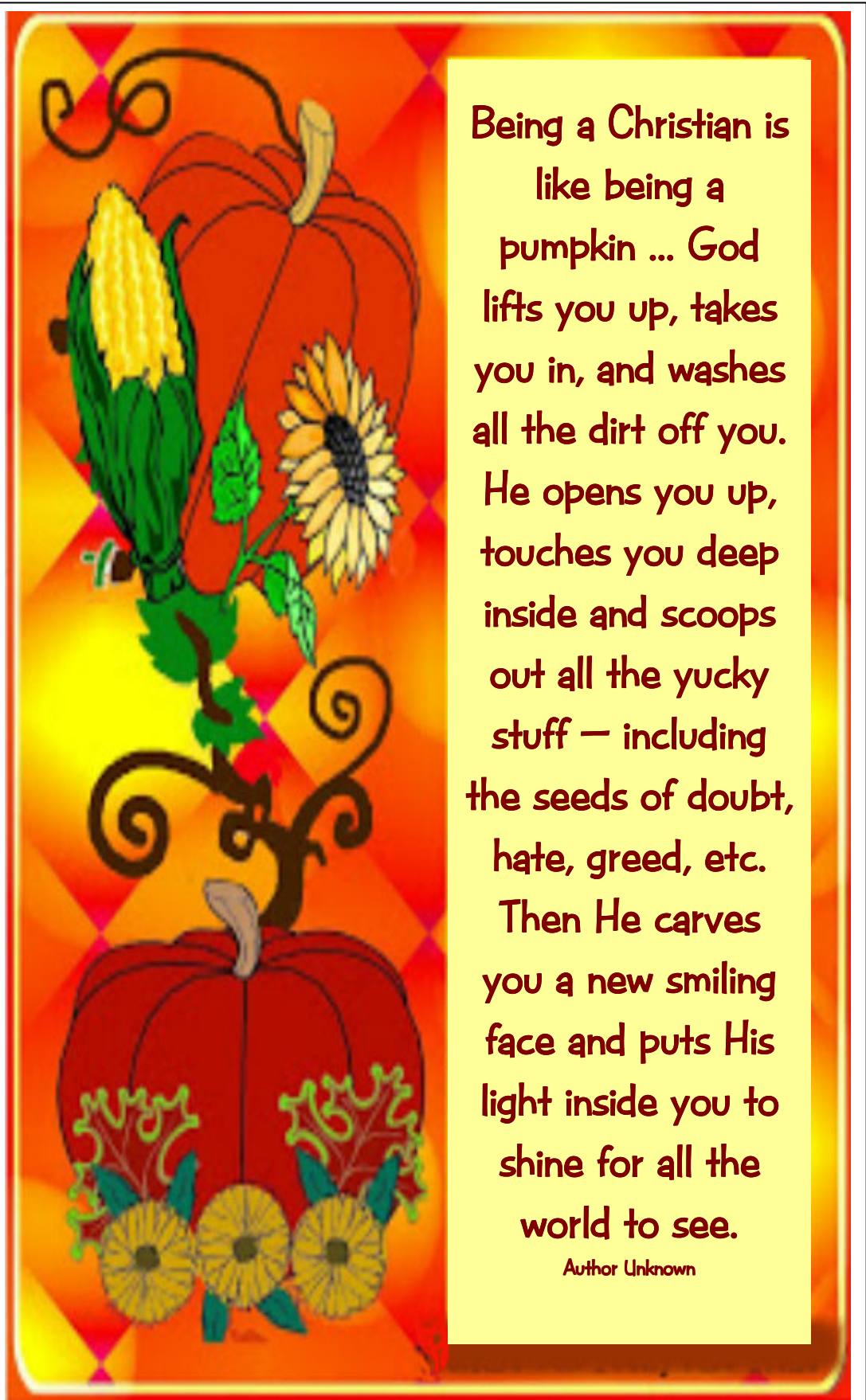




Volume 30 — Issue 10
October 2014

PARISH LIFE

The Newsletter of St. John's Episcopal Church, Naples, Florida



Being a Christian is
like being a
pumpkin ... God
lifts you up, takes
you in, and washes
all the dirt off you.
He opens you up,
touches you deep
inside and scoops
out all the yucky
stuff — including
the seeds of doubt,
hate, greed, etc.
Then He carves
you a new smiling
face and puts His
light inside you to
shine for all the
world to see.

Author Unknown

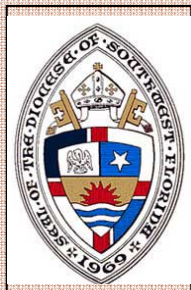
Interested in being confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church?

Bishop will visit parish in 2015

Bishop Dabney Smith will be visiting St. John's parish on Sunday, February 1, 2015 at the 9 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. services.

If you would like to be confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church, preparatory classes will be offered starting in October.

For more information, please contact Fr. Joe at (239) 261-2355 or e-mail clergy@stjohnsnaples.com ☐



St. John's Delegates named to Diocesan Convention

The 2014 Convention of the Diocese of SW Florida will be held at the Charlotte Harbor Event and Conference

Center on Friday and Saturday, October 17 and 18.

Convention delegates from St. John's are Vestry members Peter Zimmermann, Mike Johnson and Nevin Souers. Clergy attending include Fr. Joe Maiocco and Deacon Bill Moyers with wife Cheri. ☐

Adult Sunday "Gospel Reflections" begin November 2

Meet in Brewster Hall from 10:30 to 11:10 for informal reflection and sharing on the day's Gospel lesson. Discussions will begin November 2 and continue weekly until Christmas. ☐



Foyer Groups getting ready for sixth season of fellowship

Yes, it is coming upon the season when we start the Foyer program at St. John's Church. We will be starting our sixth year of this highly successful ministry, which has had as many as one-hundred people attending.

Foyer is welcoming people into small groups that will meet three times this season starting in January and ending in May. You will meet in homes where everyone shares in a simple meal and it is a great time to get to know one another in a social setting.

I encourage all of you who are out of town and won't be here until December of January to call the church office and have your name put on the list, as we want to be organized and ready to start on January 1.

Sign up in church during the month or November or you can call the church office (261-2355) or Carolyn Souers (354 2187) and have your name added to the list.

The Foyer program has helped make St. John's the caring church it is. We pray that you will become a part of this ministry. ☐

Carolyn Souers

The Winter Service Schedule will begin November 1 and 2.



Ten Collier County charities selected for 2014 Outreach Grant consideration

The Outreach Commission has met and selected ten charities to be interviewed for 2014 grants. All are 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations serving Collier County residents and meet the Commission's mission statement to "seek out those charities in Collier County where the basic needs are requested." The Agencies and their descriptions of services are as follows:

1. **Angels Under Cover of Collier Co., Inc.**

provides underwear, socks and school uniforms to economically needy elementary school students who would otherwise come to school inadequately dressed.

2. **Baby Basics of Collier County**

supports hard-working parents needing diapers for their babies. The organization currently serves about 300 babies at eight distribution sites and, since 1994, has distributed over 1.5 million diapers to families in the area.

3. **Habitat for Humanity of Collier Co.**

brings people together to build homes, communities and hope, with the ultimate goal of putting shelter on the hearts and minds of people in such a powerful way that poverty housing and homelessness becomes socially, politically and religiously unacceptable in our nation and world.

4. **Harry Chapin Food Bank of SW FL, Inc.**

works to overcome hunger in Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry and Lee Counties through education and by cooperatively working with affiliated agencies in the procuring and distributing of food, equitably and without discrimination.

5. **Immokalee Child Care Center**

serves the Immokalee community by providing exceptional educational programs and highest quality childcare. Parents and staff work together to promote family-focused events and parent education activities, which provide a beneficial experience for the child, and encourage cooperation and communication between the family and the Center.

6. **Laces of Love Charitable Foundation, Inc.**

has a goal to provide NEW shoes (preferably sneakers) to low income and disadvantaged children in Collier and Lee Counties, and to educate the public on the needs of these children.

7. **Literacy Volunteers of Collier Co.**

enhances the lives of students and their families by teaching them literacy skills via one-on-one tutoring, small group classes, interactive English language learning laboratory and family literacy programs, as well as literacy programs for the workplace, organizations and citizenship preparation classes.

8. **NAMI of Collier County**

(National Alliance for Mental Illness) provides education, support and advocacy to improve the quality of life for those affected by serious and persistent mental illness so they can recover and lead productive, meaningful lives. They also provide financial assistance for psychiatric evaluations, emergency prescriptions, shelter, food and a drop-in center for individuals diagnosed with mental illness.

9. **St. Matthew's House**

changes lives in a spiritual environment that is both compassionate and disciplined, as well as providing housing for the homeless and food for the needy. Among the many structured programs for residents are those for prevention and recovery.

10. **The Salvation Army, Naples Corps**

serves our community year-round. Men, women, children and families are helped through social services with emergency financial assistance, food and child care.

**If you have questions or would like more information,
please contact Outreach Chairperson Sue Boujoukos at 775-6898. □**



Sharing the good news! St. John's communication improving!

The Holy Spirit's strategy for sharing the Gospel's good news is through God's people. As an individual's life is transformed through a personal encounter with our Lord and the Spirit, they want to share what has happened to them with others. It might be through talking, writing, or their life witness, but the Spirit uses such messages to powerfully touch others.

In Jesus' day, people communicated directly, through the oral tradition and written texts. The advent of the printing press made available the written word to the masses and revolutionized the world! We are in the midst of another communication revolution, with more widespread use of computers, smart phones and tablets, emails, texts and Face Time. Humanity is connecting in unimaginable ways!

As St. John's Rector, I want to share the Good News to reach the most people both at our spiritual home and throughout the world. Hence, it has been an intensive summer of updating St. John's website, establishing a Facebook and Twitter presence, as well as experimenting with videotaped sermons and other service elements. This will continue to be a work in progress and there are others who are helping me with this endeavor. I'm excited about the great progress being made!

Our web-site improvements include a Church Theme site installed by a web designer. Church Themes develop contemporary web themes and designs expressly for churches, providing ongoing updates and support. The design and pagination used on St. John's website is similar to the most current web designs.

- **Responsive:** Whatever device you view our website on, be it smart phone, tablet or computer, the site automatically adjusts to the device. Ease of accessing our site has greatly increased now, and with more people using smart phones to search for churches, it's a big step in the right direction.
- **Picture Rich:** You'll notice the pictures are wider and more colorful due to increased pixels and use of light box technology. The pictures can be viewed singularly or in carousel mode, creating a more engaging site. There are also plenty of videos!
- **Identification:** The top and bottom of each page (Header & Footer) have been specifically designed to highlight our church name, address, phone number, contact link, directions and service times. We want to make it easy for people to find St. John's.
- **New Stuff:** The entire site has been completely updated over this summer, but some new additions include the "Celebrate Tab" featuring "In the News," "A Devoted Life," "Your Story," "Worship" and "Giving." I've also included "Online Learning" that highlights links for youth and adults. Sermons will have the standard audio link and we are adding podcast and video features.

I encourage you to visit www.stjohnsnaples.com. Explore, click, learn and listen. Copy links to share with friends in an email or click on FB to see what's happening with St. John's in social media! ☩

Join us in Sharing the Good News!



Recently a letter and a pledge card was sent to you in regards to the annual Stewardship Campaign. Some of you may be asking: what is Stewardship?

I believe Stewardship is the living out of our faith through our serving, giving, witnessing and relating to others. It is the faithful use of our lives, gifts, talent and money in doing God's will. It is our faithful response to God's gift of forgiveness and salvation.

Stewardship is more than just giving money so the church can stay open and pay its bills. Stewardship is about returning to God what God has given us. Stewardship is our responsibility to see that God's work on this earth is done through our time, talent and treasure. Each year, we are asked to reflect upon all the blessings and gifts God has so generously placed in our lives.

As Stewardship Chairman, I petition each of us to take a step in faith by committing to a pledge to St. John's Church. A pledge is a promise and a plan. It is a commitment with a purpose. It is disciplined giving. When we pledge, the Bible repeatedly tells us that God

richly blesses those who make a prayerful commitment to give financially.

Pledging helps the Vestry be responsible stewards in planning a wise budget. Pledging gives confidence that Vestry projections are more realistic — that programs within the church can be maintained and outreach sustained. There are bills to be paid, properties to be maintained, worship and music to be kept alive and St. John's many ministries to be sustained if we are to be true to our faith.

How much we give matters, but the why of giving also matters. When we give, we have a sense of belonging; we are saying thanks to God for his loving ownership of our lives and we dedicate what we have been given to God's purposes.

Giving is a practice of thanksgiving that over time makes us even more grateful. It opens our hearts to the awareness that all of life is a wonderful gift. God wants our motivation for stewardship to be based on love and gratitude. ▢

Nevin B. Souers, Stewardship Chairman



The trick? Helping us! The treat? Helping others!

October means a hint of fall in the air, friends coming back from summer up north, air getting cooler and less humidity. Yes, it's Trick or Treat month — a wonderful time of year in Naples! This year, the “trick” is to HELP US by bringing your donations to the Shoppe, and the “treat” is HELPING OTHERS at the same time by benefiting our Collier County Charities.

St. John's Shoppe is dressed for the season and the return of our customer “snowbirds.” Our inventory is low from summer sales and we need your help. Please look around your homes for items no longer being used — especially the gently-worn clothing you no longer want cluttering up your closets. Your donations of clothing, furniture, home and fashion accessories will be on display and sold in the blink of an eye. For furniture inspection and pick-up, call Sharon Marceau, Shoppe Manager, at (239) 597-9518.

Our St. John's family is our lifeline for donations. Ask your friends and neighbors, too, and remind them our proceeds go to fund the many Collier County Outreach charities our church supports.

Will you help? If you have extra time and would like to volunteer at the Shoppe, come join our friendly team. We have a great group of men, women, and even some teens, who help us out in shifts or full days. We are open six days a week from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. It is not a hard day's work to see the smiling faces of satisfied customers. With the season upon us, we must increase our work force to handle the additional donations and customer traffic.

Volunteer to share your time with us by calling Lisa Kupcunas, Volunteer Recruiter, at (214) 223-4739; Sharon Marceau, Shoppe Manager, at (239) 597-9518 or stop by the Shoppe at 886 110th Ave., North — one block south of the intersection of Immokalee Road and US 41, behind the new Chase Bank. Call (239) 597-9518 for more information. □

Board of Directors, St. John's Shoppe

Oktoberfest



**Saturday
October 25th**

6:30 p.m.

**in Sugden Hall following
the 5 p.m. Service**

**Come join us for food,
fellowship, fun and, who
knows, maybe even a little
dancing.**

Cost: \$10 per person.

RESERVATIONS:

Watch for the reservation form in the Church bulletins during October. Return the form, along with your check made payable to St. John's Episcopal Church and earmarked for Oktoberfest, to the church office or place in the offering plate, to assure your reservation.

WORDS FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN



The Stewardship Campaign is just around the corner. I will let others speak to the pledge part of treasure. My message is about the treasure you receive when you devote time and talent to St. John's.

Looking back at Mary's and my years of service, whether it be with St. John's or the other churches we've attended over the years, our overall church experience was enhanced by the involvement we've had doing things for the church. None of what we did took an enormous commitment of time, but it did take a certain amount of love for the church and, of course, our Lord to do it. And, the experience somehow made the attendance at services more meaningful.

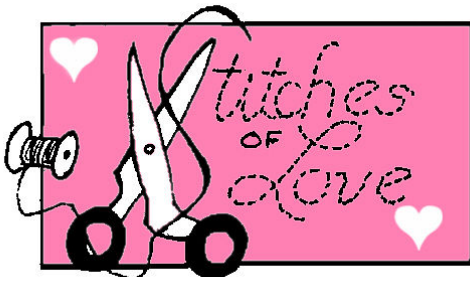
Church is about family things: love, sharing and growing together. When you participate in church activities, your St. John's "family" expands in the best of ways. Sure it may take a bit of time, but you learn to appreciate all that goes on behind the scenes.

One good example of an enriching experience is the Altar Guild. The preparation of the church for services is a solemn and reverent commitment of maybe four hours a month. But, I guarantee that you will never look at the Altar the same way, because you will become a part of it. It's the same way with being a lay reader, usher, greeter or helper in the office. Serving in any capacity enriches the whole church experience.

So, when it is time to address this year's stewardship campaign, don't just think of the financial part of treasure that is asked for but look for the treasure you will find if you do something with your time and talent. There is a growing need at St. John's for volunteers. Find out where you might fit. It doesn't matter what you do, it matters only that you do something. There is some "treasure" out there just waiting for you.

God Bless! ☐

Peter Zimmermann
Senior Warden



The Stitches Ladies have continued to keep their fingers busy this summer. The knitters have created prayer shawls and dozens of beautiful new-born baby caps, including teeny tiny ones designed for precious preemie babies.

The seamstresses have found a new outlet for their talents. They are creating cotton dresses for toddler girls who are being cared for by the Missionaries of Charity, Mother Theresa's Order in Les Cayes, Haiti.

We have been blessed with donations of both yarn and fabrics, and we always welcome more — especially more washable cottons for the little dresses. Occasionally, we have donations of fabric which won't work for our projects, but we pass them on to where we know they will be put to good use. Also welcome would be newcomers who might just want to check us out.

Stitches meets in Brewster Hall on the first and third Fridays of the month at 10 a.m. We are looking forward to seeing our "regulars" returning from the North, and we welcome anyone who would just like to join us for the camaraderie. No special skills or experience are needed.

For further information, please call Linda Smith (314-685-4709). □

Bonnie Schlichting



Prayers requested for Ben, Gloria and Orphans

Ben is Benjamin Kwashi, Archbishop of Jos, Nigeria. He is one of the most well respected leaders of the Anglican Communion, and known to a number of us at St. John's, as he visited our diocese and preached from our pulpit a number of years ago.

Gloria is his wife and presently the energy behind a ministry to save, feed and educate the hundreds of children orphaned in the past four years by Boko Haram, the terrorist murderous Muslim group finally being noticed by the press after their kidnapping of nearly 300 young, mostly Christian girls.

The Archbishop and his wife have miraculously survived several terrorist attacks themselves, the last of which left Gloria temporarily blind for six months.

Please pray for the Archbishop and Gloria, and the orphans being cared for by them as well as other Christian ministries in Nigeria.

A Google search will open up a lot of information about the Kwashi family, as well as the orphan crisis. Try especially: "Nigeria: The Young Victims of Christian Persecution" access: persecution.tv. □

Bonnie Schlichting



And the Nominees are...



The title of this article is something one hears when they watch the Academy Awards, and soon afterwards, the winner comes forward to receive their award. Let me be the first to share with you that nominations are open for St. John's Vestry, and the slate isn't picked by any Academy, but by St. John's members.

Vestry nominee qualifications include that the nominee:

- Is a communicant in good standing at St. John's.
- Is 18 Years or older.
- Demonstrates commitment to Christian tenets through regular worship attendance, Bible study, a witness of God's love to family and friends, makes recorded contributions to St. John's and affirms our Bylaws, Mission Statement and Core beliefs.
- Will commit to completing their three-year term, consistently attend Vestry meetings and special gatherings, provide parish leadership as needed and strive toward tithe of time, talent and treasure.

Vestry members are important lay leaders for any church, exercising a holy calling that powerfully touches the lives of many people. It's important to get someone's permission before you nominate them for Vestry. We have two openings this year.

The Nominating Committee plays a critical role in the Vestry nomination process:

- The Committee shall be comprised of two Vestry members and three Congregational members.
- They shall nominate members of the Congregation for the Vestry.
- They shall deliver their report to the Secretary in sufficient time for inclusion in the notice of election.

We need St. John's members who are willing to serve on the Nominating Committee as well as stand for election to the Vestry. God may be calling you to step forward and serve at this time. I ask you to prayerfully consider these opportunities, and if the Holy Spirit is stirring your heart, please talk to Fr. Joe or call the church office at 261-2355.

It's an exciting time to be in leadership at St. John's as we continue to experience numerical, spiritual and relational growth. Please keep this important process in your prayers over the coming days and God Bless You! ☐

Fr. Joe Maiocco



St. John's Architects ... designers of our spiritual home

As we reach the conclusion of our three-phase remodeling project, it's timely to look back at the men who designed our parish's buildings.

Walter "Walt" L. Keller, AIA (1931-2001), a native of Illinois, was one of Naples' foremost architects during the 70s and 80s. His offices were on the second floor of a retail shop on Third Street South. He positioned his drafting table by the window to capture good, natural lighting. Shoppers could frequently look up and see Walt at work.

In 1970, Walt was contracted to design and oversee the construction of our Sanctuary building that was built and dedicated in 1971.

In 1978, Walt completed plans for our Parish Hall with groundbreaking in 1979 and dedication in 1981.

Some of his other projects included The Village on Venetian Bay, The Plaza on Third Street S., Neapolitan Way Shopping Center and the Naples Bath & Tennis Club.

Walt served as president of the Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce and chair of the Naples Board of Appeals among many other civic endeavors.

Robert "Bob" E. Forsythe, AIA (1924-2014), a native of Ohio, designed our Brewster Hall building in 1986. Ground was broken in 1987 and dedication took place in 1988.

He left his mark on Naples in other special ways, too ... the Naples Philharmonic (now Artis-Naples), Naples Depot and the former Naples Daily News buildings. In Ft. Myers, he designed the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall.

Bob served on many civic boards and as president of the North Naples Rotary and the Collier County YMCA.

St. John's is blessed to have had two such upstanding, talented architects create our Spiritual Home in Naples.



Bob Geroy
Parish Historian



Watch for our new Worship Song book

A new Worship Song book will soon grace the pews of St John's — a beautiful book designed to enhance each Sunday service.

For months, the Song Book Committee has received suggestions from the congregation to be included in this volume. They have mulled over many lists, listened to songs, and considered those that would certainly help sing praises to the Lord.

In an effort to create more space in the bulletin, songs whose lyrics were previously printed have been included. Copyright and licensing issues also arose and had to be addressed, causing the omission of some of our favorites.

A definite project of love, it is the hope of the committee that this new song book will allow our congregation to lift their voices in praise and worship.

The committee consisted of Fr. Joe, Glenn Saffran, Lynne Kearns, Linda Smith, and Bonnie Schlichting. □

Linda Smith

A tale of two cities, two churches and one little boy named Luis

I was blind but now I see!
John 9:25 (NIV)

It is Thursday evening and people are gathering for worship in a new place. There are children and mothers, all dressed in Sunday best and one or two men, also in their Sunday best.

There are not enough chairs for everyone to sit. Books are passed out — Books of Common Prayer. It is a familiar place in a foreign land.

Everyone is happy and very friendly. One of us does not speak their language at all. Most of them do not speak our language.

The opening hymn has a familiar tune. Service begins. It is a joyous occasion. The Padre comes to his sermon, which seems to be a bit long for three or four of the children sitting in the front row.

Two were sharing a seat, squirming a little. One, a boy, had his prayer book open as if he was reading it. In the next moment, he turned his head toward me and looked at me. He was profoundly cross-eyed ... so cross-eyed that I gasped for him. I guessed he had been virtually blind his entire life as a result of this condition. He broke my heart.

The worship service continued, but I could think of nothing but this boy. I wondered where his parents were. I wondered if we could pray for him.

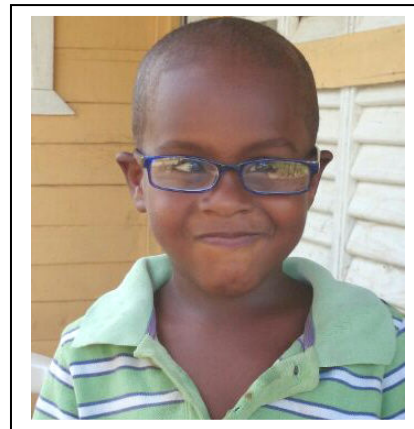
As the service concluded, people were talking and laughing; some were staying and many were leaving. The little boy was nowhere to be seen. I asked a leader, who could not speak my language well, if he knew the boy and if he could be brought back to church.

It amazed me that the boy and his mother were found and brought back. And we prayed for him. I half expected a miracle then. Jesus has healed the blind and His followers have, too. But at the end of prayers, I could see no difference in his eyes.

No words were spoken between us. No words were spoken with his mother.

We departed that land the next day. A word about the boy was exchanged. Can we help him? The church leader's answer was yes.

Since that day, over the course of a few weeks, the boy was brought to the nearest city with facilities. For them it was a six-hour journey ... round trip. He was given a diagnosis which was reviewed



by us and determined to possibly be treatable with glasses and, if necessary, a surgery could be performed.

Upon hearing this news, men here, in earnest prayer and with instant love, delivered the money needed for the glasses and more.

Pictures tell the rest of the story better than words. The little cross-eyed boy was blind, and now he sees.

Two churches, two people with no earthly connection - brought together by God, in God's time — each wondering at times why — and given the reason in the joy of witnessing signs and wonders of God's glory and grace when His people fall in love as He divined from before time eternal.

Thank God for Espiritu Consolador. Thank God for St. John's. Thank God for Luis. Thank God for His abundance and His glory! □

Editor's note: The witness and author of this article has asked to remain anonymous.

PARISHLIFE

St. John's Episcopal Church
500 Park Shore Drive
Naples, Florida 34103
Telephone: 261-2355

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S.
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PAID
Naples
Fla 34101
Permit No. 84

Thank you, Lord, for current resident or

CONTACTS YOU SHOULD KNOW

St. John's Episcopal Church

500 Park Shore Dr., Naples, FL 34103
Ph: 239-261-2355 FAX: 239-261-2591

Office Hours: Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

After Hours Emergency:

(Rector 239-216-2333)

Clergy: The Rev. Joseph F. Maiocco, III
E-Mail: Clergy@stjohnsnaples.com

Secretary: Ann Witmer
E-Mail: ParishSecretary@stjohnsnaples.com

Treasurer: George Baitis
E-mail: Treasurer@stjohnsnaples.com

Music Director: Glenn Saffran
E-mail: MusicDirector@stjohnsnaples.com

Interim Youth Director: Barbara Johnson

Parishlife Editor: Kay Geroy
E-Mail: kay-geroy@mindspring.com

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St. John's: www.stjohnsnaples.com
Diocese: www.episcopalswfl.org

St. John's Webmaster: Glenn Saffran
239-261-2355, ext. 6

Parish Historian: Bob Geroy

Intercessory Prayer Chain Requests:

Pat Mills 230-596-8890

2014 Vestry:

Sr. Warden: Peter Zimmermann

Jr. Warden: Mike Johnson

Treasurer: George Baitis

Clerk to the Vestry: Ann Witmer

Members: Sue Boujoukos, Fran Disselhorst,
Gary Jarrell, Bonnie Schlichting, Nevin
Souers, Linda Smith, Jack Wert

Ministries: Worship, Fellowship,
Discipleship, Outreach

St. John's Shoppe for Upscale Thrift

886 110th Ave., N., Naples FL 34108

Ph: 239-597-9518

Hrs: Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Website: www.stjohnsshoppe.com

Shoppe Board of Directors:

Chairperson: Pat Costa

Vice-Chairperson: Beverly Herr

Secretary: Diane Coen

Treasurer: Barbara Bongard

Members-at-large: Lisa Kupcunas, Myra
Tutwiler, Jean Morley

Manager: Sharon Marceau

Vestry Liaison to Shoppe: Sue Boujoukos



Baptisms:

Hunter William Nix
August 14, 2014

Deaths:

Jean P. Hollis
August 4, 2014

Virginia B. Elliott
(Ginny)

September 13, 2014

*Please inform Parish
Secretary Ann Witmer of
any additions or correc-
tions. (261-2355 Ext. 4)*

Deadline for November Parishlife: Noon, Friday, October 24