

PARISHLIFE

The Newsletter of St. John's Episcopal Church



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To you is born this day
In the city of David a Savior,
Who is the Messiah, the Lord.

Luke 2:11

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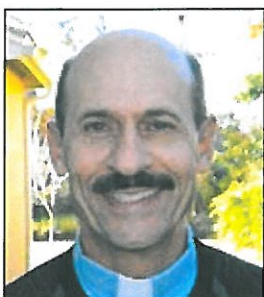
Christmas is one of my favorite seasons of the year. I enjoy the times of worship, gifts, food and family gatherings. Decorations of trees, lights and ornaments adorn homes, with unique family traditions abounding. Jesus' birth reminds us of God's loving gift of salvation and awesome message of hope.

This message of hope is portrayed in "The Nativity", a movie about Jesus' birth. In one scene, all is dark except the star shining brightly upon the baby Jesus, with Joseph, Mary, the shepherds and wise men all gathered around him. You can see how deeply each person is touched as they "Behold Him."

How might we BEHOLD HIM? Be with Jesus daily in the Bible and prayer, ask the Father to embrace you in his love, seek the Holy Spirit's grace to be touched by the radiance of this holy child, and be open to seeing him in others. Then affirm this promise: "Ask and it will be given you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened."

As we do this, we will affirm that Christmas is a celebration of his light! Let us enjoy the gifts, food, parties and people, while treasuring the light of love, grace and mercy that radiates from Jesus and his people. As we behold him we will be filled with light.

BEHOLD HIM AND BE TRANSFORMED!



**Christmas Eve services will be
Sunday (12/24) at 5pm & 9pm
and Christmas Day service
Monday (12/25) will be at
10am.**



Christmas Came Early for St. Matthew's House and Harry Chapin Food Bank via St. John's Challenge Grants of \$23,000. St. Matthew's House raised over \$71,760.70 for a total of \$94,760.70 and Harry Chapin Food Bank reached their \$500,000 goal, with an additional \$90,000 encouraged by St. John's.

Giving thanks for this great response and each person who gave so generously!

Testimony

I happened to be one of the many who attended the Open House this past Saturday (11/18) at St. John's Thrift Shoppe. Also attending was the priest from St. John's. At a certain point in the festivities, Fr. Joe asked us to join him in prayer. He requested that this event would bring great success and fill the "coffers" with generous donations. I heard at church the following day from Fr. Joe that our prayers were answered and the Open House was a grand success.

Moral here...when two are gathered, our prayers will be answered.

Anonymous Angel

Youth and Family Ministries



Celebrating a year of fun, friendships and growth!

Once a month at the 9 am service, the children begin with the adults in worship and are invited forward for the children's sermon, after which they are excused to have a follow-up teaching and activity in Sugden Hall. The children return at the peace for the remainder of the service.

On all other weekends, Sunday School for K - 5th grade begins in Sugden Hall at 9 am, where the children participate in our Godly Play curriculum involving an interactive story, craft and conversation.

For our junior and senior high school youth, we gather together on the 1st and 3rd Sundays, after the 11:15 service. All I have to say is food, fun games, laughter, fellowship and biblical teaching – all a recipe for good, clean fun and growing in our faith.

For our youngest children, we offer nursery care at the 9 and 11:15 Sunday services. Children 3 and under will enjoy this time of play and learning as parents relax a bit, knowing their children are in a godly, fun and safe atmosphere.

Upcoming activities and dates to remember:

Dec 3 – Join us for Choral Evensong at 5 pm.

Dec 10 – Jr/Sr High Christmas Party at Fr. Christian's house, 2-4 pm (234 6th St, Bonita Springs). Bring a fun "White Elephant" present to exchange at our party. Remember, do not buy a gift, rather bring something fun or unusual from around the house. If it's not yours, ask first before you give it away. Bring a friend to join in our fun!

Our Jr and Sr High Students are also asked to Acolyte or Torch bear at our 11:15 service on the 1st Sunday of the month.

Dec 17 - Children's pageant. All ages of youth are invited to participate. Please arrive at 8:45am that Sunday morning to get dressed and ready - Your part is assigned and we will give more direction at that time.

Dec 24 - No Sunday School, No Youth Group

🎄 Merry Christmas

Dec 31 - No Sunday School, No Youth Group

🎄 Happy New Year

January 7 - Children's Sermon and 1st Communion Celebration at the 9 am service, followed by Youth Group after the 11:15 service.

January 14 – Regular Godly Play Sunday School resumes at the 9 am Sunday service.

Fr. Christian+



St. John's Shoppe



It's almost here....the wonderful season of Christmas, celebrating the birth of our Savior. It is a happy and yet solemn time for reflection on our many blessings. Christmas is time for hope, giving, and the renewal of spirit. As Father Joe reminds us, our world is in a changing and perilous time. Many of God's children need our help and prayers. Many local charities benefit from St. John's Shoppe's proceeds through our Parish's Outreach. Celebrate the "Gift of Giving" with us on Outreach Sunday, December 10 at the 9:00 AM service and hear the wonderful stories of how these grants help so many in our community.

*In this blessed season, we give thanks for your support....
your donations, purchases and your help as volunteers at St. John's Shoppe.*

*Wishing you the Gift of Faith, the Peace of Love,
and the Blessing of Hope in this Holiday Season and in the New Year!!*

St. John's Shoppe
Board of Directors

Announcing Expanded Hours.....

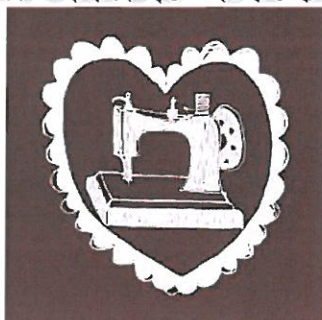
Beginning January 2, 2018, St. John's Shoppe will be open Monday through Saturday from 10 AM – 5 PM for your shopping pleasure. Please bring donations to the back door of the Shoppe from 10 AM – 4 PM.

Don't forget Donation pick up in the Church parking lot at the brick Storage shed on the first Wednesday of every month now through May.



*Please join us for Christmas Caroling at Heritage
Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center on Sunday
(12/10) at 1pm.
Located at 777 9th St. N
Naples, FL. 34102
No mittens or scarves required!*

Stitches of Love



Stitches is off and running! At our first meeting we were happy to see we'd all been busy this summer, with prayer shawls, baby caps, and cotton quilts coming in. The quilts have already gotten a special blessing at the noon Eucharist on November 15, so they might be put to immediate use at the Shelter for Abused Women.

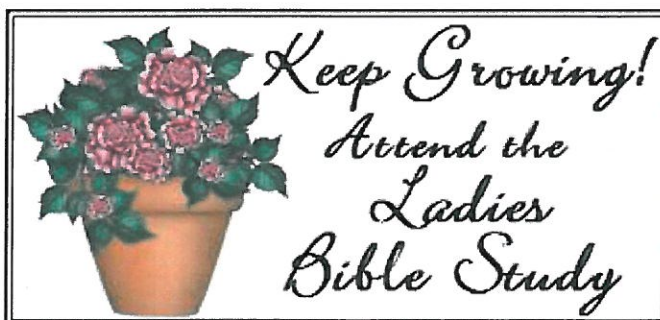
We are looking at several projects which lend themselves to an assembly line process during our meetings...and for these we can use some extra willing hands. We'd love to welcome new faces to help make these projects...come join us!

We also receive, on occasion, "leftovers" from projects done by others, and recently had donated some small pieces of wonderful cotton prints. We would welcome any donations of cotton fabrics that, if large enough, will make a toddler girl's dress or two. Smaller pieces are not wasted...they go into the quilts. So, if it's time, sewing ladies, to let go of your "stash", send it our way!

Stitches meets on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month in Brewster Hall. Come and see what we're up to!



Bonnie Schlichting



Come join us!! Women's Monday Morning Bible Study from 10-11am in Brewster Hall. All are welcome!

We are learning about the Acts of the Apostles and having fun too. See you there!

Jan Eveleigh



2018 News Article Deadlines

| Publication | Month of Publication | Deadline: Friday (3rd Fri/mo) |
|-------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Enews | January | 12/15/2017 |
| ParishLife | February | 1/19/2018 |
| Enews | March | 2/16/2018 |
| ParishLife | April | 3/16/2018 |
| Enews | May | 4/20/2018 |
| ParishLife | June | 5/18/2018 |
| Enews | July | 6/15/2018 |
| ParishLife | August | 7/20/2018 |
| Enews | September | 8/17/2018 |
| ParishLife | October | 9/21/2018 |
| Enews | November | 10/19/2018 |
| ParishLife | December | 11/16/2018 |

Please enter these dates on your calendar NOW.

Articles must be no longer than 300 words, submitted in MS Word or Excel formatting and any pictures must be submitted in .pdf or .jpeg file

Committee Nominates Three for 2018 Vestry

The Nominating Committee has announced three candidates for the 2018 Vestry: Arlene Austin, Richard Uihlein and Jack Wert. The three candidates will stand for election at the Annual Congregational Meeting to be held Tuesday, January 30, 2018 in Sugden Hall.



ARLENE AUSTIN

I moved to Naples from New York in 1983 when my parents bought a home here during a particularly cold, snowy winter. My stepbrother, Jr., and I decided to drive down to see

it. We both had 1 ½ hr. daily commutes to and from work in New York and were tired of shoveling snow and sliding on icy highways. (Back then, Fort Myers was an all day trip and parts of Alligator Alley were still gravel.) We drove a large moving truck (with worn out shocks) down and arrived Halloween night. I convinced Jr. to drive past the Washington DC monuments (I've still never seen them but it's on my bucket list) and got us caught in beltway rush hour traffic. He grumbled all the way to SC. Three years later I moved to Miami for law school and moved back right after graduation. Both my undergrad and law schools were Catholic and run by clergy.

My son, Michael, born right before Hurricane Andrew, is an NHS graduate, Eagle Scout, Stetson University Grad and now a WVU TA and Grad student. I am told Zelda, our 60 lb., 8 year-old German shepherd rescue, is my grand dog. My mom, Carole Armstrong, recently joined St. Johns. I love sailing (raced on a crew with Johan Domenie), snorkeling, gardening, cooking and walking.

I'm a solo attorney practicing mainly in Estate Planning, Trusts and Estates. I've served as president and treasurer of Collier County Womens' Bar Association, and on many charity boards here including Boys & Girls Club of CC, NAMI, Kiwanis, Naples HS Academic Boosters Club and Troop 165 Scout Committee.



Annual Meeting

Tuesday, January 30, 2018
Beginning with a potluck supper at 6pm in Sugden Hall.

RICHARD UIHLEIN



I grew up in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

After graduating from University of Denver, I went into the family company. I started in the purchasing Department and in my 31-year career, was in sales, marketing, and headed up the advertising department.

I volunteered for Habitat for Humanity, and was on the Foundation Board for Columbia-St. Mary's hospital.

When I retired, we vacationed in Naples and fell in love with it. We built a house in 2010, and joined St. John's soon after. I volunteered at the thrift shop, and am presently volunteering at St. Matthew's house and NCH hospital.

My wife and I are ushering at the 5pm service on Saturdays, and she is the usher coordinator.

JACK WERT



Tona and I have been full time residents of Naples since 2002. We joined the St. John's congregation soon after moving here from Orlando and our love for this church and the amazing healing that happens here has grown every year since. I have served St. Johns as a Vestry member, usher, Foyers participant and Nominating Committee member. I serve our community as Tourism Director of Collier County, and as a volunteer for numerous local organizations and causes. I also serve on the boards and committees of numerous local, state, national and International tourism organizations. I am honored to be considered to serve St. Johns as a member of the Vestry.

Treasurer's Report

Below is a summary financial statement of the Church's operations compared to budget for the 9 months ended September 30, 2017. Not included in these results are the unrealized gains of \$198,311 in the Church's investment portfolio.

| St. John's Episcopal Church Financial Report – January 1 to September 30, 2017 | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| | Actual Unaudited | Budget |
| Revenues: | | |
| Pledges | \$359,190 | \$359,050 |
| Non-pledged | 209,196 | 210,000 |
| Other | 20,752 | 6,850 |
| Net assets released from re- strictions | 93,938 | |
| Total Revenues | 683,076 | 575,900 |
| Expenses: | | |
| Salaries and benefits | 287,581 | 287,579 |
| Church Facilities | 82,225 | 54,662 |
| Utilities | 15,136 | 15,136 |
| Administration | 94,711 | 94,578 |
| Ministries and Committees | 72,678 | 72,330 |
| Benevolence | 53,538 | |
| Outreach | 40,400 | |
| Total Expenses | 646,269 | 524,284 |
| Net Operating Result – Gain/(Loss) | \$ 36,807 | \$ 51,616 |

The following is the financial report of the Thrift Shoppe through September 30, 2017, compared to budget.

| St. John's Episcopal Church Thrift Shoppe Financial Report – January 1 to September 30, 2017 | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| | Actual Unaudited | Budget |
| Revenues: | | |
| Less Credit Card Fees | \$197,720 | \$214,575 |
| Net revenues | 2,735 | 3,450 |
| | 194,985 | 211,125 |
| Expenses: | | |
| Salaries and benefits | 60,202 | 60,024 |
| Rent | 60,961 | 61,353 |
| Maintenance | 6,155 | 7,650 |
| Utilities | 3,861 | 3,645 |
| Advertising | 8,779 | 11,542 |
| Delivery pick up | 4,565 | 4,900 |
| Administration | 6,040 | 6,400 |
| Other | 4,601 | 1,800 |
| Total Expenses | 155,164 | 157,314 |
| Net Operating Result | \$ 39,821 | \$ 53,811 |



My thanks to those who have already made a pledge to St. John's for 2018. You have established a solid foundation for the work ahead. For those of you who are new, part time, or haven't yet made that commitment, there is still time. I ask that you prayerfully consider making a pledge for the coming year. To achieve our mission and full potential for ministry, we need your help and active involvement.

2 Timothy 2:20-21

Emmanuel Community in Aleppo, October 2017 Update

"God does not elect the excellent but brings the elect to excellence"

Hardened by the five years of battle in their city, the brethren from Emmanuel Community in Aleppo Syria, exhibit a new sense of selflessness and trust in the Lord's providence. They just finished a quarterly retreat for teaching, inspiration and character building and if one hears their praise reports it is now almost completely about the victory and the transformative power of the Words of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit.

Following the retreat, I got a fortunate chance to hear a recording of a dozen community members share with the others about this new confidence in the Lord. A young woman shared an insight from the retreat to the vibrant sound of many "Amen's" in the room she was addressing: "God does not elect the excellent but brings the elect to excellence".

This exuberance is coupled with realism. "Our battle is a spiritual one," exclaims a man who had temporarily moved his family out of Aleppo and had been back with the others to attend the retreat. He continues: "Believe me brothers and sisters: The spiritual battles we face outside the community are much fiercer than the physical ones".

The spiritual protections that they experience by being with each other in mutual support, dwindles quickly if not nurtured by constant vigilance and prayer. Another father shared how he experienced even in his own family the modern attacks of relativism and agnosticism, vis-a-vis their faith and moral boundaries.

New opportunities are opening up for members to share their faith. Members, young and old, enthusiastically look to tell their friends and relatives about the sweetness of living for God. "My atheist friend surprised me when he asked me about my faith and told me of his desire to change," tells a young student. A young woman tells of a fresh and faith filled way she has found to share about her involvement and Christian commitment with her generally disapproving family. Another student shared how her final exams were postponed twice allowing her to fulfill her sure desire to attend the retreat.

Members have also learned how to sacrifice important things in their lives for spiritual gain. For many, personal comfort, worry about the future and even career, take backstage for the sake of selling all to buy the "pearl of great price".

From their sharing, it is obvious that at this stage, they are experiencing a renewed sense of the vision and mission they have from the Lord. They are ready to hold fast even when the "going gets tough". Even with continued hardships such as prohibitive prices of commodities, one does not hear them complain about that. They are consumed with the desire to see God's "kingdom come and His will be done". One senses a new boldness in their voice and a greater confidence about the future. Small group meetings, formation courses and evangelistic prayer events continue to be important parts of their regular schedules.

The Community sends their special thanks to St. John's Episcopal Church in Naples, FL for their continued support. The community is a beacon of light for many who are battling the "demons" in their lives. Emmanuel is a garden of hope planted amidst the devastation of war. It is serving as both a lifeline of solid Christian wisdom and "renewed" day to day instruction for many in need. It will continue to be a place of renewal for the Christian church in Aleppo for many years to come.

May all of us continue to support them by prayer and generosity. Thanks!

We had successful AED Training Saturday (11/11). A good question asked was; "Where is the AED located". It is located on the right hand wall in the hallway through the door to the left of the altar". Please take a moment to locate this important piece of equipment.
Dick Clapp.



Spirit Alive's 2018 Season

Season's Greetings to everyone at St. John's

We hope you have been looking forward to this year's activities Spirit Alive has in store for us all this 2018 season. It will be another fun, diverse, and engaging season.

Spirit alive will start the year off with a trip to the Rev Car Museum. This will be a great trip down memory lane for everyone. The museum is a world class exhibition of the history of the automobile. The trip will be conclude with a lunch and great fellowship. Look for information in the service bulletins, E-News, and the bulletin board.

February will bring members and friends together to discuss Shaken by Tim Tebow. The book will remind us that a secure identity is born only out of a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, God is ultimately in control in the face of seemingly insurmountable obstacles, and anyone can begin today to use their talents, skills, and life experiences to impact one person or many.

The first weekend in March, we will have an opportunity for all of us experience and learn about the healing power of Jesus Christ that lives today by His spirit through us. Joan Hunter will be here to pray and share the power to heal that is available to us all.

Plans are underway to host another Quiet Day as we prepare for Easter.

April will conclude our yearly events with something new – a paint party. Empty Bowls of Naples party's goal is to help to feed the hungry. Volunteers paint a floral design on a bowl. These bowls will then be sold and used to serve soup during an annual event. Watch for details later in the season.

If you are interested in one or more of our activities, please send me an email or call so I can tell you more about Spirit Alive.



Blessings,
Katy Esterline



REMINDERS



Join us for Evensong on Sunday (12/3) at 5pm.



St. John's Outreach Grant Celebration will be on Sunday (12/10) at the 9am service. Please join us as we give \$143,000 in grants to some wonderful Collier charities.



Youth Group Christmas Party is Sunday (12/10) from 2-4:00pm. Bring a white elephant gift for exchange. Meet us at the Fr. Christian & Kate's house, 234 6th St., Bonita Springs.



Seek Him. Meet Him

Psalm 27:4

The Lord's Prayer is a biblical treasure we may take for granted because of its familiarity. We often recite it by rote, rather than pray it. The Lord's Prayer highlights relationships of prayer: child to Father, worshiper to holy God, subject to King in his throne room, servant to Master, beggar to Provider, sinner to Savior, follower to Guide, dependent one to Protector, and subject to Sovereign Glory. This prayer reflects intimacy in family relationship, reverence for the Name above all names, submission to the sovereignty and will of the King, total dependence and reliance on the Giver of every good gift, cleansing from sin by our Redeemer, victory over temptation and ultimate triumph over the evil one by our Deliverer, and the power and glory of our eternal Lord of lords.

It covers every aspect of life: relationship with God, with others, and to the forces of spiritual warfare that oppose us each day. Pray the Lord's Prayer afresh for yourself, as if for the first time, savoring every phrase and opening yourself to every word. Like this:

Our Father: Abba, I belong to You. You are my intimate Papa. That's the truth from which I love and breathe today.

Who is in heaven: You are the I AM, the same yesterday, today, and every day. All Your promises are now, Yes and Amen.

Hallowed be Your name: Show Yourself holy this day of my life in my thoughts, motives, conversations, and actions toward others. Let me not disgrace Your holiness. By Your wonderful names, show me that you are the peace that I need, the victory I want, the guiding security I long to feel, the Daystar in dark times.

Your kingdom come: Reign in my life as You rule heaven. Come as King in righteousness, joy, and peace in the Holy Spirit.

Your will be done on earth: Be done, will of God, for Jesus lives in me delighting to do Your will. In my heart and my tasks, do Your will as it is perfectly done in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread: Let me remember who puts the food on my table and gives me the breath I breathe. You are my moment-by-moment strength for each step I take.

Forgive me my sins as I forgive those who sin against me: I want to tear up the IOUs I am holding because of wrongs against me. I want to keep short accounts, holding no offenses and no unforgiveness.

Lead me not into temptation: I don't want to act out of my weakness or wounded flesh, which is no excuse, just a plea for more of Your grace. Where sin and the need for healing abound, Your grace much more abounds.

Deliver me from evil: Protect me from physical and spiritual harm, because greater are You in me than my adversary who is in the world.

Yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory: I bow to Your sovereign control. You have all power and all ability to do all things well, and I want Your glory to take the credit for every answer. Amen.

Taken from "The Father's Business", Sylvia Gunter. www.thefathersbusiness.com

St. John's Episcopal Church

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Asst. Rector: The Rev. Christian Maxfield

Email: Clergy2@stjohnsnaples.com

Secretary: Ann Witmer

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Diocese: www.episcopalswfl.org

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Pat Mills 239-596-8890

Becky Jarrell: jarrelland@aol.com

2017 Vestry:

Sr. Warden: Sue Boujoukos

Jr. Warden: Roger Stiefel

Treasurer: Peter Zimmermann

Clerk to the Vestry: Ann Witmer

Members: Ruth Adams, Vickie Bauch, Donna Beecher, Richard Clapp, John Gualdoni, Robert Matthews, Skip Ruch.

St. John's Shoppe for Upscale Thrift

Tamiami Square

14700 Tamiami Trail No., Naples, FL

Phone: 239-597-9518

Hours: Mon-Sat. 10am-4pm

Website: www.stjohnsshoppe.com

Shoppe Board of Directors:

Chairperson: Pat Costa

Vice-Chairperson: Myra Tutwiler

Secretary: Betsy Dyke

Treasurer: Barbara Bongard

Volunteer Recruiting: Mary Lou Boone

Vestry/Outreach Liaison: Sue Boujoukos

Major Events: Margo Ziolo

Manager: Sharon Marceau

Assistant Manager: James Meehan

Member at Large: Jean Morley



New Members: Paul & Kathryn

Ernst; Joyce Hull-Gainor; Gabriel-

la Ressler & Giuseppe Trudu;

Vanida Taimany; Frank Napoleon.

Transfer Out: Anne Bache.

Marriage: Angela Danielle Breland and Francis Timothy Schwerin, Jr.

PARISHLIFE

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