

PARISHLIFE

The Newsletter of St. John's Episcopal Church



*Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!
Luke 2:14 (NKJV)*

THE LAST PRESENT UNDER THE TREE



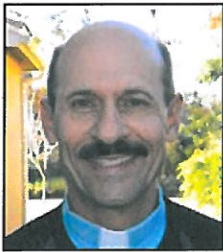
There is one last present under the Christmas tree, I wonder whose it is?
Is it for the little girl with the rocking horse, or is it for Grandma or Aunt Liz?
It looks so lonely, sitting there by itself; it'd certainly be an awesome addition
on "somebody's" shelf.

The ribbon is gold, the paper is paisley red; "Who does it belong to?"
Keeps rattling in my head; I decided to snatch a peek, and see whose name is on the card;
it'd only take a second, it won't be very hard.

When no one was looking, I reached under the tree, carefully handling the package,
"Who knows, it may be for me!" But when I read the card, I thought it was extraordinarily
odd, because the message read, "Love and blessings," God.

This Christmas poem by Joel Bjorlin celebrates the gifts of Christmas. We enjoy opening our
Christmas presents and celebrating what we've received, from clothes to food, books or
perfume, to gifts cards for all sorts of things. Gifts are fun and they bring us the pleasure of experiencing someone's generosity
toward us.

Another Christmas gift always present, whether we recognize it or not, is the one marked "Love and blessings"...God. This in-



cludes God's gift of Jesus, the original gift that started Christmas, reconciling us and the world to God. To
those who receive this gift, God gives power to become the children of God, people that celebrate his love
and receive his warm embraces.

"Love and blessings from God" also include many other graces. The gift of life and health, the gift of provi-
sion and generosity, the gift of love and friendship, the gift of our connection with the Holy Spirit and all of
life!

Fr. Joseph Maiocco

I wish you a very blessed Christmas and Joy in every gift!



Join us for Christmas Services at St. John's:

Monday (12/24): 5:00pm & 9:00pm

Tuesday (12/25): 10:00am

Vestry Retreat Produces 2019 Goals

Every fall, the St. John's Vestry holds a retreat to assess our progress over the past year, using a Mutual Ministry Review (MMR) process recommended by the diocese. This year the Vestry met on Saturday, October 27. After celebrating Morning Prayer in the prayer garden, we "retreated" to Sugden to discuss where we see St. John's today and where we want to lead St. John's into the future. We focused on our strengths and opportunities. We drafted the following goals for 2019:

ST. JOHN'S MMR GOALS FOR 2019

EFFECTIVE MARKETING TOOL THAT ATTRACTS NEW MEMBERS

- ✚ Develop a professional marketing strategy with help from outside consultant.
- ✚ Revamp our website, print "business" cards, bookmarks. Showcase our strengths/our distinctive identity.
- ✚ Sacramental, catholic, charismatic, evangelical, Holy Spirit-driven.
- ✚ Leader in healing ministries, Biblical teaching, community outreach, Christian partnerships.

INVITE AND EMBRACE NEW MEMBERS INTO THE ST. JOHN'S FAMILY

- ✚ Personally invite friends, neighbors, and persons who participate in programs hosted by St. John's (10-step programs, OSL, Bible Studies).
- ✚ Deepen relationships with affiliated partners (Outreach grant agencies, YMCA, Children's Evangelistic Fellowship, Christian Healing Center).
- ✚ Promote engagement in St. John's various lay ministries.
- ✚ Organize Sunday School and regular gatherings for youth and families.
- ✚ Launch/host new programs or ministries to address spiritual needs within the parish: e.g., a caregivers' support group, Life Relaunch Retreats.

EXPLORE REPLICATING OUR SUCCESS IN SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES

- ✚ Invite an experienced church planner/planter to educate us on successful approaches to planting new churches.
- ✚ Develop a long-term plan for planting a new church or materially supporting a start-up church that shares our values and seeks to replicate our strengths.

The Vestry takes responsibility for furthering these goals. But everyone in our parish family is encouraged to work with us through existing ministries or developing new ones.

- ✚ Will you personally invite your neighbors and friends to a worship service or parish event?
- ✚ Will you extend a warm welcome to visitors and new members?
- ✚ Will you take an active part in one or more lay ministries or Bible studies?

While our parish demographic is largely 50+ adults, we treasure the children in our parish family and in our community.

- ✚ Will you offer to help teach our primary and pre-school children on Sunday mornings?
- ✚ Will you participate in upcoming family events and get to know our amazing youth?
- ✚ Will you help spread the gospel to elementary school children through our Good News Club at Gulf Coast Charter (12 weeks starting mid-January)?

2019 is a new year! Let's resolve to deepen our relationships with God and with all members of our parish family: young and old; year-round and seasonal. Let's tell others how we are blessed by St. John's and how they can be too!

Donna Beecher
Sr. Warden



What do you know about St. John's Shoppe?

St. John's Shoppe An Upscale Thrift is part of The Outreach Ministry of St. John's Episcopal Church.

We helped provide funds for the Grants given through the Outreach Ministry of St. John's Episcopal Church each year.

St. John's Shoppe is only 20 minutes drive from St. John's Episcopal Church.

The parking is free at our location at 14700 Tamiami Tr. N, Naples, FL 34110.

You can eat lunch and shop all in the same day at the Shopping Center where the Shoppe is located

We accept donations Mon. – Sat. at St. John's Shoppe between 10am-3pm or drop off your donations the first Wednesday of the month at St. John's Episcopal Church.

We will pick-up your furniture donations free. Call 239-597-9518.

We are always happy to have you volunteer at the Shoppe; we need your help.

We will accept your friends, neighbors and family donations; you do not have to be a member of St. John's Episcopal Church. Pass the word.

We have a Fashion Show Luncheon on March 23, 2019 – 11:30 AM. Being held in Sugden Hall at St. John's Church. We sell out each year. Tickets go on sale in December 2018 at \$50pp. Call 239-597-9518 to purchase your tickets early. Your ticket gives you the chance to win \$100 cash in a drawing. All net proceeds go to our local Charities through St. John's Outreach Ministry Grants.

Do you know you can see what St. John's Shoppe looks like? Go to our website, click on **"What's New."**

Do you know we have a very special **"Christmas Open House"** held each November? Watch for the date in the church bulletin for next year if you missed it this year.

This is what I know;

I have learned that giving and sharing for those that are less fortunate than you and I are rewarded every day with the Lord's blessing. Volunteering at the Shoppe is a day I look forward to. It is a privilege to be a member on the Board for St. John's Shoppe. There is not a day that goes by that I do not thank the Lord for allowing me to find this wonderful church and how it has filled my life with my extended family.

Faye Bruso

Merry Christmas



St. John's Shoppe – An Upscale Thrift A Christmas Note



Your donations just might help make someone's Christmas be very special – The Shoppe depends on your donations in order for us to be able to contribute funds that support "The Outreach Ministry of St. John's Episcopal Church". You can drop off your donations each day at the Shoppe between 10AM – 3PM. Your furniture donation can be picked up free, just call the Shoppe at 239-597-9518.

The Volunteers and Staff from St. John's Shoppe wish each and everyone a Merry Christmas!



Have you ever thought: Gee! I would like

to be in a Bible Study, but with my job, (or my schedule, or my commitments) I just can't squeeze it in. Or perhaps you've been looking for something you can do as a couple at St. John's. Or, perhaps, you would like to get to know Jesus better... or the fellow believers you worship with every Sunday... or what God might be wanting to guide you or to do or to be... or... well... Starting in January, St. John's will be offering an opportunity which we hope will meet any of these needs.

For the "9 o'clockers" we are offering a six-week Bible study on the book of Ephesians. This study will start on Jan. 6, meet in the Choir Room, and begin at 10:30 so you have time to enjoy a bit of the coffee hour before class.

For the "11:15 ers", we are also offering a six-week Bible study on the book of Ephesians. It will start on Jan. 6th, begin at 10:00 a.m. and finish to get you to the service on time.

And if some Sundays you go to the 9:00 and some Sundays to the 11:15, you can go to either!

The study will use the Bible and the study guide on Ephesians from the Bringing the Bible to Life series. The studies from this series have been used at St. John's in previous years. They have been well received because each chapter includes the opportunity to discuss how a passage applies to us as Christians today.

Bonnie Schlichting

WHAT'S GOING ON AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCH?

The members of the Order of St. Luke are praying for the needs of the congregation. You may come back to be prayed for with any need, physical or spiritual. You may also come back to pray for someone else (intercessory prayer).

WHAT IS THE ORDER OF ST. LUKE?



The Order of St. Luke (OSL) is an international Christian healing organization. Each member is trained in the healing ministry to offer healing prayer in Jesus' name to all who are in need. Our goal is to bring the healing love and power of the Holy Spirit for wholeness into people.

We welcome any and all who are in need of healing prayer. Please know that we are there for you and anything discussed will be confidential.

Peace and Blessings
Vickie Bauch, Convener,
St. Johns Chapter, OSL

Please sign up for Foyers

so you can get to know some of your fellow parishioners and enjoy three delicious dinners! If you have not already done so, now is the time. The deadline for joining has been extended until Dec 7th and the Group Assignments will be completed around Jan 1, 2019. Please contact the Parish Office at 239.261-2355.



We are looking forward to another great season!

Mary Frances and John Aiken



As this goes to press ,
the Outreach Committee

has finished the task of selecting Collier County charities for this year's Thrift Shoppe grants. The challenge has been particularly difficult as there were more applicants than we've seen in the past. The Outreach Committee had the challenging task of selecting 12 charities out of nineteen applicants received. In conclusion, we will be introducing to our congregation on December 9, the most deserving and needy of Collier County. You won't want to miss this Celebration!

Sue Boujoukos

Update on "Emmanuel" in Aleppo

For our parish family from Aleppo, a recent humbling story with many thanks to Jamie Treadwell who continues to be our intermediary in Aleppo!

Sue Boujoukos

Update on "Emmanuel" in Aleppo.

October 2018

A woman of great courage -As told in her own words

Translated by Andre J Codouni

The brethren have been like a sweet balm to my life and my soul.

I am a widow. I am from Aleppo. I have two sons; one of them got married and moved away to his new home, my other son went to serve in the army. Since the passing of my husband I have lived a solitary life: sometimes with a deadly feeling of loneliness. I will always be thankful that I was invited to join the community Emmanuel at a time of war and turmoil in my city. The brethren have been like a sweet balm to my life and my soul. Before that, I had been in a prayer group for twenty years. After I joined Emmanuel I felt that my understanding of spiritual things deeply widened and developed.

A test of faith and God's sense of humor

One day I was invited to go away on a three-day retreat with Emmanuel. Because of travel and accommodations, the retreat would cost as much as what I would spend the whole month. At the time, I barely survived from one month to the next.

As I thought about whether I should go, I considered this situation as an invitation, where my faith would be tested to either give in to my fears inspired to me by the devil, or courageously take the step of attending this important retreat. Because of the great benefit I saw in that retreat, I said to myself "I want to go, and I have faith that God will provide". Two days after that, in the church where I volunteered, the pastor decided to give a group of ladies and myself a monetary gift on the occasion of Mothers' day. That gift was substantial enough to pay for the retreat and for expenses for the remainder of the month. I was overjoyed. It felt like I received an extra bonus money as a gift from my Father in heaven. When I got to the retreat, it was introduced to everyone present as entitled "Abraham in the Bible and how God provides". God's sense of humor.

God's protection to me and my family.

In my life after I joined community I have learned to accept personal change as a "sweet anointing on the head, sweeter than a honeycomb" and I continuously thank God for that. The support I received from the brethren was very important for me to carry on and to experience God's protection. Here are only a few examples of God's action in my family's life: When my younger son had been in the Army five years, serving in Aleppo and waiting to be released when the war subsided, I counted fifty times when

he was protected from harm and even death. I clearly believed this was due to the many prayers of the brothers and sisters. One time, the ceiling in the room where my son happened to be, was destroyed with a projectile that exploded; my son was covered with debris and still came out of the room without a scratch. Another time, while on duty, he was standing guard and moved slightly from his guard position to get something from across the street. At that moment a mortar fell and exploded where he was standing a moment ago. He was left unharmed. Many other countless ways God protected me and my relatives. It was not only physical protection but also a spiritual one to cover us all.

"Where is your God, this Jesus, where is he now?"

One day, my son went to his army officer and asked for permission to take a couple of days off to come visit me at home. His officer bluntly refused his request, humiliated him and hit him for no good reason. My son then hit back at his officer, disobeyed his order and left to come home, thus deserting and fleeing his military unit.

I was pleasantly surprised to see him arrive home on an evening when I was preparing to go to my regular community meeting. I found him in an extremely irritable mood. Heatedly, he took it out on me saying "Where is your God, this Jesus, where is he now"? (Continued on page 7)

Aleppo Update – Continued

In his fury, he went on to overturn a table and breaking the religious statue on it. I remained calm. I was so worried for him because he even threatened to kill himself. God gave me grace and I stood patiently absorbing his anger and I hesitated very much before I decided whether I should leave him alone and go to the meeting. After things subsided a bit, I decided to leave to my meeting; there, one of the sisters met me and I told her what had happened. I thank God for her. She listened to my problem and she encouraged me to be patient and to stay calm. Then she surprised me by saying that I should tell my son that he is the “son of the heavenly king”. I went home that night and I told my son the sister’s words. He was taken back and was completely surprised at my words. I explained things as best as I could, and ended up convincing him, despite his great resistance, to go back to his unit and face his officer and settle matters with him.

An impossible situation redeemed

The next day, my son went back to his unit. His officer was in a positively different mood. He started by asking him about me and my health. He showed interest and wanted to make things right. My son could not believe his ears. As things straightened out between two of them, the officer ended up telling my son “If your mother is all alone, I want to give you another two days to visit her” and allowed him to go back home, this time with his approval.

Nothing is impossible with God

The situation in Aleppo is improving now for nothing is impossible with God.

I continually thank God for the brothers and sisters in Emmanuel, and all the communities in the network of communities across the world that we hear about and are inspired by.

I feel very thankful specially for the community in Lebanon, our neighboring country. They are a great example for us to follow.

Praise God! Come Lord Jesus.



“Fashion Show and Luncheon” - Presented by St. John’s Shoppe

Saturday, March 23, 2019, 11:30 AM - \$50. Sugden Hall

“The Outreach Ministry of St. John’s Episcopal Church” 500 Park Shore Dr. Naples, FL

Raffle and Auction Items – Your ticket gives you a chance to win \$100 Cash.


Tickets go on Sale December 2018 – Call 239-597-9518 – 239-331-4450

Ushers needed for the 5pm and 11:15 am services.

If you are interested in serving, please contact Lauralee Uihlein (239) 352-9012 or lauihlein@gmail.com

Reminder:

Sisters for Life now meets from 5:30 – 6:15pm on Monday nights in Brewster Hall.



MEGA PRAISE CHOIR is coming to St John's for a **FREE SPECIAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT** and you **WILL NOT** want to miss it! Mega Praise has been ministering in Naples and Marco Island for over 10 years. The group is made up of very talented musicians who worship at various churches in Naples who love the Lord and want to glorify Him through the gifts HE has given them. Many have commented their music is uplifting, joyful, and worshipful with wonderful musical arrangements. You will be truly entertained. So mark your calendars **NOW** for Sunday December 2 at 4 pm in the church sanctuary. What a **GREAT** way to bring in the season and get in the Christmas spirit.

Joy to the world!



Have you discovered WORLD? Not "the world" but **WORLD**, the bi-weekly magazine? I have been a subscriber for a number of years, and find it gives me a Christian perspective on current events. Each issue features both U.S. and international news, cultural analysis, editorials and regular columns of thoughtful commentary. It is a source of much information in areas which are rarely covered by the secular press. Recent issues have explored the housing and homeless crises in California and Seattle, refugee camps and resettlement efforts by Christians in Syria, and a look at and assessment of two federal government programs: "rapid rehousing" and food stamps.

Its Editor-In-Chief, Martin Olasky, has a fascinating background, which he chronicled several years ago in the magazine itself. Olasky became an atheist as a youth, a Marxist in college, joined the Communist Party in 1972, left the party late in 1973, and became a Christian in 1976! He has been a college professor, has written a number of books, and today is the editor-in-chief! What an example of what God can do in a person's life!

I'd be happy to share a copy with anyone who would like to see a typical issue.

Bonnie Schlichting

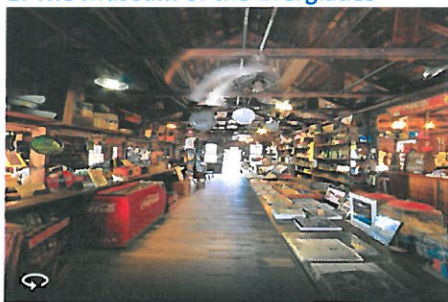
A PREVIEW OF SPIRIT ALIVE EVENTS FOR 2019

2019 will soon be arriving and we want you to get a sneak preview of what Spirit Alive has planned for you to start the year off.

Have you been to Everglade City lately? Although small in comparison to Naples, it is very rich in Collier county history. A fun and lively 2019 beginning at St. John's has been planned by Spirit Alive. We will sponsor a car-pooling trip to Everglade City on Friday, January 25.

What attractions will we check out?

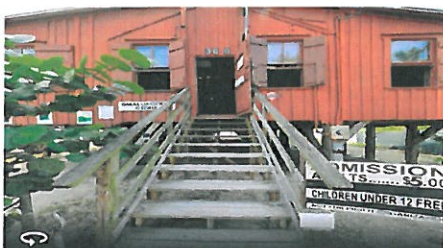
1. The Museum of the Everglades



The Museum of the Everglades First opened in 1927 as a commercial laundry, today's Museum of the Everglades dates back to a time when construction of the famous Tamiami Trail was well underway and the tiny settlement of Everglades served as the first County seat. The museum's permanent and rotating exhibits provide visitors with an in-depth look at over 2,000 years of human history in the area and tell the story of those adventurous enough - and stubborn enough - to settle Southwest Florida's Last frontier.

Faithfully restored to its original, 1920's Collier-era appearance, the museum is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is located 35 miles east of downtown Naples. Admission is free. Donations are appreciated. Local history programs tours and presentations by request.

2. The Smallwood Store



Established in 1906 The Smallwood Store is now a museum open 7 days a week. At the Historic Smallwood Store you will learn the story of the pioneers who tamed this vast wilderness also known as "Florida's Last Frontier". Learn about the Calusa Indians and later the Seminole and Miccosukee Tribes that traded at the Trading Post. Visit the Tigertail gift shop located inside the Smallwood Store Museum. You will find books & DVD's related to Southwest Florida History, authentic Seminole crafts & carvings, artwork & photography from local artist, alligator heads, t-shirts and much more.

3. Lunch with us as we discover Old Florida at the Rod & Gun Club in Everglades City



Steve Winston has shared the following on the internet.

There's a place on the Southwest Coast of Florida, deep in the 10,000 Islands area of the Everglades, where it's still the 19th Century. It's called the Rod & Gun Club in Everglades City.

From the outside, the Everglades City Rod & Gun Club looks simply like an old white lodge. But when you open the doors and walk inside, you're suddenly enveloped in a time-warped. The ambience

- and all the furniture - is from the turn of the century. In fact, it's actually the *original* furniture from the days when the Rod & Gun Club was a playground for some of the world's wealthiest people.

In 1972 it was purchased by the Bowen family, who still own it today. They've closed down the top two floors of the main building, kept the bottom floor (with a fine restaurant, great room, Victorian sitting rooms, general store, etc.) as an authentic monument to those grandiose times, and built five cottages with four units each for guests.

The main house is filled with high Victorian chairs with elaborate embroidery. Stuffed otters, deer, alligators, panthers, fish, and assorted other critters on the walls and floors. Elegant crystal chandeliers. Dark hardwood floors. Wooden ceiling fans. Tiffany lamps with stained-glass and fringed shades. Nautical antiques. Wooden roll-top desks.

Katy Esterline



Committee Nominates Three for 2019 Vestry

The Nominating Committee has announced three candidates for the 2019 Vestry: Brent Guillot, Patricia Gullo and Mary Tilney. The three candidates will stand for election at the Annual Congregational Meeting to be held Sunday, January 27, 2019 in Sugden Hall.



BRENT GUILLOT

I returned to Naples in 2016 to pursue my passion for Landscape Architecture and the beauty of the Everglades. Shortly after the move, Dixie and I joined the St. John's congregation and welcomed our daughter Vanda Lee Guillot into this

world. We have felt the love and closeness with God that makes St. John's our family's home. My extended family is deeply rooted in Holy Comforter, a small church in Lecompte, Louisiana. Being a fifth-generation parishioner, in 2015 I contributed over 200 hours of design and personal labor to revitalize the historic church and landscape. Improvements included landscape, irrigation, lighting, and restoration of the historic church sign. I am honored to be considered for a leadership position on the Vestry at St. John's.



PATRICIA GULLO

Born and raised in Auburn, New York as Patricia Ann Foley, and a Rochester, New York resident for 45 years, Tish now resides with her husband in Naples. She taught elementary school for 4 years, married Richard A. Gullo in 1961, and later left teaching to raise her 4

children. Now her nine grandchildren are a wonderful focus of her life. Tish has owned and managed businesses, sat on many boards and volunteered for years yet always found time for painting, music, tennis and bridge.

Tish and Dick left St. Ann's parish in downtown Naples to join St. John's in 2009 and it has nourished their hearts and souls ever since. They have participated in Habitat work in the past and Tish had occasionally worked at the Thrift Shoppe but both continue their activities as ushers and servers at St. Mathews.

It is an honor to be considered for a position on the St. John's Vestry.



MARY TILNEY

My husband, David, and I are both from the northeast, but we met at the University of Denver. We raised our family in Colorado Springs and we still spend our summers there. Our 3 grown daughters are all married, and between them they have

blessed us with 8 grandchildren! My parents retired to Naples in the late 80's, so our family vacationed here often. Occasionally we would attend a service at St. John's. In 2001 we bought a place in Naples so that I could spend more time with my parents, as they were getting older. After we moved to Naples, we searched for a church home, but we kept coming back to St. John's. We truly felt a sense of belonging here.

Previously, I have served on the Vestry and ECW Board at Chapel of Our Savior in Colorado Springs, and in many Outreach capacities. When we attended Grace & St. Stephen's Episcopal Church (also in Colorado Springs) I served on the Board of Children's Education and was a Junior Choir Mom for many years. Junior League provided many other volunteer experiences...a favorite was serving on the board of the Ronald McDonald House of Southern Colorado.

Currently I am privileged to serve on the St. John's Outreach Committee. I have been a regular attender of the Monday morning Women's Bible Study for many years. David & I volunteer at St. Matthew's House and we both enjoy the Foyer's groups. I am honored to be considered to serve as a member of the Vestry at St. John's.

DING! DING! DING! WENT THE TROLLEY!



Mistletoe, snowflakes and sleigh bells!! The season of peace and good tidings is here. What better way to enjoy the season then with the celebration of lights. This December 21st we would like to invite the Sunday school families to join us as we sing Christmas carols and take in all the beautiful lights around Naples all while taking a ride on the trolley.

The trolley will leave St. John's back parking-lot at 6:30pm on Friday December 21st. The cost will be \$5 a family. St John's will supply the food and drinks and you bring your best caroling voice. If you are interested in attending, please email Amber Ferreira at adaffolter@gmail.com. Seating is limited so please contact me as soon as possible. We hope to see you there.

Trolley Celebration of Lights
Friday, December 21, 2018 @ 6:30pm
Meet in the back parking lot of St. John's
RSVP with Amber Ferreira adaffolter@gmail.com

pageborders.org

ADVENT QUIET DAY
TUESDAY | DECEMBER 4

"The Disciplined Life"

10:00 AM to 3:00 PM
DAYSPRING EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE CENTER

Join Bishop Dabney Smith for a day of reflection at the beginning of the Advent season. The \$10 cost includes four teaching sessions, lunch together at Curry Hall, and personal time to reflect throughout the day. This year's theme is "The Disciplined Life: Put on the Armor of Light." Please bring a Bible, Prayer Book and comfortable shoes (optional) for walking and peaceful exploration of our beautiful campus.

Register individually or as a group by emailing merfourth@episcopalswfl.org.
Questions? Please call 941-556-0315 for more information.



Register at dayspringfla.org/advent

Christmas Giving

Outreach Grant Celebration

We hope to give \$150,000 to 14 wonderful Collier Charities at our Annual Outreach Grant Celebration on Sunday (12/9) at the 9am service. Join us in person or via live stream as we hear of their wonderful work, present them with grant monies and host a fun reception.

The 14 charities expected to receive grant monies are:

- ♥ Alzheimer's Support Network
- ♥ Baby Basics of Collier County, Inc.
- ♥ Charity for Change
- ♥ Christian Healing Center of Naples
- ♥ Collier Resource Center
- ♥ Community Pregnancy Clinic
- ♥ Harry Chapin Food Bank of SWFL, Inc.
- ♥ Laces of Love Charitable Foundation, Inc.
- ♥ Literacy Volunteers of Collier County
- ♥ NAMI of Collier County
- ♥ New Horizons of SW Florida
- ♥ Path 2 Freedom Inc.
- ♥ Special Olympics of Collier County
- ♥ St. Matthew's House, Inc.

Did You Know?

That you could livestream the St. John's Sunday services? Simply click on the St. John's website <https://stjohnsnaples.com/> then click on the 'Sunday Live Stream' tab.



St. John's Episcopal Church Official Notice of Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 27, 2019
Beginning at 1pm
After a light lunch in Sugden Hall

Hurricane Relief

The St. John's family is sending \$23,653 to Matthew 25 Ministries to support Hurricanes Florence & Michael victims. 100% of these monies will help people in need and St. John's is grateful to help them!

*Deadline for the January E-News is the end of the day, Friday, December, 14, 2018.
Please send to parishsecretary@stjohnsnaples.com*



Stitches of Love

I ♥
GETTING
STITCHES



L to R: Bonnie Schlichting and Rebekah Casey

One presses, one cuts, one assembles, one sews, one finishes seams, one reverses and presses... others are busy cutting or stuffing bears, and all o-o-o-h and a-a-h as each colorful pillow case comes off the STITCHES ASSEMBLY LINE. The Stitches are having a good time making these pillowcases, which will brighten the hospital beds of sick children, and hopefully brighten spirits as well.

While a number of Stitches continue knitting baby caps and prayer shawls at home, our meetings are generally spent on projects that don't require knitting or sewing skills. If you are looking for a friendly group to become a part of, come to Stitches! Our meetings are in Brewster Hall on Fridays at 10:00 A.M. The next meeting will be January 4, 2019 at 10am in Brewster Hall. Please join us!
Bonnie Schlichting



san Clayton; Rebecca Adams and Cristian Rosas; Elliot Rosas; William & Elizabeth Alfaro, Antonio, Valeria, Ramiro.

Parishioner Deaths: Robert Joseph Jachino (6/26/18); Arne Theodore Engkvist (11/05/18).

Baptisms: Elliot R. Rosas (11/10/18); William B. Rapson (11/18/18).

New Members: William David & Constance Rapson, William B.; Susan Clayton;



St. John's Christmas Musical will be Sunday (12/2) at 4pm. **Join Sisters For Life** at their new time, 5:30-6:15pm on Monday evenings in Brewster Hall! **Donations for St. John's Shoppe – An Upscale Thrift** will be accepted in the Church parking lot on the first Wednesday of every month (12/5) until 5/1 from 10am – Noon. **St. John's Outreach Grant Celebration** will be Sunday (12/9) at the 9am service. **Please join us for Christmas Caroling** at Heritage Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center on Sunday (12/09) at 1pm. Located at 777 9th St N, Naples, FL. 34102. **Christmas Eve services** will be Monday (12/24) at 5pm & 9pm and Christmas Day service Tuesday (12/25) will be at 10am. **Ephesians Bible Studies** begin Sunday (1/6/19) in Brewster Library at 10am (For 11:15 service) and another in the Music Room at 10:30 am (9am service). This inspiring study will be taken from the Bringing the Bible to Life series. Sign up today!

Angels in Their Midst

A re-print from 'The Living Church', June 3, 2001

In his **Easter Day sermon**, the Rev. J. Donald Waring, rector of St. Thomas' Church, Temple Terrace, Ohio, told this tale first shared by Bishop Rober Shahan of Arizona. The Bishop tells of a priest in his diocese



who, as he was about to begin his sermon one Sunday, looked at the congregation and something caught his eye. He said he saw two large angels, clothed in white, floating above the balcony. For fear that listeners would think he was losing his mind, he looked away and stumbled through the sermon. The next time he looked up, "whatever apparition it was that he saw was gone." He needed a vacation, he concluded.

At the end of the service, the priest greeted people at the door, and came to an elderly woman at the end of the line. "You seemed a bit distracted today during your sermon," she said. The priest said it was nothing.

The woman leaned closer and said, "You saw them too, didn't you?"



VOLUNTEER BELL RINGERS NEEDED!

Ring a bell...help change a life

The Salvation Army Needs YOU!

Get your best Christmas groove on while ringing a bell for a great cause! The Salvation Army needs bell ringers from now through December 23, 2018 (no Sundays.)

They would prefer volunteers to work from 10am to 2pm or 2pm to 6pm and you are able to choose one of the following locations (and more!): Walgreens, Coastland Mall, Hobby Lobby, Publix, Winn Dixie.

You may contact Virginia Bingle at the Salvation Army to volunteer at vbingle@naples.net or 239-389-2282 or contact the Parish Office. Ho! Ho! Ho!



Church of the Holy Spirit, www.churchofthelights.com

Women's Advent Study

Throughout the Bible, God promises The Advent or coming of his son, Jesus. This is one of the most important events in all of human history — the almighty, eternal, creator of the universe becoming human, living among us, and suffering on our behalf in order to give us life.

The Old Testament looks expectantly for The Advent of God's forever king, the anointed one who would bring peace to his people. Isaiah 9:6 declares, "For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And his name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace."

The New Testament exclaims of Christ's coming. In Luke 2:8-11, when the long-awaited Messiah finally arrives, angels announce his birth by declaring, "I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

For centuries, Christians around the world have used the four weeks leading up to Christmas to prepare themselves for the celebration of Jesus's birth. It's a time when we observe his first coming while we also look forward to his second coming. Each of the four weeks leading up to Advent is focused on hope, peace, joy, and love respectively.

Monday evenings 5:30-6:45 during Advent a Women's Biblical Word Study will be held in St. John's library utilizing *The Bible Project* Advent Video Series.

- **November 26th – Shalom/Peace**

Biblical peace refers not only to the absence of conflict, but also to the presence of something far more significant.

- **December 3rd – Yakhel/Hope**

In the Bible people who have hope are very different from optimists! God's character alone is the basis for trusting that the future will be better than the present.

- **December 10th – Chara/Joy**

God's people are called to a unique type of joy. It's more than a happy mood, but rather a choice to trust that God will fulfill his promises.

- **December 17th – Agape/Love**

Jesus defines "love" by his example: seeking the well-being of others regardless of their response. This Christmas re-experience the power of Christ's overwhelming love.

Feel free to participate in one or all of the sessions as you prepare for the King of Shalom to be born anew into your heart and your life this Christmas, bringing his peace, hope, joy and love!

Connie Pinckney

Sisters for Life in Christ End-of-Year Schedule

Sisters' Women's Bible Study meets **Monday nights in St. John's library from 5:30-6:30 pm** as of November 19th, but **will not meet on Christmas Eve or New Year's Eve.**

Using *The Bible Project* online resources, Sisters will read *The Message Bible* in 2019. Please join us for study, discussion, sharing & encouragement in seeking to follow Christ daily.



Be Careful What You Pray For!

On Thanksgiving Day, 2013. I was at the store I managed in the Miromar Outlet Mall sitting in semi-darkness on the floor under the wrap desk trying to install a new modem to get ready for the crush of shoppers who would soon be taking advantage of our Midnight Madness Sale.

My team and I were ready. At noon the following day--after an exhausting 17 hours straight--I went home, took a shower and a nap and then returned to take on the final shift from 5-11pm.

It had been 10 years since I had a Holiday with family and friends. That night, on the way home I prayed "Lord, please, I don't want ever to do this again."

The Lord works in mysterious ways. Four months later, after a change in upper management, I was fired!

After I lost my job, I took a long look at what had been doing with my life and decided I wanted to do something that made a difference in the world. I did not want to return to a position in the corporate sector. That's when I saw the job posting for a manager of a non-profit thrift.

As I interviewed, it became very clear to me that this was the path God had chosen for me to follow. I had worked as an Interior Designer and furniture salesperson, designed Custom kitchens, ran an Antique business, worked for years as a woman- wear buyer and managed and merchandised 3 small shops. Everything I had done in my life, all the skills I had acquired along the way, had made me the perfect fit for this position.

I have had the privilege of being here now for nearly 5 years. Every day presents a different challenge. I have met wonderful people, made great lasting friendships, watched as the efforts of so many results in life-altering gifts to deserving charities.

To those of you who have regularly supported us, my heartfelt thanks! For those of you who have never had the chance to see what we do I invite you to visit us any time.

Sharon Marceau, Manager of St. John's Shoppe, an Upscale Thrift.

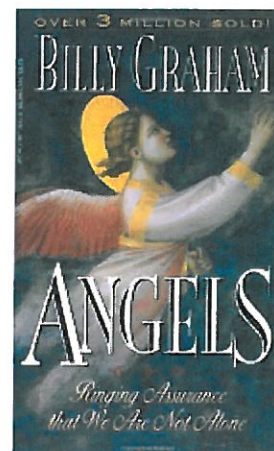
Merry Christmas

**spirit
alive**

A DISCUSSION OF ANGELS AFTER READING BILLY GRAHAM'S BOOK, 'ANGELS'

The first of the year clipboards will be distributed to sign up for our book discussion on Billy Graham's book, Angels. When you sign up and pay the reduced price for the book, we will order one for you. We will discuss Angels at 10:00am on Thursday, February 7th. Later in February, we are delighted to host Judith MacNutt at our OSL Healing Mission. On Saturday, February 23, we will be able to learn from her as well as hear her share with us at the 9:00am Sunday service. She has written two books on angels, which she will have to sell at the Healing Mission.

Katy Esterline



The Purpose of Christmas

Just one week before Christmas
Once prayers had been heard,
The people were scurrying
To get out God's Word.

The hymns were being sung
To Holy God above,
In thanks for Him sending,
Jesus Christ and His love.

Christmas brings remembrance
Of family and friends,
And the importance of our sharing
A love without end.

Our blessings are too numerous,
Our hearts filled with joy,
Yet our eyes have often drifted
Away from our Lord!

The Christmas season brings forth
The best in most souls,
To help those less fortunate
And lighten their load.

Salvation was offered
For all to receive,
If only each person
Would listen, heed and believe.

So if you don't know Him
Down deep in your heart,
Ask Him to save you now
You'll be changed on the spot.

-- By Cheryl White



St. John's Episcopal Church

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Diocese: www.episcopalswfl.org

St. John's Archivist: Colleen Spangler

Intercessory Prayer Chain Requests:

Becky Jarrell: jarrelland@aol.com

**2018 Vestry:**

Sr. Warden: Donna Beecher

Jr. Warden: Roger Stiefel

Treasurer: Bob Matthews

Clerk to the Vestry: Ann Witmer

Members: Ruth Adams, Arlene Austin, Vickie Bauch, John Gualdoni, Skip Ruch, Richard Uihlein, Jack Wert.

St. John's Shoppe for Upscale Thrift

Tamiami Square

14700 Tamiami Trail N., Naples, FL

Phone: 239-597-9518

Hours: Mon-Sat. 10am-5pm

Website: www.stjohnsshoppe.com

Shoppe Board of Directors:

Chairperson: Pat Costa

Vice-Chairperson: Margo Ziolo

Secretary: Carol Viehe

Treasurer: Barbara Bongard

Marketing: Faye Bruso

Volunteer Recruiting: Mary Lou Boone

Outreach: Betsy Dyke

Major Events: Margo Ziolo & Faye Bruso

St. Shoppe Manager: Sharon Marceau

Assistant Managers: Donna Bartuccio & James Meehan

Vestry/Outreach Liaison: John Gualdoni / Church

may you know
the comfort & joy
of God's
presence this
Christmas
season & always!
BeckyJarrell.com

PARISHLIFE

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Naples, Florida 34103
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