



The Evangelist

August 2011

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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Grief Workshop</i>	2
<i>Music, ECW</i>	3
<i>Adult Formation</i>	4
<i>FAST</i>	5
<i>Green Team</i>	6
<i>Children's Ministry</i>	7
<i>FISH Camp</i>	8,9
<i>Kid's Corner</i>	10

The Mission of St. John's Episcopal Church

- To LOVE,
- To SERVE,
- To GROW in CHRIST.

GLAD TIDINGS

A meditation by Tom Ehrich appears each week as a link on our web site. Usually he reflects on part of the upcoming weekend's Gospel reading. I subscribe electronically to several of his ongoing blogs/writings, which I find helpful in my life—both professionally and personally. Recently someone posed this question to him:

Q: What is the church's role in changing people's lives?

Tom Ehrich: I doubt there is just one. A healthy congregation provides healing and hope, guidance, opportunities to serve others, ethical standards, forgiveness, worship, education – and more. Each of those ministries can transform a person's life, as they encounter God, work alongside others, and discover what God has placed within them. Recently I preached about "welcome." Not just being nice, but radical welcome. Welcoming children even when they are squirrely, welcoming young adults even when they are distracted, welcoming the mean-spirited and cruel, welcoming old folks when other doors are shutting to them, welcoming strangers, outcasts, sinners, good singers, lousy singers, wealthy and poor

alike. That welcome changes lives at deep levels. It's also what Jesus told us to do.
tom.ehrich@morningwalkmedia.com

St. John's is seen by many as a welcoming congregation, a place where people generally feel accepted as they are. Some call it a safe place to become—yes, with all our warts—the person into whom God is forming each one. People at St. John's affirm enthusiastically that they have grown in their relationship with God. We continue as a community to "check in" with one another, exploring ways to nurture one another and move into a deeper faith. Perhaps our most daunting challenge is that greater numbers of people indicate that church is irrelevant in their lives, and, therefore, see no reason to engage with a faith community. Over the past 50 years mainline denominations have experienced drastically alarming decreases in membership.

Everyone at St. John's knows people who do not engage in a faith community. We have many inactive households in our membership book. Especially during these difficult economic times, the

church, with intentionality, provides an anchor in the stormy seas of life. We have an opportunity and a calling from God to be relevant in people's lives—through our words and action that reflect God's sustaining love! This newsletter lists several ministries/programs in August that give people tools for dealing with the stormy seas: Dave Ramsey Personal Finance course and the Grief Workshop are two. St. John's is active in RCS (Religious Community Services) that provides food and shelter for homeless and abused. We are also active in FAST (Faith and Action for Strength Together) in addressing larger issues such as jobs, affordable housing and needs in better education for children.

For St. John's to be a change agent in people's lives, it is imperative that we listen to people outside our current congregation—listen to their concerns and needs, their hopes and dreams. These conversations take place in the grocery store, the thrift shop, a doctor's waiting room, someone's living room, an exercise center, through email and Facebook, wherever. Listen to

(cont'd on page 2)

ST. JOHN'S HOSTING DAVE RAMSEY FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

Happy Birthday wishes in August to:

- 1 Cliff Armbruster
- 3 Vianti Kalicharan
- 5 Glad McCurtain, Diane Lloyd, Terri Chandler
- 7 Catherine Calderbank, Susan Geiger
- 10 Trey Richcreek
- 11 Emily Smith
- 14 Walter DellaPenna
- 17 Barbara Fryer
- 18 Marilyn Foster, John Thorne
- 19 Martha Ginn, Peter Makres
- 22 Casie Colamarino
- 23 Emily Distler, Carol North
- 28 Sandra Wildman
- 29 Bette Knutson, Hunter Nugent

Happy Wedding Anniversary wishes in August to:

- 3 William and Cicely Wulff
- 6 David and Margaret Richcreek
- 7 Kenzie and Marilyn Jones
- 10 Raymond and Frances Lever
- 14 Charles Gaudreau and Joanna Eastman-Gaudreau
- 21 Stan and Margaret Noseworthy
- 22 Jim and Bernice Beaton, Charles and Diane McAllister
- 25 Hugh and Flo Bell
- 26 Don and Ruth Cooper

Beginning Wednesdays, Aug. 17 - Nov. 9 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm, in the Parish Hall

A thirteen week personal financial course designed to teach participants how to:

1. Get Control of Your Money
2. Stop Struggling to Make Ends Meet
3. Tell Your Money What To Do
4. Change Your Family's Future.

A recent graduate of the course said, "Before I attended Financial Peace University, I was over my head in debt. Now I am debt free!" Another couple said, "We

started off with about \$125,000 in debt between credit cards, car loans and student loans. Right now we have paid everything off except for our house!"

If you would like to join those who have taken control of their finances, please consider "The Dave Ramsey Financial Peace University". Each session is taught by Dave Ramsey on DVD followed by small group discussions.

Please contact the church office, (727) 531-6020; churchoffice@stjohnsclearwater.org

GRIEF WORKSHOP, AUGUST 16

The death of a loved one is traumatic. Every person experiences grief and the journey to healing differently. As a church family, St. John's wants to support people through these very difficult times with love and prayers as well as with pragmatic "hands on" compassion.

For that reason St. John's will host a Grief Workshop, Tuesday, August 16, noon-2:30 p.m. Carolyn Smith, a local Hospice bereavement counselor, will be the

speaker. The workshop will include:

- Light lunch
- Support Information with time for questions and answers
- Resource material
- Discussion among participants

Regardless of whether a person has experienced the death of a loved one recently or several years ago, these few hours together offer an opportunity to share journeys and allow God's healing Spirit to

work. For some, and perhaps for all, the workshop will reveal possible "next steps" in life.

Anyone who has experienced the death of a loved one is encouraged to participate and bring others who have lost a loved one. Please contact Marlene at the church office by Friday, August 12, to reserve a spot. If you have any questions, please contact either our priest Glad McCurtain or Cliff Armbruster, our Vestry liaison.

GLAD TIDINGS (CONT'D FROM P. 1)

the marketplace and the way it responds to the local community. If our listening occurs primarily within the congregation, we will miss taking a direction that includes those who are not part of a faith community now. People beyond St. John's have much to offer

to God and St. John's—offerings that are packaged in non-traditional ways. Our future lies outside our campus. We gather here to be recharged. God calls us into the world to search for that future—for our sake and for the sake of others. By

God's Spirit, all our lives are changed, and more people become connected—engaged in meaningful life together.

Love! Peace! Joy!
Glad

MUSIC AT ST. JOHN'S

Hello everyone!

Are we ready for a new year of music in the church?
Would you like to join us?
Do you prefer to appreciate music from the pews?

If you can answer "YES" to any of the questions above, then please do read on!!!!

All of the groups from St. John's that are involved in our music are now ready to start back for the 2011-12 session. In fact, some may already have resumed by the time you read this article, but there are plenty of spaces for you – so don't worry!! The first bell choir rehearsal is on Tuesday, September 6, at 7:00 p.m. in the church. The choir begins rehearsing on

Thursday, September 8, at 7:00 p.m. in the choir room.

As fall approaches and we all begin the rhythm of returning to regular rehearsals, I hope you were all able to take some time this summer to refresh and renew your minds and spirits. I myself enjoyed a relaxing summer and noticed many of you "masquerading" at times as the Summer choir. ☺ It really makes a huge difference during the summer when choir members who are in attendance are able to lead the congregation in song. I greatly appreciate your faithfulness.

Now, it's back to Thursday night rehearsals preparing anthems and other musical items for our morning



services. I would like to extend a **very warm welcome** to anyone in the congregation to come along and join us. We are an inclusive and open group, and we welcome all abilities! I am looking forward to the Autumn/Winter part of our session as we prepare for *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* in November and Advent/Christmas in December.

In Him,

John Wirth
Music Director

Share God's Love

Donate:

- * *non-perishable food to RCS Food Bank*
- * *school supplies and backpacks for children at High Point*
- * *used household items and clothing to St. John's Thrift Shop*

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN (ECW) NEWS

A letter from the President:

Since we have not had a May or June meeting, I'm writing to let the women of St. John's know what is happening in the ECW. First, a big thanks to Barbara Mossbacher for hosting the June 6 Volunteer Appreciation Coffee and to Esther Johnson and her crew who modeled fashions from our Thrift Shop. A good job done by all.

This summer we have spent \$5,650 on repairs

and painting the Thrift Shop building. The Thrift Shop is our only money-maker at this time, and the repairs were much needed. We also spent \$1,000 for tree trimming on the campus.

Through the endeavors of all our Thrift Shop volunteers and those of you who have donated goods or money, we have been able to disburse funds to St. John's, the community and the world. Recently we gave \$1,000 to the Dominican Development Group for scholarships and

\$100 to Santo Tomas Children's Bible Study & Nutrition Program and \$1,000 to Episcopal Relief & Development Fund for the USA Disaster Fund to help disaster victims here in the U.S..

I hope you all have a joyous summer and will see you at our next meeting on September 25, 2011 at 11:45 a.m. in Thelma's Place.

Your Sister-in-Christ,
Camella Kane

ADULT CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Sunday Morning

Breakfast with Jesus is on a short hiatus for July. The class will resume August 7. The group looks at the Gospel of the day and asks questions such as, "What does the Gospel mean for each of us? What am I going to do this week in light of the readings?" Come join this group when it returns in August. This is a great 'drop in group' as each week is a different discussion. Meets Sundays, 9 a.m. in the Parish Hall.

Tuesday Evenings

We have just finished viewing the first six episodes of Diarmid MacCulloch's DVD series, *A History of Christianity*. We learned a great deal about the Early Church, the many Councils that were held to establish Creeds and Doctrines which led up to the Great Schism between the Eastern and the Western Churches in the 11th century. We will view the next

six episodes in the fall. If you missed the first presentation there are summaries available if you want to join us for the next presentation.

Diarmid MacCulloch is an Oxford History Professor whose books about Cranmer and the Reformation have been proclaimed as Masterpieces. *A History of Christianity* will reveal the true origins of Christianity and delve into what it means to be a Christian.

Wednesday morning Bible Study.

We will begin our Bible study on August 24 after a short break this summer. We have decided to look at the Book of Acts. We will begin our class by viewing a DVD on Acts and then have discussion time. Discussions will be lively as they always are during Wednesday Morning Bible Study. Our 'hostess with the mostess', Rose Garafola, has coffee and cookies ready for us as we begin our class. Come join us

on Wednesdays at 9.45 a.m., for fellowship with lots of learning about the Bible and what it means for us today.

Upcoming Offerings.

EfM will be offered this fall. Bonnie Rosendale will be leading and mentoring this group. Please contact Bonnie for information about EfM.

Dave Ramsey Financial Peace University.

Begins August 17. This program teaches how to beat debt, build wealth and keep your personal economy thriving. See article on page 2.

Please join one of the classes offered here at St Johns. We have something for everyone. In each group there is a sharing of fellowship and great learning for us all.

Ann Scally

Debra Hladky was named Teacher of the Year at Leto High School in Tampa. She is a teacher of culinary arts. Congratulations, Deb!

MEET THE VESTRY

The vestry is, in essence, the equivalent of the board of directors or board of trustees for the congregation. The rector and clergy are responsible for pastoral care and worship, while the vestry acts on behalf of the congregation to manage the operational side of the parish. The rector acts as chair of the vestry. Members of the

vestry are elected by the congregation at the annual meeting of the parish, typically in January of each year. The senior warden is appointed by the rector. The junior warden is elected from among the vestry by its members. At St. John's, the Junior Warden oversees the plant operations. Each member of the vestry is assigned

the responsibility of acting as a liaison with a ministry area for a specific part of parish life.

It is time for you to think about how you can serve on the Vestry of St. John's.

Charles Gaudreau, serving you on our Vestry

F.A.S.T.—SUMMER AND FALL 2011

As we often do during the summer, St. John's will renew and deepen our justice ministry through FAST. FAST has hired interns to learn firsthand the ways congregations identify and work together in addressing county-wide problems. One of them will be contacting some people at St. John's to schedule an individual appointment. These interviews enable her to become more familiar with our congregation and with the community. During this process St. John's has the opportunity to review the current status of issues that FAST is addressing with public officials. An update on the issues appears in this

newsletter. We can consider public issues that we think need addressing.

In the early fall FAST will host a justice workshop in our part of the county. The date will be announced. People are encouraged to participate so that we can become more effective advocates. People acquire tools to listen, learn and act. Participants become more aware of the way our religious, political and economic processes work to the benefit or the detriment of justice and dignity of life for everyone. Organized money and organized people are two primary ways that change on a large scale (systemic

change) occurs. Forty faith communities have chosen to be join with other congregations in a grass roots way, not unlike the civil rights movement led by Martin Luther King, Jr, to address together such issues as education, jobs, crimes and drugs, and affordable housing. These are problems that require organized people of faith to bring change. Please look for the date of the workshop.

If you have any questions, please contact our FAST team leaders: Mary Greenough, Mary Ellen Britts, or Barbara Di-Cairano.

God's work doesn't take a vacation. Please remember to keep your financial commitment up-to-date.



**DON'T FORGET
YOUR COMMITMENT
WHILE YOU'RE AWAY**

F.A.S.T. ISSUE UPDATE

Drug Courts

FAST, a DART affiliate, joined with other DART groups in Florida to get a bill expanding access to drug courts passed the Florida House, Senate and signed into law by the governor. Rep. Rouson and Rep. Brandes came to our celebration where we presented them with certificates for their great work on this issue. We expect 4,000 non-violent offenders to now be able to go to local drug treatment rather being sent to prison, saving the state millions of dollars in prison costs.

Comprehensive Rehabilitation in our County Jail

To date the Sheriff has not followed through on his commitment to create a task force to find funds to reestablish the Smart Choices program in the county jail. However, since our action he has announced that he is not running for reelection this fall. Both of the candidates who have announced that they are running for Sheriff this fall have agreed to meet with FAST. We will ask them to commit that if elected they will make this issue a priority.

Affordable Housing

Several County Commissioners have indicated they would support moving forward the time line to spend Pennies for Pinellas money for affordable housing in the next budget year. At our newsletter deadline, Commissioner Welch was to make a motion in July that 5 million a year of Penny Money is allocated for housing over the next 3 years and he had asked FAST to come out and show our support. Because of FAST efforts, the County Commission has already allocated \$19 million for affordable housing. **(cont'd on next page)**

F.A.S.T. ISSUE UPDATE (CONT'D FROM P.5)

Jobs

- Dr. Law was present at our Celebration and we thanked him for his great work starting the new Learn to Earn certificate program to help people get jobs. Since launching the program at our action on April 11, more than 200 people have enrolled in these new classes.
- FAST is working with the St. Petersburg City Council to take formal action that begins the process of creating a priority hiring ordinance for the city of St. Petersburg. Companies with city contracts would hire a certain percentage of their employees from St. Petersburg. This ordinance, which will create jobs for residents of Pinellas County, supports our local economy.

Education

The goal of the education committee is to increase literacy in our schools to the state standard of at least 80% of our children reading on grade level. After extensive research, FAST has found a program Direct Instruction, that we are recommending be used as the core reading curriculum in the 20 target elementary schools where about half of the 3rd grade students are reading below grade level. FAST wants School Board members, the Superintendent and her staff to attend a workshop in August presented by the company that developed Direct Instruction as core curriculum for Fickett School in a poverty area of Atlanta. Initially 21% of their students were reading at grade level. Now 89% of the children read at or above grade level. DI has offered, if the Superintendent makes the request, to put the program in one of the target schools for a year with no cost to Pinellas County. As a follow-up to the August workshop, FAST has asked the School Board and Superintendent and key staff to visit Fickett in the fall.

*Need a Notary?
Then visit the Church
Office. Marlene is a
Notary. She doesn't
charge to notarize
documents for
parishioners. The
shipping stores charge
\$10.*

FROM THE GREEN TEAM

Soil For The Digging

How many green thumbs are there out there looking for soil to grow things in? I suspect quite a few. Well, it just so happens that we have some rich soil on church property. At the back of the parking lot (northwest corner) in the creek bed, sediment has been accumulating for a long time. If you have the wherewithal to bring a trash can or pickup truck and shovel, you are welcome to whatever you can carry off. I'm told that it is good soil, excellent for planting purposes. And the cost can't be beat. Just a little exercise to improve circulation. Good digging.

E-waste collection days

Don't know what to do with your old TV? Clearwater Solid Waste offers a monthly Electronics Collection Day from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.: August 31, September 28, October 26, November 30, December 28.

Clearwater residents, **with proof of residency (a copy of your utility bill)**, may bring up to six unwanted electronics to the recycling drop-off center at 1701 N. Hercules Ave. for free disposal. Electronics accepted are: Camcorders, cameras, cassette players, CD players, cell phones, computers and computer accessories, DVD players,

fax machines, microwave ovens, photocopiers, radios, scanners, stereos, TVs and VCRs.

Please help Clearwater become a greener city by disposing of your electronic waste properly. If you have any questions, please call Solid Waste/Recycling at (727) 562-4933.

Trash Tour

Join us on Monday, August 15, as we tour the Pinellas County Solid Waste operations to see first-hand how our trash is recycled. The tour is at 10 a.m. We will leave St. John's at 9:30.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY KICK-OFF

Children's Ministry Kick-off Sunday, Sept. 11

Fall children and youth ministry kick off on September 11 with a beach party on Clearwater Beach. More details about the party to follow. The children's Ministry will hold its first Sunday morning program that day (please see below)

The face of children's ministry will change slightly this year. The format for the children will be as follows:

9:30 Class for 3 year olds through 5th grade

We will meet in the classroom - (two story building, turn left, last room on the right) where we will have our Bible story using creative dramatics, interactive play, and crafts.

10:10 Wiggle Worship

Then we will go to Thelma's Place for children's Wiggle Worship which will include music and movement along with a story which will run parallel to the readings the adults in church are learning.

The children will join their families at the Peace in the church to continue worship with the Family of St. John's.

Anyone interested in helping with the story telling will be welcome. We have a fantastic felt board collection and a great many resources. If you are a story teller (or would like to be), please consider joining us to share your talents and bring the liturgy alive for the children. It will be great to have many different people helping so the children get to know the adults and the adults get

to know the children better. Please contact Mary Anders to get more details and volunteer.

Toddlers (up to 3 years old)

There will be a nursery during the 10 a.m. worship. Nursery attendants will take toddlers to Wiggle Worship at 10:10 and return to the church during the Peace. Parents have the choice of leaving toddlers in the nursery at that time or getting them from the nursery. Attendant will take toddlers who are in the nursery with them to Communion.

Summer Fun before School Starts

All children and their parents are invited to Mary Anders' home on Sunday August 14 following 10 a.m. worship for a pool party and finger foods lunch.

Foyer Groups will be reforming in the Fall. Call the Church Office if you'd like to be a part of this fellowship.

ON-GOING AND UP-COMING EVENTS

* **Do you play an instrument? Like to sing?** A group is meeting on Thursday evenings during August, 6 - 7 p.m. in the church, to play instruments and sing. You are invited.

* **A Quickstart class for newcomers** to St. John's, **Sunday, August 28**, following the 10 a.m. service. Come and learn more about the Episcopal Church and St. John's in particular. Class last about 45 minutes and includes a short video, discussion and behind-the-scenes tour of facility.

* **Day of Discovery, September 25**, for all those who would like to be confirmed or received by the Bishop in October; begins 11:30 a.m., includes lunch

Other Dates

Fall Deanery Convocation, September 8

Blessing of the Animals, October 2

Confirmation by Bishop Dabney Smith, October 16

Fall "Mass on the Grass", October 23



"I tell you the truth, whatever you did for the least of these, you did for me." Matthew 25.40

They came, they served, they prayed, they worked, they ate, and they had FUN! 23 rising 6th-9th graders left St John's FISH Camp with new friends, memories and a new appreciation for Jesus' words to serve one another.

We are thankful that God blessed us with another phenomenal week of FISH Camp. The nine square tape has been taken up... the supplies are put away and our service projects have left us filled to the gills with servitude and accomplishments.

During our week at FISH Camp, we at St. John's, assist the campers in discovering God's love by serving others and deepening their relationship with Jesus.

This year we expanded the program for our high school youth leaders to include training the week before camp to give them the tools necessary to lead and engage middle school campers. We had 9 high school youth leaders and 4 adult leaders, called O<><Ls (officials), guide and be counseLURES to our campers.

The FISH Campers went out into the community to do daily service projects. Our first afternoon of service was at the Senior Service Center where young and old sat at round table discussions getting to know one other and share their life's experiences. Our second day of service was at the High Point Community Center playing games and interacting with the kids of that community. The third day was held at St John's amid the gardens weeding, mulching and transforming a neglected area of the campus into a beautiful area. The fourth day was spent at RCS's Food Pantry where our campers are experienced volunteers. It is our campers' favorite place to volunteer where they sort canned and dry food, prepare bags of food for the clients and even sort through rotting zucchini.

The FISH campers will tell you that it is in helping others that they reap rewards!

Our Spirituality lessons swam through tough questions like: Why should I follow Jesus? Why should I pray when God doesn't answer all my prayers? How do I stop doing things I know I shouldn't do? and, Can I do something bad enough to make God stop loving me? They were lead through Scripture that

gave answers and insight into these tough questions.

Before heading out to do service projects, our campers, youth and volunteers were very well fed. We are so thankful to our awesome kitchen crew that served up hot delicious lunches! They worked hard at preparing and serving wonderful meals to fuel our energy! Thank you to all of our dedicated and wonderful volunteers who checked in the campers each day and to those who drove the campers to the work sites and even lent a helping hand where ever there was a need. Parents always comment on how impressed they are of the support FISH camp gets from the parishioners!

Another way our campers served others was to bring in donations of money and specific school supplies each day as they take inventory of their abundance when others go without... Our campers and their families donated over \$100 and Back- to-School Supplies for the children of the Highpoint Community - **kids helping kids!**

In His Service,
Danene Rice
Margaret Richcreek
Mary Anders

WE HAD FUN & CELEBRATED THE SON!

THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!

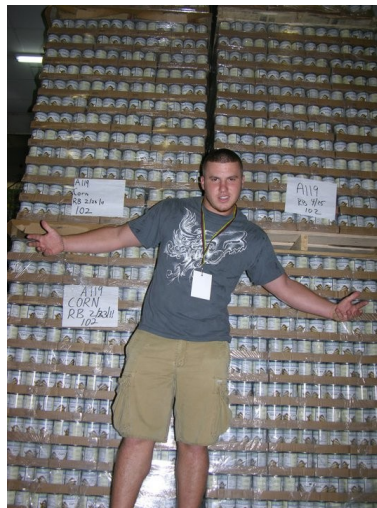
FISH Camp could not be possible without the phenomenal volunteers: Mary Boghigian, Marlene Eichelberger, Mary Greenough, Margarita Lopez, Doris Martinez, Jim McCurtain, Rev. Glad McCurtain, David Richcreek, Nancy Smith, Molly Sperandio, Leona Weber, Marty White

Youth Volunteers: Alex Babnik, Zoe Boehme, Stevie Fryer, Dylan lusi, Andrea Nall, Tyson Rice, Spencer Rice, Stephen Sawyada, John Stima and Charley Swanson.

Thank you to each and every one of you for your willingness to serve the youth! May God grant you peace in knowing that you made this a very special summer for so many.

A busy week of FISH Camp

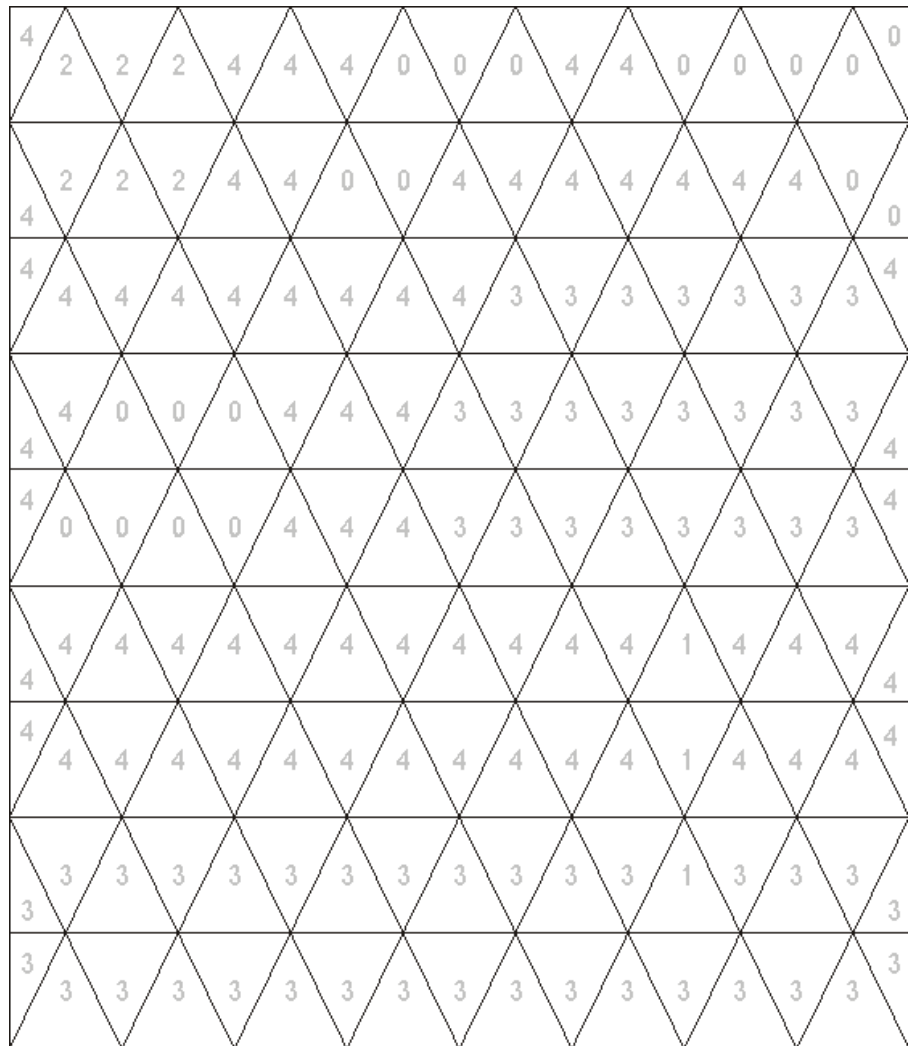
Top: Weeding & mulching
Row 2: Interacting at Senior Center
Row 3: RCS Food Pantry
Bottom: Group photo, Friday Fun at AirHeads



Kid's Corner

Color by number to find the picture

- 0 = white
- 1 = brown
- 2 = yellow
- 3 = green
- 4 = blue



SUMMER BARBECUING WORDSEARCH

WORD LIST

- | | |
|------------|-------------|
| APRON | MEAT |
| BACKYARD | NATURAL GAS |
| BBQ SAUCE | OUTDOORS |
| BRAISE | PROPANE |
| CHARCOAL | SALMON |
| COOK | SAUSAGES |
| FLAME | SMOKE |
| GRILL | STEAK |
| HAMBURGERS | SUMMER |
| HOT DOGS | TONGS |

B E A H A M B U R G E R S R B
 C K E C U N I N G I E S A A M
 E O A N S O O G F M C O G O F
 K M O I N G R R M M E A L L T
 W S I K T I H U P R O P A N E
 C H A E L A S T A A N M R D H
 H O T L S M O K E O E F U A F
 A I R E M K H B O R H O T T C
 R O A L A O S B A C K Y A R D
 C O R E T C N Q R M O O N K I
 O U T D O O R S E A N G G A S
 A S O O N R E A V E I N E L E
 L G C T G R T U I C I S T Y A
 S N D I S S U C S U A L E L Y
 O U T S I D S E G A S U A S E

BILLY GRAHAM'S SUIT

Billy Graham is now 92-years-old with Parkinson's disease. In January 2000, leaders in Charlotte, North Carolina, invited their favorite son, Billy Graham, to a luncheon in his honor.

Billy initially hesitated to accept the invitation because he struggles with Parkinson's disease. But the Charlotte leaders said, 'We don't expect a major address. Just come, and let us honor you.' So he agreed.

After wonderful things were said about him, Dr. Graham Stepped to the rostrum, looked at the crowd, and said, "I'm reminded today of Albert Einstein, the great physicist who this month has been honored by Time magazine as the Man of the Century. Einstein was once traveling from Princeton on a train when the conductor came down the aisle, punching the tickets of every passenger. When he came to Einstein, Ein-

stein reached in his vest pocket. He couldn't find his ticket, so he reached in his trouser pockets. It wasn't there. He looked in his briefcase but couldn't find it. Then he looked in the seat beside him. He still couldn't find it.

"The conductor said, 'Dr. Einstein, I know who you are. We all know who you are. I'm sure you bought a ticket. Don't worry about it.'

"Einstein nodded appreciatively. The conductor continued down the aisle punching tickets. As he was ready to move to the next car, he turned around and saw the great physicist down on his hands and knees looking under his seat for his ticket.

"The conductor rushed back and said, 'Dr. Einstein, Dr. Einstein, don't worry, I know who you are; no problem. You don't need a ticket. I'm sure you bought one.' Einstein

looked at him and said, 'Young man, I too, know who I am. What I don't know is, where I'm going.'

Having said that Billy Graham continued, "See the suit I'm wearing? It's a brand new suit. My children, and my grandchildren are telling me I've gotten a little slovenly in my old age. I used to be a bit more fastidious. So I went out and bought a new suit for this luncheon and one more occasion. You know what that occasion is? This is the suit in which I'll be buried. But when you hear I'm dead, I don't want you to immediately remember the suit I'm wearing. I want you to remember this: I not only know who I am. I also know where I'm going." "Life without God is like an unsharpened pencil - it has no point."

(Editor's Note: We do not know if this story is true or if it is urban legend, but we believe the message is true.)

The Staff of St. John's Episcopal Church

The Rev Glad R. McCurtain,
Rector
The Rev. Hugh Bell,
Retired Priest
John Wirth, Music Director
Marlene Eichelberger,
Parish Administrator
Thelma Lipp, Sexton
Danene Rice, Youth Leader
Margaret Richcreek,
Youth Leader
Mary Anders, Children's Ministry

The Vestry

Jan Davis, Senior Warden
Glenn Smith, Junior Warden
Mary Anders, Finance
Cliff Armbruster, Pastoral Care
Mary Ellen Britts,
Christian Formation
Sallie Devine, Membership
Charles Gaudreau, Worship
Mary Greenough, Reach Out
Amanda Smith, Treasurer

Summer Service Schedule Sunday

8 and 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist
9 a.m. Adult Christian Formation

Wednesday

12 p.m. Holy Eucharist and
Healing

Saturday

5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist

Church Office Hours

Mon.-Thurs. 8:30 a.m.—5 p.m.
Friday 8:30 a.m.—1 p.m.

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the second Monday of each
month—whichever comes .

**We reserve the right to edit
articles submitted for content
and length.**

Marlene Eichelberger, Editor

THE SAFEST PLACE

How to stay safe in the world today:

1. Avoid riding in automobiles because they are responsible for 20% of all fatal accidents.
2. Do not stay home because 17% of all accidents occur in the home.
3. Avoid walking on streets or sidewalks because 14% of all accidents occur to pedestrians.

4. Avoid traveling by air, rail, or water because 16% of all accidents involve these forms of transportation.

5. Of the remaining 33%, 32% of all deaths occur in hospitals, so, above all else, avoid hospitals.

But, you will be pleased to learn that only .001% of all deaths occur in **worship services in church**, and

these are usually related to previous physical disorders. Therefore, logic tells us that the **safest** place for you to be at any given point in time is at church! And....Bible study is safe too. The percentage of deaths during Bible study is even less.

So,...for safety's sake - attend church, and read your Bible. **It could save your life!**



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Christians

By Maya Angelou

When I say... "I am a Christian"
I'm not shouting "I'm clean livin'".
I'm whispering "I was lost,
Now I'm found and forgiven."
When I say... "I am a Christian"
I don't speak of this with pride.
I'm confessing that I stumble
and need Christ to be my guide.
When I say... "I am a Christian"
I'm not trying to be strong.
I'm professing that I'm weak
And need His strength to carry on.
When I say... "I am a Christian"
I'm not bragging of success.
I'm admitting I have failed
And need God to clean my mess.
When I say... "I am a Christian"
I'm not claiming to be perfect,
My flaws are far too visible
But, God believes I am worth it.
When I say... "I am a Christian"
I still feel the sting of pain.
I have my share of heartaches
So I call upon His Name.
When I say... "I am a Christian"
I'm not holier than thou,
I'm just a simple sinner
Who received God's good grace, somehow!