

THE EVANGELIST

Newsletter for
Saint John the Evangelist
Episcopal Church



May 2015

Church of the Open Door Since 1881

Vol. CXI, No. 5

Ray Frisby receives First Dusty Mairs Servant Leadership Award

Visiting Ray and Phyllis Frisby is a pleasure. In their elegant but cozy living room, a copy of *For All the Saints* is displayed on the coffee table; several Bibles rest on the shelf underneath. Ray offers coffee and brings cream and sugar on a silver tray. The spoon has an engraving of a saint on the handle. Ray is full of stories about his life, and talks with a smile about his service at St. John's.

He was raised Methodist, but when he fell in love with Phyllis, a 14th-generation Anglican, he didn't mind coming over to her side. They came to St. John the Evangelist about 10 years ago in search of a broad-minded church, a place they could bring their friends to. Ray has always been willing to help with SJE projects. "I'm agreeable to do anything I can for any ministry," he says. An architect by trade, he helped with the plans for Kayoro Clinic, including creating a building model. But the outreach he has spent the most time and effort on is the bread ministry.

At his former parish, a young man suggested something called "PIPO Ministry," standing for "pop in, pop out," proposing that every visitor receive a quick personal visit with a gift of a loaf of bread. When Ray came to St. John's, he asked if he could start a similar ministry here, and has been leading the bread ministry ever since. For many years, Ray was, singlehandedly, the bread ministry—taking bread to nearly every visitor who passed through our doors.

When a visitor fills out a card on a Sunday morning, Ray



gets them a loaf of bread from Breadsmith and pays them a visit that Sunday afternoon. He says people are usually pleasantly surprised to see him (although he once was mistaken for a door-to-door canvasser during an election season.) He keeps the visit brief, unless they insist on a longer chat. "I don't want to be a nuisance or an evangelist," Ray explains. However, he's happy to try to answer questions the visitors might have, such as assuaging concerns over whether the person would be allowed to take communion.

Ray stresses how meaningful he finds the ministry to be. "I continue to find it

so rewarding, especially when I see people the next Sunday and think I may have had something to do with them returning to church." Many people the bread ministry has touched have since become members—at least five of them even sing in the choir!

In October 2014, the Rev. Jered Weber-Johnson created the Dusty Mairs Servant Leadership award to be given to a parishioner or parish partner who best exemplifies Dusty's continuing dedication to serving others first in the spirit of Christ. Ray Frisby is the first to receive this award.

We are thankful for all the time and energy Ray has given to St. John's through the bread ministry and other projects, and we are blessed by his example of servant leadership following the example of Christ who was a servant of all.

Come... Join Us!

Sundays

- 8:00 am Service:**
Holy Eucharist Rite I
- 10:00 am Service:**
Sung Eucharist Rite II
- 9:00 Sunday Forum
(Fireside Room)
- 9:00 St. John's Café
(Meditation Room)
- 9:00 Adult Choir Rehearsal
(Chancel)
- 9:00 Children's Choir Rehearsal
(Music Room)
- 9:45 Godly Play
(Classrooms)
- 11:15 Coffee Hour
(Gathering Space)



Evangelist Deadline

**June Issue
May 12 at 4pm**

All groups and individuals are *encouraged* to submit news and items of interest to *The Evangelist*. Email (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,

I realize I am an anomaly. I still attend worship in a generation when most of my peers, and increasingly my parents peers do not attend. I do not identify as “spiritual but not religious” - I am spiritual *and* religious. In fact, I’d go so far as to say that I find it hard to comprehend how one can have spirituality without the supportive structure of a community and its rituals (i.e. religion). I am sure this comes as no surprise to most of you—I am a clergy person, so, of course I attend worship and identify as religious. But, I wasn’t always clergy.



As worship has declined, and religious adherence with it, across denominations and faith traditions, a field of research has emerged looking into what keeps people in church, and exploring why people leave. As with any field of inquiry, its difficult for the research to demonstrate “cause”. But, the research is beginning to show clear correlations between religious adherence over time and particular biographical details of those adherents. As I have read the research, I’ve heard echoes of my own story with those described in the various studies. Not surprisingly, folks who stick with their faith over time share common markers.

For most, the research tells us, faith was discussed in the home in positive ways. Adherents were given plenty of opportunities to absorb the stories and ideas of their faith tradition in ways that enabled them to use religious categories and language to make sense of the world. A large portion of those who continued in the faith over time, identified individuals, lay and ordained, who mentored them in their religious life. And, (big surprise) attendance in worship was held out as expected within their families of origin and by their wider faith community.

I can relate to all of these markers. I’ve had ample opportunities in my life to learn the language of Christian faith. My parents insisted I attend at least one year at a Christian college and there I was expected to attend chapel regularly and to take basic courses on Bible and philosophy. Going to church almost every Sunday was something we did as a family growing up, and when I left the home, out of habit, I sought out a place to attend worship. And, I can identify more than a few Christian mentors I’ve had over the years whose presence in my life helped me wrestle with doubt and to articulate and re-articulate my Christian faith as my own.

I am so grateful for all of these because, just as many of you have discovered in your own lives, faith helps me to make sense of the world. Through the lens of my own faith, my understanding of God in Christ Jesus, my life in the church, I am given so much. With these things I can better understand evil and even find hope amidst the darkest events of life. With these things I am given a moral framework with which I can confront structures of injustice in the world. Because of these things I am inspired to serve others. My faith grounds me, connects me in community, and helps me grow.

Currently St. John's staff and ministry leaders are working together on something called the "Sunday Project" - a response to the priority placed in our recent Strategic Plan around increasing access to worship and formation for our whole congregation. This priority emerged, because like me, so many in our congregation find great value in their Christian faith. As author and pastor Anthony Robinson wrote recently in a post for the Alban Institute at Duke Divinity School:

The great truths of Christian faith, our core convictions, are saving truths. They make a difference. They make a difference by forming humans who are humane and truthful. They make a difference by pointing the way when we have lost our way. They make a difference by shaping congregations and communities to become more vital. These saving truths create and sustain congregations. Those who seek and find such congregations discover a healthy community in which to grow, struggle, be changed, and be sustained. In the midst of the many forces that regularly distort and diminish life as God has created it to be, these saving truths create God's intended community. Most of all, these truths save by bringing us into relationship with the true and living God.

So, why might we be looking at ways to increase access to and participation in the formation and worship life of our congregation? For exactly the reasons named above—because when we participate in these things, we know our faith better. When we know our faith better, we tend to stick with our faith. And, when we stick with it, and continue to learn and grow and deepen our faith, we see so many positive results—most especially in our relationships, with each other, with the world around us, and with the God who made us and sustains us.

The Sunday Project is one way we will be exploring this discussion further (see article on the right), as will the Back Porch Conversation this July, and we'll continue to offer articles and insights on why we need and how we might provide greater access to worship and formation for all ages at St. John's. I invite your participation in the conversation and your thoughtful feedback and questions.

See you in church!

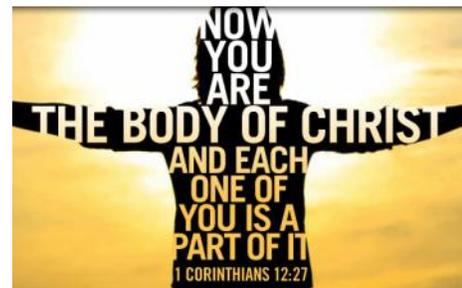
Sunday Project

Based on parishioner feedback, key objectives in the strategic plan include increasing access for all parishioners to both formation and worship. Our current Sunday morning schedule has several activities overlapping which leads to tough choices for some parishioners and reduced participation in some of our key programs. For example, choir warm up and rehearsal at the same time as adult formation, and Godly Play at the same time as worship.

A few weeks ago staff and ministry leaders came together to discuss the importance of learning and worshipping together as one united Body of Christ, and ways to collect feedback from the wider parish about the best way to do this.

One of the strongest recommendations from this meeting was to provide education on the latest research, information on best practices, and possible options for St. John's. Last month's Evangelist included two articles related to this project; *Why is Faith Formation So Important?* and *Peter and Penny Go Swimming: A Parable*.

This month our Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministry, Jean Hansen, has shared another article, *Sticky Faith* on page 9. The article speaks to the importance of connecting across generations and ensuring our younger members are engaged. The staff will continue to provide relevant articles that we hope will stimulate thoughtful discussions about why we need to participate in worship and formation together.



It was also suggested that we retain a professional survey service to design and implement a comprehensive survey of the parish. St. John's leadership are investigating this along with other suggestions, and will keep everyone informed of the next steps, as they arise. We thank everyone who has offered constructive input to this important discernment process. If you have comments or questions please feel free to reach out to members of the vestry, Jered, or Kate.

Bread Ministry

Bread Ministry – What is it? The bread ministry's sole mission is to welcome guests bold enough to sign a St. John's visitor card. The visitor cards are then gathered up by the bread ministry volunteer/s for that Sunday. A loaf of bread, welcome note and informational pamphlet are delivered to the guest's door sometime during the week.

The welcome note attached to each loaf of bread says, "We were delighted that you chose to worship with us at St. John's recently. We pray that you were fed spiritually, that this bread will feed you physically, and that you will come again."

The bread ministry at St. John's was originally started by Ray Frisby. When he was Senior Warden at Messiah Episcopal Church in St. Paul, the idea was presented to him by another parishioner. Ray liked the idea and bread ministry began. Ray says he likes bread ministry over committee work! Ray transferred membership to St. John's and has continued the tradition for about 20 years. Ray's motto is "If the visitor can get to church, I can deliver bread."

The bread ministers goal is to "pop in, pop out," visit briefly if you are home, answer any questions you may have and thank you for visiting St. John's. All of the bread ministers will tell you what a rewarding ministry it is. They have seen visitors return who are now singing in the choir, and some have even felt the call to priesthood. It started with a loaf of bread.

Current bread ministers are:

Ray Frisby, Bob Horn, Carol Selin, Craig Lemming, Tim Krall, Nancy Wellington, Suzanne McInroy, Cammie Beattie, Jody & Mike Dueber, Judy Stack Nelson, Rosendale Family, Jessica Berry, Judy Southwick, Dean & Marie Henderson, Laura Smith, John MacBain, Mary Gilbertson and Lea Anne Schmidt. There is always room for more bread ministers. If you are interested contact Lea Anne Schmidt at leanne.schmidt@gmail.com

Service Sunday

This year St. John's will celebrate Service Sunday on May 17. In one of our favorite new traditions, staff and ministry leaders will take time to specially thank all of the wonderful volunteers from St. Johns. We will also formally commission their activities and bless their work. This year will also witness the first recipient of the Dusty Mairs Servant Leadership Award, Ray Frisby (see front page). If you are a volunteer, please know that the church appreciates your time and effort to help things run more smoothly and make a positive difference in the community.

Pentecost Baptisms



Pentecost is an extraordinary moment in the life of the church year. It is the moment we celebrate as the birthday of the church, the community of God's people, transcending every tongue and nation and tribe and culture. We will be baptizing new members into the body of Christ at our festive 10:00 am service on May 24. If you are interested in getting baptized or having a child baptized, please contact the Reverend Jered Weber-Johnson at 651-228-1172, x11.

Office Closed Memorial Monday

The church office will be closed Monday, May 25 for the Memorial Day holiday.

Introducing SJE's New Stewardship Chair

Lynn Hertz



Lynn is a longtime Episcopalian who has been a member of St. John's for about 10 years. A former SJE vestry member, she also currently serves on the building committee and the fellowship committee, is an usher, and participates in a house group. "Different things feed different parts of life," she says. She is familiar with nonprofit organizations. As the Assistant Provost at Macalester College, she has extensive experience managing resources, such as staff, faculty, and budgets. She has also served as stewardship chair at a previous parish. She is looking forward to the 2015 stewardship campaign and exploring the variety of reasons people feel called to giving. "I want it to be a conversation," she explains. We are all very excited to have her as this year's stewardship chair and look forward to working with her!



The Property Committee is undertaking a project to retrofit the chandeliers in our worship space with energy efficient bulbs. It begs the obvious question: how many Episcopalians does it take to change a lightbulb?

Crocus Hill Preschool Year Ends with Art Show May 28

With all the signs of spring returning to Minnesota we at Crocus Hill Preschool celebrate the end of our second year at St. John's.

It has been a busy and lively year. Our children have enjoyed wonderful classroom experiences. We have gone on a variety of field trips to the Children's Theater, Bell Museum, Minnesota Art Institute, Minnesota Orchestra to name a few. We continue to bring in specialists to enhance classroom learning. This year the children enjoyed Creative Movement with Fran, Music with Wendy, and the Wonder Weavers Storytellers. Como Zoo brought penguins into our classroom, MN Valley Nature Center has provided trunks which enable us to have "hands on" experiences with shorebirds and loons to name a few and Rob Ellos continues to amaze the children with his Science presentations. Our days are busy!

We will end our school year with our Annual Art show which is a presentation of a sampling of the children's work. It is a fun event for all of our families. Please feel free to join us in the gym Thursday May 28 from 5:30-7:00 pm. We'd love to show off all that happened this year.

We continue to be grateful to St. John's for inviting us to be a part of your community. It has been a wonderful place for Crocus Hill Preschool to grow.





“So Build Us Up...”

The popular “Conversations on the Back Porch” series returns over three Wednesday evenings this summer:

July 15, 22, & 29

7:30—9:00 PM

*(hosted by the Rector & Associate Rector—
locations TBA in June Evangelist)*

This summer’s conversation will focus on a phrase from the Collect for St. John’s, our parish mission statement— “so build us up in the knowledge and love of Him”.

Our Strategic Plan identifies this piece of our mission with the work of Faith Formation, stating “Faith formation involves nourishing our spiritual development so that we are prepared to live out the Saint John’s mission and identify strongly as committed Christians.”

Formation happens in forums and Bible Studies, small groups and on retreats, where we learn the stories of our faith and the spiritual practices that can deepen it. But, it also happens in corporate worship and in our community life too. Everywhere we are being intentionally enriched, challenged, and shaped—these are the places where we are being built up in the knowledge and love of God.

Our three sessions will look at the work of being “built up” through 1. Formation, 2. Worship, and 3. Community. Come for one or come for all three. We’ll leave plenty of time to enjoy the back porch and one another’s company. Hope to see you there!

Clergy

The Reverend Jered Weber-Johnson, *Rector*
The Reverend Kate Bradtmiller, *Associate Rector*
The Reverend Margaret Thor, *Deacon*

Staff

Sarah Dull, *Parish Administrator*
Jayson Engquist, *Director of Music and Organist*
Kate Graber, *Handbell Choir Director*
Jean Hansen, *Children, Youth, and Family Minister*
Ivan Holguin, *Building Assistant*
Tracy Johnson, *Nursery Coordinator*
Mary Kay Knapp, *Children’s & Youth Choirs Director*
Craig Lemming, *Compline Coordinator*
The Reverend Barbara Mraz, *Writer in Residence*
John Oldfield, *Office of the Treasurer*
Chris Tegeler, *Building Manager*
Longkee Vang, *Youth Ministry Assistant*
Ellie Watkins, *Communications Assistant*
Dunfa Weretti, *Building Assistant*

Vestry Members

Bob Baumann, *Clerk of Vestry*
Tricia Durst, *At Large*
Mary Gilbertson, *At Large*
Gary Hagstrom, *At Large*
Vern Kasekert, *Fellowship*
Tim Krall, *Invited Youth, non-voting*
John MacBain, *Property*
Suzanne McInroy, *Communications*
Don Postema, *Senior Warden*
Rick Rinkoff, *Treasurer*
Lea Anne Schmidt, *New Member/Welcome*
Judy Stack-Nelson, *Formation*
Colleen Swope, *Faith in Action*
Kevin Wall, *At Large*
Holly Weinkauff, *At Large*
Nancy Wellington, *Music*
Jerry Woelfel, *Junior Warden*

Volunteer Positions

Artaria String Quartet, *Artists in Residence*
Phillip Baird, *Vergers*
Alden Drew, *Historian/Archivist*
Dorothy Ek, *Music Librarian*
Paige Hagstrom, *Coffee Hour Coordinator*
Jim Johnson, *Planned Gift Chair*
Bob Linehan, *Vergers*
Joan Potter, *Liturgical and Lay Reader Coordinator*
Diane Power, *Altar Guild*
George Power, *Columbarium*
Paul Rudoi, *Composer in Residence*
Kate Sigford, *Vergers*

Faith in Action

Work on This Summer's Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity Project

St. John's is a charter member of Faith Builders, a coalition of five area congregations also including Assumption Catholic Church, the Cathedral of St. Paul, House of Hope Presbyterian, and Unity Unitarian. We support Faith Builders and Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity with volunteers and over \$2,500 in financial gifts to improve affordable housing in the Twin Cities.

This year, the Workcamp will be June 22-26 and July 6-10. Construction takes place from 8:20 am—4:00 pm each day. We'll be working on a new Habitat home project at 667 LaFond Ave, St Paul, next to last year's site and only 5 minutes from St. John's. This is the 13th Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity summer project Faith Builders and St. John's volunteers have participated in.

Each day there will be a work crew of 18 volunteers, and 2 volunteers preparing and serving snacks and lunch. All skill levels are welcome – you'll be provided with tools and friendly instructions, if you need them. You'll work with like-minded folk, people of faith from other local congregations, and you'll be addressing the need for affordable housing in a concrete way. Information on how to sign up online will be in the Sunday bulletins. For more information, contact Don Postema at 651-485-9632 or postema@comcast.net.



Last Year St. John's
Habitat Builders

Twice, St. John's Has the Joy of Helping One Family

Hearts to Homes held the third session of its Nutrition and Cooking classes on the evening of April 13th. One of the participants asked Patty Byrne Pfalz if she had volunteered at Project



Home when it was at St John's. Patty told her that she had and the mom said, with all sincerity, that without the volunteers at St. John's and elsewhere, the program would not be able to happen. The mom went on to tell Patty her story and how she had come to find shelter with Project Home.

It was a heart-wrenching story of living with her mentally unbalanced mother and then being thrown out with her 10-month old son. She was filled with fear that her son would be taken away from her because she couldn't put a roof over his head. The police promised that would not happen and they convinced her mother to hand over the baby's diapers and bottles and her phone charger. The police found shelter for them for one night at a Days Inn (who gave her a meal as well) but she would have to leave the next day. The mom said the hand of God was on her because the next day Project Home called her and told her she was accepted into the system. She was originally told it would take 2-3 weeks before she and her son could get into the shelter. While talking to Patty, the mom shared her mistakes too and honestly "owned" them.

The mom lives in her own apartment now and is learning to take care of herself and her son. And she has gratitude for all those who helped her.

Hearts to Homes Meeting - Thursday, May 28 at 6:00 pm in the Library. To learn more, contact Patty Byrne Pfalz at 651-224-7784.

Faith in Action Meeting - Thursday, May 21 at 5:30 pm in the Gathering Space. To learn more, contact Colleen Swope at ccswope50@gmail.com.

The Farmers' Market is Coming

Our St. John's-Holy Apostles Farmers' Market is in its fourth year. It has become a wonderful way to deepen St. John's connection with Holy Apostles through their farmers. Our volunteers enjoy getting to know the farmers as we join forces on market days.

We will continue to share the produce with families in need at Hallie Q. Brown through Fields to Families. This program uses SJE funds to purchase fresh produce at the end of Sunday's market and have it on the shelves of HQB's food shelf Monday morning. Healthy foods for families and seniors at the ready!

The Farmers' Truck program will also be returning. Our very generous donor from last year is supplying a matching grant again to sponsor a truck delivery of fresh produce to HQB each week throughout the growing season. We will be accepting donations at the market on each of our market days. Last year, our parishioners and neighbors doubled the amount needed and we were able to provide two truck deliveries per week in the second half of the season!

By providing fresh produce to Hallie Q. Brown in two ways, St. John's is proud and happy to continue deepening our connection to their work. At our neighborhood food shelf, home closet, and education center, we are finding more ways to strengthen our families and our communities.

As with last year, we will have a market in the SJE parking lot on Sunday mornings and Wednesday afternoons. Please contact our project leads Cammie and Rob Beattie at crbeattie@att.net or 651-536-5576 to sign up for shifts.



Protecting Your Online Footprint May 6, 2015 6:45pm-8pm

On Wednesday, May 6, guest speaker Alison Feigh, program coordinator for Gunderson National Child Protection Training Center will present a workshop titled "Protecting Your Online Footprint" in the Fireside Room. In this workshop teens (parents are encouraged to attend) will learn about the im-



importance of making healthy choices online. Online risks and dangers will be discussed so youth are aware of behavior that should trigger warning flags. Risky behaviors, including sexting and cyberbullying, will also be covered. This training is designed to empower teens and give them the tools to make healthy decisions as they gain independence. Remember: **Parents are encouraged to attend with their teen.**

Alison holds a B.A. degree in Communication and "Responding to Missing Children in the U.S." from St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN. She has worked at the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and Jacob Wetterling Resource Center.

Grand Old Day

Summer is fast approaching and that means that **Grand Old Day** will be here before you know – **Sunday, June 5**. As part of their fundraising efforts, the youth of St. John's sell parking spots in our parking lot that day. You may of course park in the church parking lot that morning without having to pay. However, if at all possible it would be great if parishioners could park on the street that Sunday morning.

Confirmation 2015

On May 30 at 11am, seven of our youth will be confirmed at St. Mark's Cathedral in Minneapolis. Please keep the St. John's confirmands in your prayers as they confirm their baptismal promises.

Children, Youth, and Family Ministry



Sticky Faith: What Can Parents Do To Help Teenagers Have Faith That Lasts – *Huffington Post Article by Kara Powell*

Imagine a photo of high school seniors who have been attending a local church in your community. Now take a red marker and place an "X" over almost half of their faces. According to a handful of research studies, those students with a red "X" represent the almost 50 percent of youth group graduates who drift from God and from the church after high school.

As a parent or grandparent, what can you do to help teenagers have faith that lasts?

For six years, a team of faculty and graduate students from Fuller Seminary conducted the College Transition Project to find that answer. Conducted by the Fuller Youth Institute (FYI), the project included qualitative and longitudinal quantitative studies of 500 Christian youth group members during the first three years of college following high school graduation. The data, as described in a new book called "Sticky Faith" authored by myself and Dr. Chap Clark, suggests that parents:

- 1. Share verbally about their own faith journeys.** Stop lecturing your kids or interviewing them; instead, share organically about your own faith. Use time in the car, recent current events, or dinner discussions as a chance to share how your own faith is growing, or ways that your faith impacts your everyday life. Include both a sense of your present religious experiences and insights as well as highlights of your faith journey in the past.
- 2. Ask their children who they will turn to when they have doubts.** Doubt in and of itself isn't toxic; it's unexpressed doubt that turns toxic. One of the repeated themes in the research was the importance of parents giving their kids space to wrestle with

tough faith questions until they pinned down their own answers. Giving permission for independent thought leads to stickier faith.

- 3. Connect their sons and daughters to at least five caring adults.** Kids need to develop a strong personal identity for faith to stick and community helps do just that. When kids know specific adults who are "on their team," they have a web of support to catch them when they fall and keep them connected to faith for the long haul. Using the scaffolding of existing relationships with extended family, neighbors, friends, coaches and teachers, build a 5:1 (or 7:1, or 10:1, or whatever you determine works best for your family) sticky web adult to child ratio for mentoring your kids. Other adults are often able to speak to them in ways you cannot as the parent.

- 4. Reinforce that their faith is bigger than any moral failure or mistake.** The students in the Sticky Faith study tended to view their faith as a list of behaviors, akin to what Dallas Willard calls the "gospel of sin management." Tragically, when students with that view of their faith fail, their feelings of guilt cause them to run from their faith and the church, just when they need them the most. A faith that sticks is one that is based not primarily on behaviors, but on inner life change.

- 5. Talk to high school juniors and seniors now about life after college.** Only one in seven youth group graduates felt their faith was ready for what they faced after high school. As part of practical discussions on issues such as managing money and time, help high school upperclassmen plan a schedule that will include church attendance. 40 percent of college freshmen report difficulty finding a church, so help them make the connection before arrival for a smoother and stickier transition. It's never too early to start building Sticky Faith in your kids.



Faith Formation

HOPE & LOSS



The Art of Dying in the Christian Tradition

A forum series in Eastertide exploring a Christian understanding of death, dying, grief, and resurrection.

Presentations and conversations will be led by chaplains, theologians, clergy and medical professionals.

Join Us:

Sundays at 9 AM
In the Fireside Room

May 3: Tisha Colton – *End-of-Life Issues with the Elderly*

May 10: Deanna Thompson – *A Journey with Cancer*

May 17: Clergy and Theologian Panel – *The Art of Dying: Preparing for Death and Being Surprised by Death*



Goodman Lecture May 7

The theology department at St. Kate's is hosting the annual Goodman Lecture on Thursday, May 7 at 7:00 pm. This year, they are very excited to have Jewish New Testament scholar Amy-Jill

Levine (Vanderbilt Divinity School; author of *The Meaning of the Bible*, *The Oxford Annotated Jewish New Testament*, and *The Jewish Jesus*). A self-described "Yankee Jewish feminist who teaches in a predominantly Christian divinity school in the buckle of the Bible Belt," Professor Levine combines historical-critical rigor, literary-critical sensitivity, and a frequent dash of humor with a commitment to eliminating anti-Jewish, sexist, and homophobic theologies.

The title of her talk will be: "Short Stories By Jesus: Hearing the Parables through Jewish Ears." She is a gifted and entertaining speaker.

This event is free and open to the public; tickets are available through the O'Shaughnessy Box Office at <http://oshag.stkate.edu>.

St. John's Cafe

Come for the coffee, stay for the good news! Join us **Sundays at 9:00am in the Meditation Room** as we discuss the lectionary gospel in the context of the week's news. All are welcome!

Contact Kate for more info at 651-228-1172 x18 or kate.bradtmiller@stjohnsstpaul.org.



Bible Study

This group meets on Wednesdays at 11:00 am in the Library. Participants discuss the lessons for the coming Sunday. This is a great opportunity for community building. For more information, contact Diane Elliott, 804-874-9502.

Why Adult Confirmation, Reception, and Reaffirmation are Important

The Episcopal Church's theology of Confirmation has continued to evolve along with its understanding of baptism. Confirmation is no longer seen as the completion of Christian initiation. Instead, it has been increasingly understood in terms of a public reaffirmation of the Christian faith and the baptismal promises. It is the sacramental rite in which the candidates "express a mature commitment to Christ, and receive strength from the Holy Spirit through prayer and the laying on of hands by a bishop" (BCP, p. 860). It is not just for teens attending Confirmation classes, but an important ritual for adults as well.

Others who have experienced a renewal of faith or desire to renew their Christian commitment may also reaffirm their baptismal vows. Reaffirmation may be repeated, depending on the pastoral needs of the person. The candidates reaffirm their renunciation of evil, and renew their commitment to Jesus Christ. They reaffirm the promises made by them or for them at the time of baptism. Those present in the congregation promise to do all in their power to support the candidates in their life in Christ.

Reception (Christian Commitment) is for baptized persons who have been members of another Christian fellowship and who wish to be affiliated with the Episcopal Church. They may make a public affirmation of their faith and commitment to the responsibilities of their baptism in the presence of a bishop. The bishop lays hands on each candidate for reception and says, "We recognize you as a member of the one holy catholic and apostolic Church, and we receive you into the fellowship of this Communion" (BCP, p. 418).

Why is laying on of hands by a bishop important? Apostolic succession is the line of bishops stretching back to the time of the apostles. For the early Fathers, "the identity of the oral tradition with the original revelation is guaranteed by the unbroken succession of bishops in the great sees going back lineally to the apostles."

Confirmation, Reception, and Reaffirmation are rooted in the baptismal covenant. They are important and meaningful events in an adult faith journey. If you are interested in taking any of these as your next step, or simply have questions about them, please contact the Rev. Jered Weber-Johnson at 651-228-1172 x11.

House Groups

House groups are a place to share our lives and journey together. They are gatherings of 8-12 members who meet regularly for friendship, spiritual support, and building deeper relationships. Some rotate meetings among the members' houses; some meet elsewhere. Some groups gather to study or have a common interest or focus. Most groups meet monthly. All groups build community around our shared life of faith.

To connect with an existing group or learn about forming a group, contact Kate at 651-228-1172 x18 or kate.bradtmiller@stjohnsstpaul.org.



New Member Reception and Welcome Brunch May 31

New members will be received into the church on May 31 at the 10:00 am service. Afterwards, new members are all invited to the Fireside Room at 11:15 for a welcome brunch hosted by the St. John's Vestry. Please contact Jered Weber-Johnson at 651-228-1172 x11 with questions.

Safe Church Training

In order to be a leader in the Episcopal church, you are required to complete Safe Church Training, which needs to be renewed every five years. You can contact the church office to find out the date of your last training and to find out if you are required to complete the adult or the child portions.

The child portion of Safe Church Training ("Safeguarding God's Children") will be offered at St. John's on Sunday, May 17 from noon—3:00 pm. A meal will be provided, so RSVP to the office by May 13 at 651-228-1172, x10 or church@stjohnsstpaul.org.



Musical Notes

from the
Organ Bench...



Celebrate Kate on May 10

We will have an opportunity to celebrate Kate Graber on Sunday, May 10. This will be Kate's last Sunday with us. Kate has faithfully served St. John's for over 10 years as our Handbell Choir Director. She has decided to make a change following this program year and will no longer be on staff.



Our St. John's Handbell Choir will be playing several pieces during the 10:00 am morning worship service. We will celebrate Kate in the service and during the Coffee Hour that follows in the Gathering Space. Please plan to attend to wish Kate well.

Final Evensong of the Season May 17

On Sunday afternoon, May 17 at 4:00 p.m. we will offer Evensong and a Concert with the combined choirs of St. Clement's and St. John's churches. We will be singing Handel's *Dixit Dominus* (with orchestral accompaniment) and the Preces (responses) and Suffrages by Mark Stuhara, the Director at St. Clement's church.

Weekly Compline

Each Thursday evening at 7:00 pm, we offer a sung service of Compline (evening prayers). Please invite friends, relatives, and neighbors. Incense is used. Services continue through June.

Summer Choir

Our St. John's Volunteer Summer Choir sings each Sunday during the months of June-July-August. We gather each Sunday at 9:00 a.m. in the choir stalls to rehearse the anthem and service music. All ages are welcome - this is an intergenerational ensemble. Please come at 9:00 a.m. any Sundays in the summer months and join the song.

Holy Apostles Youth Fundraising Concert

Holy Apostles invites you to come to our annual spring concert on Saturday May 9 at 5:00 at St. John the Evangelist. First of all, let me thank you for the chance to have the concert at your beautiful church. Some of you may remember our concert last spring. We performed classical and contemporary sacred music, American and Russian, Hmong and Jewish folk music. The audience was impressed by our young musicians who performed very complicated compositions by Mozart, Beethoven, Rachmaninoff on flutes and violin, organ and piano. Our youngest (6-9 years old) musicians who sang and played recorders, drums and piano delighted the audience. This year we, are going to continue to surprise our listeners with serious piano, beautiful dance, a funny play, and heavenly Taize music.

Please, come. Enjoy the music and admire the hard work of our young people whom you've met at our joint projects, services, and picnics. We will be very grateful for your support. Without it we, could not continue our significant music program at Holy Apostles. Because of your support, children and youth who would not be able to have music lessons, will be able to continue. Perhaps these lessons will help them in their future life to be more successful than their parents, the first generation of immigrants. As a new immigrant myself, I understand that this is what parents hope for their children. And finally, I am planning to fund a children's theatre. I am hoping that this concert will be a good beginning of this project.

Thank you all and hope to see you May 9. Please come and bring your children and grandchildren and invite your friends. We will serve refreshments after the concert.

Sincerely yours,
Sergey Khvoshchinsky, composer and music director of Holy Apostles



Community Life

Welcome, Nick and Olivia Morawiecki!

When Olivia attended college ten years ago, she used to frequent the St. John's huge sale. She thought it was the best church rummage sale in St. Paul.

Nick and Olivia returned to St. Paul in the fall of 2013;



previously, they had been attending Episcopal Churches in Boston and San Francisco. Olivia noticed that St. John's was Episcopal, so they thought they would give it a try. They both liked it immediately and decided it was time to call a church home.

Olivia grew up in Eden Prairie and Nick grew up in Winona. They met while Olivia was working as an art teacher in Boston and Nick was attending school. Nick was a server at a cafe Olivia visited. Once they started talking, they realized they had heard all about each other through mutual friends....what a small world!

Both Nick and Olivia have artistic backgrounds. Nick studied at Berklee College of Music in Boston, and Olivia studied Studio Art and Community Art at Concordia University. Nick plays in various rock bands and Olivia enjoys working part time as an art advisor (which, she says, "is a fancy term for selling artwork"). They like to see live music and visit art exhibitions.

Nick and Olivia are excited to be part of St. John's. Last winter, they joined the bell choir and have had a lot of fun getting to know the great people they "ring" with. This spring, they are moving to a house on Lake Como. It will be their first home. They are very excited to be in St. Paul for a long time.

Garden Circle

Are you interested in helping with garden planning, clean-up, and planting at St John's? Contact Jeff Olsen or Julia Ferguson if you can help. Jeff and Julia welcome you to talk to them at church, or reach Jeff at jolsen4338@gmail.com or Julia at Julia_ferguson@mac.com.

OWLs Luncheon

If you are an OWL (Older, Wiser Laity), please mark your calendars for a luncheon to be held on Wednesday, May 20. Come for Noonday Prayers at Noon in the Chapel, and then join your fellow OWLs in the Fireside room for a relaxing luncheon provided by St. John's clergy and staff.



Menu:

Chicken with Fresh Asparagus and Spring Herbs
Green Salad with Fontina and Walnuts
Strawberry-Rhubarb Pie with Creme Freche

The speaker will be James Frazier, author of the recently published *For All the Saints*, a history of St. John's. Jim will discuss the process of writing the book, major findings during three years of research, and surprises turned up along the way, Bring your questions! Books will be available for purchase (\$42).

Please let the church office know whether or not we can plan on enjoying luncheon with you. Call the office to RSVP at 651-228-1172 x10.

April Meetings

Prayer Shawl Gathering: Wednesday, May 6 at 9:30 am in the Undercroft. Contact Anneke Krall at 651-690-0579.

Men's Breakfast: Saturday, May 9 at 9:00 am in the Gym Kitchen. Contact Jim Johnson at 651-698-5655.

Men's Gathering: Tuesday, May 12 at 7:30 pm in the Fireside Room. Contact Josh Colton at 612-275-6004.

Vestry Meeting: Monday, May 18 at 6:00 pm in the Fireside Room. RSVP to the church office at 651-228-1172, x10

Down Syndrome Group: Tuesday, May 19 at 6:00 pm in the Undercroft and Nursery. Contact Lindsay Radford, LRadford@kstp.com

Happy Birthday to...

May*

1	Beth Trerotola	11	Charles Mason	21	Danielle Edgerton
3	Steve Avery	12	Ailsa Schmidt	22	Andy Olsen
	Cameron Gemlo	13	Monica Cook	23	Virginia Edgerton
	Leslie Mercer		David Boomquist		Margo Georgeson
5	Bill Lindeke		Amanda Klosterman		Peter Gilbertson
	Megan McKeehan	14	Bristol Marie Tiller	24	Simon Schmidt
	Jack Edgerton	15	Anne Howie		Richard Brynteson
	Jackson Scheel	15	Paul Johnson		John Edgerton
6	John Kinkead	16	Charlie Docherty		Tony Grundhauser
	Greta Paige Lightner	16	Elaine Sutton	28	Holly Stoerker
	John Nicholson	17	Lauren Loch	28	Margot Harrington
7	John MacBain	17	Karen Dingle	29	Judy Diedrich
8	Julia Brown		Kent Loiseaux-Purcell		Randy Ross
9	Mitchell Brooks		Kai Loiseaux-Purcell		Rob Binger
	Caroline Brown	18	Phyllis Merrill	30	Barbara Lindeke
	Michael Halvorson	19	Melissa Ek		Christopher Plummer
	Rod Titcomb		Jim Johnson	31	Kathy Brown
10	Susan McCarthy	20	Patrick Joyce		Maren Johnson
			Estelle Berger-Thompson		

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

May 3—The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Main Altar: Robert C. Merrill

Small Altar: Christina Ward

May 10—The Sixth Sunday of Easter

Main Altar: Clinton P. & June Schaeppi, Jeffrey W.

Schaeppi

Small Altar: OPEN

May 17—The Seventh Sunday of Easter

Main Altar: Forest Jerome Clark

Small Altar: Lawrence Ward

May 24—Pentecost Sunday

Main Altar: Robert Bruce Farnham

Small Altar: William Penn

May 31—The First Sunday after Pentecost

Main Altar: Dr. Charles E. & Esther E. Smith, Charles E.

III & Ingrid O. Smith

Small Altar: George Mairs

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



Altar Flowers 2015

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 May 2015 Service Schedule

Time	READERS	USHERS	GREETERS	COFFEE HOUR	ACOLYTES
May 3—The Fifth Sunday of Easter					
8:00 am	Craig Lindeke	Jay Debertin Julia Ferguson Rick Rinkoff Shirley Sailors	Judy Southwick Don Weinkauff Jerry Woelfel	Godly Play families	Tim Krall Caroline Krall Linnea Krall Sabine Krall
10:00 am	A—Troy Stack- Nelson B—Jill Thompson				
May 10—The Sixth Sunday of Easter					
8:00 am	Joan McCanna	Cammie Beattie Patty Byrne Pfalz Terri Fishel Don Husband	Jeff Olsen Peggy Olsen Colleen Swope	Jill & John Thompson	Ailsa Schmidt Rachel Clark Chris Olson Charlie Olson
10:00 am	A—Rick Rinkoff B—Carole Selin				
May 17—The Seventh Sunday of Easter					
8:00 am	David Aylesworth	Pat Brynteson Don Husband Jeff Olsen Peggy Olsen Diane Power	Phyllis Frisby Suzanne McInroy Lea Anne Schmidt	Marv & Sue Cadwell	Eli Weinkauff Johannah Frisby Eliot Wall Will Rinkoff
10:00 am	A—Judy Southwick B—Paige Hagstrom				
May 24—Pentecost Sunday					
8:00 am	Brad McCanna	Don Weinkauff Holly Weinkauff	Phyllis Goff Jennifer Kinkead Ella Slade	Open	Matt Brooks Madeline Weinkauff Thea Bischof Aidan Schmidt Helen Baxter
10:00 am	A—John Docherty B—Bob Linehan				
May 31—First Sunday After Pentecost (Trinity Sunday)					
8:00 am	Bob Linehan	George Kinkead Holly Kinkead Jennifer Rosendale Peter Rosendale	Kathleen Hanson Gabrielle Lawrence Don Postema	Open	Charlie Docherty Charlie Olson Chris Olson Roan Weinkauff
10:00 am	A—Mark McInroy B—Diane Wallace- Reid				

ALTAR GUILD TEAMS

May 3: Pam Strom, Kathy Brown, Sue Cadwell, Shirlee Gooch, Sue MacIntosh

May 10: Pat Brynteson, Caroline Krall, Nan Lightner, Phyllis Merrill, Elaine Sutton, Jill Thompson

May 17: Diane Power, Paige Hagstrom, Heather Joyce, Sarah K. Smith, Sabine Krall, Ginny Schauss

May 24: Dusty Mairs, Susan Aylesworth, Phillip Baird, Shirley Cooper, Phyllis Frisby, Patty Byrne Pfalz, Bill Sherfey

May 31: Pam Strom, Kathy Brown, Sue Cadwell, Shirlee Gooch, Sue MacIntosh



St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church
60 Kent Street
Saint Paul, MN 55012
www.stjohnsstpaul.org
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MAY 2015

