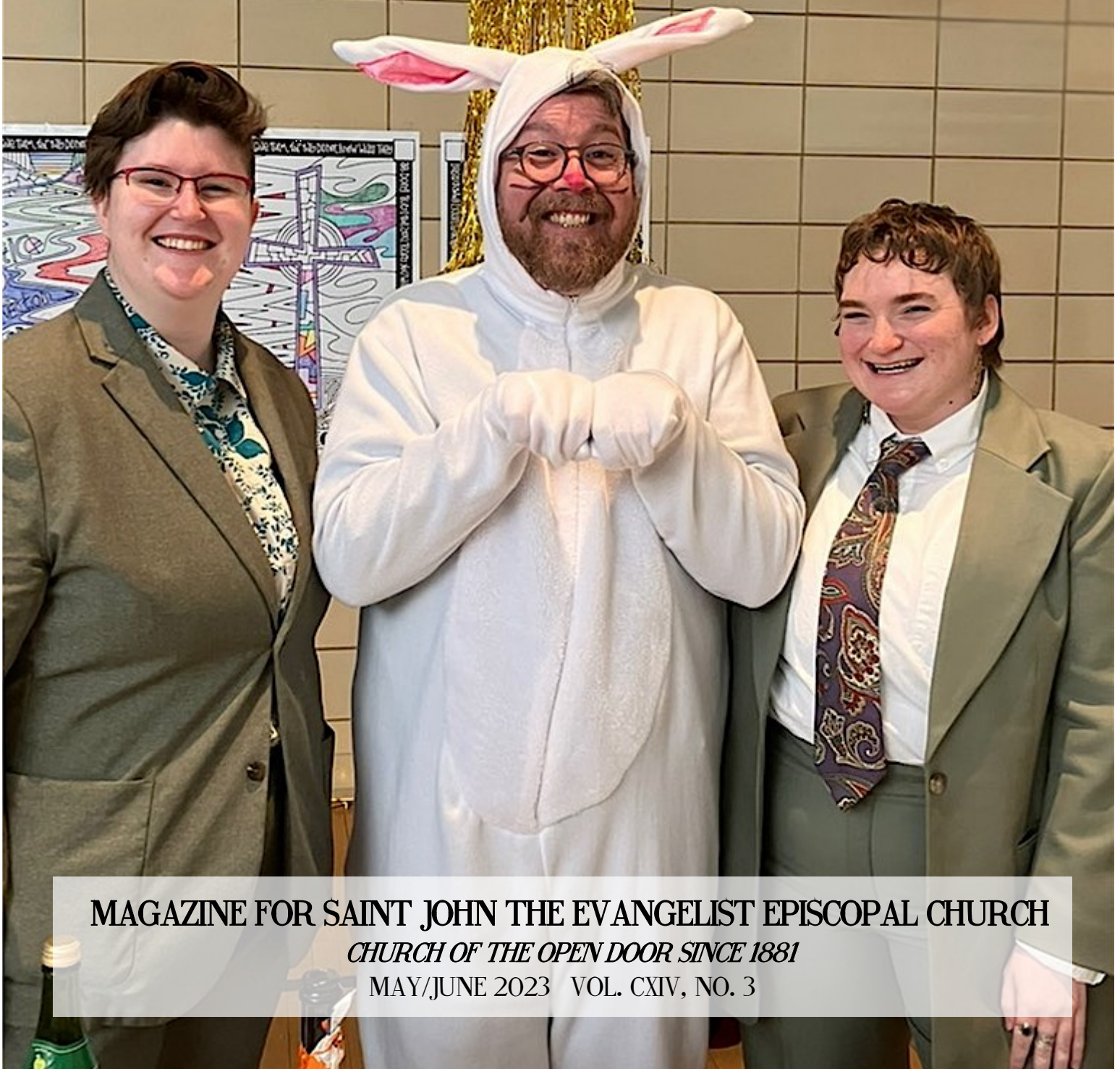


# *THE EVANGELIST*

Setting trends &  
serving looks



**MAGAZINE FOR SAINT JOHN THE EVANGELIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

*CHURCH OF THE OPEN DOOR SINCE 1881*

MAY/JUNE 2023 VOL. CXIV, NO. 3

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## **We encourage your contributions!**

You are always welcome to submit reflections, articles, and photos. Send them to [communications@stjohnsstpaul.org](mailto:communications@stjohnsstpaul.org) before next issue's deadline of: **Tuesday, June 13**. Thank you!

## ON THE COVER:

Happy Easter!



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# LEADING WITH A SERVANT HEART

By the Rev. Jered Weber-Johnson

In this issue of *The Evangelist*, we continue to answer our bishop's call for a year-long focus on discipleship. Within these pages we are especially focusing on how St. John's provides opportunities for discipleship that cross lines of difference. There could be few better examples of that than the profile of service I am about to share with you.

Every year, I have the honor of naming and bestowing an award on a member or members whose lives and ministry exemplify the servant ministry of Jesus Christ. This ministry was first modeled and exemplified to me at St. John's by one of our longest living members, Dusty Mairs. This year I am pleased to name Rob and Cammie Beattie as the recipients of the 2023 Dusty Mairs Servant Leader Award.

I met the Beatties first when arriving as a candidate for rector in 2011. Cammie had served on the discovery team that interviewed the parish to determine the congregation's wants, needs, dreams, so as to call a rector whose gifts matched the profile. Then the team was drafted into service to welcome all the candidates.

And so it was that Cammie shepherded me and my family around St. Paul for 48 hours during our final interviews, playing with Jude, answering Erin's and my questions about neighborhoods, and all around making us feel as welcome as possible as we explored the possibility of life in the Cities and a role as rector for this wonderful faith community. I will never forget the role Cammie played as both a servant and a leader in our first encounter, a set of attributes that I would quickly discover she shared with her husband Rob!

When Rob and Cammie came to St. John's in the mid-1970s, the church had not yet celebrated its Centennial and things looked a lot different here. The Beatties recall that there must have been something going on the Sunday that they visited, because they didn't receive a particularly warm welcome, and they decided to try worshipping elsewhere. A few years later, they returned to find a different vibe. The experience went much better. A



*This year I am pleased to name Rob and Cammie Beattie as the recipients of the 2023 Dusty Mairs Servant Leader Award.*

significant transition was afoot in the life of our faith community.

Around the same time as the Beatties' arrival, a number of other young families were also joining. They all shared similar interests and had children of similar ages, and the connections and relationships that formed were significant.

But life together takes effort and intention. The faith community was changing, but that change required leadership and a servant mindset. From the beginning, the Beatties' time at St. John's has been defined by their willingness to see what needed doing and to serve enthusiastically and faithfully until that need was met.

One example is St. John's Young Adult ministry in the '80s. A number of young families and single folks were coming into the church, and attempts to convene these young people around spiritual life and faith formation programming had fizzled. Rob and Cammie and a few others recognized that in order to build community, these young adults had to



get to know each other. As Cammie reported, “we needed to have fun!”

And fun they had! With Cammie and Rob and a few other households, the group organized skiing trips up north, dinners, excursions to live shows, and more. The bonds strengthened, and many of those

households are still at St. John’s to this day and still the Beatties’ close friends.

At the time Cammie joined St. John’s, many families wanted children’s programming to be held during the main service. Cammie and her friend and fellow parishioner Paige Hagstrom persistently petitioned then-rector the Reverend Grayson Clary, who finally relented and allowed the program to happen on a trial basis. Owing to their abundant planning they launched a “wildly successful” children’s church that “built a community of kids,” says Cammie, and it strengthened bonds between parents in the parish, too. Cammie and a small group kept this program going through the ‘80s.



While Cammie jumped all the way into Children’s Ministry, Rob discovered the parish choir. Attending one of his first Lessons and Carols services at St. John’s, Rob had the fortune of sitting directly in front of Beth Kendall, wife of then organist and music director, Bob Kendall. Beth heard

Rob’s voice and at the end of the service tapped him on the shoulder telling him that he should join the choir. Rob did, and thus started a journey of

deepening connections and service to the church (including long stints on the Music Commission) that lasts to this day.

In 1981, Rob was asked to join the vestry, and when rector Grayson Clary announced his retirement, Rob was invited to co-chair the search committee. It was here, once again, that the Beatties served at the intersection of great change in the church.

The wider Episcopal Church was embarking on some massive liturgical changes, introducing a new prayerbook and hymnal. Like many traditional parishes, St. John’s struggled with the changes, and still had not fully embraced them when the rector search began. Their first-choice candidate rejected the call; he had just led his last parish through the same changes, and couldn’t see doing it again. The committee decided to start again from scratch. Clearly there was work to be done.

Rob and his co-chair enlisted the help of then-Interim Rector the Reverend Tom Harries, to educate the parish about the new 1979 Book of Common Prayer. Then Rob stepped off the search committee to serve as senior warden; from this position, he was better able to help the congregation navigate the needed changes. That included a series of compromises meant to bridge the gap between the old pattern and the new – finding a way to reach across lines of difference.

Another area of Rob’s service came from his work as an attorney. His long experience in the legal field meant that he began to increasingly get asked for help in church legal matters like drafting contracts or advising about matters of liability. In time, he became our de facto legal counsel. In 2021, when he retired from practicing law, he and Executive Administrator Sarah Dull began to formalize a position description for his replacement. With vestry consent he helped to recruit and install parishioner James Ryan as our new legal counsel for the church.

You might think this significant legacy of servant leadership at St. John’s would be enough to explain why Rob and Cammie have been selected for the servant leader award this year. But, there’s more – lots more, in fact!

After a family vacation to Kenya in 2010, the Beatties returned to St. Paul with a sense of deep affection for the small part of East Africa they had seen. Meanwhile, St. John’s began partnering with

Give Us Wings to build a clinic in Kayoro, Uganda (see page 6 to read more about this ministry!) Cammie joined their trip to the area in 2011 and found a deep affection for the people of Kayoro and with the overall mission of Give Us Wings.

That first trip started a decade-long engagement with the organization and our clinic in Kayoro. Cammie has led four additional trips and will lead an upcoming trip in June with five fellow parishioners. Cammie's leadership on those trips has always been about reaching across lines of difference to truly serve the needs of the participants; the transformative and powerful work of healing, equipping, and empowering others to thrive a whole ocean away.

Cammie also served on the vestry, which coincided with another transition in the parish: the search that led to the call of our last rector, the Reverend Frank Wilson. That search was also years long and involved a lengthy process and interim. Like Rob, Cammie rotated onto the search committee, then returned to the vestry.

During that time, the parish launched Project Kathleen, which was established to help families relocating to the Twin Cities after Hurricane Katrina. But the demand never fully materialized, and that project almost immediately morphed into Hearts to Homes, a program that helped local families transitioning from homelessness to sustainable housing. Both Rob and Cammie would ultimately serve as hosts and volunteers in the program.

In 2012, the Beatties were approached by then-Assistant Rector Keely Morgan to help discern and develop a plan to implement a farmers' market in the church parking lot in partnership with our companion parish, Holy Apostles Episcopal Church. Once again, the Beatties enthusiastically stepped up to meet a need. The market, as most readers know, is thriving and active over a decade later connecting St. John's with our neighbors, supporting the hard work of local Hmong farmers, and supplying much needed fresh produce to food shelves in the Twin Cities through our buy-back program "Fields to Families".

Cammie has helped spearhead and lead a number of other projects and programs as chalice bearer, reader, and much much more. She has been an



integral part of our Circle of Care lay pastoral ministry, where she writes cards to members in the midst of life's transitions, brings Eucharist to the homebound, and attends to the pastoral ministry of praying for our members in need.

Both Rob and Cammie have served faithfully and led with a servant heart at times of great change and transition in the life of our faith community. Time and again, they helped the church navigate difficult changes and cultural shifts, helping point us back to the servant example of the one we confess as Lord, Jesus, and his way of love.

# BUILDING A LASTING RELATIONSHIP

## THE DISCIPLESHIP OF “ONE GOOD THING”

By Olivia Holgate

It is no secret that St. John’s has a dedicated relationship with Give Us Wings (GUW) and the people in Kayoro, Uganda. The clinic in Kayoro, named St. John’s Kayoro Health Center II, was built through funding from St. John’s and is now able to provide services to thousands of people each year. But how did we get here? How did the clinic get to this point?

In 2006, the Episcopal Church’s called all parishes to give 0.7% to global outreach, a way that Anglicans globally were being encouraged to embrace the United Nations Millennium Development Goals established in 2000. These goals were set to help motivate people to improve the social and economic conditions in places where people were living on less than a dollar a day.

At St. John’s, the person who spearheaded this initiative was Barbara Mraz. In 2008, she created the slogan “One Good Thing” and asked the congregation to come forward with any projects that would fit these goals and present them to a board who would pick the initiative that St. John’s would focus on. Jennifer Kinkead and Give Us Wings founder Mary Steiner presented their work along with about five other organizations. Despite the original plan of taking a couple weeks to discern which project St. John’s would take on, Barbara Mraz called Jennifer the next morning and told her that the Holy Spirit was moving St. John’s to partner with Give Us Wings.

That day Barbara, Jennifer, and Mary met up to discuss different projects Give Us Wings is a part of. As soon as Barbara saw a picture of some kids playing soccer in the Kayoro village, she knew that she was being called to help that community. St. John’s has been partnering with Give Us Wings and the community in Kayoro ever since.

They decided that the most important thing for this small village was to build a health clinic. After much deliberation, due to the ongoing recession and other



struggles during this time, the committee at St. John’s asked the parish to help raise \$75,000 to help cover the building costs. Amazingly, the parish came together and was able to raise all the money in the first five months of the fundraising campaign reaching a final total of \$100,000.

Construction for the original clinic was completed in 2011. Now the original clinic is part of a health care compound with four different buildings, connected to the national power grid in late 2020. St. John’s supported the connection and wiring for all the buildings. They can run the fridge and the infant warmer which St. John’s purchased for the clinic in anticipation of being connected to the grid.

Groups from St. John’s have been visiting the clinic every couple of years since 2011, the last time being in 2018. (Efforts were made for a trip in 2020, but unfortunately Uganda closed its borders a day before the group was set to travel out there.) If you talk to any of the people that have traveled to Kayoro, they will tell you the great impact the clinic and other programs provided by GUW have made in Uganda. A lot of travellers said that at first the poverty of the area was shocking and scary and sad, but despite that, the people who live there are so happy, loving, and passionate.

Peter Carlson, GUW’s Executive Director, was happy to share some of the clinic’s accomplishments:

One of the major purposes for this clinic was to provide maternity care for the community. Since

2012, the number of healthy babies born at St. John's Health Center has steadily increased, and in 2021, the staff delivered 256 babies!

One of the biggest developments from the past year was receiving money from St. John's to purchase an ultrasound machine. It will be purchased and installed in their clinic in the next few months. The machine will help the clinic be more self-sustaining, and it will provide needed services that aren't easily found in the surrounding district.

Services provided by the clinic don't only help the people of Kayoro; they also reach out across Uganda. In the third quarter of 2022, the clinic completed outreach efforts to nine rural areas, offering services or treatments to a total of 8,330 individuals!

Future fundraising efforts will be focused on expanding the laboratory in the clinic. This laboratory holds all the special medical equipment used for medical tests, and as the clinic becomes more advanced, the laboratory is filling up and becoming overcrowded.

The work St. John's and Give Us Wings are doing in Kayoro is much bigger than just a transactional relationship. They reach across lines of difference to make long-lasting personal relationships with the *people* in Kayoro.

Cammie Beattie is one parishioner who has a lot of experience travelling to Kayoro with St. John's. She said her favorite part about travelling to Uganda is the people she gets to meet. Each time she goes, her relationships with the people there grow stronger and stronger. The first time she went, she didn't know anyone; by her fourth trip, she felt like family.

Sue MacIntosh, chair of the St. John's Kayoro Clinic Committee, said that for a long time she felt hopeless



G UW clinic staff in the new kitchen that St. John's provided funding for (above) and enjoying the lighting from the electrical grid (below).



about the possibility of helping people in poverty-stricken areas. The idea of "One Good Thing" grabbed her attention and made her realize that she can make a difference in these people's lives even if it's in a small corner of the Earth.

Patty Byrne Pfalz, who is also heavily involved with the clinic, feels it is so

important that we not lose contact with the residents of Kayoro. She said, "We have a building over there that says St. John's on it, and I think it's really important that we keep in contact there and help as much as we can...it's just really important that people understand what we have invested in and that we need to be present there." She doesn't want this to be a one-and-done partnership; she wants to build a lasting relationship with the community.

Therese Anderson, former Executive Director of G UW, said

that one of the greatest things to see was the improvement of the living standards of the people they were helping over the ten years that she held that position. Kids were being fed, people had shoes on their feet, parents could afford more necessities because their income had improved, and families had started small businesses through the Give Us Wings small business program. Therese Anderson, Jennifer Kinkead, and Peter Carlson all mentioned how great it has been to work with St. John's, because of how giving, determined, and hardworking the parishioners are.

When talking to Patty Byrne Pfalz and Sue MacIntosh, they made it clear that it's really important for parishioners at St. John's to know the work that is happening in Kayoro. If you want to know how you can get involved with this work, contact Sue MacIntosh at [suemac94@me.com](mailto:suemac94@me.com).

# SHARING IN THE ACT OF CREATION



**By Kat Lewis (they/them), a nonbinary person  
Jennifer Tianen (she/her), a transgender woman  
and Ellie Watkins (she/her), a genderqueer person**

**Ellie:** When the *Evangelist* planning team chose the theme for this issue, I knew that I really wanted our trans and gender non-conforming members to have a space to share some of their perspectives. What it immediately brought up for me is how being openly gender non-conforming, especially in the current climate, is in itself a discipleship practice. We don't just *come* out but also *reach* out, continually, across all kinds of lines of difference. We knowingly endanger ourselves in part to show others that it is possible to embrace the selves God made us to be.

**Jennifer:** In nearly five years of being out, there has not been one single person who has ever said an unkind word to me. But to be openly transgender is a master class in reading facial expressions. Some have given me frighteningly murderous looks. Some have walked past me mumbling angrily under their breath. Many smile at me or look quizzical. Others glance disapprovingly as a quick flicker across their "Minnesota nice" exterior betrays them without them realizing it. I treat everyone with courtesy, acceptance, and respect, although I would like to think that I was always that way. I'm certainly more cheerful and enthusiastic now. I know that I am a walking billboard for being transgender.

**Ellie:** Being out means being SO visible. And yet often we're not actually being truly seen. We'll share our identity or our pronouns and then people will just go ahead and ... not refer to us that way.

**Kat:** I think sometimes people have questions they

don't ask. Maybe it's uncomfortable for them to talk about, or they're not sure if they *can* ask? But I think if people have questions, they can and *should* ask them (in a respectful way, of course). If people want to ask me about my experience, or why I chose to start using they/them pronouns, for instance, I'm always open to talking about it.

**Ellie:** Yes, talking about it is part of our discipleship practice across differences! Even at an affirming church, being trans Christians often has to include reaching out to explain to cisgender people about who we are and how we want to be treated.

**Kat:** Allyship is practiced and consistent actions to help teach others. It's not simply being in worship with trans people because you are at church and do not condemn genderqueer people. It's about being understanding and inviting others to join you as you seek to understand. It's okay to be uncomfortable! Trans people are aware every day at every moment that the world was not built for us to be comfortable. St. John's is not the first or the last place to go through a period of intentional change to be more welcoming of gender diversity.

**Jennifer:** Unless somebody tells me what impact I might have had on them, I never know. I've been told that I am brave. I only ever thought I was just being myself. But now if I crossed some state lines, I could instantly become a political prisoner. Now I am frightened and concerned. Regardless, I can only be myself. Here I stand. I can do no other.

**Ellie:** Gender identity really is about understanding who you are and *choosing* it, instead of only being assigned it. You don't have to be trans to do that.



**Kat:** Yes! Anyone can go on a gender journey, even cis people. God created everything beyond categories; understanding what your gender means to you is a part of understanding who God created you to be, even if that is cisgendered. Some people feel empowered and comfortable in ascribing to identity labels; other people don't! Neither of those groups knows themselves more or less than the other. God's creation is vast and diverse. It is an exciting and lovely thing for someone to feel comfortable enough to teach you who they are.

“

*As my friend Julian puts it, only half winkingly, “God blessed me by making me transsexual for the same reason God made wheat but not bread and fruit but not wine: so that humanity might share in the act of creation.”*

—Daniel Lavery

## ECUMENICAL LITURGY



**By Richard Gray**

Prior to the pandemic, the staff singers of our choir enjoyed an “off campus” venue singing Advent Choral Vespers at St. Thomas More Catholic Community. We enjoyed the ecumenical liturgy and a chance to build “kinship across lines of difference.” We repeated this liturgy this past Advent and will again for Ascension this year where the schola cantorum of St. Thomas More will come to our sanctuary and join our ensemble (Thursday, May 18 at 7pm).

Ascension is probably my favorite feast day. At our upcoming Choral Vespers, our music selections will bring forth the themes of Jesus Christ ascending into heaven, and the meanings that holds in both our Catholic and Episcopal traditions.


Ecumenical services are more important than ever now. They are a chance for not only our choir, but our congregation and parish community to experience and be a part of different liturgical elements, to experience those differences but also see what wonderful similarities we have. I am glad we have built a new partnership with St. Thomas More, one that makes sense given both the Catholic and Episcopalian traditions of liturgy.

I encourage you to attend and join us, for the liturgy and for the fellowship reception that will follow. Give yourself an opportunity to connect with those who share the same faith goals that you have, hear their stories, and share yours.

# “GROWING” OUR DISCIPLESHIP

## You're Invited!

The Creation Care ministry meets on the second Monday of each month from 6:30-7:30pm at St. John's. During the summer, when the weather allows, we meet in the parking lot, so bring a chair and a beverage! Email Johannah at [frisby.johannah@gmail.com](mailto:frisby.johannah@gmail.com) if you have any questions about joining a meeting.



St. John's Creation Care ministry members enjoy the native plant pollinator garden at an outdoor August meeting. Pictured left to right: Johannah Frisby, Mary Ann Jackson, Barbara Lindeke, Dan Vogel, Jo Anna Heberger.

## By Johannah Frisby

St. John's Creation Care ministry is busy year-round working on various environmental and climate justice topics. Our goals are created based on the concerns and motivations from our ministry members. Every month there is something to celebrate and something exciting to share. Summers are buzzing with work in our new gardens and opportunities to get out in nature at St. John's!

Last summer, Jo Anna Heberger, PhD, who specializes in native plants, brought her knowledge and care to help us plant a beautiful pollinator garden by our parking lot. Our big practical and relational goal for 2023 is to expand on the progress made from last year and bring people outside. This summer we plan to plant two more pollinator gardens and get all the plants labeled.

Our gardens attract more than just eyes. Pollinators of all kinds – not just honeybees! – are attracted to the native plants butterfly milkweed, wild ginger and wild indigo that bloom and grow throughout summer and into fall. When you go to the Farmers Market, be sure to keep an eye out for what's growing and who is buzzing around.

We hope to expand our native plant species to include groundcover, like wild strawberries, under the trees on the perimeter of our parking lot, and enlarge the Holly Street garden.

Did you know that St. John's is full of plant, bird, bug and tree experts? Creation Care will be setting up nature walks to enjoy birding and tree identifying with folks of all experience, ages, and abilities. Please email Johannah at [frisby.johannah@gmail.com](mailto:frisby.johannah@gmail.com) if you are interested. We look forward to getting outside and enjoying nature with you!

We also have the exciting project of installing a bike rack at St. John's. This bonus practical goal will allow members of our community to reduce their carbon footprint by making biking to church an easier option.

Concern and care for the Earth is deeply connected to practicing discipleship. Care for all creation brings us closer to the love of God. We practice loving formation through preaching, storytelling, and prayer. We advocate and act to repair Creation and seek the liberation and flourishing of all peoples.

These summer activities grow our love for the Earth and all life through expanding our awareness of the interconnectedness of life. The native plants invite birds and insects to our space. The bike rack allows our community to be more accessible. We bring ourselves closer to each other and our non-human relatives, and allow ourselves to live more humbly and gently on the Earth.

## JOIN THE WORSHIP TEAM!

Help make Sunday mornings happen! Contact the addresses listed below to volunteer or learn more.

**Acolytes:** [katie.madsen@stjohnsstpaul.org](mailto:katie.madsen@stjohnsstpaul.org)

**Altar Guild:** [jered.weberjohnson@stjohnsstpaul.org](mailto:jered.weberjohnson@stjohnsstpaul.org)

**Coffee Hour:** [www.tinyurl.com/SJEcoffeesignup](http://www.tinyurl.com/SJEcoffeesignup)

**Eucharistic Ministers:** [craig.lemming@stjohnsstpaul.org](mailto:craig.lemming@stjohnsstpaul.org)

**Media Team:** [media@stjohnsstpaul.org](mailto:media@stjohnsstpaul.org)

**Readers & Vergers:** [rlinehan@gmail.com](mailto:rlinehan@gmail.com)

**Ushers:** [jolsen4338@gmail.com](mailto:jolsen4338@gmail.com)

## SUPPORT OUR MISSION

St. John's continues to make a difference through the vital work of our ministries. Please support that effort, as you are able, by continuing to make your pledge payments or by making an offering today.



- Give online with this QR code or at [www.tinyurl.com/SJEgiving](http://www.tinyurl.com/SJEgiving)
- Or text 651-273-0753 with the amount you'd like to give and where you'd like the funds to go; e.g. "\$100 Pledge2023." Thank you!

## REGULAR WEEKLY WORSHIP

**Sundays: 8am** Rite I Eucharist in the Church;

**10am** Rite II Hybrid Eucharist in the Church and on YouTube at [www.tinyurl.com/youtubeSJE](http://www.tinyurl.com/youtubeSJE)

The 4th Sunday of each month is a Racial Reconciliation Eucharist.

**Monday-Saturday: 8am** Morning Prayer at [www.facebook.com/MorningPrayerSJE](https://www.facebook.com/MorningPrayerSJE)

followed by Coffee Hour on Zoom.

**Thursdays: 7pm** Compline (Night Prayer) in the Church and on YouTube at [www.tinyurl.com/youtubeSJE](http://www.tinyurl.com/youtubeSJE).

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO...

### MAY

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 2 Todd Johnson                                     | 20 Estelle Berger-Thompson  |
| 5 Oak Hansen                                       | 21 John Madsen  |
| 6 Latham Miller<br>Katie Nichol                    | 23 Peter Gilbertson<br>Simon Schmidt                                    |
| 8 Benjamin Koshy                                   | 24 Holly Stoerker<br>Richard Brynteson<br>Tony Grundhauser<br>Dan Quinn |
| 10 Susan McCarthy<br>Sarah Baxter                  | 26 Stieg Lahti  |
| 12 Ailsa Schmidt                                   | 29 Michael May  |
| 13 Monica Cook                                     | 30 Barbara Lindeke<br>Gabriel Dull                                      |
| 14 Anne Howie                                      | 31 Kathy Brown<br>Madeleine Wagner<br>Sherer<br>Maren Johnson           |
| 15 Paul Johnson<br>Charlie Docherty                |   |
| 16 Elaine Sutton<br>Wendy Fernstrum<br>Lauren Loch |   |
| 18 Phyllis Merrill                                 |   |
| 19 Jim Johnson                                     |   |

### JUNE

- |   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 3 Peno Pyne Neepaye                     | 18 Edward Cook<br>Sven Lahti          |
| 4 Christopher Matter<br>Kylan Glassmann | 21 Rianna Matter                      |
| 5 Harrison Smith                        | 22 Ian Hansen                         |
| 6 Sarah Gastler                         | 23 Jeff Olsen<br>Eva Gemlo            |
| 7 Oliver McInroy                        | 25 Patty Voje                         |
| 8 Patrick Schmidt                       | 26 Lacey Ellingson<br>Genevieve Solid |
| 9 Jo Anna Hebberger                     | 27 Susie Ragland<br>Henry Powers      |
| 11 Susan MacIntosh                      | 30 Craig Solid                        |
| 14 Laura Holland                        |                                       |
| 16 Cynthia Bronson<br>Sweigert          |                                       |
| 17 Dagan McCann                         |                                       |

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# *THE EVANGELIST*

## MAY/JUNE 2023

During MN Foodshare's annual March Campaign, we "packed the pews" with 706 lbs of groceries and hygiene items and \$1,655 in cash, to benefit our local food shelf at the Hallie Q. Brown Community Center!

