

PARISHLIFE

The Newsletter of St. John's Episcopal Church



*But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious,  
slow to anger and abounding in  
steadfast love and faithfulness.*

*Psalms 86:15 (NRSV)*



# Celebrating Your Light of Love

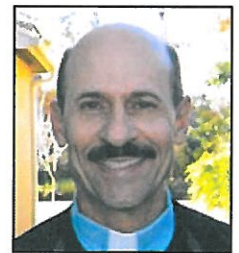
I give thanks for the many ways God's light of love shines through you! Whether a virtue like love, a gift of teaching or a serving heart, Jesus' light through you has profoundly effected many lives. Mt.5:16 encourages us to "let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." You are bringing Glory to God!

**Email Ministry highlights & Pictures:** With that in mind, please email me pictures of the different ministry groups you're involved in. Ministry leaders, if you would take a group shot, name the group, what you're studying/doing and how you've experienced God moving, I would deeply appreciate it. I will share this with St. John's via Enews, Parish Life, Facebook and our updated website, to celebrate your ministries of light. Please email me at [clergy@stjohnsnaples.com](mailto:clergy@stjohnsnaples.com).

**Instant Church Directory:** Is a wonderful St. John's resource enabling us to put a face to a name. We need everyone's picture to accomplish this, and if your name follows, please send your picture to Ann at [parishsecretary@stjohnsnaples.com](mailto:parishsecretary@stjohnsnaples.com).

Ruth Beich, Tony Beranek, Richard Berry, Joseph & Ronnie Biondo, Bernice Campbell, Matt & Liz Carroll, Constance & Francis Coyne, Margaret & Andrew Czekaj, William Dearborn, Margaret Donovan, Anne Dunlap, Paul & Kathryn Ernst, Henry & Alice Farhedian, Liz Handlan, James & Ann Marie Hitchcock, Stephen & Sandy Hopkins, Sara Iredell, Henry & Susan Kennedy, Nancy Kleinpell, Charles Layland, Edythe McCutcheon, Carroll Mellon, Peggy Mulvaney, Marjorie Reardon, Betty Robertson, Phyllis Saraceno, Peter & Gail Scaramuzzo, Sonia Schultz, Pam Solem, Clair & Joan Watkins, William & Karin Weber, Robert White, Michael & Louise Yakubisin, Harvey Yost.

**Participation:** I'm deeply grateful for what every person does at St. John's in their ministry. The Holy Spirit is using you to powerfully transform people's lives every day. We see this as individuals come to the love and light of Christ, are filled with the Holy Spirit, experience healing and mercy for the first time, often with tears of joy! If you're feeling drawn to a ministry, or not sure, make a step in faith by trying that ministry or talking to someone.



Fr. Joseph Maiocco



*Share Your  
Light  
Of Love!*





# Good News Club Launched!

Thursday afternoon, January 17, we launched our Good News Club at Gulf Coast Charter Elementary School! Thirty students, K through 5th grade, gathered to learn about Jesus: God who came to earth!

We began in **Small Groups** learning names, birth months, family celebrations. Our "UP WORD" for the day was "**GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES.**" God promised to send a Savior and He did!

Our **Lesson** was Jesus' birth in Bethlehem, just as the prophet Micah had said would happen.

The angel Gabriel appeared to Mary in Nazareth and told her that the Holy Spirit would overshadow her and she would be blessed with a baby boy, to be named Jesus. Gabriel also appeared to Joseph, Mary's fiancé, to say don't break off your engagement—go ahead and marry Mary. The couple then learned they had to travel some 70 miles from Nazareth to Bethlehem to pay their taxes in person. Bethlehem was Joseph's ancestral home, King David's city. **GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES!**

In Bethlehem, the only place they could find to stay was a lowly stable. That night Mary gave birth to Jesus, wrapped Him in strips of cloth and laid Him in a manger. People would understand that Jesus was everyone's Savior, regardless of whether they were rich or poor. **GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES!**

Our lesson continued with the angel(s) telling the shepherds the Good News and how to find the newborn Savior. After the shepherds found and worshipped the baby, they went out and told everyone they met Good News! Imagine them telling the story of what happened that night over and over again for the rest of their lives. **GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES!**

Each week, we learn a **memory verse**. That week our memory verse was Luke 2: 11, "For unto you is born this night in the city of David the Savior who is Christ the Lord!" We sang this verse with hand motions and gusto!

Back in small groups, we had what we call "**Wonder Time.**" Each child shared something they knew about one of their friends. How did they learn about their friend? By spending time with them, of course. They will learn more about God by spending time with Him too. They brought to mind someone they know who doesn't know Jesus. They may not be angels, but they talked about how they could tell someone the Good News of the Savior who came to save us all.

The children went home with a Quiet Time Sheet, a copy of the memory verse, and a piece of candy!

What a sweet joy to share God's love with these kids in our Good News Club!

*Jamie, Donna, Sarah, Peki, and Cindy*



To register for **THE SEND**, visit [www.thesend.org](http://www.thesend.org). Contact Mike Johnson for more info at (239) 272-5580.

**THE SEND** will meet at Camping World Stadium on Saturday (2/23) from 10am-10pm. Join believers throughout Florida in a spirit of repentance and revival.





# God's Love Is Great!

During the month of February, February 14<sup>th</sup> to be exact, we celebrate 'love' or St. Valentine's Day. There are various theories on how St. Valentine's Day came about. Customs have evolved, dating from centuries ago from Roman rituals to the customs of Victorian England.

What really makes this day so special? Everyone loves being loved! There are some folks out there who really just don't like this day at all. You know....those anti-Valentine Day haters. They don't care for all that mushy, gushy, candy sweetness, oohey-gooley, flower giving,... "I Love You Honey" stuff. Maybe because they don't feel loved, don't have anyone to give love to, or have been hurt by someone who they loved very much. Others absolutely LOVE Valentine's Day...maybe because they either get showered with gifts and affection, or...they can show their love to someone else. That makes for a great day!

Did you know that your Daddy God is the Greatest Love of All? Not just on Valentine's Day, but EVERY DAY? HE is here for you every second, of every moment and loves you unconditionally! Psalm 136:26 says, 'Give thanks to the God of heaven, for his steadfast love endures forever.' Wow! FOREVER! HE is such a forgiving God. HE died for US; forgave all our sins! God's love is steadfast and unchanging. AMEN!

In the book 'Jesus Calling', Sarah Young writes the following, "*Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet My unfailing Love for you will not be shaken nor My covenant of Peace be removed.* Nothing on earth seems as enduring or immovable as soaring, majestic mountains. When you stand on their heights, breathing in that rarified air, you can almost smell eternity. Yet My Love and My Peace are even more enduring than the greatest mountain on earth!

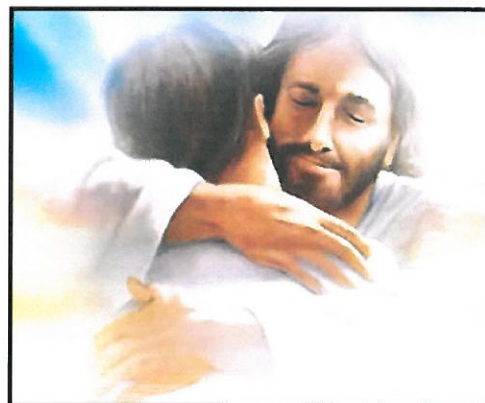
Think deeply about *My unfailing Love*. One of the meanings of "unfailing" is *inexhaustible*. No matter how needy you are or how many times you fail Me, My supply of Love for you will never run low. Another meaning of "unfailing" is *constant*. I do not love you more on days when you perform well, nor do I love you less when you fail badly.



*I Myself am your Peace.* Live close to Me so you can enjoy this supernatural Peace. Come freely into My Presence, beloved, even when you're feeling bad about yourself. Remember who I am: *the Lord who has compassion on you.*" (Isaiah 54:10; Isaiah 51:6; Ephesians 2:14 NKJV)

This Valentine's Day, know that no matter what, there is a Big God, and HE has a BIG LOVE...FOR YOU! *God is love.* Amen? Amen! (1 John 4:8 NKJV)

Ann Witmer







# Sunday School Corner

February is the month of love and we sure would love you to come join us in Sunday School! This month we will be discussing God's Word and how it is never changing, yet has guided us through all the ages. We will observe, interpret and apply what we have learned as we move through the gospels.

Amber Ferreira



## Monthly Sunday School Overview

February 2019

**Bible verse:** "Forever, O Lord, your word is firmly fixed in the heavens. Your faithfulness endures to all generations; you have established the earth, and it stands fast." Psalm 119:89-90

### Week 1: God's Word Guides Us

**Key Passages:** Psalm 119:105; Titus 1:2

**Group A – Lesson Focus:** God's word is always true. We can trust it to guide us because God is unchangeable and cannot lie.

**Group B – Objectives:** To study God's Word by observing the text and asking questions: who, what, when, where and why.

### Week 2: God Preserves His Word

**Key Passages:** Jeremiah 36:22-23, 36:27-28

**Group A – Lesson Focus:** God always has and always will protect His Word. His Word will last forever.

**Group B – Objectives:** To understand that God's Word will endure forever through all generations.

### Week 3: God's Word Is Complete

**Key Passages:** Psalm 119:160, 119:89

**Group A – Lesson Focus:** All of God's Word is true. It is complete and will never change.

**Group B – Objectives:** The Bible – both Old and New Testament, is the complete written Word of God.

### Week 4: Don't Change God's Word

**Key Passages:** Deuteronomy 4:2, Proverbs 30:6

**Group A – Lesson Focus:** The Bible is the infallible Word of God and is our final authority. God has warned of serious punishment for those who presume to make changes to His Word.

**Group B – Objectives:** The Bible is the only inspired revelation from God. It must be the absolute authority. Many have tried and will continue to try to change God's Word and teach lies. We must be aware of false teachers and false religions.



# ST. JOHN'S SHOPPE

*proudly presents*



## "FASHIONS IN THE GARDEN"

### FASHION SHOW LUNCHEON

To Benefit Collier County Charities

SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2019

11:30 am

at

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

500 PARKSHORE DRIVE

NAPLES, FL 34103

**TICKETS NOW ON SALE!**

**\$50**

Your ticket gives you a chance to win \$100 Cash

*Tickets may be purchased at*

*St. John's Shoppe*

*14700 Tamiami Trail, N., Naples, Fl. 34110*

*Call for details (239) 597-9518*

*St. John's Shoppe is an Outreach Ministry of*

*St. John's Episcopal Church*

*All Net Proceeds benefit local charities*



# Grief Has Many Faces

Can a broken heart actually kill you? YES! Extreme stress can cause what is called "broken heart syndrome". The medical terminology is "takotsubo cardiomyopathy" which is essentially a sudden heart attack. And it actually happened to one of our own parishioners a short time ago after her husband passed!

Extreme grief comes from many sources. Even if we haven't experienced first-hand, we understand the formatted "steps" handed down long ago by Elizabeth Kubler Ross on death and dying. However, unfortunately grief has its own heartbeat and doesn't always follow the designated path she prescribes. And her references primarily refer to the loss of human loved ones.

However, there are other losses that can heavily impact our hearts. An unwanted divorce, loss of an occupation or job and the community that it surrounds, a debilitating health issue in which a person can no longer function in the way that they're accustomed, financial changes which seems so devastating that it can lead to suicide (as it did for a good friend of mine), being placed into a permanent care center living situation against one's wishes and certainly the loss of "man's best friend" a treasured pet that has been a part of family for years!

Those who are not pet lovers might not understand the depths of a relationship between humans and their pet. But when longevity bonds a person to their "fur baby", many ties are etched into that bond. Understood "Conversation", the expression of needs and wants when your pet curls up against you in times of sickness or sadness, dependability, understanding, needs, affection and caregiving are all as much a part of that relationship as it often is with another human being .....sometimes perhaps even more when a person lives alone or is living in a compromised household!

"Just this side of heaven is a place called Rainbow Bridge" which is a very beautiful and well-known poem. Perhaps many in our St. John's church family haven't seen or perhaps don't know about our own Rainbow Bridge Garden on the northeast end of the church campus. This is a designated place on our grounds designed specifically for our own precious "fur family" members. It is a lovely landscaped area, adorned with St. Francis Assisi surrounded by animals and includes a bench for reflection and solitude!



Two years ago it was personally designed, installed and donated by Bob Matthews and Gary Jarrell. A granite plaque, with the Rainbow Bridge poem, was enthusiastically engraved by a company in Montana who personally embraced the concept. This little garden provides a beautiful, sacred and quiet resting place for our beloved "fur family" just as our Memorial Garden provides for our human beloved ones. If you have a "fur baby", please take a moment to experience and consider this area on St. John's campus as situations arise and this kind of loss becomes a reality in your life.

"Whatever touches our hearts deeply is a part of us forever!"

Becky Jarrell  
Pastoral Care Assist





**Parish People**

**New Members:** Henry & Barbara Rae Balasone; Joshua Costin and Yulia Yugay, Alexa & Alex; Pat Schlegel; Tracey and Panagiotis Kinigakis; Tim and Shelly Connors.

**Baptism:** Alexa Costin.

## What's Happening?

- ✚ **Donation Day** for St. John's Shoppe on Wednesday (2/6) from 10am – Noon at St. John's Episcopal Church. Slightly used clothing, household items, accessories and jewelry. For free pick-up of furniture, call 239-597-9518. Donation also accepted at St. John's Shoppe Mon-Sat 10AM-3PM.
- ✚ **Reserve your spot today** for the 'Listen, Love, Pray' Healing Mission to be held at St. John's on Saturday (2/23)! President & Co-founder of Christian Healing Ministries Judith MacNutt is the guest speaker. Reservation forms are in the Narthex or you can sign up at Events on [www.stjohnsnaples.com](http://www.stjohnsnaples.com)
- ✚ **Imani Uganda Children's Choir** at St. John's Sunday (4/7) at 4pm. Save the date!
- ✚ **St. John's live streams** the Sunday 9am service at [www.stjohnsnaples.com](http://www.stjohnsnaples.com)



**We need  
your help!**

We have many ministries that are seeking assistance from our parishioners. Would you please pray and if you are able to assist, contact the leaders of these ministries or the parish office at 239.261.2355 Ext 4.

*Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interest of others. Philippians 2:4*

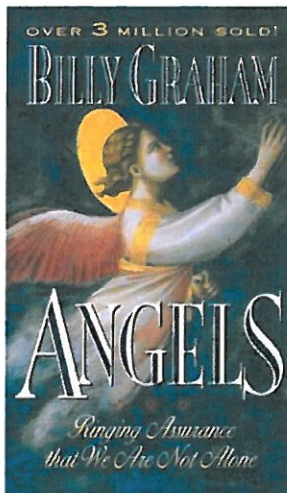
- ♥ **Usher Ministry:** Contact Lauralee Uihlein at: (239) 352-9012 or [lauhlein@gmail.com](mailto:lauhlein@gmail.com)
- ♥ **Altar Guild Ministry:** Contact Barbara Johnson at: (239) 354-1587 or [barb1johnson2@gmail.com](mailto:barb1johnson2@gmail.com)
- ♥ **Lay Reader Ministry:** Contact Ruth Adams at (239) 272-1678 or [ruthadams0114@yahoo.com](mailto:ruthadams0114@yahoo.com)







**FEBRUARY EVENT: Thursday 9:30am-11:30am  
in Sugden Hall  
Book Discussion of Billy Graham's book, *Angels***



The publisher's preface is stated: "You will discover how personal faith in Jesus Christ will allow you to experience the dynamic presence of angels in your daily life, along with unprecedented peace, fulfillment and power. We trust that Dr. Graham's personal insights into this fascinating subject will help each reader to

achieve a new level of happiness and a dynamic, new hope for the future."

Judith MacNutt, who will be with us for our Healing Mission February 23<sup>rd</sup>, has written two books. Her first book is titled: Angels are for Real. In the forward, Francis MacNutt stated: "The many testimonies included in this book show how much God loves us, and how, at times, He may even save our lives through the powerful intervention of angels. Learning more about angels will naturally lead you to lit prayers of praise and gratitude to God. Angels are real!"

Judith's introduction to her second book, Encountering Angels, opened with a quote from Francis de Sales: "Make yourself familiar with the angels, and behold them frequently in spirit; for without being seen, they are present with you."

We look forward to discussing Billy Graham's book about angels and sharing angel stories with you.

Katy Esterline

## Stitches of Love

### Keep On Stitching!

One of the real blessings parishioners have reported to Fr. Joe and many of us in Stitches is the wonderful comfort and blessing the prayer shawls have been to those who have received them. Over the summer our supply of them disappeared as they were given to the sick and suffering among us, and occasionally as a gift of love to others struggling outside our church family.

So... keep on, you lovely faithful ladies, keep those needles working. And...we would love to have more knitters in our parish take up their needles and join us. Directions for shawls are available, but we have often received shawls made from other directions. We'd also love to welcome anyone just curious to see what we do. Meetings are at 10:00 a.m. Fridays in Brewster Hall.

Bonnie Schlichting

### FOYER GROUPS



Our Foyer Groups are up and running and a few have already had their first dinner! We are off to a great start with a record 108 members.

Missed the sign up this year? Would like to try one but cannot attend 3 times? Not to worry, it is not too late!

Often it is difficult to get everyone in a group together at the same time so we are creating a "substitute" list. Simply contact me or the church office and we will pass along your names to the Group Leaders. If they have extra room or a vacancy for one of the dinners, you can be contacted! It is a great way to get to know some of your fellow parishioners better and enjoy a fun, casual, delicious meal!

Please let us know if you are interested in being a Foyer Substitute!

Mary Frances and John Aiken

Jmaiken4 @me.com

239-450-3199

Or

Ann Witmer

parishsecretary@stjohnsnaples.com



**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 am - 5pm

**After Hours Emergency:**

Rector 239-216-2333

**Rector:** The Rev. Joseph F. Maiocco III

**E-mail:** Clergy@stjohnsnaples.com

**Secretary:** Ann Witmer

**E-mail:** ParishSecretary@stjohnsnaples.com

**Treasurer:** Bob Matthews

**Email:** Treasurer@stjohnsnaples.com

**Music Director:** Glenn Saffran

**Email:** MusicDirector@stjohnsnaples.com

**ParishLife Editor:** Ann Witmer

**E-Mail:** ParishSecretary@stjohnsnaples.com

**Web sites:**

St. John's: [www.stjohnsnaples.com](http://www.stjohnsnaples.com)

Diocese: [www.episcopalswfl.org](http://www.episcopalswfl.org)

**St. John's Librarian / Archivist:** Colleen Spangler

**Intercessory Prayer Chain Requests:**

Becky Jarrell: [jarrelland@aol.com](mailto:jarrelland@aol.com)



**PARISHLIFE**

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

*Thank you, Lord, for current resident or*

**2019 Vestry:**

**Sr. Warden:** Donna Beecher

**Jr. Warden:** Roger Stiefel

**Treasurer:** Bob Matthews

**Clerk to the Vestry:** Ann Witmer

**Members:** Arlene Austin, Brent Guillot, Patricia Gullo, Skip Ruch, Mary Tilney, 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](http://www.stjohnsshoppe.com)

**Shoppe Board of Directors:**

**Chairperson:** Margo Ziolo

**Vice-Chairperson:** Carol Viehe

**Secretary:** Carol Viehe

**Treasurer:** Ricki Soule

**Marketing:** Faye Bruso

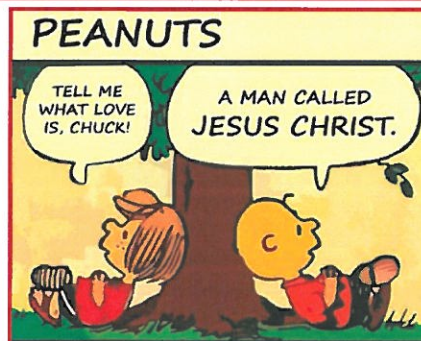
**Volunteer Recruiting:** Mary Lou Boone

**Outreach:** Betsy Dyke

**Major Events:** Margo Ziolo & Faye Bruso

**St. Shoppe Manager:** Sharon Marceau

**Assistant Managers:** Donna Bartuccio & James Meehan



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