

# PARISHLIFE

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



Volume 31, Issue3  
March 2015



## KEEP THE LOVE IN LENT



## Four-session study begins Wednesday, March 4 at 6 p.m.



St. John's Lenten Series will be held for four consecutive Wednesday evenings and will begin with soup and bread in Sugden Hall.

This will be a four-session video study of *Epic: The Story God is Telling* by Master Story Teller John Eldredge with small group discussions.

One on-line review describes Epic as follows: "Life, for most of us, feels like a movie we've arrived to forty minutes late. Sure, good things happen, sometimes beautiful things. But tragic things happen, too. What does it mean? We find ourselves in the middle of a story that is sometimes wonderful, sometimes awful, usually a confusing mixture of both, and we haven't a clue how to make sense of it all. No wonder we keep losing heart. We need to know the rest of the story. For when we were born, we were born into the midst of a great story begun before the dawn of time. A story of adventure, of risk and loss, heroism, ... and betrayal. A story where good is warring against evil, danger lurks around every corner, and glorious deeds wait to be done. Think of all those stories you've ever loved--there's a reason they stirred your heart. They've been trying to tell you about the true Epic ever since you were young. There is a Larger Story. And you have a crucial role to play."

Please enrich your Lenten experience and come for as many sessions as you can. □



## The Rev. Christian Maxfield, well prepared for Assistant Rector post

I grew up in Elgin, IL, a northwest suburb of Chicago, and received my undergraduate degree in youth ministry and adolescent studies from Judson College. The Episcopal Church became home for my now-wife, Kate, and me when I began an internship with the youth ministry department of St. Mark's, Geneva, IL. Kate and I were married at St. Mark's several years later and while there discerned a call to the priesthood.

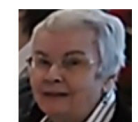
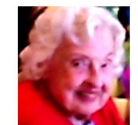
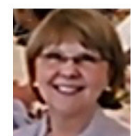
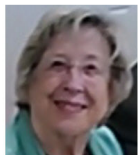
I attended and received my Master of Divinity degree from Nashotah House Seminary in Wisconsin in 2007. I then began my ordained ministry, serving for three and a half years as Assistant to the Dean for Youth, Young Adult and Family Ministries at St. Paul's Cathedral, Peoria, IL. I have been serving in southwestern Wisconsin as Rector and Priest-in-Charge of two small parishes for the past four and a half years, prior to the call to serve St. John's, Naples.

Kate and I are excited to begin this new call in ministry serving the parish of St. John's, and we look forward to getting to know you and walking forward in ministry with you, to the glory of God.

While it is difficult for me to hang up my snowboard and snowshoes, I am really looking forward to experiencing sunny, warm-weather activities like fishing, golf, skim boarding and walking the Gulf beaches with Kate and our dog, Gracey. ✚

Fr. Christian





## Belonging

Relationships are at the heart of the universe, being mirrored in the Trinity of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. When humanity was created in the Garden of Eden, God, man and woman had a pristine relationship of fellowship, with walks in the garden, naming the new creation and enjoying perfect union with one another. It truly was Paradise!

The redeeming work of Jesus is an invitation back to paradise as His body lives out loving and merciful relationships with the Trinity and one another. "You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ" (I Pt.2:5). These spiritual sacrifices include worship, prayer and love in action.

That's why when someone chooses to belong to a church, it's such an important decision. God places each "living stone" (that would be you) in a particular place to express yourself spiritually, share your gifts, worship and celebrate life! Your choice of place begins a new journey for you, full of blessings and challenges, in the new faith community.

I'm grateful for every person who calls St. John's their spiritual home. Each of you bring so much to our life together. As we share the spiritual journey, I give thanks and invite all of us to deeper relationships as we Embrace God, Love Our Neighbor and Serve the World!

By the way, a person's relationship with St. John's is determined by them and includes:

**Baptized Member:** All persons who have been baptized in a Christian church and whose baptisms are recorded at St. John's are members. Recorded means you have given us your baptismal date and requested we record you as baptized members.

**Active Communicant:** All individuals who have received Holy Communion in this parish at least three times during the preceding year, who have been faithful in corporate worship, prayer, ministry and financial giving, are considered active communicants in good standing.

**Winter Residents:** All persons who spend a portion of the year in Naples, and who attend St. John's regularly, but don't wish to be considered full members.

**At Home:** Those persons confined to home or nursing home due to age or health, but wish to receive communion, pastoral care visits and be part of the St. John's family.

**Email Only:** Those who wish to receive our email updates.

**I welcome the opportunity to talk with anyone about St. John's and our LIFE TOGETHER.**







## Luncheon a three-way parish celebration

With the visit of our Bishop Dabney Smith in place, St. John's decided to have a party. And what a celebration it was! There was no question that the Holy Spirit was amongst us; everyone left the gathering truly uplifted by all of the goings on.

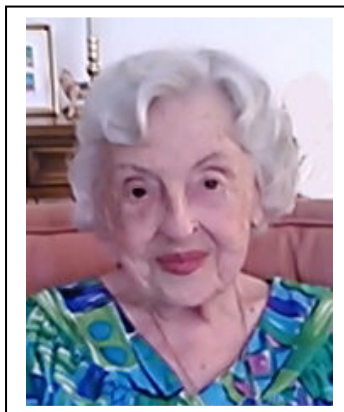
The Sunday reception took place in Sugden Hall February 1, following the 11:15 service. Through the efforts of Fr. Joe, Eva Sugden Gomez and her children attended as our special guests. While feasting on a lovely catered meal, a Powerpoint show ran and we were able to follow our 44-year history, along with the ongoing renovation work.

During the program following the meal, we were entertained with an in-depth history of our beloved church by Bob Geroy, our Parish Historian. Following his presentation, recognition was given to those longest and newest members — quite an age span!

In conclusion, Mike Johnson spoke to the preservation, restoration and the countless hours put in by our members these past seven years. We were successful in getting quality work at a great price.

Fr. Joe also shared with us that St. John's remains debt-free. Through generous giving and wise stewardship, St. John's reserves used have been replenished to meet future needs. □

Sue Boujoukos  
Jr. Warden



## Frankie Straw — 100 years young

Frances "Frankie" McCraney Straw, born March 12, 1915, describes her life in a brief phrase: "Hatched, matched, not quite dispatched."

This energetic, healthy, bright lady was born in a jail house! Her grandfather served as Sheriff of Bradford County in north central Pennsylvania. The two-story building, in Towanda, had an apartment in which the family lived. She was an only child.

Frankie graduated from Syracuse University with a degree in art but, with the advent of WWII, she joined the WAVES (Women Accepted for Voluntary Emergency Service), a division of the U.S. Navy (est. 1942) and, during her service, attained the rank of Lieutenant.

One of her assignments was with Naval Security in Washington, DC where she met Lt. Byron Straw, a 6'3" officer serving in the same branch.

They married in March 1950 and, following the war, continued to serve their country in the Armed Forces Security Agency (AFSA) office at Arlington, VA (later to become NSA).

Retiring in 1970, they found Naples and built a home on Bow Line Drive in the Moorings. They also discovered St. John's Church which, at the time, was completing construction of the Sanctuary building and meeting in temporary locations. When Byron died in 1989, Frankie became the first occupant of the Colonade, directly behind St. John's, and still resides there. She was very active in our Altar Guild for many years and used to maintain the garden that surrounded the church's sign at the corner.

Blessings, Frankie, from your Parish Family. We love you! □

Bob Geroy, Parish Historian

Below is a summary financial statement of the Church's operations for 2014, which are subject to audit, compared to the budget for 2015. The financial success of 2014 is due to two principal factors: the continued generosity of our parishioners and management control over expenses. The combination of these two factors enabled St. John's to post a positive operating result of \$123,229, which will go a long way to restore the reserves consumed by the Restoration Project.



St. John's Episcopal Church - Naples FINANCIAL REPORT		
	Year ended December 31, 2014 (Unaudited)	Budget 2015
<b>Revenues:</b>		
Pledges	\$430,362	\$420,000
Non-pledged	266,344	252,548
Other	2,282	2,000
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>698,988</b>	<b>674,548</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Salaries & Benefits	292,464	342,780
Church Facilities	52,409	89,700
Utilities	19,809	24,800
Administration	117,822	122,628
Ministries & Committees	93,255	94,640
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>575,759</b>	<b>674,548</b>
<b>Net Operating Total</b>	<b>\$123,239</b>	<b>\$0</b>

The budget for 2015 reflects two principal changes in our costs: the addition of the Associated Rector and an increase in landscaping costs arising from the addition of the beautiful gardens surrounding our church. □

Peter Zimmermann  
Treasurer



#### New Members:

David & Jacqueline Brooks  
Cynthia Benney  
Leonard & Kimberly Norman  
Rose Prescott

#### Deaths:

Margo Block February 25, 2015

*Please advise the Parish Secretary of any additions or corrections.*



Father Paul Feider spoke at length about centering and resting in the Spirit of The Lord during his February Healing Mission at St. John's. His book, *Resting in the Heart*, invites us into a deeper listening. Father Joe recently encouraged us to make sure we take time daily to feed our spirits, not just our bodies. According to Mark in Chapter 6:30, Jesus spoke to his apostles and said, "*Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.*"

We all need to have our spirits refilled and rest in our Lord. We invite you to join us in the Prayer Room on Wednesday mornings at 9 to "*Be still, and know that I am God.*" - Psalm 46:10. □

Katy Esterline

# St. John's Shoppe marching into the future with new location, logo lady image and updated name

We recently celebrated our Parish's completion of renovations and 44 years of St. John's ministry in Naples. Now let us take a step into the future and celebrate St. John's Shoppe, a 33-year old ministry which has given over \$2,500,000 to those in need in our community through St. John's Outreach. What better time than the month of March to "*March into the Future*" with a brand new location and look.

## Great new site and space

Our new site, Units 19-20 of Tamiami Square Shopping Center, 14700 Tamiami Trail, N. is just two miles north of Immokalee Rd. on Rt. 41. It will carry us well into the future with all new technology, credit card usage, a much-needed washer and dryer and a comfortable, clean work space. There are ample parking spaces and, a bright, spacious, colorful atmosphere for shopping or visiting.

## Move planned for no later than March 16

If inspections are passed, current plans are to move from our present location on March 8th, 9th, and 10th with an opening no later than Monday, March 16th. However, we are hoping to be organized enough to begin a "soft opening" on March 11th with help from many hands which includes so many of you from our Parish family. We are excited and hope you are too!

## None of this would be possible without you

We could never have accomplished any of this without the help and effort of so many of you. Since the concept of a new location began four years ago, God has been very good, leading us all along. We are forever thankful for your prayers, support, donations, and especially volunteering your time to this ministry. You have been, and are, our lifeline!



## Shoppe Board worked tirelessly on planning

Much gratitude goes to the Shoppe's Board of Directors for wrestling with growing pains and the frightening idea of a move after thirty years in the same location. We are especially grateful to current Chairperson Pat Costa, who worked tirelessly for the last year looking at properties, negotiating leases, and working with Shoppe Manager Sharon Marceau and the construction team in designing the new space. Special thanks to the Vestry, too, for their support through this transition.

## Outreach also partners helping with move

Also, our gratitude to volunteers from our Outreach partners, Habitat for Humanity and St. Matthew's House, who refitted some of our older display units and will help with the move. Many of you have donated to the purchase of new equipment, appliances, etc. for the new Shoppe and we appreciate your generosity as well. Truly, we treasure the St. John's family and your gifts of love for this Ministry – no matter how big or small.

## Ribbon-cutting will be March 24

The Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce will open our new location at noon, on Tuesday, March 24. Please come join us for this special event and march with us into a new beginning for this vital Ministry of St. John's Episcopal Church. □

Myra Tutwiler

# Words from Our Wardens

## 2015 SENIOR WARDEN MIKE JOHNSON:

Come and see... Those are the words Andrew said to his brother Peter when he saw Jesus and was certain He was the Messiah. Peter came, and the Gospel narratives record the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophets in the earthly divine life of Jesus Christ.

Be not afraid, I bring you peace... Those are the words often spoken by Jesus to his disciples — words necessary to hear and draw from, for both strength and comfort. It seems especially necessary to hear these days.

Keep watch... Are we observers of signs and wonders? Are we preparing for His coming again?

This Lenten season, when we seek to examine our life in Christ and deepen our relationship with Him and each other, my prayer for us is that we will invite people we know and strangers we meet to come and see.

I pray they will join us sinners in seeking redemption through repentant hearts and the grace of God, in prayer for our families, friends, city, nation and world.

I pray that, through our corporate prayer and worship, we draw on the strength of God to walk in love with certainty, having no fear, and that we are alert to God's signs and wonders, making disciples, and preparing for His coming again.

Let us go forth in the name of Jesus, the Messiah, to love and serve Him and shine His light in the world. □

## 2015 JUNIOR WARDEN SUE BOUJOUKOS:

Before coming to Naples twelve years ago, My husband, George, and I lived in the Northeast. We have been married over fifty years and have three grown children and eight grandchildren.

I have been involved with various church activities throughout my entire life, culminating in the recent election to the role of Junior Warden at St. John's.

While here, I have served as ECW President for a number of years, assisting in its annual fundraiser, *Art in the Afternoon*. I have chaired the Outreach Committee, and I have received a great deal of satisfaction working with its members in the annual selection of those Collier county charities where the needs are so needed.

With the Lord's continuing guidance and presence in my life, I would hope to do His work here in this blessed place known as St. John's.

Know that I am truly humbled by what lies ahead. □

**St. John's  
Order of St. Luke  
offers "Soaking Prayer"  
on Sundays at 10:15 a.m.  
and  
Wednesdays at noon.**

*Call Betty Dibiaso for an appointment  
at 203-313-1631*





## You're Invited!

**WHO:** Church Members and Friends

**WHAT:** Lenten Quiet Day

**WHEN:** March 25th, 2015

8:30 – 2:30 ish PM

**WHERE:** St. John's Spiritual Campus

### RESERVATIONS DEADLINE:

**FRIDAY NOON MARCH 20<sup>TH</sup>**

Your reservation made at the Church office (239) 261-2355) will be necessary for ordering lunches.

## Looking ahead to Quiet Day

Spirit Alive's Quiet Day is moving from Thursday to the Wednesday before Holy Week. Quiet Day will be a culminating of regular Wednesday's activities in a new refreshing configuration. The morning will begin with registration, praise and worship. Two hours of a variety of meditative activities have been planned. After lunch and a group picture, we will meet at the beach at Park Shore for our second annual Eucharist celebration on the shore of the Gulf.

We encourage you to bring a friend to share this special day with us and our Lord. ☐

Katy Esterline



## Controversial best-seller book fosters interesting discussion

The discussion of the best-selling and controversial book, *Zealot*, opened with introductions and a sharing of personal reactions to the book. A list was generated of words we use to describe Jesus, followed by words author Reza Aslan used to describe Jesus.

The enthusiastic group had a lively exchange concerning the motivation that led Aslan to his comparison of the historical Jesus and the spiritual Jesus.

Throughout the discussion, the group was personally challenged to compare and evaluate the book's premise and ideas of others at the discussion to their own personal points of view. Most would agree it was a diverse discussion where each could offer ideas that related to their own Biblical perspectives. Many shared thoughts from previous authors' works that added additional interest to the conversation.

A couple of closing remarks summed it up well. We are all on our own spiritual paths. We benefit from discussions and relationships with other Christians like those during this discussion, as well as needing a close relationship with the Lord, to keep our faith foundation firm. ☐

Don Esterline & Colleen Spangler

***Spirit Alive is asking St. John's members to submit suggested books for next year's book discussion to:***  
***katyesterline@gmail.com***

# PARISHLIFE

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

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S.  
POSTAGE  
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.-5 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

### Websites:

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 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

886 110<sup>th</sup> 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



**Maundy Thursday, April 2**

7:00 p.m.: Foot Washing

**Good Friday, April 3**

Noon: Stations of the Cross

**Easter Vigil, April 4**

5:00 p.m.

**Easter Celebration, April 5**

7:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m.

11:15 a.m.

\*Easter Egg Hunt at 10:30 a.m.

**Welcome Reception  
Coffee for the Maxfields  
Sunday March 1  
10:30 on the Patio**

**Deadline for April Parishlife: Noon, Friday, March 27 .**