

PARISHLIFE

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



Volume 31, Issue 2
February 2015

LOVE IS PATIENT

Love is kind

**Love is not
jealous or
boastful**

**IT IS NOT
ARROGANT
OR RUDE**

**Love does not
insist on
its own way**

***IT IS NOT
IRRITABLE OR
RESENTFUL***

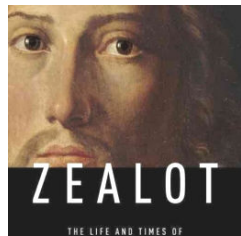
LOVE BEARS ALL THINGS

Believes all things

HOPES ALL THINGS

**Endures
all things**

LOVE NEVER ENDS



Finish the read and join
us for Spirit Alive's

Annual Book Discussion

**Thursday
February 19**

**9 a.m. – 11 a.m.
in Sugden Hall**

Don't miss this year's
spirited discussion of
the best-seller and
controversial

***Zealot:
The Life and Times of
Jesus of Nazareth***
by Reza Aslan



As you can see, St. John's had another fantastic year. Our revenues were nearly \$52,000 above expectations and our expenses were below budget giving us a Net Operating Total of more than \$123,000 to the good.

Nearly every pledge has been satisfied for Operating as well as Restoration. Currently, we are preparing for another audit which we should easily handle with the invaluable help of our Church Accountant, Randy Stewart and the leadership of Russ Gowland and the Finance & Property Committee. □

George Baitis, Treasurer

| | Year-to-date December | Budget Year to Date | Over (un- der) Budget | Annual Budget |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| Revenues: | | | | |
| Pledges | \$430,362 | \$420,000 | \$10,362 | \$420,000 |
| Non-pledged | 266,344 | 225,000 | 41,344 | 225,000 |
| Other | 2,282 | 2,000 | 282 | 2,000 |
| Total Revenues | \$698,988 | \$647,000 | \$51,988 | \$647,000 |
| | | | | |
| Expenses: | | | | |
| Salaries & benefits | \$292,463 | \$274,728 | \$17,735 | \$274,728 |
| Church facilities | 52,410 | 144,954 | (92,544) | 144,954 |
| Utilities | 19,809 | 19,800 | 9 | 19,800 |
| Administration | 117,822 | 119,814 | (1,992) | 119,814 |
| Ministries & Committees | 93,256 | 87,704 | 5,552 | 87,704 |
| Total Expenses | \$575,760 | \$647,000 | (\$71,240) | \$647,000 |
| | | | | |
| Net Operating Total | \$123,228 | \$0 | \$123,228 | \$0 |

CELEBRATE

As he stepped down onto the surface of the moon, jumping from the final step of the lunar module that had traveled 240,000 miles in 76 hours, Neil Armstrong proclaimed "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind." In that magical moment, time stood still at the beauty of it all, but celebration soon followed at Mission Control, in homes, stores and wherever people were gathered because, for the first time, a human being had set foot on another celestial body.

Celebrations are important moments in our lives when we take time to rejoice with family and friends. They usually mark special occasions like weddings, graduations or birthdays and involve planning, wonderful decorations, fantastic food and special people rejoicing in their dream moment. These parties vary in size, location and cost, but the level of joyful celebration has no limit.

Jesus, by the way, performed his first miracle at a wedding in Cana of Galilee. During the celebration, the hosts ran out of wine. Mary, the mother of Jesus, let him know about this and told the stewards of the party to "do what he tells you." There were six stone jars filled with water and Jesus directed the chief steward to drink a sample from one of them. The

chief steward ended up commending the hosts for saving the best wine for last!

Are you taking time and making the effort to celebrate the special moments of your life and those around you? Please take time to joyfully experience the various blessings in your life, because when you do, lives are touched and changed forever. Celebrations enable us to see life in completion, marking important achievements with festive occasions that hallmark the event.

Joy, laughter, smiles, bright colors, wonderful food and time spent with one another are all **Tastes of Heaven on Earth.**

I'm celebrating in February because it marks St. John's 44th Anniversary of ministry in Naples and the world, as well as the completion of seven years of restoring our beautiful, award-winning campus.

I Celebrate ...

■ **44 Years of Ministry:** Thousands of lives have been touched in Naples and throughout the world. As we *Embrace God, Love our Neighbor and Serve the World*, many more lives will be transformed.

■ **God's vision for us seven years ago:** *"The Lord inspired them to rebuild his house."*



(Hag. 1:14). After 37 years and things breaking down soon after my arrival, it was time to restore the house of the Lord.

■ **Quality work at a great price:** This work began during the "Great Recession", and with many contractors needing work, we got great workers at a great price. Seeking to improve the St. John's campus for the next 37 years, we completely updated the campus interior, exterior and technology. Quality and innovation were recognized with awards and people continue to tour our facility as an example of best practices. Many St. John's members working numerous hours made this happen!

■ **Debt Free:** This was one of my goals from the start. No Assistant Rector for approximately seven years and streamlining staff and budget resulted in \$823,500 in savings. Gifts from St. John's members and use of reserve funds have resulted in a \$2.1 million project completed DEBT FREE. Through generous giving and wise stewardship, reserves have been replenished to meet future needs. ✚

**I CELEBRATE
OUR LORD AND
YOU!**



Yumi Hubbard & Beatie Rimsky

Two retire from St. John's Altar Guild

"As I come into the quiet of Your house, help me to quiet my soul that I may spend this time of preparation with You, help me to make every act an act of worship."

-Kathy Pennypacker 1989 Prayer of an Altar Guild Member.

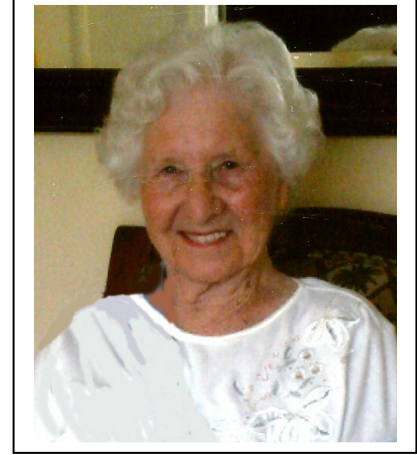
That is what Altar Guild is all about: A ministry which is shared with a group of women working together under the direction of our Rector. Although the responsibilities are many, guild members focus not only on what we do for St. John's church, but above all, it is sacred work for our Savior Jesus Christ.

Preparing and maintaining the altar and chancel for all services include worship, memorials, funerals, ordinations, baptisms, weddings, confirmations and holy days. Seasonal hangings and decoration of the church require ordering appropriate flowers for Lent, Holy Week, Easter, Advent, Christmas and special occasions.

I am sad to report that, at the close of 2014, two of our long time members retired. Beatie Rimsky has served this ministry for thirty years and Yumi Hubbard for forty-two years. They will carry with them wonderful memories of the laughs, luncheons and fun times we have shared as we worked side-by-side over the years.

On behalf of the Altar Guild, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, Beatie and Yumi, for the many hours you have spent lovingly preparing a meal for our Lord. God Bless You. ☐

Bettv Kirtlev. Directress



Bea Reid celebrates 100th birthday

Family members and friends gathered at Bea Reid's home in Arbor Trace to help her celebrate her 100th birthday on January 6.

A long-time member of St. John's, Bea is a native of Bath, England and one of eight children — all born into the Church of England. She married David Reid in 1935 and moved to Chelmsford, Essex, a suburb of London, where they survived many German Air Raids during World War II.

Two daughters, Pauline and Pamela (now deceased) were born in England. In 1954, the family moved to the U.S.A., became citizens and lived in Philadelphia where David was C.E.O. of the Weidemann Manufacturing Corporation. Son Colin was born in Doylestown, PA.

David passed away in 1979 and Bea moved to Naples in 1989, joining St. John's. She was a Thrift Shoppe volunteer for many years and led production of marmalade-making for the parish. A talented artist, her home is decorated with many landscape paintings in oils and watercolors (many of English scenes).

Congratulations and God bless, Bea! ☐



Holocaust Museum thought-provoking for St. John's Spirit Alive participants

The first Spirit Alive event for the 2015 season was a trip to the Holocaust Museum of Southwest Florida on Thursday, January 22. A group of twenty-eight met at the museum to recall and further their knowledge of the events leading up to the actual Holocaust and the aftermath. Mr. Sy Stadtmauer, our group leader, gave us valuable insights and facts during that period of history and his insights and details proved to be very enlightening to the historical, emotional, and political events during that dark period of world history. One most interesting concept was how personal friends to the world leaders watched the persecution of Jews and did nothing to help. His presentation was interesting and thought-provoking as we reflect on the world today.

Following lunch, we had a touching presentation by Holocaust survivor, Sabine VanDam. She told us how things changed very slowly after the Nazis took over. They first took away their cars, then their bikes, then the radios, etc. She spoke of her family's flight from the Nazis in Germany, through Denmark to Belgium, before they were captured. She spoke of her fear and hardships and her father's desire to save the family. Her presentation ranged from funny to sad, but there was always their will to survive. She was entertaining and moving.

One wonders how we would have reacted to the events that lead to the Holocaust, or if we would have been victims of the Holocaust. It was a stimulating two hours, and I would recommend to others a trip to the museum. □

Don Esterline



The Psalms tell us much of what the believers felt about their relationship and feelings in regard to God.

One example of stilling our minds to be in His presence is written about in Psalm 4:4: *"When you are disturbed, do not sin: Ponder it on your beds, and be silent. Selah"* NRSV or *"When you are on your beds, search your hearts and be silent. Selah"* NIV

Centering Prayer encourages you to find a quiet space where you can BE alone with the Lord in your heart, not in your mind. Moses went into the wilderness to be with God. Silence allows us to open up to the Spirit and let it flow through us. When we are disturbed or angry, we are stressed. However, when we calm ourselves and quiet our bodies and minds, we find a peace that pauses or overrides those stresses.

You are always invited to BE STILL with us as we center on Wednesdays at 9 a.m. in the Prayer Room. □

Katy Esterline

St. John's parish has cause for celebration and preparation

With the completion of the building and grounds restoration and renovation, we have much to celebrate. The faith God placed in us, and we placed in God, has produced fruit of the Holy Spirit to be evident in us and through us. People coming to St. John's for the first time, or for years, smile and relish in the holiness of the place. Following the recent 24-hour prayer vigil, people in every group were heard to say words like "can you feel the power of the Holy Spirit in this place and with us?" That weekend, worship services and Fr. Joe's sermons were powerfully made through the love of God. Hard to miss the love — love flowing like a river!

So, as we take time this year to celebrate, let us also continue in prayer, discerning God's "next step" for us to take with Him. If St. John's is a Holy place, as we believe it is, then is it a place to continue being attractive to people seeking truth and direction, people who are hungering for *something* and have yet to hear the gospel?

Consider that God has been preparing us and this place for that *something*. We are an inviting people — people of holy hospitality — reflecting the love of God by sharing the love and joy we receive from Him through the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is poised to receive us and our guests with grace — the people who see us being overjoyed and say "yes" when we say "would you like to join me this weekend at St. John's?"

Thank you for the blessing of acceptance and trust you have given everyone who guided the restoration and renovation of property. Everyone has been generous beyond what could have been imagined. God's magnificent glory is playing out through our generosity of hospitality to all the newcomers who accept our invitation to meet Jesus and come to know His transforming love. □

Mike Johnson, Jr. Warden

Words from the Senior Warden



In December, Father Joe preached a sermon about the Holy Spirit. During his address, Father Joe spoke about the need for us to consider the Holy Spirit as a friend, someone we can talk to, a powerful entity that can and will listen to our prayers, a healer.

I am used to praying to God and our Lord Jesus Christ, but, I must admit, I sort of leave the Holy Spirit out of my prayers. Father Joe's sermon gave me pause to think about the Holy Spirit in my life. I can think of two distinct occasions when I have felt the Spirit's presence. I wrote about one of them in an earlier Senior Warden article in our parish newsletter. It had to do with my mother who was going through surgery and the Spirit told me she was going to be all right....not that she would necessarily live, but that she was going to be fine. It was a powerful moment. The second time was when I was recovering from eye surgery and I felt the Spirit's hand covering the injured eye in a most extraordinary healing way while I slept. Yes, it might have been my own hand, but what if it wasn't? I would rather believe it was the Holy Spirit and I am sticking to my guns.

Anyway, subsequent to the sermon, I began to think more about the Holy Spirit in other ways. I have been going to church my entire life. There was always a "something" that drew me to attending church and, especially, the Eucharist. So, for me the Holy Spirit was a magnet, knowing that I needed something to draw me to be in the presence of other Christians celebrating God and Jesus. The Holy Spirit just kind of sat in the background waiting for me to realize how important that He was, too.

(Continued on back page)



Richard Clapp



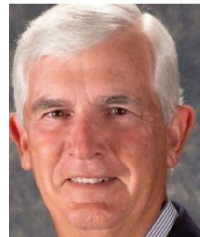
Robert Matthews



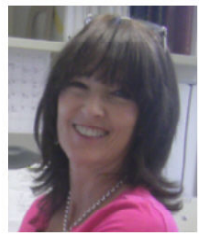
Mike Johnson
Sr. Warden



Sue Boujoukos
Jr. Warden



Peter Zimmermann
Treasurer



Ann Witmer
Clerk

Parish elects two to Vestry and a new Treasurer at Annual Meeting

A crowded Sugden Hall enjoyed the potluck supper, which preceded the Annual Meeting on January 26. Reports from the various ministries and a “state of the parish” overview were presented.

Nevin Souers, Bonnie Schlichting and George Baitis, having completed their Vestry terms, were honored for their services.

Richard Clapp and Bob Matthews were both elected to Vestry for three-year terms beginning 2015 and Peter Zimmermann was elected Parish Treasurer. .

Following the Annual Meeting, the new Vestry held a brief organizational meeting at which the rector appointed Mike Johnson Senior Warden. The Vestry then elected Sue Boujoukos Junior Warden; Ann Witmer, Clerk to the Vestry.

The Thrift Shoppe Board for 2015 consists of: Pat Costa, Chairperson; Myra Tutwiler, Vice-Chairperson/Sect’y; Barbara Bongard, Treasurer; Jean Morley, Volunteer Recruiting; Richard Clapp, Vestry Liaison; Sue Boujoukos, Outreach Partnering; Lisa Kupcunas, Member-at-Large and Sharon Marceau, Manager. □

Bravo Tutti !

Opera comes to Sugden Hall

MADAMA BUTTERFLY

Two Wednesday Evenings

7 p.m.

February 4 and 11

**Come enjoy the Metropolitan Opera
production of Puccini’s masterpiece !**

Hosted by Glenn Saffran

St. John’s Music Director





Be Our Valentine

Volunteer at St. John's Shoppe for Upscale Thrift

February brings Valentine's Day and gifts of love. St. John's Shoppe is asking you to "Be Our Valentine!" Won't you please take time to reflect on your many blessings and consider the "gift of giving" as your Valentine gift this year? With the Shoppe's pending move to a new location, we have many ways for you to Share the Love" which ultimately brings the gift of support to our parish's Outreach charities.

All Shoppe net proceeds are given to local charities in Collier County through the Outreach Ministry of St. John's. In our thirty-year history, over \$2,500,000 has been generated by the Shoppe to provide funds for those in need.

How can you help? BECOME A VOLUNTEER for a half-day or full day. We welcome and value all loving hands. We are in the midst of full season with a full house of customers and donations, plus much work is going into preparing for our move to the new location. As a result, we never catch up on the needed tasks of the day such as customer service on the sales floor; sorting and pricing donations; and even ironing or steaming the exquisite boutique clothing that will bring top dollar when freshened and sold.

If you know how to test and repair lamps, computers, TVs, cameras, small appliances, and technical gadgets, we can use your help, too. With the Shoppe's move around the corner, we really need your help during this busy season.

Come see for yourself how volunteering feeds the soul like nothing else. Share in the excitement of our pending move and ...don't forget us with your donations this season — especially furniture, which boosts our daily sales considerably, and home accessories. We will have lots of space for your gently used furniture in our new location.

Please call Jean Morley at (239)649-8282 or contact any member of the Shoppe Board if you can volunteer to help us. In the meantime, visit, volunteer, donate and shop with us at 885 110th Avenue North. Shoppe hours are Monday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. □

Shoppe firms up moving schedule to new location

St. John's Shoppe has received Collier County permits for the build-out of our new location. Construction will begin January 21 and take approximately six weeks.

We hope to be moved and in operation by early March with a Grand Opening around March 15.

The new site is: Tamiami Square Shopping Center, 14700 Tamiami Trail, North. This is approximately two miles north of the intersection of Immokalee Rd. and US 41 just past the turn off for Old 41 on the east side of Tamiami Trail across from Bentley Village.

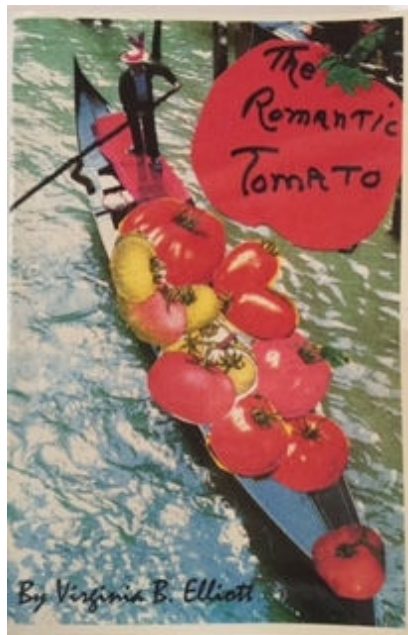
Please watch for emails, bulletins, or e-news for the date on which we will begin to accept donations "only" at the new address. We are excited and hope you will keep us in your prayers as we go through this transition into the future.



Myra Tutwiler

Shoppe now accepting credit and debit cards

We are now accepting MasterCard and Visa debit and credit cards. Call 597-9518 for more information. □



Celebrate February with a copy of Ginnie Elliot 's *The Romantic Tomato*

Several copies of the book *The Romantic Tomato* by late parishioner, Virginia Elliot, will be available at the coffee hour between the 9 and 11:15 a.m. services during February.

The Romantic Tomato is a light-hearted offering of a brief history of the tomato, basic rules for their care and dozens of recipes from sauce to bouillabaisse. Her "laid back, easy way" recipes were inspired by trips to romantic cities abroad as well as by her Ohio grandmother.

Virginia Elliott was an author with a sense of humor whose articles, essays, poetry and fiction were published in various national magazines.

Pick up a copy at the coffee hour to enjoy and in remembrance of one of our beloved members. ☐

Colleen Spangler, Librarian



DEATHS:

Grace Mayer 01/20/15

TRANSFERS OUT:

Kenneth & Catherine
Latimer

MARRIAGES:

Sabrina Moscatiello
& Revo DiFranco
1/3/2015

*Please notify the Parish Secretary
of any additions or corrections*

Assistant Rector begins March 1

Fr. Joe Maiocco has called Fr. Christian Maxfield to be the St. John's new Assistant Rector, beginning March 1, 2015.

Fr. Christian will be responsible for youth and family ministry, as well as other priestly duties.

Currently serving as Rector of two small Wisconsin parishes, he has extensive youth ministry experience. He and wife, Kate, are currently in the process of adoption.

Please keep this exciting step in your prayers. ☐



"Stitches of Love" is a place for all who sew or knit

The "Stitches of Love" group continue to meet regularly on the first and third Friday of each month at 10 a.m. in Brewster Hall. All who knit or sew are welcome to join us in this rewarding ministry.

We are all saddened by the sudden loss of Grace Mayer, one of our most faithful members. Grace was the driving force behind the ministry of the beautiful knitted newborn baby caps. As Linda Smith said, "The legacy she has left behind with so many baby heads covered in knitted love will never be forgotten."

Stitches' seamstresses have been busy creating little girls' simple cotton dresses for the Sisters of Charity (Mother Theresa's order) in Les Cayes, Haitai. The Sisters run a hospital there and also address the needs of hundreds of people in the area. The dresses are distributed to impoverished families as well as orphans in their care. ☐

Bonnie Schlichting

PARISHLIFE

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500 Park Shore Drive
Naples, Florida 34103
Telephone: 261-2355

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

Thank you, Lord, for current resident or

CONTACTS YOU SHOULD KNOW

St. John's Episcopal Church

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Ph: 239-261-2355 FAX: 239-261-2591

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After Hours Emergency:

(Rector 239-216-2333)

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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

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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 239-596-8890

2015 Vestry:

Sr. Warden: Mike Johnson

Jr. Warden: Sue Boujoukos

Treasurer: Peter Zimmermann

Clerk to the Vestry: Ann Witmer

Members: Richard Clapp, Fran Disselhorst,
Gary Jarrell, Robert Matthews, 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/Secretary: Myra Tutwiler

Treasurer: Barbara Bongard

Volunteer Recruiting: Jean Morley

Vestry Liaison: Richard Clapp

Outreach partnering: Sue Boujoukos

Member-at-Large: Lisa Kupcunas

Manager: Sharon Marceau

(Sr. Warden, Continued)

Mary and I were talking about this one evening over, of all things, cocktails. (And, why not?) She told me her Catholic upbringing taught her that God is all-powerful, Christ is all-loving and the Holy Spirit is all-knowing. What a wonderful thought! So, now we have a Holy Spirit that is a magnet and wise. How many more attributes can you think of to describe the Holy Spirit in your lives. I bet the list will be longer than you imagine. It's a great exercise. Give it a try. You might find you have just found a wonderful and powerful friend with whom you can talk and pray to your heart's content. □

Peter Zimmermann
2014 Sr. Warden

Deadline for March Parishlife: Noon, Friday, February 20 .