

THE EVANGELIST

Newsletter for
Saint John the Evangelist
Episcopal Church



April 2016

Church of the Open Door Since 1881

Vol. CXI, No. 4

Esther: A Children's Musical



by Heather Hunt,
Director of Children's and Youth Choirs

On Sunday, March 6, the children's choirs of St. Mary's and St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Churches presented the 30-minute musical *Esther* at St. Mary's.

The biblical story of Queen Esther included some modern twists, such as a "Persian Idol" singing contest. Accompanied by piano and flute and wearing period costumes, the 20 or so actors and singers took us through Esther's rise and her role in saving her people, to the absolute delight of all in attendance, if the laughter and applause were any indication!

We plan to hold a reciprocal collaborative event at St. John's in the fall of 2016. A video of the musical should be available to our congregation soon.

Many thanks to the volunteers and performers who made this musical possible.



Join Us on Sundays:

8:00 am Service:

Holy Eucharist Rite I

9:00 St. John's Café
(Meditation Room)

9:00 Sunday Forum
(Fireside Room)

9:00 Choir Rehearsals
(Music Room & Chancel)

9:45 Godly Play
(School)

10:00 am Service:

Sung Eucharist Rite II

11:15 Coffee Hour
(Gathering Space)



Evangelist Deadline

May Issue

April 13 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. Thank you!

St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church

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St. Paul, MN 55102

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www.stjohnsstpaul.org

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday

9:00 am to 4:00 pm

From the Reverend Jered Weber-Johnson



A few weeks ago I preached on the story of Mary and her spikenard, a story of intimacy and devotion. That passage came up again during Holy Week and started me thinking once more, about how it must have felt to know Jesus, to be physically in his presence, to break bread with him and laugh and tell stories. Its not altogether hard for my imagination to piece together that experience. After all, I have friends with whom I regularly eat and laugh and tell stories. I have intimate ties with peers and mentors and family members. Yet, sociologists and anthropologists and those who study current cultural trends have been saying for some time that social connections, particularly the kinds that cultivate empathy and resilience in individuals and their communities, these kinds of relationships are struggling and dwindling. The research seems to point to digital technology coupled with the now ubiquitous belief in the primacy of the individual and self-expression. We hear more and more how individualism trumps community and how our time alone, behind our screens is hampering our ability to relate with and know one another.

Of course our propensity to withdraw from community into smaller and smaller homogenous groups predates our love affair with personal technology, smart phones, tablets, computers and the like. For a long time now Americans in particular have gravitated into neighborhoods where people think, vote, and act alike, and generally ascribe to the same values. Our children are more likely today to go to racially and economically homogenous schools. Even church suffers this increasing withdrawal, with faith communities becoming largely segregated along all too familiar demographic lines.

In the midst of all this, the scene of Jesus at table with his friends and disciples, the relaxed demeanor of the gathering, reclining at the table, leaning into one another and lingering over food and words as if they had all the time in the world - it can seem simultaneously compelling and surreal. Who among us hasn't watched the ad with a group of friends or a family at dinner, candles lit, ample food piled on beautifully matching plates, and thought "Yes! I want that!" and then in the next thought "Who has time for that?"

And the answer is that the church has time for that. The body of Christ, the community which each of us is baptized into, is present at that table in the story of Mary and her spikenard and the intimate meal of friends. Each of us by virtue of our baptismal promises, fully aware of the needs of the world, fully aware of the impermanence of life, fully aware of the demands that the family and friends and work make on us, we gather as the body of Christ and we are called to linger there, gathered, in relationship, in conversation and laughter and friendship with one another.

I want to invite us to take seriously, here at St. John's, this piece of our identity as Christ's body - that we might take seriously our call to forge real, deep, lasting relationships with one another. I want to invite us to linger with one another - at coffee hour and in the pews on Sundays, at house group meetings, and service work. I want to invite us to know and care for one another. Take time, in spite of all the signals you receive telling you to keep busy, and choose to be in relationship with your faith community - those whom you know, and

those whom you have yet to know. Here in this community we might practice and live into our faith and resist with our lives the destructive and divisive forces of a world bent on keeping us as individuals safely isolated in groups of our own choosing. Get to know each other. Introduce yourself to someone new. Share a glass of wine. Meet for coffee. Tell stories and laugh. It's what Jesus would do.

Faithfully,

Thanks to all who serve St. John's

I Peter 4:10: Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

Sometimes when we talk about stewardship we get too narrowly focused on pledging. Support of St. John's through financial gifts is vital to the life of this parish. Our gifts of time and talent are also vital and each year when we collect pledge cards for the coming year we also ask for a commitment of service to St. John's. We rely on the gifts of the people of this parish to enrich our worship, music, teaching, outreach, hospitality, and many other needs.

Thank you to everyone who shared their time and talent with St. John's this year. Your service is at the very heart of St. John's work in the world. Indeed, as our mission statement and collect we pray each Sunday says - the ways we serve others in and through this community at St. John's are quite literally the means through which we also "show forth our service" to God.

— The Stewardship Committee

Thank you for your volunteer pledge:

Kate & Louisa Bradtmiller	Rod & Joanne MacDonald
Helen Boyer	Elise McCray & Colin
Shirley Cooper	Knisely
Terry Dinovo & Diane	Lyelle & Mary Frances
Wallace-Reid	Palmer
Ian & Liz Dobson	Ginny Parrish
Shirlee Gooch	Stephen & Louise Pfeiffer
Lynn Hertz	Shirley Sailors
Christopher & Kathleen	Holly Stoerker
Howie	Elaine Sutton
Linda Lindeke	John & Jill Thompson

St. John's Clergy, Staff, and Volunteers

Clergy

The Reverend Jered Weber-Johnson, Rector

The Reverend Kate Bradtmiller, Associate Rector

The Reverend Margaret Thor, Deacon

Staff

Sarah Dull, Parish Administrator

Jayson R. Engquist, Director of Music and Organist

Jean Hansen, Children, Youth, and Family Minister

Ivan Holguin, Building Assistant

Heather Hunt, Children & Youth Choirs Director

Tracy Johnson, Nursery Coordinator

The Reverend Craig Lemming, Compliance 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

Jay Clark, At Large

Marilyn Conklin, Junior Warden

Mary Ellen Elliot, At Large

Tom Evans, At Large

Vern Kassekert, Fellowship

John MacBain, Property

Peter Rosendale, At Large

Rick Rinkoff, Treasurer

Lea Anne Schmidt, New Member/Welcome

Judy Stack-Nelson, Formation

Kevin Wall, At Large

Diane Wallace-Reid, At Large

Holly Weinkauff, At Large

Nancy Wellington, Music

Jerry Woelfel, Senior Warden

Volunteer Positions

Artaria String Quartet, Artists in Residence

Phillip Baird, Verger

Alden Drew, Historian/Archivist

Paige Hagstrom, Coffee Hour Coordinator

Paul Hanson, Music Librarian

Jim Johnson, Planned Gift Chair

Joan Potter, Liturgical and Lay Reader Coordinator

Jeff Olsen, Head Greeter

Diane Power, Altar Guild Coordinator

George Power, Columbarium Coordinator

Jill Thompson, Music Vestment Coordinator

Minister: A Portrait of Jean Hansen

By Barbara Mraz

Her job title is “Children, Youth, and Family Minister” and a minister she is. With college degrees in communications and theology and years of experience working for the Episcopal Church, Jean Hansen’s commitment to children and youth—and their parents and extended families—continues to define much of her life.

She uses the words “relational” and “relationships” a lot, revealing the importance she places on interactions with people as opposed to the intricacies of structures and programs. She also speaks from a deep spiritual core; she has been around religion and church her entire life and it shows.

Jean grew up in a Roman Catholic family of five brothers and two sisters; she is the youngest. One of her older brothers, John Hines, has been on local radio for 43 years, and now does the 9-12 morning slot at WCCO. He also emceed the St. John’s Cabaret two years ago.

Jean went to Catholic schools including Regina, an all-girls’ school in Minneapolis. After Regina closed her junior year, she went to Cretin-Derham Hall as a senior: “I really liked the atmosphere of an all-girls’ school. It was quite an adjustment going to Cretin, especially since it was the first year as a co-ed school.”

College at St Ben’s in Collegeville followed but she stayed only a year. She was worried about her mom, recently widowed, and didn’t like being away from home. She finished her college career at St. Catherine as a Communications and Theology major. “I took the required theology class, and absolutely fell in love with it.” She later did graduate work at Luther Seminary and attended youth ministry conferences at Princeton.

Following college, she did some administrative work at St. Kate’s before going to work at St. James-on-the-Parkway Episcopal Church as a Director of Religious Education for children and youth. She worked there for five years and was especially proud of their annual vacation Bible School: “The parents basically put it on. People volunteered who didn’t even have kids. It was a big success.”

The outgoing youth director at St John’s, Wendy Johnson, encouraged Jean to apply for the position she was vacating. At that point, Jean was interested in working with a larger program that gave her more weekly hours so she applied and was hired by then-



rector Frank Wilson. During her tenure here she has reformed the youth program into three tiers so as to better serve the needs and interests of various age groups. She also has become director of the children’s program including Godly Play and has initiated programs and discussion groups on “faithful parenting.” Her assistant, Longkee Vang helps with the youth group and also is in charge of acolytes. Jean believes very strongly that children should worship in church with their parents and hopes that our existing Sunday morning structure can be accommodated to meet that goal. A favorite memory is the 2008 youth mission trip to Alaska: “The kids and the adult leaders had built good relationships beforehand and those relationships helped make the trip succeed in every possible way.”

Jean met her husband Rob, a cabinetmaker, when she was 20, and they married six years later. They have three children: Paul 14, Luke 12, and Meredith 6. They live in Apple Valley. She says the most challenging thing for her about parenting is knowing when to let go, and being clear about articulating your values. Rob is a true Minnesotan who likes to hunt and fish, and the main parent to their dog Nadia (“He’s really a dog guy.”).

For some time now, Jean has been involved in Al-Anon and working a 12-Step Program. She says that at this point in her life she is ready to embrace what is hers to work on, and let go of what is not. She envies the serenity she sees at work in the lives of people who faithfully work the 12 steps. Several people in Jean's life have been alcoholics, including her father, so understanding the effects of the disease on family members is a priority for her at this point. And, she notes, "Given the extent of addiction in our culture, what I am learning is serving me well in many ways. It has a lot to do with understanding the nature of control—what we can control and the many things we cannot."

When I asked Jean to speak from her heart about her work, this is what she said: "My hope is that parents, with the help of God and the SJE community, will pass on a faith to their children that will sustain them in their lives. Not to protect them from painful things—that's unavoidable—but to give them a faith in Jesus as the compassionate God, and source of life. And hopefully, eventually they will come to see their own lives as lives in which they want to share God's divine compassion with the world. My hope is that they will be transformed by God's radical gift of grace, love and compassion and they will want to share it with the rest of the world."

Favorite movie: *The Sound of Music*

Favorite food: Mexican

Favorite concert: Pink! Downtown Minneapolis venue, 2014

Favorite Bible verse: "I am the vine; you are the branches."

Favorite quotation: "Vocation is the place where your deep gladness meets the world's deep need." Frederick Buechener



Jean leading the group at a Wednesday youth dinner

Reflections on Lent at St. John's



I have found Ash Wednesday to be a sobering, sometimes harsh, but always fitting way to prepare me for Lent. The ashes give me a humbling reminder that I came from, and will return to dust. The Litany of Penitence reminds me of the failures and shortcomings in my life.

Lent is a time to step outside of everyday concerns and think about God's love in my life. I am glad that St John's provides these important opportunities.

—Brad McCanna

The Prayer Shawl group ordinarily meets once a month, but during Lent we meet weekly. Our experience is one of more continuity, reminding us why we're doing this, and reinforcing what we're doing for other people. When people are expecting you every week, it becomes an important touchstone place. It reminds us that what we're doing is really valuable.

—Anneke Krall

My Lenten journey reinforced the strength, discipline, and devotion needed not to be distracted or tempted away from Christ's Example. I had "planned" participation in a number of spiritual practices this Lenten season. God, however, had other ideas. I was taken away from my well conceived itinerary and thrust into the chaos of a family crisis, as if God said, "Don't think, don't plan, experience the journey." I strayed from the path several times but returned. This year, I forgave myself for straying, asked more urgently for God's Love, Mercy, Forgiveness, and Guidance. In reflection, I believe I received God's Grace through Christ's Passion. I asked, God answered.

One way I returned to my spiritual path after straying was participating, for the fifth year, in Lent Madness. Reading about the lives and ordeals these holy people endured reminded me there are many whose troubles are worse than mine. It further confirmed serving God is about the "we," not the "me." Serving God through serving others, I'd like to think, makes God smile!

—Keith Davis

Continued next page

Reflections on Lent at St. John's (continued)



I was pleased to see a large number of folk at Ash Wednesday, large enough that we had to move to the choir stalls in the chancel. I particularly like the psalms appointed for Ash Wednesday and the Invitation to a holy Lent, which the priest reads. For decades I have been intrigued by the petition [Litany of Penitence] "Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us." I've asked clergy for years and no one can offer me an explanation that makes sense!

This season of Lent, I have been reading Forward Day by Day, something I haven't done for a number of years, and I've been impressed with how this publication has changed with the new leadership in place.

—Gary Gleason

What I noticed: less is more. I read this marvelous thought early on in Lent and it is the one thing that has stuck with me: "So before you rush off this morning, please take one minute to pause, and to breathe deeply, and to smile." Don't you just love the smile part?

—a St. John's parishioner

I think these programs are important for us because Lent is a great time for reflection. Having a program to go to and have conversations with your peers is a fantastic way to reflect, since life does not always provide time to do so. This year with the [youth Wednesday night] movie series, I was once again able to think back on recent events in my life and try to understand them in new or better ways. What I have learned and what the movie series reinforced for me was the fact that I need emotions as a human being in order to live fully. If I do not allow myself to feel, then I deny myself the ability to experience the most important things in life and remember them with joy.

—Tim Krall

I have learned that we can grow and change, but God is a constant no matter what life throws at us. These programs allow us to reflect and not get to stressed.

—Caroline Krall

I have learned that right-worship or Orthopraxy is the foundation of living out my faith belief. It is through our regular, disciplined, liturgical practice of sacred rituals, individually and communally, that we authentically commune with God. In the words of Episcopalian Ethicist Willis Jenkins, "Humans are 'liturgical animals,' whose imagination of what to love and how to desire it is learned through embodied performances."

We can only make meaning of our existence and make meaning of God through sacred symbols which point beyond themselves to the transcendent and immanent presence of God in our lives. St. John's provides a sacred place for sacred pauses from our busy lives to participate in symbolic, sacramental theology which results in Metanoia: those Holy moments when we return to our true selves in right relationship with God, with others, with Creation, and with ourselves.

Sung Compline offers a sacred space filled with a slow, quiet beauty through which we can cross the threshold from the *Chronos* of our secular lives into the *Kairos* of a sacred relationship with our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer of Life. Within the silences between the phrases of divine words, music, and ritual, we are consumed into the timeless depth and breadth of God.

—The Rev. Craig Lemming



Faith in Action

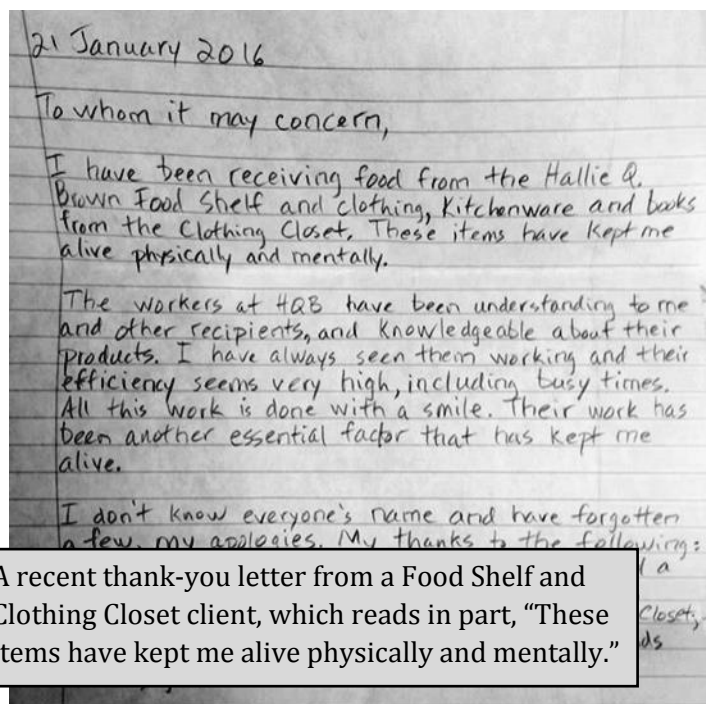


Lend a Helping Hand with Hallie Q. Brown

Do you have unique gifts not being tapped in our Saint John's community? Consider ministering with one of our community partners!

Hallie Q. Brown is a community center located just blocks from Saint John's. We have a partnership first and foremost because the center is in our neighborhood, serving us and our neighbors. Presently, we serve with their food shelf, donating dry goods year-round and fresh produce during the farmer's market season. We would love to increase our presence with Hallie Q. Brown, and there are many opportunities other than the food shelf. Lisa Joyslin is Hallie Q. Brown's new volunteer manager. She says, "Hallie Q. Brown is only able to perform the work we do and have the impact that improves lives because of our volunteers. They are the lifeblood of the organization and help us not only manage day to day operations but also large and small projects that are necessary for Hallie Q. Brown to continue." Lisa also offered to share a list of their volunteer opportunities, which may be ideal for a single volunteer or a group interested in the same ministry.

To get involved, contact Kate Bradtmiller at 651-228-1172 x18 or kate.bradtmiller@stjohnsstpaul.org, or HQB's Volunteer Manager Lisa Joyslin at 651-222-1997 or ljoyslin@hallieqbrown.org.



Most-needed Donations for Clothing Closet:

- Interview and business attire for women
- Interview and business attire for men
- Casual clothing of all seasons for men
- Spring weight casual clothing for women
- Children's clothing of all sizes and seasons

Early Learning Center Volunteer: Care for our community's youngest members by assisting teachers in Hallie Q. Brown's Early Childhood Center with children ages 6 months through 5 years. Activities may include helping with lunch or snacks, reading to the children or playing games/music. Volunteers must be available 5 days a week for a minimum of 1 hour each day, as this provides consistency for the children.

Youth Enrichment Volunteer: Be a positive role model for school-aged children through Hallie Q. Brown's Youth Enrichment Program. Interact with youth before school (7-9am) or after school (2-6pm) by assisting with homework, teaching a skill/craft or playing games. Minimum of one hour per week preferred. Volunteer opportunities are also available all day when school is not in session.

Food Shelf Shopping Assistant: Ensure a positive experience for our food shelf clients by providing help with shopping, weighing food and answering questions. Also track food items and assist with restocking. Weekly commitment preferred; volunteers needed weekdays during business hours.

Food Shelf Volunteer Driver: Get fresh produce and other food items to our food shelf clients by picking up donations at local stores. Most pick-up times are early morning on weekdays. Personal vehicle, clean driving record and ability to lift up to 30 pounds required. Weekly commitment necessary.

Clothing Closet Volunteer: Ensure a positive shopping experience for clothing closet clients. Sort and shelf clothing donations and track household items. Weekly commitment preferred; opportunities available on weekdays during business hours.

Organizing Projects: Complete important sorting and organizing work for Hallie Q. Brown's Youth Programs or Basic Needs Programs. Available year-round.

Painting Projects: Give areas of the center a fresh coat of paint to improve the environment for children and clients. Available year-round, including weekends.

Project Home Reflections

Many thanks to all of you who volunteered with Project Home during the month of February.

Together, we provided over 2,029 hours of direct service to 10 different families. Our guests included 10 mothers, 1 adult son, and 18 minor children ranging in age from 8 months to 16 years old. Our guests particularly enjoyed the pancake supper and the chair massages generously donated by Helen Boyer.

The Project Home staff and families are very grateful for all our time and efforts in providing these families with a safe, warm and welcoming place to stay.

Project Home moves to different faith communities throughout the year and they are always looking for volunteers. Please consider offering your time in April at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, 285 North Dale St. Contact Shari Mader-Brown at 651-789-3840 or email her at smader-brown@interfaithaction.org.

Project Home mothers lifted up with love—Helen's Gift

By Sara Liegl, Director, Project Home

This article was originally published at <http://news.interfaithaction.org>.

Experiencing homelessness as a family is incredibly stressful for both the parents and the children involved. Before entering shelter, many families move from place to place, or double-up in crowded apartments with family or friends. Still others slept in cars, abandoned buildings, or in skyways. Once in Project Home, families must adjust to communal, emergency shelter living. Despite the efforts of dedicated staff and volunteers, shelter can be noisy, chaotic, and lack privacy.

The impact of homelessness on mothers is staggering. For many, the experience of homelessness is another major stressor layered on other traumas they have endured in their lives. Mothers in Project Home often struggle with their emotional health. According to the American Journal of Public Health¹ about 50% of mothers will experience a major depressive episode while experiencing homelessness. The comparison of physical health between housed and homeless mothers is profound. One study in the Journal of General Internal Medicine² finds over one-third have a chronic physical health condition and develop ulcers at four times the rate of housed women.

As preparations were being made to host Project Home in February at Saint John the Evangelist Episcopal Church, volunteer Helen Boyer came up with a wonderful idea. In recent years, Helen has explored faith-based wellness of body, mind, and soul and practices contemplative prayer. As part of her own self-care, Helen has experienced several different kinds of healing massage.

After receiving a hot stone massage, Helen mentioned to a friend at church how tragic it was that women facing

homelessness could not afford to have massage therapy. She began to brainstorm about how she could make this opportunity available for the parents in Project Home while at her church. Helen researched many local mobile massage therapists and told them about her wish. In the end, Helen hired a massage therapist who was so moved by Helen's wish to support these particular mothers that she gave Helen an amazing discount.

Helen's small spark of an idea has turned into a big gift. Each week [in February], our Project Home mothers have been treated to 10-15 minute chair massages, while volunteers help watch their children. The mothers staying at Saint John's have been so thankful for Helen's gift of relaxation and healing. This special gift has opened-up wider discussions with our mothers around self-care and other ways to reduce stress in their lives and for their entire family. Family homelessness is stressful for everyone in the family. When we help the parents de-stress, we also help the children, who benefit from the parents' improved emotional health.

To learn more about Project Home, volunteer, or make a donation, please contact Sara Liegl, Director, Project Home, 651-789-3848 or sliegl@interfaithaction.org.

¹ Weinreb, L. et al. (2006). A Comparison of the Health and Mental Health Status of Homeless Mothers in Worcester, Mass: 1993 and 2003. American Journal of Public Health. 96(8): 1444-1448.

² Weinreb, LF et al. (1998). The health characteristics and service use patterns of sheltered homeless and low-income housed mothers. Journal of General Internal Medicine. 13(1): 389-397.

Photo credit flickr.com/photos/zooskpix/6093419603



Running for Kayoro

Are you a runner? Would you like to be on a “team” with other runners and get camaraderie, encouragement, running tips, and an opportunity to do it all for a good cause? A group of runners are coming together at St. John’s to support Give Us Wings and the St. John’s Kayoro Health Centre in Uganda. The team is open to runners of all ages and abilities, and they’re looking for new teammates. The team will kick off officially in April!

The people who use the Kayoro Clinic often travel great distances on foot just for the most basic health care. As we train and prepare and raise support for the clinic, in a very literal way, we will be going the distance both for and with our friends in Kayoro.

How does it work? Runners will be fundraising to support either their own travel costs or the costs of another traveler headed from St. John’s to Kayoro in January 2017. Their goal is inviting sponsors to support them in the Monster Dash Half Marathon in October. Team members will be given a simple plan for how to fundraise, a half marathon training program, and an opportunity to meet and run monthly for team runs (and fellowship) and optional weekly small group runs.

Why fundraise to send a traveler to Uganda? The clinic we helped build is growing. The numbers of patients are increasing, while diseases in the clinic’s area are declining in response. Every time a group of travelers from Give Us Wings USA goes to Kayoro, the clinic reports a significant spike in use of their resources. It makes sense. The travelers bring renewed energy to the staff, rekindle relationships in the community, and bring with them a needed influx of basic medical supplies and medicines. Our continued presence at the clinic is a huge support to the work it does. Additionally, fundraising is an opportunity for us to spread the word about the need for quality healthcare in Kayoro and places like it.

Still not sure? You are welcome to join the team even if you don’t think you can run a half marathon or you don’t have time to fundraise. Come for mutual fellowship, encouragement, and prayer together.

Interested? Chris Matter, our team captain and running enthusiast, would love to get you connected with the team and with this great cause! Contact him at chrismatter@gmail.com.

Not a runner? There’s a walking team in the works, too. Let us know if you’re interested. And we can always use support crew for our long runs and on race day.

Sarah Muzaki Visiting St. John’s from Kayoro on April 17

After visiting Kayoro Clinic in Uganda last year, a St. John’s parishioner described Sarah Muzaki as “an incredibly sharp, organized, forward thinking, and energetic woman.” Now, those of us who have not been to Africa also have a chance to get to know Ms. Muzaki, who heads the Africa program for Give Us Wings. On Sunday, April 17, Sarah Muzaki will join us for worship at St. John’s to share her perspectives on how St. John’s and Give Us Wings are changing lives in Uganda and Kenya.



Sarah Muzaki joined the nonprofit group Give Us Wings as its Africa Program Director 18 months ago, bringing to the position 16 years of experience in entrepreneurship development, policy development, advocacy, social equity and inclusion, and public private partnership development. She has worked with WaterAid, United Nations Development Program, Oxfam, The Forum for African Women Educationalists, and Uganda’s Universities, among other organizations. Ms. Muzaki is at the forefront of advancing the Local Economic Development (LED) approach and an investment culture among women and youth. Recently, she also conducted research on the relationship between gender and water in East Africa. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Sciences and a Master’s degree in Development Studies, specializing in Women and Gender Studies.

Sarah Muzaki’s passion for results energizes her work. Don’t miss hearing her talk on April 17 about our shared ministry in Uganda. Come meet her at 9am for the Sunday Forum in the Gathering Space, and hear her talk during the 10am liturgy.

In support of Sarah’s work, our mustard seed offering for the month of April will go to the clinic in Kayoro. Please look for Mustard Seed Offering envelopes in the pews in April and make your offering for God’s work in Uganda.



Music

Notes on Notes!



Artaria Chamber Music School Concert

The ACMS Spring Concert takes place on **Friday, April 29 at 7 pm**. Our theme is the “Modern Era” and student quartets will perform works by 20th C. composers, including Prokofiev, Shostakovich, Ravel, and Ginastera. A festive reception follows. Artaria Chamber Music School students are prizewinners in national competitions and are prominent members of all of the Twin Cities Youth Orchestras.

Spring Evensong

On Sunday, May 1 at 4 pm, St. John’s will offer choral Evensong with works of Arthur Honegger (King David), Bryan Kelly (Magnificat and Nunc dimittis) and John Graham (Preces and Responses). Organists Sharon Kleckner and Jennifer Anderson will accompany our Adult and Youth Choirs. King David is a cantata about the life of King David in Biblical times. Narrations, solos and inspiring instrumental music are included. A festive reception follows.

Hymn-a-Thon

There are 720 hymns in our Hymnal 1982, and on Saturday, May 21, we’re going to sing them all!

We will begin singing at 9 am and continue until we finish singing one stanza of each (around 9 pm). Ten area organists will participate, each taking an hour. You are welcome to come and sing throughout the day. Stay as long as you are able; come and go as you need; return any time.

You will find a flyer on the bulletin boards around the church listing the schedule for the hymn-a-thon. You may sponsor the singing of your favorite hymn or you may block the singing of your most “un-favorite!”

Please contact Director of Music Jayson R. Engquist about which hymn(s) you are interested in sponsoring. Leave a note for him in the church office or email orgjre@gmail.com. We suggest a minimum of \$5 per hymn, but any amount is welcome. Make checks out to St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church and mark “Hymn sing” in the memo line.



Easter Thanks

Thank you to all our musicians (singers, ringers and other instrumentalists) who offered sacred music during Lent and Easter this past month. The anthems, chanting, hymn and service music singing were glorious! Thank you!

Reflections on Mary’s Lament

By Director Joan Potter

In February I wrote, “Mary’s Lament: Christ Crucified views [Jesus’ death] through the eyes of his mother.... Mary’s story is not hers alone, but one that crosses all lines of culture....What then is it for a parent to lose [their] child, to see him or her tortured and killed?”

Exploring the questions through music and poetry led me to more questions addressing broader groups of people and, simultaneously, deep interiors of my faith, fears, reckonings. We all are or will be asked to watch someone we love suffer, perhaps die, able to do nothing to prevent it. Absolutely nothing. My Lenten journey this year, fast on the heels of the usual lavish Christmastide, slowed as I explored Mary’s story: a mother’s wonder and love and joy and pride in her child, who by the time he was just thirty did amazing things. Then this very human woman watched, helplessly, as her precious child experienced ridicule, rejection, suffering, death. This moment was crucifixion. Period. I doubt she saw or hoped for any such thing as resurrection: not in that desolate moment.

As we performed the Lament, I also observed Jesus-the-man in a very different way. I saw the cost of his humanness. He loved his mother; he didn’t want to see her suffer yet he had to watch that. And in the moment of his crucifixion I believe he experienced every nano-atom of his humanness, even to his final words as a man, *My God, my God: why have you forsaken me?*

This is story grounded in the cosmos of a creator larger, yet more intimate than the limits my restless, carnate mind can wrangle into shape. It is the story—but not fiction—of a love larger yet more intimate than I can say.

Children, Youth, and Family Ministry



Faithful Parenting

By Lyelle Palmer

Our St. John's coffee klatch for parenting discussions meets on first Sundays at 9 am in the 3rd floor Green Room.

"Parenting" includes discussions along all stages of the childhood journey, so just about anyone is welcome to come listen, share, celebrate or cry.



Sometimes we announce a topic, and sometimes a variety of personal or timely topics emerge spontaneously. What is always interesting are the experiences, ideas, and individual stories from the heart, and the idea of parenting within the context of our church community and the current challenges and opportunities available. The greatest resource, as expected, is in parents talking with other parents with the unspoken understanding that we are not alone in this parenting journey. A group of parents and grandparents can share some amazing wisdom and problem solving ideas. Keeping up with the surprising changes in our community is one of the benefits of our sharing.

Together we are a village as grandparents, neighbors, observers, and celebrants who are actively engaged in making sure that our offspring are nurtured, acknowledged and affirmed. Adults in the lives of children provide a context for the presence of God who are reliable models of love contributing to the foundation of trust that is basic to child development. We are all parenting the next generation, and we do this as a community of faith.

Please come join the these faithful parenting discussions when you can; bring coffee and we will supply a tasty bite or two and a tidbit of chat.

The next meeting of Faithful Parenting will be **Sunday, April 3 at 9 am in the Green Room** (to get there, take the elevator to Floor 3).

Rite 13 – Celebration of Manhood and Womanhood

During our 10 am worship on April 24, we will have a chance to say some important things to some of our Rite 13 youth. We will celebrate an important rite of passage with them called "Rite 13" or "The Celebration of Manhood and Womanhood."

This ceremony gives us a way of saying to our young people things we have meant to convey all along— things like: "We stand with you as you make your way on the journey; we're here if you need us; we think you are terrific; we love you." We often assume that our teens feel appreciated and accepted as a vital part of our parish, but adolescence can be such a time of uncertainty, and some things just can't be said often enough.

Important Dates

April 2: J2A Lock-in, 5pm
April 3: Confirmation Preparation, 1-3pm
April 15-17: TEC
April 23: Rite 13 Lock-in, 5pm
April 24: Rite 13 Liturgy

Dinner Schedule

April 6: Jennifer Frost Rosendale
April 13: Alice Johnson
April 20: Holly Weinkauff
April 27: Lea Anne Schmidt
May 4: Alice Johnson
May 11: Cathy Brooks
May 18: Final Youth Gathering



Faith Formation

New Sunday Forum Series: Encountering Our Muslim Neighbors

Our next series in adult faith formation seeks to answer the desire many of us have for better understanding and curiosity about the religion of Islam and those who practice it. "Encountering Our Muslim Neighbors: Learning About Islam in Our Local Context" will begin Sunday, April 3 and run through late May.



Photo flickr.com/photos/txh62/3072548924

We have good intentions, but not always a good understanding, when interacting with Muslims in our daily life and work or when considering issues of religion that often are reported in the news. This series will begin with an overview of the Five Pillars of Islam and other basics of the faith. It will also share the experiences of many Muslims in America and what Islam is like in an American context. Speakers will be local religious scholars and American Muslims.

Join us in the Fireside Room every Sunday at 9 am beginning April 3 to explore this fascinating topic. Contact Jered Weber-Johnson if you have questions at jered.weberjohnson@stjohnsstpaul.org.

St. John's Cafe

Come for the coffee, stay for the good news! Join us **Sundays at 9am in the Meditation Room** as we discuss the lectionary gospel in the context of the week's news. Youth and adults are welcome. Contact Kate Bradtmiller for more info at 651-228-1172 x18.



Basics Classes

The Basics classes give the knowledge and skills that inspire us to live a balanced spiritual life, and they offer a way for individuals to learn and grow in community. They are offered for all parishioners, especially those looking to refresh their knowledge on the basic categories of Christian faith. Please join us on Sundays in April at noon in the Fireside Room.

These classes tell the Christian story, teach how to read the Bible, and teach the basic Christian disciplines. The Basics classes are anything but "basic" and will engage both the heart and the mind so that we might, as a congregation, deepen our faith and draw closer to the One who is its source.

For more info, please contact the Rev. Jered Weber-Johnson at 651-228-1172 x11 or jered.weberjohnson@stjohnsstpaul.org.

ECMN Diocese School for Formation

Our diocese offers opportunities for study and learning to help your faith formation journey. If you have discerned a call to serve, or if you have a longing to deepen your understanding of God and of our tradition, then you can find in the School for Formation the preparation and the learning you need. All are welcome! To learn more about the School for Formation, including classes, fees, and opportunities, visit www.schoolforformation.org.

Beginning April 11: New Testament Interpretation

The online course, open to anyone interested in learning more about the New Testament, will be led by St. John's member Judy Stack-Nelson.

It will also have an in-person workshop on May 7, "He Spoke to Them in Parables," with the Rev. Dr. Marilyn Salmon. The synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke) attribute many parables to Jesus, and apparently this was most representative of his teaching. Why are some of the parables so harsh or exclusive? The parables we read in the Gospels were written some years after Jesus taught – are they different than the ones Jesus taught? We'll explore these questions particularly as they relate to settings in ministry.

Community Life

Noonday Prayers & OWLs Spring Luncheon April 27

Everyone is invited to Noonday Prayers at 12 noon in the Chapel on Wednesday, April 27.

Following the service, all OWLs (everyone who identifies as Older, Wiser Laity) are invited to a luncheon hosted by the St. John's clergy and staff.

Menu:

A medley of spring salads
Rolls with butter
Lemon cheesecake with raspberries

Speakers:

Sarah Stengel and Holly Stoerker
presenting "The Cross in History, Art and Faith"

Please RSVP to the church office by April 22 at 651-228-1172 x10.



Elizabeth Plummer Sendoff

Longtime parishioner Elizabeth Plummer is moving to White Bear Lake to be closer to family, and was honored with a blessing and reception on February 21. We encourage all our members to stay in touch with Elizabeth in her new home. If you'd like her contact info, please call the church office at 651-228-1172 x10.



GLBTQ Badge on Website

By the Rev. Kate Bradtmiller

There are new badges at the top of our webpage. One of them is a small rainbow rectangle. This badge tells anyone browsing our webpage that Saint John the Evangelist is a safe space for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and queer (GLBTQ) people.

A welcoming space is a wonderful and hospitable thing! We welcome visitors and long time parishioners alike each time we gather. Being a safe space goes a few steps beyond being a welcoming space.

As a safe space, we strive to create a faith community where everyone's story is respected as their own, held in confidence, and not shared without their permission. We speak from our own experience, and ask others what they need in order to feel comfortable in our faith community. We listen. At the same time, we recognize that everyone is human, and may make judgmental or prejudiced statements. We do not shame or shun one another; rather we seek inclusive conversation. Consider the ways you tell your story, and the ways you encourage others to share their own stories. Our attitude towards one another makes us a safe space.

Saint John's embracing of safe space is not new. In 2012, we had many conversations as a parish about the impact changing our marriage policy to include homosexual and other non-gender conforming couples would have on us as a parish. Along with taking a position opposing the marriage amendment to the state constitution, making our marriage policy inclusive was a public sign of our becoming a safe space for GLBTQ people. Jesus taught love of God and love of neighbor as the most important commandments. When we create a safe environment for everyone, we honor his teaching.



Happy Birthday to...

April*

1	Emma Brown	13	Ginger Beattie Emmett Solid	22	Christopher Meyer Sean Ball Carys Dobson
2	Ethelyn Rupp Christopher Howie	14	Henry Kansas Isla Peterson	23	Alexis Reineke
3	Coltrane Page	15	Marie Peterson	25	Charles Halvorson Alexandra Bjorklund Seth Stengle Jered Weber-Johnson Caryn Thor
4	Johannah Frisby	16	Charles Orput Terry Dinovo Michael Stack-Nelson	26	Christina Ball
5	Jeff Olson Derrick Berg	17	Nate Lee	27	Ethan Furois Margaret Spainhower
6	Ford Nicholson	18	Finlay Mason Jillian Armstrong	28	Matthew Brooks
8	Milo Brown	19	Sabine Krall Harrison Hennessy Jonah Spencer	29	Illana Livstrom Brent Ebersperger
10	Halle O'Falvey Reese Berry Anne Russell	20	Adrian Cook Mary-Louise Clary Lydia Schmidt	30	Anne Thompson Alex Joyce
11	Mason Kinhead Tricia Armstrong Marcus Ebenhoch Fiona McInroy Declan Dobson	21	Kathleen Howie Victoria Peterson		
12	Gail Lorenz Betsy Bailey				

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

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

April 3:

Main Altar: Melissa Mosvick

Small Altar: Gordon Kallstrom & Daniel Kallstrom

April 10:

Main Altar & Small Altar: Betty Wann Binger, C. Robert Binger, Theodore Wann Binger

April 17:

Main Altar: Frank Tamble Stegbauer

Small Altar: Open

April 24:

Main Altar: Jack Lightner

Small Altar: Frances C. & George E. Potter, William R. & Jeannette A. Owen

Altar Guild Teams

April 3: Dusty Mairs, Shirley Cooper, Phyllis Frisby, Patty Byrne Pfalz, Phillip Baird, Bill Sherfey

April 10: Heather Joyce, Pam Strom, Kathy Brown, Sue Cadwell, Shirlee Gooch, Sue MacIntosh

April 17: Caroline Krall, Nan Lightner, Phyllis Merrill, Elaine Sutton, Jill Thompson

April 24: Diane Power, Paige Hagstrom, Sarah K. Smith, Sabine Krall, Ginny Schauss, Terri Fischel



Altar Flowers 2016

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.

April 2016 Service Schedule

TIME	READERS	USHERS	GREETERS	ACOLYTES	COFFEE HOUR
April 3 — The Second Sunday of Easter					
8:00 am	Craig Lindeke	Alden Drew Terri Fishel Diane Power	Phyllis Frisby Vern Kasskert Lea Anne Schmidt	Matt Brooks Charlie Docherty Will Rinkoff Thea Bishop Ailsa Schmidt	Godly Play families
10:00 am	A—Judy Southwick B—Jeff Olsen				
April 10 — The Third Sunday of Easter					
8:00 am	David Aylesworth	Marvin Cadwell Alex Joyce George Kinkead Mason Kinkead	Phyllis Goff Gabrielle Lawrence Don Postema	Helen Baxter Roan Weinkauf Charlie Olson Chris Olson Aidan Schmidt	Bob Baumann
10:00 am	A—Jill Thompson B—Chris Matter				
April 17 — The Fourth Sunday of Easter					
8:00 am	Joan McCanna	Cammie Beattie Patty Byrne Pfalz Jay Debertin Don Husband	Jennifer Kinkead Barbara Lindeke Sally Sand	Madeline Weinkauf Eli Weinkauf Tessa Johnson Maren Johnson Elliot Wall	TEC
10:00 am	A—Holly Stoerker B—Mark McInroy				
April 24 — The Fifth Sunday of Easter					
8:00 am	Brad McCanna	Gary Hagstrom Paige Hagstrom Don Weinkauf Holly Weinkauf	Jeff Olsen Peggy Olsen Colleen Swope	Tim Krall Caroline Krall Linnea Krall Sabine Krall	Phyllis Merrill
10:00 am	A—Cammie Beattie B—Sarah Lightner				

A Change in Format for the Evangelist

For many years, the Evangelist has served as both a place for reflective content about St. John's ministry and a notification system about upcoming events. Beginning in July, to help do both those things more strongly and clearly, the Evangelist format is changing.

The Evangelist will shift from a "newsletter" feel to a "magazine" feel, with more articles and content on our theology, mission, and ministry. (That content will come from our parishioners and partners, so we encourage all of you to contribute!) It will be published every other month.

The calendar information about upcoming meetings and program offerings will be moved into four seasonal mailings (sent out during some of the months when the Evangelist is not published). If you've received our Christmas or Lenten mailing before, you already have a good idea what these mailings will include.

The office will not be making any changes to the mailing list at this time; anyone who receives a paper copy of the Evangelist will continue to do so (and likewise anyone who receives notifications of PDF versions at the website will continue to receive those emails), and all active church households will receive the seasonal mailings.

This change is very exciting for our communications team, and we can't wait to take advantage of all the new things this format has to offer and share them with you.

If you have any questions about this change, please contact Ellie Watkins at 651-228-1172 x10 or elizabeth.watkins@stjohnsstpaul.org, or Sarah Dull at 651-228-1172 x23 or church@stjohnsstpaul.org.

Help Prepare the Evangelist

The next preparation day is **Friday, April 22**. We would love you to join us in the Fireside Room any time between 9 am and 12 pm.



St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church
60 Kent Street
Saint Paul, MN 55102
www.stjohnsstpaul.org
Join us for Holy Eucharist at 8:00 & 10:00 am Sundays

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THE EVANGELIST
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