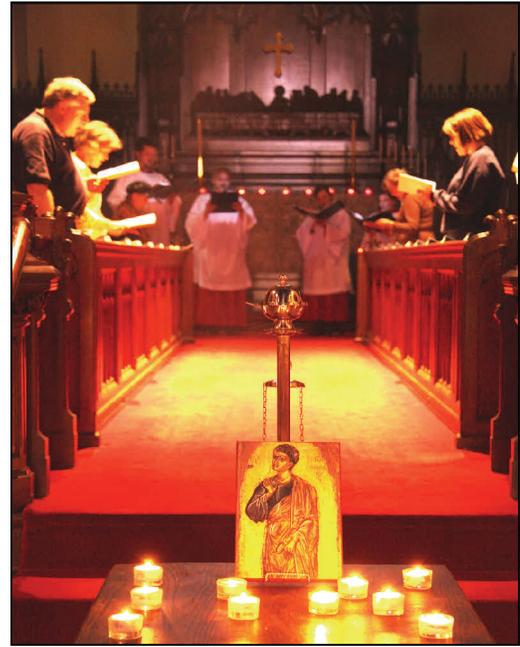
Menotti wanted *Amahl* to be performed by a boy. In the *Production Notes* with the piano-vocal score he wrote: It is the express wish of the composer that the role of *Amahl* should always be performed by a child. "This is an opera for children," Menotti wrote, "because it tries to recapture my own childhood. You see, when I was a child I lived in Italy, and in Italy we have no Santa Claus.... Our gifts were brought to us by the Three Kings, instead. I actually never met the Three Kings—it didn't matter how hard my little brother and I tried to keep

awake at night to catch a glimpse of the Three Royal Visitors, we would always fall asleep just before they arrived. But I do remember hearing them. I remember the weird cadence of their song in the dark distance; I remember the brittle sound of the camel's hooves crushing the frozen show; and I remember the mysterious tinkling of their silver bridles. My favorite king was King Melchior, because he was the oldest and had a long white beard. My brother's favorite was king Kaspar. He insisted that this king was a little crazy and quite deaf.... I suspect it was because dear King Kaspar never brought him all the gifts he requested. He was also rather puzzled by the fact that King Kaspar carried the myrrh, which appeared to him as a rather eccentric gift, for he never quite understood what the word meant. To these Three Kings I mainly owe the happy Christmas seasons of my childhood and I should have remained very grateful to them. Instead, I came to America and soon forgot all about them, for here at Christmas time one sees so many Santa Clauses... Then there is the big Christmas tree in Rockefeller Plaza, the elaborate toy windows on Fifth Avenue, the one-hundred-voice choir in Grand Central Station, the innumerable Christmas carols on radio and television—and all these things made me forget the three dear old Kings of my old childhood."

Menotti wrote *Amahl* with the stage in mind, even though it was intended for broadcast. "On television you're lucky if they ever repeat anything. Writing an opera is a big effort and to give it away for one performance is stupid." The composer appeared on-screen in the premiere to introduce the opera and give the background of the events leading up to its composition. *Amahl* was seen on 35 NBC affiliates coast to coast, the largest network hookup for an opera broadcast to that date. An estimated five million people saw the live broadcast, the largest audience ever to see a televised opera.

Compline

Now that Advent is behind us, the service of compline will be held the 2nd Thursday evening each month. This month's Compline is at 7:00 pm on Thursday, February 13. Compline is the last of the daily offices. In keeping with the earliest practices of the monastic communities, Compline is a service lit only by candlelight held at a time when the work of the day is finished and the quietness of evening begins to settle over the hearts and minds of those gathered in prayer. This is a short service of ancient prayers, psalms, chanting, and mystery. Incense will be used during the service, and the Holy Spirit will be present. All are welcome.



Godly Play and Family Ministry

Michael Georgeson—Godly Play Storyteller

This is my third year as a storyteller with Godly Play. I'm very excited to work with the youngest group and am amazed at how much they can understand, appreciate, and focus on these important stories of our faith. I've learned so much already and hope to continue learning each week as we tell stories about all kinds of amazing things. Thank you to all the people that work hard to make Godly Play happen every week.

Colleen Swope—Godly Play Teacher

My husband, Charles, and I joined St. John's in May 2011. Since then I have been a member of Hearts to Homes (formerly Project Kathleen) and in the fall of 2013, I became one of the teachers for Godly Play with the 5th and 6th graders. When Jean asked me to become a teacher, I thought it would be interesting to learn about the children's faith journey while I am contemplating my own spiritual journey. Now that I am teaching, I am continually amazed at what my classes teach me. The children have such fresh eyes and hearts to

hear the words of God and relate to them on a very pure and personal level. No hidden agendas in these classes.

Bishop's Family Day - St. Mark's Cathedral

February 22, 10:00am-2:00pm

Beyond Baptism:

Putting Our Faith Into Practice at Home

Activities for parents and children from age 3 through grade 5. In the morning, children will meet the bishop and then choose from several activities. Parents will attend a presentation from Lyle Griner on family ministry at home. In the afternoon, parents and children will have several fun activity stations to choose from. Lunch will be served.

For more information about this event, please contact Mary Lusk at St. Mark's Cathedral - 612-870-7800, maryl@ourcathedral.org.



Youth Ministry

Winterfest

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Edina
Saturday, February 1 - Sunday, February 2

Winterfest is an interchurch lock-in held at St. Stephen's Church, Edina, for all youth in 6th- 8th grade throughout Minnesota. It is led by a network of metro-area faith formation leaders and high school youth. Activities include active games, vibrant music, tasty food and small group reflection.

The event will take place at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, in Edina, and has a participation cost of \$25. Scholarships are available by contacting Chad O'Leary, Missioner for Youth Ministry. To register for this exciting event, please visit www.episcopalmn.org and look under Events Around the Church.

Josh and Tricia Durst - Rite 13 Leaders

We have been married for seven years and have two boys, Jacob who is 6 and Caleb who is almost 4 years old. We both work as physicians in St. Paul. We started serving through Rite 13 almost 2 years ago, and it's been both a joy and a revelation. We are repeatedly amazed at the insights that have been offered by several young adults in the group, as well as the candidness and humor that we have experienced. Rite 13 helps remind us that there is work in having faith and maintaining faith, and that it is ok to find that work sometimes challenging. We have also enjoyed working and getting to know the other Rite 13 leaders, whose passion for working with the youth group has been inspirational.

Being Rite 13 Leaders has also inspired us to think more seriously about our own spirituality. Historically for us, it has always been a private, contemplative thing or something we express through song or on Sunday with the congregation. The time we spend with the youth on Wednesdays has helped us grow and be more open with our spirituality while encouraging the youth to do the same. Formation is a process and we are honored and moved to be a part of that important process. We are learning and growing in faith together.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner & Fundraiser

March 5 marks the beginning of Lent. The day before Ash Wednesday we have a party! Tuesday, March 4 is our annual Shrove Tuesday/Mardi Gras pancake dinner. The St. John's Men's Group has volunteered again to cook and serve at this annual event! Their efforts will support the youth in their fundraising for future mission trips and pilgrimages.

Youth are asked to arrive at 5pm to begin set up and cooking for the dinner. Tickets are available for pre-sale beginning Sunday, January 27 for a suggested amount of \$5 per person, or \$20 per family of four or more. Dinner will be served from 6:30-7:45pm.

All proceeds will go to benefit future youth mission trips and pilgrimages.



Lenten Movie Series: Community

For the past several years the youth group has gathered to share a meal and watch a movie during the season of Lent. Each year has brought different themes, different issues, and of course, different movies. For the upcoming 2014 movies series, starting on Wednesday, March 12, our theme will focus on Community. How do other communities differ from ours and how are they the same? How do communities grow (or disappear) in times of change? And most importantly, why is community important?

During the movie series, youth group will begin at 5:00 pm in order to accommodate the length of movies. Dinner will be provided. Please stay tuned to the next *Evangelist* as the list of movies will be published so families will know what their youth are viewing. We will also create a flyer and parental consent form that families can access by email or at the church.

Faith Formation

A Note on Sunday Forums

Sundays 9:00 Fireside Room

Following the extended series ANIMATE, which explored main areas of Christian faith via Bible study, discussion, video and the excellent instruction of Dr. Judy Stack Nelson, we are broadening the Forum once again to address topics of religious and cultural interest.

We will begin with one of our parishioners discussing his new book on February 23 and then be moving on to hearing about First Nations' Kitchen and other mission programs, a report on the St. John's clinic in Uganda, and a discussion of food and environmental issues we confront on an everyday basis. Look for updates in the Friday e-News and *The Evangelist* and let Barbara Mraz know if you have suggestions for later in the spring.

House Groups— “Joining Together, Growing Together”

House groups share their lives and journey together. They are gatherings of 8-12 members who meet regularly for friendship, spiritual support, and building deeper relationships. Some groups meet to study or have a common interest or focus.

For those on the other side of the river, a new **Minneapolis house group started** in January!

To learn more about the new Minneapolis group or explore how you and your friends can form a house group or to connect with an existing group or with others who are interested in forming a group, contact The Reverend Kate Bradtmiller at 651-228-1172, x18 or at kate.bradtmiller@stjohnsstpaul.org.



Sunday Forum February 23

How and Why We Make Irrational Decisions.

Professor Richard Brynteson will talk about his new book, *Behavioral Economics*, and we will laugh at our own dumb decisions.

Looking Forward to Lent...

On March 12, we will begin a Wednesday Evening Lenten Series that will start with dinner at 5:30 pm and follow with a program from 5:45 to 7:30 pm. The series is titled, “Finding Hope in an Addicted Culture.”

Many of us “overdo” in at least one area of our lives, whether it is through work, alcohol, drugs, food, obsession with the right parenting, preoccupation with growing older, even technology.

Much of this results from the overwhelming numbers of messages we receive in our culture to be perfect in all aspects of our lives. As a result, rates of addiction, shame, anxiety, and depression are at record levels.

As Paul said, “*For the good which I will, I do not: but the evil which I will not, that I do.*” (Romans 7:19).

Come and learn from an outstanding slate of speakers, join the discussion, and ask your questions. Put this on your calendars now and watch the next *Evangelist* for more details. You won't want to miss this!





Community Life

Evensong = Moms' Night Out

By Marilyn Conklin

What exactly is an evensong service, you ask? This can be our secret, but I'm telling you that evensong is a moms' secret getaway! *Shhhhh*. (And to enable that, there's childcare for young children in the nursery, just as during the 10:00 am Sunday service. Older children—possibly even my own—can attend the service.)

Which brings me to the *service*. As the name suggests, evensong occurs at the close of day, when we celebrate the blessings of God in the fading light. Some of the church's most gorgeous, oldest chants and hymns are **only** sung and heard at evensong. This lovely, brief contemplative service will put you in a renewed frame of mind and spirit. (I don't know about you, but I can really use that on a Sunday night.) "So, okay," you're thinking, "I like to feel calm and spiritually recharged, but I've already been to church on Sunday morning . . ."

But wait, there's more. *There's a party!* Following the evensong service, there's a fantastic reception in the Fireside Room, thanks to our Parishwide Events Committee, with delicious food and *wine*. Who knew? Consider it a moms' night out, only at church!

Is there a mom friend you can invite (or your own mom, spouse, or significant other)? Or just come yourself—

Coffee Hour Hosts Needed

Coffee Hour at St. Johns is an essential part of our community being warm and welcoming to all who worship with us. Being a host is an easy way to take part. You can be a host yourself or sign up with a friend. It entails bringing the cookies (or whatever you wish) and some juice. You can bake yourself or avail the services of Sam's club or your favorite store. We need coffee hour hosts for a number of Sundays this spring. Consider giving it a try. Email Paige Hagstrom at gphagstrom@gmail.com, call 651-454-0016, or contact the church office at church@stjohnsstpaul.org or 651-228-1172, x10 to set up a date. Thank you!

you'll be among friends! The service starts at 4:00 pm (don't worry; if you're running late, just come in). It lasts about an hour, then you can head straight to the reception. You'll be home by 6:00-6:15. And, yes, we know what awaits us there—a book report that's due Monday morning, someone who is in the early stages of pink eye, people who can't find the microwave popcorn, a sudden shortage of diapers. That's why you need to come to evensong. Please consider coming; I'd love to see my mom friends there!

And this month we have a special treat with a presentation of *Amahl and the Night Visitors*. You really need to catch this one! Sunday, February 16, at 4:00 pm.

February Meetings

Book Club - Saturday, February 1, at 9:30 am in the Fireside Room. The group will discuss *Zealot* by Reza Aslan. To learn more, contact Mary Ellen Elliott at 651-426-4146.

Prayer Shawl - Wednesday, February 5 at 9:30 am in the Undercroft. Contact Anneke Krall at 651-690-0579 to learn more.

Men's Breakfast - Saturday, February 8, at 9:00 am in the Gym Kitchen. To learn more, contact Jim Johnson at 651-698-5655.

Men's Group - Tuesday, February 11, at 7:30 pm in the Fireside Room. Contact Josh Colton at 612-275-6004.

Down Syndrome Group - Tuesday, February 18 at 6:00 pm in the Undercroft. To learn more, contact Lindsay Radford at LRadford@kstp.com.

Young Women's Group - Thursday, February 20 at 7:30 pm at Tisha Colton's house (576 Lincoln Ave, St. Paul, MN 55102). To learn more, contact Erin Weber-Johnson at eweberjohnson@gmail.com.

Happy Birthday to...

February*

1	Pat Schaffner	14	Becky Garthofner
2	Luke Hansen Peter Wood	15	Nina Georgeson
3	Faith Westerhaus Fred Myers Gretchen August Elizabeth Plummer	17	Dean Henderson
5	Patty Byrne Pfalz Sarah Clemments Victor Brasch	18	Sally Allen David Finley
6	Sarah K. Smith Samuel Andrews	19	Julia Lightner Nicholas Jurayj
7	Barbara Karkie	20	Anne Debertin Keegan Gourlie
8	Patricia Myers	22	Greg Schaffner Caroline Pedersen Colleen Swope
9	Eloise Teisberg George Kinhead	25	Liam Ebenhoch
12	Jennifer Frost Rosendale	27	Lucy Grundhauser Roseanne Kassekert Don Postema
13	Clif Spainhower	28	Annabella Ruby Powers

*If your birthday was missed, please call or email the church office so our records can be updated.

Altar Decor Given to the Glory of God in Memory of:

February 2, Presentation of Jesus in the Temple

Main Altar

Audrey and Roger Olsen

Small Altar

Audrey and Roger Olsen

February 9, Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Main Altar

Janet O. and George E. Potter, Jr.

Small Altar

Jennie and Alfred Merrill

February 16, The Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

Main Altar

John Snowfield

Small Altar

In loving memory of Rita and George Richcreek on their wedding anniversary

February 23, The Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

Main Altar

Mary W. and Paul K. Pinkerton

Small Altar

Frederick Wigginton



Altar Flowers 2014

Memorial flowers on the Main and Little Sanctuary altars are given by parishioners on a perpetual calendar basis. A few Sundays are available for donors to sign up to give the flowers for either of our altars. If you are interested, please contact **Dusty Mairs** or the **Church Office** to find out what dates are open for each altar.

St. John the Evangelist February 2014 Service Schedule

Time	READERS*	ALTAR GUILD TEAMS	USHERS	GREETERS	COFFEE HOUR
February 2, 2014 - Presentation of Jesus in the Temple					
8:00 am	Craig Lindeke	Pat Brynteson	Bob Baumann, Cammie Beatty, Julia Ferguson and Rick Rinkoff	Jeff and Peggy Olsen	Godly Play
10:00 am	A - Phillip Baird B - Rick Rinkoff				
February 9, 2014 - Fifth Sunday after Epiphany					
8:00 am	Joan McCanna	Diane Power	Jay Debertin, Kathleen Hanson, Don and Holly Weinkauff	Gabrielle Lawrence and Don Postema	Ed and Monica Cook
10:00 am	A - John Graham B - Mark McInroy				
February 16, 2014 - The Sixth Sunday after Epiphany					
8:00 am	David Aylesworth	Dusty Mairs	Terri Fishel, Lynn Hertz, Hank Snyder, Kevin Wall	Patricia Durst, Phyllis Frisby	
10:00 am	A - Jay Debertin B - Diane Wallace-Read				
February 23, 2014 - The Seventh Sunday after Epiphany					
8:00 am	Brad McCanna	Pam Strom	Alden Drew and Mimie Pollard, Gary and Paige Hagstrom	Cammie Beattie, Phyllis Goff	Bradner and Laura Smith
10:00 am	A - Alden Drew B - Paige Hagstrom				

February Acolyte Schedule

February 2

Matt Richards
Ailsa Schmidt
Eli Weinkauff
Thea Bishop
Logan Finkel

February 9

Johannah Frisby
Emily Brooks
Maura Lynch
Lucy Grundhauser

February 16

Madeline Weinkauff
Rachel Clark
Will Rinkoff
Matt Brooks

February 23

Tim Krall
Caroline Krall
Linnea Krall
Helen Baxter
Samantha Rosendale

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Episcopal Church
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Artaria String Quartet Concerts

Plan now to attend one or both of the upcoming Artaria String Quartet concerts. They will be held at St. John the Evangelist at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary on:

- Friday, February 7, 2014
- Friday, April 25, 2014.



Come and enjoy the warm, rich sound that is Artaria String Quartet's hallmark.

The blog of St. John's: Do You Get IT?

To help parishioners become aware of and gain access to the blog of St. John the Evangelist, we have sepia toned cards in the pews asking, "Do you get it?"

On the back side of the card is the online address of the blog and directions for those who wish to receive the clergy's blog posts. Either follow the directions on your home computer to sign up, or fill in your name and e-mail address and place the card in the offering plate so we can sign up on your behalf.

You can get it if you so desire.