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WELCOME

St. John's is a vibrant, growing parish seeking to serve Christ in all persons, loving neighbor as self. Since the beginnings of our life here in the bustling Rivermont District in 1911, we've proclaimed the Good News of Christ through a variety of ministries. Outreach has long been a hallmark of our identity within the City of Lynchburg and in recent years we've renewed our commitment to service in the name of Christ, through a variety of partnerships and programs. We come primarily from the Rivermont and Boonsboro areas, but our membership has grown throughout the area, especially in the last decade. Some of us grew up as Episcopalians, some are new to the church altogether, and others grew up in other denominations or faith communities. What we all share is a common desire to see God in each other, and having encountered the sacred in this place, to go forth proclaiming the love of God to all that we meet.

Worship has also been a major part of our identity in the area. We place special emphasis upon the liturgies of the Church and hope that our services capture not only the ancient traditions from which they come, but the modern times in which we live. Music weaves a large part of our worship fabric, and we have historically provided some of the City's best sacred music. Concerts augment our services from time to time and are well attended by the community.

For education, we offer a variety of programs. We seek to know more, so there is a wonderful library and ample times of study; we believe that taking the spiritual life seriously does not mean disengaging one's mind. We cling to the Episcopal "three-legged stool" that reminds us that reason is essential to understanding our sacred scripture and tradition. Since the rectorship of John Shelby Spong, the parish has engaged in serious consideration of theology and many have come to our parish because of the intellectual challenge we embrace in our faith. Recent partnership with Trinity Wall Street has continued this tradition with the annual offering of one of the Church's most significant conferences, broadcast here from New York. But at the heart of our education is also formation. We desire to be more, not only to know more.

Our parish life and care is compassionate and gracious. We strive to embody all that God calls into being through our common life together. We serve with joy at the birth of a child and we share tears at the death of a loved one. We laugh together at parish picnics in the shadows of the mountains, and we celebrate the beauty of creation at tables filled with the bounty of sacred earth.

And in the end, all comes together to shape and form our mission, to Share Christ's Love. We hope that this guide assists you in that journey so that you can fulfill Christ's call in your life. Everyone has a place here, this sacred and intimate community of faith. We are all fellow pilgrims and members of God's family. No one belongs here more than you do.

Peace and blessings on the journey,

The Rev. Michael R. Sullivan
Rector



Blessed be
 God: Father, Son
 and Holy Spirit

WORSHIP

Services at St. John's are glorious. Our architecture centers our focus while the words of the liturgy, both ancient and modern, liberate our souls. Based in the Book of Common Prayer and using the Revised Common Lectionary for our lessons, our services speak to the heart, mind and soul as we attempt to grow into the people God created us to be.

We provide childcare at all services, unless otherwise noted.

SUNDAYS

SEPTEMBER 7, 2008 – MAY 24, 2009

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

This early morning liturgy uses Rite I with a sermon, a hymn, and limited organ music.

8:45 a.m. Breakfast

Join your parish family for the best deal in town. Teams of the Men of St. John's cook a homemade breakfast each Sunday morning. Everything from pancakes to fresh local eggs is served.

9:30 a.m. Sunday School (featured under Christian Formation)

10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

This is a spirited celebration using Rite II with musical leadership by our Parish Choir, who are frequently joined by our Treble and St. Cecilia Choirs. A nursery is available for young children, under three, and parents of these children often bring their children into church for Holy Communion. Children ages three to six begin worship with their families, and may leave at the sequence hymn for Children's Liturgy of the Word in the Chapel. A priest goes with the children and volunteers work with special music and lessons. Children are also welcome in church for the entire service.

SUNDAYS

MAY 31, 2009 – SEPTEMBER 6, 2009

(SUMMER SCHEDULE)

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II

WEDNESDAYS

Holy Eucharist 12:00 noon, Chapel

A simple Rite II service, frequently with contemplative music. Children are welcome but there is no nursery.



HOLY DAYS

St. Francis Day

Saturday, October 4, 2008

5:00 Old City Cemetery

The annual feast in honor of St. Francis of Assisi when all our four-legged friends attend church and receive their annual blessing. A festive celebration for the whole parish family. Donations for the local Humane Society are received as the offering.



ALL SAINTS' CELTIC EVENSONG AND EUCHARIST

Sunday, November 2, 2008

5:00 p.m.

Last year's Epiphany Celtic service was so well received that we are offering one on All Saints Sunday this year. Many candles and contemplative music led by our Parish Choir, harp, and oboe, will form this beautiful and reflective service using ancient words from the holy isles of Ireland, Iona, and Lindisfarne.

CHRISTMAS EVE PAGEANT AND EUCHARIST

Wednesday, December 24, 2008

4:00 p.m.

Our children and youth present the Christmas Pageant as a gift to St. John's worshipping community, and also provide the choral music for this beloved service.

CHRISTMAS EVE FESTIVAL EUCHARIST

Wednesday, December 24, 2008

11:00 p.m.

No child care provided

The highlight of our Christmas Season, this glorious service presents the mystery of Christ among us through the gifts of music, incense, and spectacular flowers. All these gifts combine to make this service one of the most beautiful liturgies of our church year!

CHRISTMAS DAY EUCHARIST

Thursday, December 25, 2008

11:00 a.m.

No child care provided.

A simple, quiet, and joyful celebration of Christmas Day with carol singing. Children are welcome but there is no nursery.



Let not your heart be troubled: believe in God, believe also in me.

COMPLINE

Sunday, January 4, 2009

8:00 p.m.

On Sunday, January 4, at 8:00 p.m., a service of Compline will be sung in anticipation of the Feast of the Epiphany. An ancient service, the office of Compline was the last of six monastic services of each day. This short devotional service will be offered in the darkened church, lit by candles, and with the sacred smell of incense. The service includes psalms, short passages of scripture, an “office” hymn, the Nunc Dimittis, the Magnificat, and collects. Most of the service will be Gregorian chant, sung by a choir gathered for the occasion. This is a simple and yet profound service, which can address many people’s desire for a time of spiritual reflection.

ASH WEDNESDAY

February 25, 2009

Imposition of Ashes and Holy Eucharist

7:00 a.m., 12:00 noon, 6:00 p.m.

Children at 6:00 p.m. only.

The Rite II Eucharist that marks the beginning of our Lenten pilgrimage. Choirs sing at the 6:00 service.

LENTEN CONFERENCE

Friday, February 27, 2009

Evensong

7:00 p.m.

A glorious musical setting of Evensong featuring the Parish Choir in a traditional Anglican service of prayers and music, with a sermon by The Most Rev. Frank Griswold, former Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church USA. The service will be followed by a reception with heavy hors d’oeuvres and wine in Magill Hall.

PALM SUNDAY

Sunday, April 5, 2009

8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

The Liturgy of the Palms that begins our Holy Week pilgrimage together. The 10:00 service begins outside with the traditional procession.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 9, 2009

Holy Eucharist with Footwashing

7:00 p.m.

One of the highlights of the Christian year, this service begins the passion of the Great Three Days, traditionally named the Triduum. All are invited to



participate in the washing of each other's feet, following the example of Jesus. At the end of the service, the stripping of the altar is followed by an all night prayer vigil in the Chapel. A poster to sign up for the Vigil is available in The Commons two weeks prior to Maundy Thursday.



GOOD FRIDAY

April 10, 2009

Good Friday Liturgy

12:00 noon

A solemn service with communion from the reserved sacrament and our choir, unaccompanied. Since the Children's Way of the Cross is available at 4:00, there is no nursery for this service.

GOOD FRIDAY

The Children's Way of the Cross

April 10, 2009

4:00 p.m.

An experiential Stations of the Cross intended for children of all ages. The Children's Way of the Cross is a wonderful way for families to experience Jesus' hours of sacrifice through sight, smell, touch, and music. Requires extensive walking over the church grounds.

HOLY SATURDAY

April 11, 2009

10:00 a.m.

A short, meditative service in the columbarium. There is no nursery.

EASTER SUNDAY: THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD

April 12, 2009

6:00 a.m. The Great Vigil of Easter with Baptism

The centerpiece of our Easter Celebration and the most meaningful service of the Christian year, this liturgy begins with the lighting of new fire in the columbarium. Following a candlelight procession, the service continues with Old Testament readings of the history of humanity's salvation. As the sun rises in the East, Easter is proclaimed, the Gloria is sung, and our Lenten observance ends. Easter breakfast with Hot Cross Buns is served immediately following the service.

9:00 & 11:00 a.m. Easter Day Holy Eucharists

Festive celebrations of Easter continue at these two Eucharistic services that feature a brass quintet, timpani, and the Parish Choir



This is my beloved Son; in him I am well pleased.

MEMBERSHIP AND SACRAMENTS OF BELONGING

St. John's welcomes all. We strive to ensure that all who come through our doors are aware of God's love for them and the sacred presence of God in all our lives. You are invited to participate fully in the life of the community—by joining us in worship, study, small groups, and outreach. If you are new to our parish, there are visitor cards in the pews on which you can indicate your desire to join—simply place yours in the offering plate or hand it to the clergy or an usher.

ST. JOHN'S WELCOME GATHERINGS

If you are new to St. John's or to the Episcopal Church, we are delighted that you have chosen to continue your spiritual journey with us and hope that you have found a spiritual home here. We periodically host Welcome Gatherings to introduce visitors and new members to our parish and programs. More importantly, this gives us a chance to know you better in an informal setting. Look for more information about these gatherings in **The Tidings** or the Sunday bulletin insert. For more information, contact Kitty Robertson, 384-2734.

BECOMING A MEMBER

When you tell us that you want to become a member, we consider you a member from that point. If you are joining St. John's from another church, we ask you to complete a membership form, and in most cases, we write your former parish. If you are baptized and/or a confirmed member of another Episcopal church, that parish will transfer your membership; we will be happy to assist you in that process. For transfer forms and information about becoming a member, contact Gayle Rhodes, ext. 11.

BAPTISM AT ST. JOHN'S

Baptism is a sacrament of welcoming into the Body of Christ for children and adults. Through baptism, we acknowledge and celebrate God's love and embrace; they are unconditional and absolute. Baptism is also a time when the community of faith gathers together to renew its own commitment to Christ and to support those who are being baptized in their life in Christ. As such, the Sacrament of Baptism is generally celebrated in the context of the Baptismal candidate's ongoing relationship with the community of faith and within the Eucharist as the chief service on a Sunday or other feast.

In the early Church, adult baptisms were the norm as more and more people heard and responded to the Gospel. While there are fewer adult baptisms in the Episcopal Church today, they are cause for great celebration in their witness to God's ongoing, active presence at work among us and in



their affirmation of God’s promises of new and abundant life in Christ. We encourage adults who are exploring the Christian faith at St. John’s to discuss the possibility of baptism with one of the members of the clergy.

When a child is born in the parish, it is cause for rejoicing in the entire Body of Christ. At St. John’s, the Guild of the Christ Child (a pastoral care committee) and the clergy are eager to support new parents. Early in pregnancy or at the time of birth, we encourage parents to contact the church. This will enable us to begin providing support and information about baptism and nurturing your child to grow in the love of God.

Our Book of Common Prayer designates certain days in the liturgical year as being especially appropriate for the celebration of Holy Baptism. For 2008-2009 Baptismal dates include:

- All Saints’ Day and Sunday**, Nov 1 and 2, 2008
- Feast of the Baptism of our Lord**, January 11, 2009
- Easter Vigil**, April 12, 2009 (no baptisms at the other Easter Day services)
- Day of Pentecost**, May 31, 2009

If you would like to be baptized or to have your children baptized, please contact a member of the clergy or Gayle Rhodes..

CONFIRMATION
Sunday, May 3, 2009

Confirmation is an important sacramental rite in the Church and is a step one can take to make a “mature public affirmation of [one’s] faith and commitment to the responsibilities of Baptism and to receive the laying on of hands by the bishop.” The Rt. Rev. Neff Powell visits the parish annually to preside at confirmation, and in some cases, retired bishops come for these services. Those adults interested in being confirmed prepare by taking our confirmation class taught by the clergy. This year’s class will be taught by Diane Vie and is featured under Adult Sunday School offerings. Many lifelong Episcopalians also take this class to reaffirm their faith.

Contact Debbie Inge, ext. 27

GETTING MARRIED AT ST. JOHN’S CHURCH

We are happy to explore your interest in having your marriage celebrated here at St. John’s. If your wedding takes place at St. John’s, we want you to know that our parish family will do whatever we can to make your wedding day a blessed one.

There are certain guidelines that we follow concerning marriages; many of them are required by the Canons (laws) of the Episcopal Church. Parishioners and their children may be married at St. John’s and, under certain conditions, non-members may as well. For more information, and a copy of our wedding booklet and policies, please contact a member of the clergy.





Let not your heart be troubled: believe in God, believe also in me.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

At St. John's, we believe that all Christians are called to ministry. An integral part of our mission is to equip our members to know Christ and to make him known. Recognizing that we are at many different places in our own journeys of faith, we seek to help each other know and love God more deeply. More than education, Christian formation is the process of daily living into the possibility of abundant and vibrant life in Christ as it becomes known to us in our encounters with God and with each other.

CHILDREN'S FORMATION

Children's formation has long been a hallmark of St. John's. The parish has sought a comprehensive program of formation for all children and has an active Children's Ministry Committee that plans and provides extensive offerings throughout the year.

NURSERY

Sundays

7:45 to 11:30

Lower Level, Parish House

Thanks to the blessing of so many children in our parish, there are two nurseries. The current nursery on the lower level will continue to welcome infants to younger toddlers. Older toddlers, those who are completely mobile, and up to age 4, gather in the Day School toddler room, the first room on the right from the Columbarium entrance to the Day School. Parents who use our nursery are encouraged to volunteer for a parent rotation as nursery helpers.

Contact Pattie Martin 384-0455

Debbie Inge, ext 27

SUNDAY SCHOOL (SEPTEMBER 7, 2008 – MAY 24, 2009)

Godly Play is on the Way!

Age 3 to Grade 5

Parish House, level 2

Godly Play is our children's curriculum for ages 3 to 5th grade. This widely used program allows our children to enter into the stories of the Bible, the stories of our lives as God's people, and creatively express how they see themselves in God's family. We have a few wonderful new teachers this year and many great experienced ones returning! In addition, Polly Cassady is coordinating our whole program, providing support to teachers, parents and children alike.

Contact Polly Cassady – 846-4993.



St. Nicholas Day

10:00 a.m. Saturday, December 6, 2008

Main Church

Join our children for this annual visitation by the Bishop of Myra, a saint who lived in the fourth century. Children enjoy a story about the real St. Nicholas, engage in lots of arts and craft centers, and enjoy a variety of refreshments. A fun and engaging afternoon for children, toddlers through Grade 5.

Contact The Rev. Robert Marshall, ext. 26



Vacation Bible School

August, 2009

Next summer's Vacation Bible School is still being planned, but will include Bible stories and themes for each day, fun interactive music, as well as the ever popular crafts and snacks! We always need more volunteers to help with the growing number of our little ones, so if you would like to be part of this exciting week of fun and formation, get involved.

Contact Christie Hooper, 386-9322

YOUTH FORMATION

The youth of St. John's are not the church of tomorrow; they are the church of today. By living into their baptismal covenant, our youth are engaged in all aspects of our parish ministry. A variety of programs support their faith development and encourage active participation.

SUNDAY SCHOOL (SEPTEMBER 7, 2008 – MAY 24)

Jr. Highs

9:30 Sundays

Youth House, Upper Level

Our 6th-8th graders meet every Sunday to engage in a two part curriculum focusing on being an Episcopalian and Biblical connections to life. Their times together center around discussion based topics and are intentionally structured to help each person discover how faith relates to life.

Contact Jack McCarthy 384-1365
Dee Edwards 384-0392

Sr. Highs

9:30 Sundays

Youth House, Lower Level

Our 9th-12th graders meet every Sunday to engage with adult leaders in faith-based discussions about current events and challenges to their beliefs.

Contact Jimmy or Marty Watts 384-6615
Tripp Duerson, 384-5507
Heather Kinder, 384-5780



A person's life
 consists not in the
 abundance of the
 things possessed.

**Junior and Senior EYC
 Sunday Evenings
 Youth House and other locations**

Grades 6 through 12 enjoy their respective groups on Sunday evenings. Beginning with two separate pool parties on September 7th, our youth will meet every Sunday evening...either in our wonderful youth house, or at a designated fun location. Look in your Tidings for an outline of youth activities and on the website for the most up-to-date listing of our youth events.

Contact Jr. EYC (6th-8th grades)
 Torii Jones, 384-8538
 Nicolle Cundiff, 384-9388

Sr. EYC (9th-12th grades)
 Nancy Moore, 384-3357
 Carter Jennings, 384-5319
 The Rev. Robert Marshall, ext. 26.

ADULT FORMATION

Adult Christian formation at St. John's takes place in a variety of forms from casual "God Talk" group discussions at a local coffee shop/pub to presentations at our adult forums to weekly bible studies, to centering prayer retreats. We invite you to jump in!

FALL MID-WEEK FELLOWSHIP

**Wednesday Night at the Movies
 6:00 Wednesdays
 October 29- November 19th, 2008
 Magill Hall**

For four consecutive Wednesday nights during the fall you are invited to come to Magill Hall to have dinner and watch a movie that is fun for all ages. Child Care will be provided for children ages 6 and under.

ADVENT QUIET DAY

**Saturday, December 6
 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
 Location TBA**

Come for a morning of quiet as a prelude to the busy Advent Season. Using the Collects for Advent, poetry, and story to focus our musings, we will be in silence as we take a walk, ponder the art in our gallery, or simply sit in solitude. The morning will end with Eucharist in the Church.



RADICAL ABUNDANCE

Trinity Institute

January 21-23

Magill Hall

Building on last year's success, we are once again partnering with Trinity Wall Street to explore "sustainability through the lens of liberation theology." The goal of Christians working together with people of all social and economic levels is to achieve sustainable relationships and discover true abundance.

God created the earth and entrusted its care to us

"As we rethink how to grow, build, supply, consume, dispose, and recycle everything in our lives, we often fail at partnering with the marginalized and powerless, and thus adversely affect them. Building sustainable communities goes hand-in-hand with thoughtful building of infrastructures and physical spaces. Is there a theological basis for living abundantly while striving for justice and sustainability?"

In 2009, Trinity Institute will explore sustainability through the lens of liberation theology, which views Jesus not only as redeemer but also liberator of the oppressed. It posits a vision of Christians working together toward social justice by considering all people as full partners in healing our planet and our communities, regardless of their social or economic status. Only in striving for sustainable relationships, rather than accumulating and consuming more for ourselves, can we discover true abundance.

Through keynote speeches and panel discussions by leading theologians and grassroots activists, this three-day conference will consider radical ideas about abundance, sustainability, and well-being. Interactive reflection groups throughout will enable you to share your own experiences and solutions with fellow attendees."

Registration information will be available in Fall 2008.



Rev. Griswold and his wife, Phoebe

Photo by Amy Elliott

LENTEN CONFERENCE—LOVING THE OTHER: A NEW PERSPECTIVE ON POVERTY AND ABUNDANCE

Main Church and Magill Hall

February 27—March 1, 2009

Retreat Leaders: The Most Reverend

Frank Griswold and Mrs. Phoebe Griswold

Frank Griswold was elected to a nine-year term as Presiding Bishop at the 1997 General Convention and invested in January 1998. He served as Primate and chief pastor of the Episcopal Church, president of the House of Bishops, president and chair of Executive Council and





Then shall the
dust return to the
earth as it was:
and the spirit
shall return unto
God who gave it.

president and chief executive officer of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society. Before becoming Presiding Bishop, Bishop Griswold was Bishop of Chicago (1987-1997) and Bishop Coadjutor (1985-1987). He was ordained in 1963 and served three parishes in the Diocese of Pennsylvania before being elected bishop. Bishop Griswold has served as co-chair of the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission and on diocesan, national and international committees for liturgy, worship and ecumenism. He was on the standing committee for the Lambeth Conference and was elected to the Primate's Standing Committee in May, 2003. Frank Griswold has presented at and led conferences and retreats nationally and internationally throughout his ministry, spanning a variety of topics including ecumenism, evangelism, spirituality and theology. His articles, essays and sermons have been published in periodicals and theological journals including *Anglican Theological Review*, *Episcopal Life* (monthly column), *Cross Currents*, *Anglican Advance* and many others. His daily meditations from the General Convention of 2000 produced a Cowley Publications Cloister Book entitled *Going Home*.

The Presiding Bishop was educated at St. Paul's School in Concord, N.H. and earned an A.B. in English literature at Harvard College (1959). He attended the General Theological Seminary and earned his B.A. and M.A. in theology at Oriel College, Oxford University (1962, 1966). He has received honorary degrees from the General Theological Seminary, Seabury-Western Theological Seminary, Nashorah House, Sewanee, Berkeley Divinity School, Virginia Theological Seminary and Episcopal Divinity School.

Phoebe Wetzell Griswold received her B.A. from Smith College and is a prominent lay member of the Episcopal Church. She has been a catalyst in projects at the parish, diocesan, national, and international level on a wide range of issues, from the education and nurturing of children to the significance of women's spirituality, from the importance of the arts in life and faith to the problems of global peace, hunger, development and relief. In 1999 she published a book, "Paths of Love and Faithfulness: Reflections on Lambeth and the Anglican Communion" and she spearheaded the creation of a global Anglican women's network. She is also a founding member of Episcopal Church and Visual Arts, whose mission is to encourage the visual arts in the life of the Church. She has led retreats and workshops, including a workshop for the Spouses' Program at the 1998 Lambeth conference of Bishops. The breadth of her professional accomplishments is surpassed only by the depth of her commitment to honoring human dignity.

Friday, February 27, 2009

7:00 Evensong
8:00 Reception

Saturday, February, 2009

9:00 Registration and Coffee
9:30 Conference Begins (presentations and lunch provided)



LENTEN PROGRAM

Wednesdays, March 4 – April 1, 2009

Eucharist 5:30 Main Church

Supper 6:00 Magill Hall

Program 6:45 Magill Hall

After Eucharist in the Church at 5:30 and supper in Magill Hall at 6:00, children will depart for a special children’s program while the adults remain in Magill Hall to participate in a series called **Loving the Other: A New Perspective on Poverty and Abundance**. Stay tuned for more to come on this exciting program!



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our adult program during Sunday School will offer opportunities for us to be together in Magill Hall for various plenary sessions as well as break into smaller groups for more in-depth and subject specific classes.

Sept 7 Introduction to Adult Formation Opportunities

Location: Magill Hall

Sept 14 Jr. Mission Trip Presentation

Location: Magill Hall

Sept 21 Senior Mission Trip Presentation

Location: Magill Hall

Sept 28 Ministry Fair and Bishop Powell Visit

Location: Magill Hall

Oct 5 to Nov 23 Small Classes

Locations: Various

SMALL CLASSES

Via Media

Magill Hall

Via Media is video enhanced curricula designed to proclaim the good news of God in Christ Jesus and to present the Episcopal Church in a contemporary context. Via media celebrates who we are as American Anglicans offering both the content and context of conversations about Christian faith from an Anglican perspective. Via Media invites those seeking spiritual community to explore Christianity through a non-threatening course of study, prayer and conversation surrounded by radical hospitality.

The Via Media course is an 8 week session. Each session will begin with a short video clip containing different views on subjects such as sin, Jesus Christ, the Bible, and the kingdom of God. The sessions will conclude with small group roundtable discussions about the topic for the day.



The Lord is
good unto them
who wait for him,
to the soul that
seeketh him.

Living the Good News Lectionary Based Bible Study

The Library

For close to three decades, *Living the Good News* has provided mainline Christian churches with up-to-date Christian education resources based on the ancient cycle of Bible readings known as “the lectionary.”

Now Living the Good News is proud to announce the introduction of Living the Good News for the Revised Common Lectionary, a new, multi-denominational version of their widely accepted program. Living the Good News bridges our everyday stories with the timeless stories of our Christian faith—a celebration of God’s unending love and grace!

Scripture readings, insightful commentary and discussion questions help prompt deeper thinking about Christian beliefs and how to live them out in daily life.

No preparation is necessary to come to this class and the Bible readings are based on what has been read in Church on that particular Sunday so feel free to drop by on any given Sunday, whether you were able to be there the Sunday prior or not.

Whither Philistia? An Old Question for the Present Age

The Chapter Room

William A. McIntosh, Facilitator

Whether a consequence of covenant, consecration, mythography, or usurpation; whether material or metaphorical; whether possessed or pursued; whether worthy or worthless—sacred space has palpable force and inexhaustible allure. Both the quest for and possession of it can upend politics, reorder economies, and topsy-turvy policy. Witness the “Palestine Problem.” If the dissolution of the Ottoman Empire offers itself as a convenient benchmark in Palestine’s troubled landscape, it is no boundary stone; indeed, to find such ancient markers, one needs to look around in the ancient world. Revisiting an earlier exploration of biblical geography, this class invites consideration of the extent to which the tri-millennial metamorphosis of ancient Philistia into post-modern Palestine has resulted in the apotheosis of Palestine as Idea(1). Jimmy Carter’s *Peace Not Apartheid* is a convenient, if controversial (some say incendiary) primer on Palestine today.

Nov 30, 2008

Intergenerational Class-Making Advent Wreaths

Location: Magill Hall

Dec 7, 2008

Annual Parish Meeting

Location: Magill Hall

The annual election of our wardens and vestry along with the presentation of our 2008 Statement of Mission.



Dec 14, 2008 **Belize Mission Trip Presentation**

Location: Magill Hall

Dec 21, 2008 **TBA**

Dec 28, 2008 No Sunday School

Plenary Sessions Resume

Jan 4 - Feb 22, 2009 **Why the Environment is a Christian Concern**

Location: Magill Hall



At the beginning of the Bible, we are directed to ‘till and look after the earth’ (Genesis 2:15), to care for one another and God’s natural world. ...

Environmental stewardship is about our covenant with our Creator and about our personal response to the call to live in relationship with God and with all that God has created.” (Excerpted from **One God, One Family, One Earth: Responding to the Gifts of God’s Creation**, published by the Episcopal Church Center)

Over the course of this 8-week discussion series, we will be reminded of our duty to be better stewards of God’s creation. We will have the opportunity to gain greater insight into humans’ effect on the earth and how we can make positive environmental changes within our lives – individually, within our families and throughout the congregation.

Speakers will include religious experts, political activists, a biodiversity expert, a marine biologist and much, much more. Stay tuned for further details this fall!

LENTEN SERIES – Loving the Other: A New Perspective on Poverty and Abundance

March 1 – April 5, 2009

Magill Hall

The Rector’s class will return during Lent and build upon the themes of the Lenten Conference led by The Most Rev. Frank Griswold and Mrs. Phoebe Griswold, Feb. 27- March 1 2009. In addition to the Rector, guests will address **Loving the Other: A New Perspective on Poverty and Abundance** in a variety of approaches to the topic.

March 1 The Most Rev. Frank Griswold

March 8 The Rev. Joseph Constant

March 15 The Rev. Chip Edens

Mar 22

Mar 29

April 5

April 12 Easter – No Classes



Surely it is
God who saves
me; I will trust in
God and not be
afraid.

Pop Culture and the Gospel

April 19 – May 24, 2009

Magill Hall

**The Reverends Michael Sullivan, Diane Vie, Robert Marshall,
facilitators**

A fun, experiential exploration of the Gospel through movies, television, newspapers, magazines, and music.

OTHER ADULT FORMATION OFFERINGS

God Talk

Dates and Locations TBA

Ever wanted to ask a question about God without having someone judge you for having the thought? Join us for a casual discussion at coffee houses or other locations to ponder the question you have about God, the Church, creation, or other faiths. To be facilitated by the clergy.

Education for Ministry

EFM is a four-year program that offers the basics of theological education covering the Old and New Testaments, church history, liturgy and theology. St. John's currently has two EFM groups and welcomes new participants at the beginning of each year. Contact Diane Vie, ext. 15.

Daybreak Bible Study

6:15 a.m. Wednesdays

Youth House

This mid-week bible study is for early risers. Join us in the youth house for bible discussion with The Rev. Dr. Bill Parrish and other early birds!

Centering Prayer

7:45 a.m. Wednesdays

Chapel

A small group from St. John's gathers every Wednesday morning at 7:45 in the Chapel for 20 minutes of Centering Prayer. According to Thomas Keating Centering Prayer is "prayer of the heart, prayer of simplicity, prayer of faith, prayer of simple regard".

Please plan to join us as we listen for the voice of God who loves us more than we can imagine. Those who are interested will want to get a copy of Thomas Keating's book, "Open Mind, Open Heart" which offers insights into this method of prayer.

A class on Center Prayer will be offered on Sunday mornings in October. More information will be available in the Fall. Contact Patty Byrd, 384-6737.



Thursday Morning Women's Bible Study

10:00 Thursdays

Library

Nursery provided

Are you interested in gathering with other women and learning about how to integrate our daily living with how the Bible speaks to us? There is no need to have any bible study experience to attend. All women are welcome to join us for fun filled fellowship as we grow together in God's grace.



Mystics

Time and Location TBD

Watch the Tidings for more information about this group that meets on Sunday evenings throughout the year to discuss writings in the mystical tradition. Contact Dorsey Mayo 384-7287

Dream Group

Time and Location TBD

A new group forming in the fall to discuss the part dreams play in our spiritual journeys. Watch Tidings for more information. Contact Dorsey Mayo 384-7287

Westminster Canterbury Group

1:00 Mondays

The Very Rev. Dick Tyree leads a study at Westminster Canterbury each week. Contact Chaplain Karen Kelly, 386-3303.

George Bean Bible Study

7:50 a.m. Hume Room

Westminster Canterbury

The George Bean Men's Discussion Group reads and discusses books suggested by members of the group. All are welcome.

Yoga

Sackett Room, Time TBD

Yoga will resume with two 6-week pre-enrolled courses (dates to be determined)-one in the fall, and one in the spring. Watch Tidings for more information.



In the day of prosperity be joyful, but in the day of adversity consider.

OUTREACH

Adult Mission Trip

On November 1st-8th adults from St. John's will travel to Belize to work with the people of San Mateo on improving their school and interacting with the folks who live there. This is the same school our youth helped work on during their summer of 2007 mission trip. While in Belize these adults will engage in a number of different tasks for all skill levels, and see how God can use each one of us. It promises to be a life changing experience.

Contact Ann Vest, 525-8697
The Rev. Michael Sullivan, ext. 16
The Rev. Diane Vie, ext. 15

YOUTH MISSION TRIPS

Jr. High Summer Mission Trip 2009

August 9-13, 2009

Saint Christopher Conference Center
Johns Island, SC

Next summer our Jr. High Youth, 6th- 8th graders, return to the St. Christopher Conference Center in South Carolina. The group will engage in outreach projects meant to introduce them to what it means to live our part of God's mission in the world.

Contact The Rev. Robert Marshall ext 26.

Sr. High Summer Mission Trip 2009

Aug 1-8, 2009

Our Sr. High Youth Mission Trip for 2009 is yet to be determined, but no doubt will be a life changing experience for some of our teenagers. The week long trip always challenges our teenagers to work hard on various projects, but more importantly learn what it means to live out the part of our Baptismal Covenant in which we promise to seek and serve Christ in all persons.

Contact The Rev. Robert Marshall ext 26.

Environmental Concerns Committee

Please join the brand new Environmental Concerns Committee to cultivate awareness and caring for God's creation. Our initial committee charter will be to raise environmental awareness and 'green' our congregation and our community. Beginning with an adult discussion series in January-February, we will increase our knowledge of how to make a positive impact on the environment with notable speakers and subject matter experts. We would love your energy and ideas to help us shape our strategy and activities, which



will have an impact for years to come. We will all work together to help St. John's lead as an example for environmental awareness and action in the community. Contact: Beth Burns 384-7670



Parish Outreach Projects

The Outreach Committee of St. John's is full of electricity, and with its help, there are many ways everyone can get plugged in. Currently, St. John's has ongoing projects with Lynchburg Grows, Tinbridge Hill Neighborhood Association, The Jubilee Family Development Center, Kids' Haven, Camp Kum-Ba-Yah, Meals on Wheels, Miriam's House, Daily Bread, The Interfaith Outreach Association, Rivermont Area Food Pantry, The Gateway Center, and The Society of St. Andrew. The Committee is also exploring other relationships, some new and some old.

With these organizations, the needs vary greatly. At times we collect clothing for Miriam's House, assist with camps at various agencies, or raise funds for a particular purpose. Other relationships, such as Lynchburg Grows and Tinbridge Hill, provide opportunities for both short-term and long-term involvement. Wherever you are on your journey with Christ, reaching out to others is an essential step along the pathway. As you explore your faith at St. John's, consider how you might fit into one or more of these ministries. Look in monthly Tidings for service days!

Contacts The Rev. Robert Marshall, ext. 26
Max Guggenheimer 384-2298
Liz Zellner, 384-5678.



PASTORAL CARE



The role of pastoral care at St. John's covers a wide spectrum. While pastoral care at St. John's includes the typical expectations of hospital visits and ministry at the time of death, it reaches beyond these expectations as well.

Pastoral care involves a loving community which responds to challenges of faith, life crises, and ordinary questions along the way. This may include phone calls to those awaiting surgery, meals to those who are bereaved, and visits to those homebound or in nursing homes. It may include welcoming new babies, helping with decisions about family issues, and planning memorial services.

The role of pastoral care at St. John's exists to care for the body and spirit of our church family and even reaches beyond to those who may not have a church family. We strive to demonstrate Christ's love by supporting our members through joy, sorrow, illness and other life events.



Who
against hope
believed in hope,
that he might
become the father
of many nations;
according to
that which was
spoken, So shall
thy seed be.

Hospital Visitations

Our clergy attempt to see every member who is in the hospital. But long gone are the days when the hospitals call the parish to inform us of an admission. Due to privacy laws, area hospitals no longer provide information regarding parishioners unless specifically directed to do so by you upon admission. Many parishioners misunderstand the privacy forms and do not list the parish on the privacy notice, making it impossible for us to know of a hospitalization. In many cases, such as outpatient surgery or emergency care, notification is not possible. If you or a loved one are in the hospital, or in need of special prayers please contact us so that one of our clergy is able to visit you.

Lay Eucharistic Visitors

Each Sunday, trained Lay Eucharistic Visitors are sent with the blessing of our clergy and parish family to deliver communion to those confined to home or hospital. The Lay Eucharistic Visitors of our parish are an essential element in keeping homebound parishioners connected to all of us.

Bereavement Ministry

The bereavement ministry provides specific services and support to parishioners who have experienced a death in their family.

New Baby Ministry

The new baby ministry provides specific services and support to parishioners who are preparing to have or have had a new birth or adoption in their family.

Retirement Center Visitation Ministry

The retirement center visitation ministry provides specific services and support to parishioners living in retirement homes in an effort to keep them involved in the life of the church.

Parish Health Ministry

The parish health committee meets health and wellness needs of our congregation. This ministry provides blood pressure screenings the first Sunday of each month. This ministry will be conducting a parish-wide health survey in September 2007 and after identifying needs of the parish from the results of the survey will plan health fairs and programs when appropriate.

Samaritan Ministry

The Samaritan Ministers of St. Johns are members of the parish who are called to the ministry of pastoral care. They have received over 20 hours of training in pastoral care ministry while working with the director of Pastoral Care at Centra Health, Randal Walton. Samaritan Ministers



provide one-to-one Christian care to the bereaved, hospitalized, terminally ill, separated, divorced, unemployed, relocated, and others facing a crisis or life challenge. The Samaritan Ministers also visit people in nursing homes in the Lynchburg area. If you are interested in becoming involved in this ministry or know someone who would be interested in speaking to a Samaritan Minister please contact The Rev. Diane E. Vie, ext. 15.



MUSIC



St. John's music program is an important and exciting part of our common life and a vibrant witness to the community at large. Our choirs for adults, youth, and children lead our Sunday worship at 10:30 and guest instrumentalists frequently augment the organ. We regularly present concerts or other special music to the community.

Parish Choir

A mixed choir (SATB) of about 25 people, the Parish Choir meets on Thursday evenings at 7:30 p.m., and sings every Sunday at the 10:30 service, in addition to presenting concerts and singing for special services. They sing a great variety of interesting and sometimes unusual music from many traditions, often in the original languages. Volunteers welcome. Contact Peggy Howell, extension 20.

Choirs for Children and Youth

Our choirs for young people are part of the Royal School of Church Music training program. The musical training which our children and youth receive through this program includes: using the voice well, working on musical skills and understanding, and developing repertoire. Contact Peggy Howell, extension 20.



Training Choir

Children who are at least in second grade are invited to join the Training Choir, a group which meets on Wednesday afternoons at 4:00 p.m. in the Choir Room. In the Training Choir, children learn the fundamentals of singing and leading worship and sing in church with the Treble Choir. In February, Training Choir members who have fulfilled the musical and educational requirements of the program are inducted into the Treble Choir.





And you will
 know the truth,
 and the truth will
 make you free.

Treble Choir

The Treble Choir meets at 4:15 on Wednesday afternoons in the Choir Room. Elementary school age children who have participated in St. John's Training Choir or have sung in a choir at another church are eligible for this group. The children continue working on their musical and vocal skills, and begin simple two part singing.

St. Cecilia Choir

The St. Cecilia Choir is a group of middle school and high school girls with the addition of a few musically advanced elementary school girls who meet on Wednesday afternoons at 4:45. In addition to singing with the Treble and Training Choirs, they sing more difficult music for treble voices, as well as singing frequently with the Parish Choir.

CONCERTS

St. John's Music Committee has planned two outstanding musical events for the 2007-2008 season. With these two concerts, St. John's will continue and expand our longstanding tradition of presenting some of the best sacred music in the Piedmont area.

Baroque Music for Advent and Christmas

December 20, 2008 5:00 p.m.

St. John's Choirs, soloists, and chamber orchestra

On this Fourth Sunday of Advent, the highlight of the concert will be Cantata 147, *Herz und Mund und Tat und Leben*, by Johann Sebastian Bach. This wonderful cantata, composed in its first version for the Fourth Sunday of Advent, features the original arrangement of what is probably the best-known and loved piece of European sacred music in existence: "Jesu, joy of man's desiring." Several other beautiful Baroque Advent and Christmas works by German and English composers Amner, Schütz, Telemann, and Pachelbel will complete this offering performed by St. John's choirs, soloists, and a chamber orchestra.

An Enchanted Evening

Voice Recital by Branch Fields, *Basso Cantante*

March 22, 2009 5:00 p.m.

Branch Fields sang a role in Opera on the James's spring production - and was met with great acclaim for his warm, beautiful, and expressive singing. He is returning to Lynchburg to do a role in *Don Giovanni* as well as to sing a solo recital at St. John's.

Branch was just named as the understudy for Emile de Becque in the Lincoln Center Theater's revival of *South Pacific*, which just won seven Tony awards, and he will treat the audience to several Rogers and Hammerstein songs! From spirituals to *South Pacific* to sacred songs to operatic arias, this program is sure to delight the listeners!

Contact Peggy Howell, extension 20



PARISH LIFE



Sunday Breakfasts

Every Sunday Sept 7 – May 24 (except Dec. 28, 2008 and Easter Day 2009)

8:45 a.m.

Magill Hall

Join your parish family for the best deal in town. Teams of the Men of St. John's cook a homemade breakfast each Sunday morning. Everything from pancakes to fresh local eggs are served from time to time.

Parish Picnic

September 28, 2008

Vest Farm, Forest, Virginia

Join the children for fun and games, bring a lawn chair and sit a spell, and of course, get ready for a great meal! One of the highlights of the year!

Reservations in the Commons early September.

Westminster Canterbury Luncheons

First Thursday each month

11:45 a.m.

Fauber Dining Room

Join the Clergy for our monthly luncheon. Visitors are always welcome. Lunch is available in the Café for approximately \$7.50.

The Annual St. John's Food Sale

November 20

9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Magill Hall

The annual celebration of the grand cooks of St. John's. This long-standing tradition is one of St. John's best contributions to the community. Come for the great Boston Cream Pies, the pickles, breads, mints, twice-baked potatoes and other delectable treats. Not to be missed. All proceeds benefit outreach.

Men of St. John's Wild Game Supper

Date and Time TBA

Join the Men of the parish for this third annual event celebrating the bounty of creation. By popular demand, the event will be expanded this year to include children and grandchildren.

Contact Rodger Fauber 384-1942
William Davis 384-2545



Christ our
 passover is
 sacrificed for us:
 therefore let us
 keep the feast.

Dine with Nine Supper Groups

Would you like to feel more connected to the St. John’s community and get to know other parishioners better? Whether you are brand new to St. John’s or have been here for many years you are invited to join a fall “Dine with Nine” group.

What is a “Dine with Nine” group? It’s a group of 8-10 adults that meet once a month to share a simple potluck supper. Participants take turns hosting, with the host providing the main dish, and the others bringing an appetizer, salad, rolls and desert. You may choose between an adults-only group or a kids-included group. Get ready for fun, friends and fellowship.

Sign up in September using the forms available in Tidings and in the Commons. You will be assigned to a Dine with Nine group and will receive follow up information on who your group members are.

Contact The Rev. Diane Vie, ext. 15.

Fauber Gallery

The Fauber Gallery is a magnificent space, adjacent to The Commons, for local and regional art exhibits. Artists exhibit in the Gallery, selling their work directly to interested individuals. The artists then contribute a portion of the proceeds to the Church to maintain the Gallery; additional income supports our mission in the community. For information contact Ted Batt, 384-9362, our curator.

STEWARDSHIP: PROJECT ST. JOHN’S

It is all about **Gifts in Little Boxes!**

This year’s stewardship campaign will have a fun and interactive twist! We have been mapping the routes for forty little boxes that will travel through the town to gather the pledges of our congregation. This year our Stewardship Campaign will involve a pledge (gift) box traveling to the door of every member of St. John’s. After each box has gathered its pledges and completed its route, it will be returned to the church to present our promised gifts to support the work of God at St. John’s. Look and listen for more information in the fall.

Mark your calendars now for Sunday, October 12th for the Kick Off of **The Gift Box Campaign** with a **Box Lunch or Dinner** at St. John’s. **Pledge Sunday** will be on November 2, 2008.

Please contact Natalie or Stewart Langley if you have questions at 384-1007.



ST. JOHN'S DAY SCHOOL



With vibrant, colorful classrooms and enthusiastic teachers, St. John's Day School offers both a memorable and a meaningful preschool experience for the students who attend. Children participate in activities such as Fall Festival, Classroom Parties, Chapel, Music, Book Fairs and Spirit Week. We encourage children to be actively involved in the learning process by exploring a

wide variety of developmentally appropriate activities and materials in an environment planned for a child. This means a variety of opportunities to learn in a warm, developmentally appropriate environment.

Toddler Class (12-23 months) – Children practice important social skills such as trusting others outside their families, gaining independence, and learning to assert themselves in socially acceptable ways. Sharing and appreciation of classmates is encouraged while children are playing.

Two-Year-Old Class (24-30 months) – Emphasis is on language skills, sensory exploration, and social experiences. Sharing and appreciation of classmates is encouraged while the children are playing.

Three-Year-Old Class – A typical day includes group time, story time, small motor activities, free-play, and other age-appropriate learning experiences. Thematic units are used in promoting sensory-based learning.

Four-Year-Old Class – A typical day includes group time, story time, age-appropriate art activities, small motor activities, free-play, and other age-appropriate learning experiences. Thematic units are used in promoting sensory-based learning, and an overview of the alphabet is incorporated during the school year.

Pre-Kindergarten – Classes work on preparing children for Kindergarten. Curriculum includes a concentrated review of the alphabet (including sound, recognition, and writing of the letter), calendar and weather review, expansion of verbal skills, and refining of fine motor skills. Field trips are taken when available. A main goal of our Pre-K classes is to work toward a smooth transition when the children shift from Preschool to Kindergarten.

Classes are from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and are available for children ages 1-5 years; many classes being offered two, three, or five days per week. Extended Sessions are also available such as Lunch Bunch (from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00p.m.) and Extended Day (from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.). The 2008-2009 school year begins September 2 and ends June 5, following the Lynchburg City Schools calendar for most holiday breaks.

For More information, please contact Jennifer Taylor by calling (434) 846.1914 or e-mailing jennifer@stjohnslynchburg.org





WHOM DO I CALL?

ST. JOHN EPISCOPAL CHURCH 528-1138

Acolytes	Nina Salmon	384-7552
	Anna McWane	384-2198
Address Changes	Gayle Rhodes	Ext. 11
Altar Guild	Mary Jane Hobbs	384-5916
Announcements	Gayle Rhodes	Ext. 11
Baptisms	Gayle Rhodes	Ext. 11
Buildings & Grounds	Dickie Fields	Ext. 10
Bulletins	Katie Hamby	Ext. 12
Calendar	Debbie Inge	Ext. 27
Child Care	Debbie Inge	Ext. 27
Clergy	Michael Sullivan, Rector	Ext. 16
	Robert Marshall, Asst. Rector	Ext. 26
	Diane Vie, Asst. Rector	Ext. 15
Confirmation	Debbie Inge	Ext. 27
Day School	Jennifer Taylor	846-1914 (school)
Eucharistic Ministers	Augusta Thompson	528-2730
Flower Guild	Bob Edwards	845-3181
Food Service	Laura Rosser	384-7940
	Betty Brown	384-7093
Financial Questions	Mary Osborn	Ext. 14
Funeral Planning	Michael Sullivan	Ext. 16
	Gayle Rhodes	Ext. 11
Garden Angels	Fran & Tom Albertson	384-3558
Hospitalizations	Diane Vie	Ext. 15
Lay Eucharistic Visitors	Diane Vie	Ext. 15
Lectors	Augusta Thompson	528-2730
Mailing List	Gayle Rhodes	Ext. 11
Mailings	Gayle Rhodes	Ext. 11
Membership	Gayle Rhodes	Ext. 11
Men's Breakfast Teams	David Bice	384-2337
Mission Trips	Robert Marshall	Ext. 26
Newcomers	Kitty Robertson	384-2734
Nursery	Debbie Inge	Ext. 27
Outreach	Max Guggenheimer	384-2298
	Liz Zellner	384-5678
Pastoral Care	Diane Vie	Ext. 15
Planned Giving	Michael Sullivan	Ext. 16
	Bunny Wood	384-1959
Prayer Requests	Diane Vie or Clergy	Ext. 15
Printing	Gayle Rhodes	Ext. 11
Receptionists	Jocelyn Connors	384-1009
Receptions	Gena Davidson	384-7935
	Kay Van Allen	384-7351
	Lisa Hancock	384-2133
Room Requests	Debbie Inge	Ext. 27
Sunday School	Robert Marshall (Youth)	Ext. 26
	Diane Vie (Adult)	Ext. 15
Samaritan Ministry	Diane Vie	Ext. 15
Stewardship	Michael Sullivan	Ext. 16
	Natalie & Stewart Langley	384-1007
Tidings	Katie Hamby	Ext. 12
Ushers	Steve Perrow	384-1857
Webpage	Gayle Rhodes	Ext. 11
Weddings	Clergy	
Youth Groups	Robert Marshall	Ext. 26