

THE EVANGELIST

Newsletter for
Saint John the Evangelist
Episcopal Church



May 2016

Church of the Open Door Since 1881

Vol. CXI, No. 5

Packing the Pews to Fight Hunger



Above: donations filling the pews on Pack the Pews Sunday. Right: Vern presents our financial gift to Hallie Q. Brown's food shelf.



Roughly 1 in 10 households in Minnesota are affected by hunger and food insecurity. St. John's cares deeply about hunger and has made it one of our three Faith In Action focuses.

Vern Kassekert first got involved in St. John's ministry fighting hunger by picking up the food donations in the Gathering Space and taking them to the local food shelf. While the ongoing generosity was significant, he also wanted a way to formally start an organized effort at St. John's and see what we could do. He got St. John's involved in Minnesota FoodShare's "Pack the Pews Sunday" last year. The 2015 collection was very successful, but it was just the beginning. Vern also helped the Rev. Kate Bradtmiller begin the Mustard Seed offering, which takes up a collection for a specific cause each month.

This year's Pack the Pews Sunday 2016 raised 1179 pounds of food donations, an increase of 329 pounds over last year, plus \$1,143 in donations through the Mustard Seed offering. "That was really fantastic," said Vern. "I was floored." He delivered the food to

Keystone Community Services on University Ave. "It filled up my daughter's van and part of my trunk."

The financial gift was given to the Hallie Q. Brown Community Center. They reported that, "With a donation of \$1,143, we are able to provide 4,305 meals to the community. That means that we can provide 3 meals of healthy, well-balanced food for a family of four for almost an entire year!"

The Rev. Jered Weber-Johnson said that Vern "should be so proud of his leadership here—leadership that inspired and enabled the generosity of our community to meet the needs of some of our city's hungriest members. Our vestry was electric as we ended our meeting on this joyful and inspiring note" of hearing how much was donated.

Vern will still be delivering food to the food shelves all year long. You can leave your donations in the Gathering Space. Everyone at St. John's should be proud of our efforts and our success in helping address hunger in our community.

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)



June Issue
May 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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651-228-1144 (fax)
www.stjohnsstpaul.org**

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

From the Reverend Jered Weber-Johnson

One of the bloggers I follow, the Millennial Pastor (www.millennialpastor.net) argues that people coming to church today are no longer under any societal pressure to do so. The old reasons that drew people to church, because it was the center of life and culture, no longer exist. Instead, people craving community and social capital, can join a club, get involved in a political issue, or participate in a local organization. Today, people coming to church, he says, are coming to find Jesus.



That observation might not ring true for all Episcopalians. As our vestry discussed on retreat recently talking about Jesus—not Christ, or “the gospels,” or God, or the Divine, or the Son, just Jesus—makes many of us extremely uncomfortable. To be sure, much evil and persecution has been perpetrated in the name of Jesus. Indeed, many have joined the Episcopal Church to find refuge from other branches of Christianity with members and leaders who so vehemently claim to love Jesus and who loudly proclaim him as Lord while doing horrendous things in his name. In our prayers on Good Friday we acknowledge this painful reality that Christians, even good Episcopalians, have wielded Jesus as a weapon, when we pray “For those who in the name of Christ have persecuted others” (BCP p. 179).

Yet, I can attest as the clergy person who meets with most of our new members, and those returning to church after a long time away, that the Millennial Pastor’s observation is at least half true for those I meet at St. John’s. Most people I meet who are finding their way back into church, or coming for the first time, are coming either seeking spiritual support, answers to deep questions, or patterns and rituals that might strengthen their faith, and most are looking for pastoral support, counsel, and something to sustain them through a significant life transition. In other words, most folks who come to church today are either seeking or struggling or both.

This is why our new PB Michael Curry continues to repeat the claim that we are “the Episcopal branch of the ‘Jesus Movement.’” He is attempting to reclaim the name and person of Jesus as always and everywhere being for and with those who seek and struggle. The Episcopal Church is not a collection of vague spirituality, nor is it generic or undefined. Like all branches of Christianity, the Episcopal Church draws its definition and attempts to pattern its life after the teaching and example of Jesus. And, Jesus never stands on the side of persecution, or hate. When Episcopalians speak of Jesus we speak of someone who lived in faithful abandon to the God of love, who taught mercy, healed the sick, prayed without ceasing, and always made time for the suffering and the oppressed. In this way, maybe the Millennial Pastor is right—folks coming to SJE may actually be looking for Jesus—they just might not know it.

When my wife Erin and I joined the Episcopal Church, we did so after having been raised as Evangelicals where the ideal was to always love and follow Jesus. Ultimately, we left Evangelicalism because it was increasingly difficult to faithfully do these things. When we wandered into that sleepy blue collar Episcopal Church in Renton Washington, we found a community who stood with the oppressed, welcomed everyone, and that practiced love for the world—we found Jesus in the Episcopal Church.

Jared +

From the Reverend Kate Bradtmiller

Dear Friends in Christ,

As I am out running in the pre-dawn, I often pass the Ethiopian Orthodox church in my neighborhood. Even in winter I would occasionally see someone praying outside the church, wrapped in white, but as the weather warms, the number of people praying swells. A small congregation gathers each morning at the doors of the church, beginning their days with prostration and prayer.

Their devotion is steady; my daily prayers do not follow such a constant or consistent rhythm. Their quiet presence draws me back to God's presence. I see them first praying, and then, as I loop back toward home, I witness the exodus of the congregation to work by bus, by car, and on foot.

The women are always in white headscarves and shawls, and the men often or always dressed in white. I asked, one morning, tentatively, and was told that the white is a sign of respect for the purity of Christ. In this Eastertide season, when texts of Revelation echo in our ears, I cannot help but think of those robed in white around the throne of God: "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal." (Revelation 7:14).

So many of the Ethiopian Orthodox men and women I see each morning are refugees, come to Minnesota to live, work, and worship in freedom. They do know, perhaps better than I, what it means to have come through an ordeal, and each morning—in gratitude, in despair, in strength, in hope, in all circumstance—they come to pray. The snow and the wind were not kind, yet they were there. As it is for all of us, the spring weather is a balm, the stone steps of the church warm for the first time in months.

Pray without ceasing, writes Paul. I am reminded each morning by these people I do not know of the discipline and love found in the practice of praying. We have all come through an ordeal in our lives; many of us are in the midst of such a trial now. How do the hardships in your life inform your prayers? How has prayer bolstered your spirit or familiar practice sustained you when God seemed impossibly far away? I would love to hear your stories.

Faithfully yours,

Kate



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, Compline Coordinator
The Reverend Barbara Mraz, Writer in Residence
Jane Johnson, 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 Weinkauf, 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

The Graciousness of Service: Nominees for the Dusty Mairs Servant Leadership Award in 2016

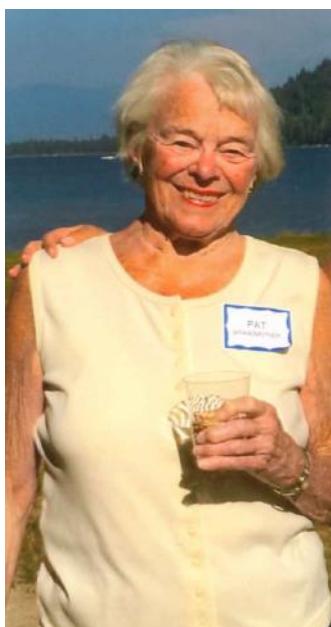
By Barbara Mraz

It started with Dusty.

Although volunteerism goes back to the founding of this parish, two years ago the rector decided to established an award in Dusty's honor and to begin to celebrate the many other individuals who in countless acts of humble service make St. John's the faith community it is today. Jered wrote: "Our own Dusty Mairs, long-time parishioner at St. John's, has served and continues to serve our parish in a myriad of ways. Her example of humility in service, how she often leads from the sidelines and out of sight, and how she has often shouldered the undesirable tasks that others might consider beneath them, reminds me of the gracious and humble service of Jesus."

Ray Frisby received the first award and the second will be given at **Service Sunday on May 22**. Parishioners were invited to submit nominations and five were received. The award will be decided by the rector in consultation with the Stewardship Committee, who presently oversees not only financial pledges but also volunteer pledges as well as Service Sunday.

These are this year's nominees who, with so many others, "show forth our service to God in our service to each other."



Pat Brynteson

"Pat has an amazing work ethic as well as an ability to read what people need and then quietly provide it. People *want* to work with her."

—Malcolm McDonald

Pat's contributions to St. John's span decades. She served as a vestry member and clerk of the vestry for eight years. She has been a team captain with the Altar Guild, as well as an usher and coffee hour host and

helped with the Huge Sale, Christmas dinner cooking, and Project Home.



Pat was the chair of the "Loaves and Fishes" program, where parishioners provided meals for the homeless one Friday a month at St Stephen's Catholic Church – a pioneering effort in the Twin Cities to help the homeless. She has also has worked with the Faith in Action Commission, delivering food collections and Meals on Wheels. She has logged hundreds of volunteer hours at Episcopal Homes, where she now resides.

Pat says: "I have always considered St. John's my community and have wanted to do anything I could to help my parish. The needs of the larger community have also been important to me so I have had an ongoing involvement with Faith in Action projects."



Don Husband

"Don has been a reliable and consistent volunteer. He's been especially helpful at Evensongs where for many years he purchased and prepared appetizers and beverages for the event. He almost always volunteers to assist with the entire event - setup, service, and cleanup. We very much value his contributions to our church and committee."

—Former Fellowship Chair Lynn Hertz

A familiar face to everyone around St John's, Don's contributions go back a long time indeed. A member of the church for 43 years, he has been an usher for 35 years and fifteen times has been a delegate to the Diocesan Convention. He is a past Junior Warden and vestry member (for seven years), a member of the Church Investment Committee, and more recently a volunteer for Project Home, the Huge Sale, and the Fellowship Committee.

Don has coordinated The Men's Breakfast group for over twenty years, while the Kayoro Clinic has been a passion in more recent years. He traveled to Uganda in 2013 to participate in the opening of the clinic, and assisted Give Us Wings in the record keeping for their Micro-loans to small businesses.

Don says: "I am not volunteering out of obligation. I really enjoy it. I like participating in church events and helping people learn about St. John's and also get integrated into the many activities we offer. I especially like working with the families at Project Home and making them blueberry pancakes in the morning."



Jeff Olsen

"Jeff Olsen is the type of person who is always at church events, often serving as a volunteer. He never draws attention to himself and is a great person to be around. It is really appropriate that he is nominated for this award."

—Tim Krall

Jeff has held a variety of leadership positions: Senior Warden, Junior Warden, co-chair of the Rector Search Committee that called Frank Wilson, and co-chair of the Huge Sale Committee. He has also served as Head Greeter, as an usher, and as a delegate to Diocesan Conventions, as a Lay Reader/Chalice Bearer, and Project Home host.

He has served on numerous committees including Finance, Investment, Stewardship, Fellowship, and the Garden Circle.

Jeff says: "I think of myself as a member of a community that calls St. Johns their church home. Over the years, I have tried to contribute to make our home a more welcoming and sacred place. My wife and I started attending the church during the "Awakening the Dream" campaign. The dream led to revitalizing and stabilizing the facility of our church property and then opening the doors to the neighborhood, the city and the diocese. Where we once stood empty and under-utilized, we now are open and used in many amazing ways. It is an exciting time and one that is fun to be part of and support. I think back to some of the things I was involved in and remember not so much what I did, but what I learned and experienced."



Joan Potter

"Joan is the mind and heart behind any number of creative endeavors at SJE, and her social events help define church life. She regularly steps in for others on little or no notice. Joan puts her whole self into her church service. Her standards are high; the

quality of her work is high. Without her, St. John's would be a very different place than it is now. One only needs to look around to see her creative mark."

—Krista Palmquist

Joan was a vestry member for three years and served as longtime chair of the Music Commission. She led the search for the new music director that hired Jim Frazier and led the Organ Rehabilitation Campaign that raised nearly a million dollars. She has also been a lay reader and chalice bearer since 2001 and a choir member since 1996. She was appointed liturgy coordinator in 2013, a position which includes training and scheduling lay readers, serving on the Liturgy Committee, being the point person for Sunday services, and coordinating the Palm Sunday Passion readings. This year she created a new reading format for Palm Sunday with a tympani. She is also a verger.

Joan has used her background as a theatrical director by staging "Amahl and the Night Visitors" two years ago and "Mary's Lament" this past February. In addition, she created and led the Cabaret "Farewell to Jim Frazier" where she worked with children and adult singers as well as a "flash mob" of soloists. She has been in charge of entertainment for the past two years at the St. John's Cabarets.

Joan says: "St John's is my community and it is our community, within which we love and support one another. I am passionate about showing that, in elegance, concreteness and commitment to beauty and art, the atmosphere in our space is transformed. We love one another by paying careful attention to detail, to excellence, to giving the best we have to give. This is the beauty of God and a gift we receive even on the days we don't deserve it. It is beauty that draws us close, speaks to our pain, loves us and enables us to love one another. And that is why I volunteer at St John's, my little community and anchor in a very large world."

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Lea Anne Schmidt

"The energy and organization Lea Anne has brought to new member ministry has been amazing and effective. And that's not all! She is passionate about Kayoro and very active in our youth and family programs. She also serves

on the Vestry. It seems every week when I am doing something at church, I run into Lea Anne performing some other task or helping somebody else. Lea Anne has set a great example of servant leadership."

—Jerry Woefel

Lea Anne serves as chair of the New Member Committee, coordinating the bread ministry, organizing the new member brunches, welcoming visitors and new members on Sundays, as well as working to integrate them into parish life. As chair of the Kayoro Committee, she has travelled to Uganda herself, as well as helping to plan the 2017 trip and helping with the Cabaret.

A current member of the vestry, Lea Anne has also worked with Jean Hansen on youth ministry, helping to organize and execute the Advent Wreath-making event and the Easter Egg Hunt this spring. Her work appears on parish bulletin boards and in the cooking she does for numerous events.

Lea Anne says: "I started volunteering at SJE so that I could get to know the community better. Since the early days of working with the New Member Ministry I have had the privilege of getting to know many wonderful people- all searching for a church to call home- just as my family was when we first joined. I have also learned and continue to learn a lot about myself and about all the places and people one can find God. Wonderful things happen at SJE every week. It is a privilege to be a part of this parish."

Service Sunday

St. John's will celebrate Service Sunday on **May 22**. Staff and ministry leaders will take time to specially thank all of the wonderful volunteers from St. John's. 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.

Celebrate Pentecost and the Church's "Birthday"



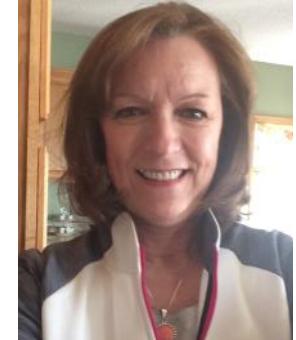
The Feast of Pentecost is **Sunday, May 15**. Pentecost is a time to celebrate the birth of the Church and our part in serving God's mission in the world. We will baptize children at both the eight and ten o'clock service, welcoming them into the Body of Christ and promising to help raise them in the Christian life and faith.

We will also have red cards in the pews; you are invited to write on your card a commitment to God's mission in the world for the coming year. Perhaps you will bring food for the food shelf once a month, visit a neighbor who is grieving, or talk with a child about what it means to work for the betterment of the world; we each live into God's mission in our own unique way with our own unique gifts. We will place our cards in the offering plates, giving our intentions to God during our worship.

Finally, please wear red to church—Pentecost is the day when the Holy Spirit descends as flame, inspiring us to spread the fire of God's love for others!

Meet Jane Johnson

John Oldfield has taken on Jane as a partner in his business, and she has joined him at St. John's in the office of the treasurer. She says, "I grew up in Forest Lake and currently reside in Hugo, MN. I am the mother of two adult children. Both are very active in all sports, with summer being golf, golf, and more golf. During the winter months, we are a very big hockey family, always cheering on the MN Wild as well as the MN state college programs.



I have enjoyed accounting and financial processes since high school. When you find something you enjoy—do it every day! My passion is to help businesses run to the best of their ability.

After wanting to expand my own consulting practice for several years, a former co-worker put me in touch with John Oldfield...and as they say, the rest is history!"

Office Closed

The church office will be closed **Monday, May 30**, for the Memorial Day holiday.

Faith in Action



As we seek to show forth our service to God in our service to others, one of our Faith in Action focuses is housing. We work to combat homelessness and provide safe shelter to all God's people. Two of the ways you can get involved in this mission are Faith Builders and Hearts to Homes. Read on for more details about upcoming events!

Don't Miss Your Chance to Work on This Summer's Habitat for Humanity Project

By Don Postema

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 \$2,000 in financial gifts to improve affordable housing in the Twin Cities.

This year, the **2016 Workcamp** will be the weeks of **June 13-24 (Monday through Friday each week)**. Construction takes place from 8:20am to 4:00pm each day. We'll be working on a new Habitat home project at 552 Charles Avenue, St Paul, only 5 minutes from St. John's. We'll be on site early, as this will be the 3rd and 4th weeks of the build, when progress is usually dramatic. This is the 14th Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity summer project Faith Builders and St. John's volunteers have participated in.

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. Each day there will be a work crew of 15-18 volunteers (16 years and older), and 2 volunteers preparing and serving snacks and lunch. Information on how to sign up on-line will be in the Sunday bulletins. Plan now for

one or more days! For more information, contact Don Postema at 651-485-9632 or postema@comcast.net.

Don't wait! Do your Habitat for Humanity gig this summer!



Helping Families with Our Partners at the YWCA

By Lyelle Palmer

Our Hearts to Homes (H2H) ministry connects families coming out of homelessness with St. John's

mentors who can help them in their transition. We couldn't do this work at all without our partners at the neighborhood YWCA.

YWCA workers are involved in all areas of the H2H program. They're involved in identifying families who could benefit from our ministry. They train our H2H mentors. They're an ongoing presence at committee meetings to provide another source of contact and ideas, and they help with ongoing problem-solving. Together, we work well in this satisfying enterprise of launching families into independence. Our H2H mentors feel well-supported and part of a team.

The YWCA is an enriching source of mental and physical health benefits. In addition to three levels of housing programs for transition from homelessness, they offer traditional classes for aquatics, fitness and yoga. The Y provides employment and leadership training, internships, volunteering, jobs, and help for at-risk youth. The inspiring arrays of services and opportunities are listed at www.ywcaofstpaul.org.

To get a taste of the energy and excitement of our thriving local Y, St. John's members are invited to attend a special "Sweet Success" celebration on **Tuesday, May 24 from 5:30-7:30 pm at Saint Paul College**. The more we know about the Y, the more opportunities for participation and service appear. St. John's members, by their presence at this showcase event, can make a statement that we also are an important player and participant in the neighborhood. See you there!

eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca

St. John's Refugee Sponsorship

The need for refugee resettlement is the greatest it has been since WWII. Refugees are fleeing oppression and threats to life. In the United States, the government partners with private organizations and faith communities to assist in the work of refugee resettlement. Partnership with the Minnesota Council of Churches (MCC) by congregations like ours is a vital to addressing the plight of refugees.

Through MCC, Episcopal Migration Ministries helps relocate refugees. St. John's vestry recently voted to approve the sponsorship of a refugee family through Episcopal Migration Ministries and are now in a process of being paired with a family or individual.

What is involved? MCC assigns a caseworker to a refugee and congregation when a congregation sponsors. Congregations are responsible for finding and furnishing affordable housing, obtaining seasonally appropriate clothing, greeting and welcoming the family, transporting them for initial meetings, assisting the family in socialization, assisting with finding entry-level jobs, etc.

Is the parish financially and legally responsible for the refugee family? No, the parish enters into a moral responsibility with sponsorship. Refugees admitted have been screened and are awarded grants (both federal and state) for a period of time to assist in the transition. Language skills and entry-level employment are top priorities.

Dave Borton has secured a private, anonymous donation of \$1,500 that will be available when contributions from the parish match the donation. These monies will be used for essentials like furnishing the apartment, buying new mattresses, obtaining bus passes, buying children new shoes, etc.

Dave Borton has been involved in 4 parish sponsorships and also worked the Mariel boatlift response in Florida in 1981-1983. He may be reached at davidborton@gmail.com or 651-202-6663 if you have further questions or want to be more involved.



"For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was a stranger and you welcomed me."
Matthew 25:35

Farmers' Market and Fields to Families

St. John's partners with Holy Apostles Episcopal Church to host a summer farmers' market in our parking lot, where local Hmong famers can sell their produce. It will be returning again this year. Please watch the church announcements for information about volunteering for a time slot and other updates.

Our Mustard Seed offering on **May 22** will go to Fields to Families. Mark checks "Fields to Families" in the memo line. This ongoing program purchases produce from local farmers and delivers it to neighborhood food shelves, so families facing food insecurity can still have access to fresh, healthy fruits and vegetables.



A Visit from Sarah Muzaki

Sarah Muzaki, Africa Program Director of Give Us Wings, spoke at St. John's on April 17 to share the progress the Kayoro Clinic has made in improving the health of local citizens and providing antenatal and family planning services to families.

The Mustard Seed Offering taken the same Sunday raised over \$1,200 for the St. John's Kayoro Clinic.



Music



Notes on Notes!



Spring Evensong

On **Sunday, May 1 at 4 pm**, the Adult and Youth Choirs will offer choral Evensong with works of Arthur Honegger (*King David*), Bryan Kelly (*Magnificat* and *Nunc dimittis*) and John Graham (*Preces and Responses*), with duo-organists Sharon Kleckner and Jennifer Anderson. A festive reception follows. Invite your friends and neighbors!

King David (Le roi David), a dramatic psalm cantata, includes narrations, solos, choruses, and inspiring instrumental music. The libretto tells the biblical story of King David's life from the time he was a shepherd, to his conquests in battle, his rise to power, his lust for another man's wife, his agony over his son's death, his disobedience to God, and finally his own death. At the close, an angel tells of Isaiah's prophecy of a flower blooming from David's stem, accompanied by a glorious choral "Alleluia."

Piano Performance and Q&A

On **Wednesday, May 18 at 7:30 pm**, pianist Osip Nikiforov will perform. Known to St. John's as our featured performer for the Piano Celebration events, he returns to play his program for the San Antonio International Piano Competition this June, where he is one of only twelve pianists invited to compete. In response to the current world

situation, he is playing the first of Prokofiev's Three War Sonatas for Piano. His thirty-five-minute program will be followed by a "Meet the Performer" question-and-answer session.



Hymn-a-thon

With ten area organists taking one or two hours each, we will sing the entire Hymnal 1982—all 720 hymns, one stanza each—in one day, **Saturday, May 21, between 9 am and 9 pm**, to raise money for the Bean Fund and special music at St. John's. Stay for the whole day, or come and go as you need or wish.

You may sponsor the singing of your favorite hymn or block the singing of your most "un-favorite"! Special Hymn-a-thon offering envelopes will be in the pews, or you can stop by the office to make your donation. We suggest a minimum of \$5 per hymn, but any amount will be accepted. (Make checks out to St. John's and mark "hymn sing" on the memo line.)

Hymn-a-thon Schedule

(Times are approximate – subject to change)

9:00 am:	Hymns 001-059 (Sharon Kleckner)
10:00 am:	Hymns 060-119 (Jayson Engquist)
11:00 am:	Hymns 120-179 (Sharon Kleckner)
<u>NOON:</u>	*BREAK*
12:05 pm:	Hymns 180-239 (Phillip Baird)
1:05 pm:	Hymns 240-299 (Jacob Manier)
2:05 pm:	Hymns 300-359 (Jayson Engquist)
<u>3:05 pm:</u>	*BREAK*
3:10 pm:	Hymns 360-419 (Jim Frazier)
4:10 pm:	Hymns 420-479 (Mark Spitzack)
5:10 pm:	Hymns 480-539 (Phillip Baird)
<u>6:10 pm:</u>	*BREAK*
6:15 pm:	Hymns 540-599 (Nancy Wellington)
7:15 pm:	Hymns 600-659 (Jacob Manier)
8:15 pm:	Hymns 660-720 (Nancy Wellington)



Special Lumina Presentation

After the 7 pm service of Compline on Thursday, May 19, the women's ensemble Lumina will present "Visitation Sepulchri", a twelfth-century mystery play from the Abbey St. Benoit de Fleury, France. In song and drama, it tells the story of the three women discovering the empty tomb on Easter morning.

Children, Youth, and Family Ministry



Grand Old Days June 4 & 5

Summer is fast approaching, and that means that Grand Old Days will be here before you know it. This year, Grand Old Days is adding a second day. The additional day will showcase Grand Avenue businesses and create an opportunity for participants to enjoy Grand Old Days without the huge crowds.

As part of their fundraising efforts, the youth of St. John's sell parking spots in our parking lot. You may, of course, park in the church parking lot Sunday morning without having to pay. However, if at all possible, it would be great if parishioners could park on the street that **Sunday morning, June 5**. Thank you!

Children's Faith Formation Meeting

On March 29, parents and grandparents gathered in the Fireside Room to discuss children's faith formation at St. John's.

During our time together, we shared St. John's ethos for children's faith formation: *to equip children, youth, and their families with the knowledge and love of God so that they may thoughtfully and compassionately serve the world in God's name*. We also heard from parents and grandparents what they wish for their children's faith lives.

Because our intention is to reach everyone involved in children's faith formation at St. John's, we are now working on finalizing a survey to get out before the end of the program year. During the summer, we'll work on the survey results, and put together an analysis to share.



Rite 13: Celebration of Adolescence

On April 24 at the 10am worship service, we celebrated an important rite of passage for some of our teens: the Celebration of Adolescence. We recognized the gifts that God bestowed on these young people. We promised to notice, support, and listen to them.

We are honored to have these young people as part of our faith family. Read on to get to know each of them a little better.



Ian Finkel

I have been attending St. John's my whole life. I live in West Saint Paul and I am in 7th grade at Friendly Hills Middle School. My favorite classes in school are science, Project Lead the Way, and family/consumer science. My favorite sport is skiing. In my free time, I like to read, draw, bike, hike and fish. I enjoy St. John's youth group and am looking forward to my J2A pilgrimage.



Maren Johnson

I have been a member at St. John's my whole life and the last few years have participated in the youth choir and as an acolyte. I live with my mom, dad, and sister in St. Paul and I am in 7th grade at St. Thomas More School. My favorite classes in school are literature, English, Spanish, and art. My favorite sports are skiing, rock climbing, swimming and soccer. In my free time I like to read, draw, bike, bake, act and travel. I am looking forward to continuing on as a member of the St. John's youth group and the pilgrimage in J2A.



Chris Olson

I have been a member of St. John's since I was about 4. I have participated in the service as an acolyte for about a year now. I am 13 years old, in 7th Grade. I go to school at Minnehaha Academy. My favorite classes

are Latin and English. I am looking forward to the J2A Pilgrimage.



Charlie Olson

I have been a member of St. John's since I was 4 years old, and in the last two years have participated as an acolyte. I live with my two brothers, father, and mother in St. Paul, and go to Minnehaha Academy. My favorite classes

are Latin, Gym, and Social Studies.

My favorite sports are skiing and baseball. I like to travel, read, play video games, and use my iPad. I am looking forward to being a member of St. John's for years to come.



Anton Osland

I just started attending St. John's this year when my grandpa's wife, Heather Hunt, started directing the children's choir. I live in NE Minneapolis with my parents and my younger brother and

go to school in St. Paul. I am in 7th grade. The things I like about school are history and math. In my free time I like to play hockey, soccer and hang out with my friends. I am also an activist for things that matter to me, like social justice. I also enjoy travelling and have been on three continents. I would like to get to all seven eventually.



Aidan Schmidt

My family and I have been a member of St. John's for six years. In church, I enjoy being a part of the youth group and serve the church by being an acolyte. There are four kids in my family, two boys and two girls. I attend Great River

Montessori School. One of the cool things about our school is we get to take a trip at the beginning and the end of every middle school year. I am looking forward to the upcoming five-day bike trip. When not in school, I like to be as active as possible. I love snowboarding, biking, jumping on the trampoline, and just hanging with friends outside.



Thomas Rinkoff

I am 13 years old and a 7th grade student at Cyber Village Academy in St Paul. I like to draw and do photo-editing on my computer, and I've done a lot of traveling. Last year, I traveled to San Francisco and Washington D.C. to visit my older brothers, my two

nephews and one niece as well as traveling to Spain, France and Italy.



Roan Weinkauf

I was born in New Mexico but I have now lived in St. Paul for over half my life. So I consider myself a "New Minnesotan." I am committed to and passionate about Soo Bahk Do, a South Korean form of Martial Arts and I earned my Cho Dan (first degree black belt) in 2015. I am also a big football

fan. I enjoy playing the flute; playing video games; and talking about comics, *Star Wars* and *Avatar* with my pals. I think I am full of compassion and I have a pretty good sense of humor. I have many dreams for my future, including attending Boston University and becoming a medical researcher. I would also like to live in Seattle someday, but only after I learn to love salmon and coffee. Currently, I am a 7th grader at Twin Cities Academy in St. Paul. I live with my family—Holly, Don, Madeline and Eli—and pets: Mancha (dog), Shob (tortoise) and a few fish.

*"As your Christian community,
we commit to you, our young people.*

*We notice you. We will accept the gifts
you bring. We will sing and pray with you.
We will challenge you to be generous and
compassionate, and to live a life
in the service of Christ."*

Faith Formation

Sunday Forum Series: Encountering Our Muslim Neighbors

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 share the experiences of many Muslims in America and what Islam is like in an American context.

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

May 1: Susan Samaha speaks on "Growing up as a Muslim and as a woman." Susan Samaha is an educator working at Minneapolis Public Schools.

May 8: Ahmednor Farah will speak about the thousands of Somali refugees, mostly Muslim, who have been relocated to Minnesota, giving their experiences and his own story.

Ahmednor Farah is a Refugee Program Specialist and Caseworker with the Minnesota Council of Churches. His duties include finding housing for new families, helping them apply health care, getting social security cards, and referring them to many services including employment and school registration for their children. Ahmednor is from Somalia and came to the U.S. under special refugee status in February 2013.



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.



May 15: Muath Ibaid will speak about his experiences as a young Muslim in America.

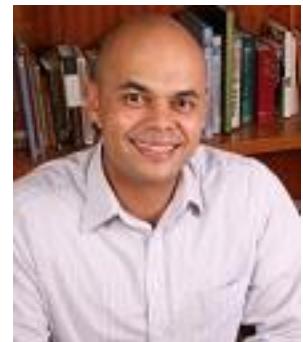
Muath Ibaid is a Palestinian Muslim who has lived in Saudi Arabia, the Netherlands, and the United States. He is currently a student at Macalester College studying economics and applied mathematics.



May 22: Discussion hour inspired in faith by our Muslim neighbors.

May 29: The Rev. Craig Lemming speaks about the Episcopal Service Corps mission in North Minneapolis.

The Rev. Craig Lemming is a deacon and member of St. John's. He is the Program Director of Circle of the Beloved, a Minneapolis Episcopal Service Corps site that seeks to create communities where service deepens into kinship and transformation within the neighborhoods served.



An April Godly Play lesson about crosses prompted a field trip to view the "Crosses in Art and Culture" exhibit in the Gallery.

Community Life

New Member Sunday & Brunch May 1

New members will be received into the church on May 1 at the 10 am service. Afterwards, new members are all invited to the Fireside Room for a welcome brunch hosted by the St. John's Vestry. Please contact Lea Anne Schmidt for more information at leaanne.schmidt@gmail.com.

Read on to get to know some of the members who will be received, and look in future issues of the Evangelist to meet the rest!



Meet Cindy Bertheau

By Lea Anne Schmidt

Cindy is an energetic, inquisitive and engaging person. While growing up, she attended a mission church in North Dakota. She eventually settled in Mpls./St. Paul in the 1970s and attended her neighborhood parish, St. Christopher's. Following retirement from a career in dietetics and nutrition, Cindy moved to Texas. After five years of living there, as she put it, "They couldn't make a Texan out of me!" and so she recently moved back to Vadnais Heights.

Cindy wanted to give her faith a "reboot" and find a new parish. She found St. Johns by looking in the phone book. She said we were one of the few churches that had a listing along with a working phone number. Cindy said she liked the friendly hospitality, loved the service, and appreciated the immediate follow through by the Welcome Committee and clergy. Cindy looks forward to finding her spiritual home here and growing in her faith by engaging in the opportunities offered by St. John's. Already she has begun attending some of the Café sessions along with the Basics classes.

Cindy likes to be active. She enjoys classical music, hiking, skiing, and travelling. This fall, she is planning to visit Tibet, China, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam.

Please keep an eye out for Cindy, introduce yourself, and welcome her to St. John's.



Meet Janet Diehl

By Judy Southwick

Janet is a resident of Seabury House at the Episcopal Homes since January 2015. She moved there with her therapy dog Rosie and cat Ginger. Janet was a previously a member of St. Paul's on the Hill.

Janet's dad was a United Methodist minister and her parents were missionaries in Alaska. Janet was in high school in Alaska when it became a state. She was a gung ho "Preacher's Kid" who loved Sunday School. She earned a BS in Home Economics and Art and an Associate Degree in Occupational Therapy. She also received a Masters of Divinity from Garrett Theological Seminary, Evanston, and a third of her classes were taken from Seabury Western Episcopal Seminary.

Janet describes herself as an "Educator," one who likes to open people's eyes. In our short time together, she taught me a great deal about theology. Janet is attracted to high church Anglo-Catholic traditions, including confession, chanting, benediction, rosaries, and all the "bells and smells." She likes it when Sunday services transport her and show her a bit of heaven.

Janet said I could label her as an "Environmentalist." She believes strongly in taking care of God's world for all creatures. Janet's hobbies include reading theology, history, and environmental articles.

She is also grateful to St. John's for having good accessibility in our church aisles for handicapped people. Welcome to St. John's, Janet!

Sending Off Benson & Erin Siwek

In March, we said farewell to parishioners Benson and Erin Siwek as they head east for Benson's new job with the State Department. They will spend the next few months to a year in Washington D.C. training for a deployment to serve in a US embassy somewhere around the globe. Benson and Erin were married at St. John's in the summer of 2013, attending since the previous year, and were active in Project Home and the Young Adult group; Benson served on the Audit Committee. We send them off with our blessings and love.



Happy Birthday to...

May*

1	Beth Trerotola	11	Charles Mason
	David Borton	12	Maxwell Spencer
3	Steve Avery	13	Ailsa Schmidt
	Cameron Gemlo		Monica Cook
	Leslie Mercer		David Bloomquist
5	Bill Lindeke		Amanda Klosterman
	Megan McKeehan		Bristol Marie Tiller
	Jack Edgerton	14	Anne Howie
	Jackson Scheel	15	Paul Johnson
	Kimberly Borton		Charlie Docherty
6	John Kinkead	16	Elaine Sutton
	Greta Paige Lightner		Lauren Loch
	John Nicholson	17	Karen Dingle
7	John MacBain		Kent Loiseaux-Purcell
8	Julia Brown	18	Kai Loiseaux-Purcell
9	Mitchell Brooks	19	Phyllis Merrill
	Caroline Brown		Melissa Ek
	Michael Halvorson	20	Jim Johnson
	Rod Titcomb		Patrick Joyce
10	Susan McCarthy	21	Estelle Berger-Thompson
			Danielle Edgerton

22	Andy Olsen
23	Virginia Edgerton
	Margo Georgeson
	Peter Gilbertson
	Simon Schmidt
24	Richard Brynteson
	John Edgerton
	Tony Grundhauser
	Holly Stoerker
28	Margot Harrington
29	Judy Diedrich
	Randy Ross
	Rob Binger
30	Barbara Lindeke
	Christopher Plummer
31	Kathy Brown
	Maren Johnson

*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:

May 1:

Main Altar: Robert C. Merrill

May 8:

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

May 15:

Main Altar: Forest Jerome Clark

Small Altar: Lawrence Ward

May 22:

Main Altar: Robert Bruce Farnham

Small Altar: William Penn

May 29:

Main Altar: Dr. Charles E. & Esther

E. Smith; Charles E. III & Ingrid O. Smith

Small Altar: George Mairs

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.

Altar Guild Teams

May 1: Dusty Mairs, Shirley Cooper, Phyllis Frisby, Patty Byrne Pfalz, Phillip Baird, Bill Sherfey

May 8: Heather Joyce, Pam Strom, Kathy Brown, Sue Cadwell, Shirlee Gooch, Sue MacIntosh

May 15: Caroline Krall, Nan Lightner, Phyllis Merrill, Elaine Sutton, Jill Thompson

May 22: Diane Power, Paige Hagstrom, Sarah K. Smith, Sabine Krall, Ginny Schauss, Terri Fischel

May 29: Dusty Mairs, Shirley Cooper, Phyllis Frisby, Patty Byrne Pfalz, Phillip Baird, Bill Sherfey

We commend to God those who have died recently, and we hold in our prayers those who grieve.

We extend our sympathies to the families of Bob Kendall and Riley Loch.

May light perpetual shine upon them, and may they and all the faithful departed rest in peace.



May 2016 Service Schedule

TIME	READERS	VERGER	USHERS	GREETERS	ACOLYTES	COFFEE HOUR
May 1 — The Sixth Sunday of Easter						
8am	Craig Lindeke	Phillip Baird	Lynn Hertz Barbara Lindeke	Cammie Beattie Ella Slade	Matt Brooks Charlie Docherty	
10am	Paige Hagstrom Chris Howie	Bill Sherfey	Jennifer Frost- Rosendale Peter Rosendale	Don Weinkauf	Will Rinkoff Thea Bishof	Godly Play families
May 8 — The Seventh Sunday of Easter						
8am	Joan McCanna	Phillip Baird	Bob Baumann John MacBain	Phyllis Frisby Lea Anne Schmidt	Helen Baxter Charlie Olson	
10am	Shirley Sailors Don Postema	Keith Davis	Jeff Olsen Peggy Olsen	Judy Southwick	Chris Olson Aidan Schmidt	Jill & John Thompson
May 15 — Day of Pentecost						
8am	David Aylesworth	Phillip Baird	Julia Ferguson Rick Rinkoff	Phyllis Goff Vern Kassekert	Madeline Weinkauf Eli Weinkauf	
10am	Diane Wallace-Reid Terry Dinovo	Phillip Baird	Shirley Sailors Sally Sand	Jerry Woelfel	Tessa Johnson Maren Johnson	Marvin & Sue Cadwell
May 22 — First Sunday after Pentecost (Trinity Sunday)						
8am	Brad McCanna	Joan Potter	Alden Drew Mimie Pollard	Jeff Olsen Peggy Olsen	Ailsa Schmidt Madeline Jacobs	
10am	Gary Gleason Camille Scheel	Joan Potter	Diane Power Kevin Wall	Sally Sand	Elliot Wall Roan Weinkauf	Service Sunday
May 29 — Second Sunday after Pentecost						
8am	Joan McCanna	Phillip Baird	Cammie Beattie Marvin Cadwell	Jennifer Kinkead Gabrielle Lawrence	Tim Krall Caroline Krall	
10am	Carole Selin Alden Drew	Keith Davis	Jay Debertin Alex Joyce	Don Postema	Linnea Krall Sabine Krall	Lyelle & Mary Francis Palmer

Usher and Greeter Ministries

We are pleased to announce that Jeff Olsen is the new Head Greeter at St. John's, and John MacBain is the new Head Usher. If you have questions about these ministries or are looking to get involved, please feel free to talk to them. Reach Head Greeter Jeff Olsen at 651-208-8265 and Head Usher John MacBain at 317-694-8839.

A greeter party will take place on **Tuesday, May 3 at 7:30 pm** in the Fireside Room.

Usher Training will take place on **Sunday, May 22 at 9:15 am** in the Narthex.



Jeff Olsen



John MacBain

Save the Date for the Church Picnic

St. John's annual picnic with Holy Apostles is scheduled for **Sunday, August 21**.

This year, we'll be at the Wabun Picnic Area at Minnehaha Regional Park. Bishop Prior has accepted an invitation to be with us for this special event. Our 10 am worship kicks off the day and includes baptism down by Minnehaha Creek. A picnic lunch follows and the picnic area is reserved for the day for those who want to enjoy Minnehaha Park's many amenities.

More details will be shared as the date nears, but mark it on your calendar now so you don't miss this great event!



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
MAY 2016

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