



The Evangelist

October 2011

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

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The Mission of St. John's Episcopal Church

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

GLAD TIDINGS

Blessing of Animals

God's Spirit is busy working through this congregation during October. We begin the month with Blessing of the Animals at the 10 a.m. service on October 2. We ask God to bless those creatures who have so richly blessed our lives. In reality, it is a time when we thank God for the blessing that our pets are to us. We observe St. Francis Day the first weekend in October and remember his faithful ministry among us to all of creation. In Genesis we read that God gives us "dominion" over the creatures. "Dominion" means godly care. Therefore, the first weekend in October we rededicate ourselves to participate in God's work of caring for creation. That weekend we are asked to bring food and supplies for animals in a local shelter.

Confirmation/Reception, October 16

Bishop Dabney Smith will administer the rite of Confirmation and Reception Sunday, October 16, at the 10 a.m. service. There will be a buffet lunch afterwards in the parish hall. During the services that weekend we will renew our Baptismal Vows and recommit ourselves to a deepening relationship with God through Christ.

Ongoing Ministries

Throughout the month, St. John's offers opportunities to learn and grow as disciples of Jesus—Wednesday morning study of Acts, Breakfast with Jesus Sunday morning exploration of that day's gospel, Tuesday night History of Christianity, and Wednesday night Dave Ramsey personal finance course. FAST, an inter-faith justice ministry, holds its annual fall assembly October 17 to decide which community issues to address. Each week the congregation is encouraged to bring food and monetary contributions for the RCS food pantry. The Thrift Shop recycles clothes and small household goods to people in the community at a discounted price. Craft groups—rug-hooking, scrapbooking, quilting, knitting/crocheting and basket weaving—will include a free introduction to woodcarving on October 24.

All Saints' Day Observed October 30 (prior to Nov. 1)

October concludes with one of the important observances of the church calendar—the three part cycle of liturgies from the early church of All Hallows' Eve On October 31, All Saints' Day on November 1, and All Faithful Departed on November 2. October 31 was often observed as a vigil. Halloween might have evolved in this way. Begging at the door grew from an ancient English custom of knocking at doors to beg for a "soul cake" in return for which the beggars promised to pray for the dead of the household. Soul cakes, a form of shortbread — and sometimes quite fancy, with currants for eyes — became more important for the beggars than prayers for the dead, it is said. All Saints' Day provides a time to celebrate the "communion of saints," by giving thanks for the lives of everyday saints throughout the ages. Following the 10 a.m. service we will have a pot luck lunch and inter-generational storytelling. A great way for the saints of all generations to become better acquainted. In the sanctuary St. John's hangs white scrolls inscribed with the names of its members who have died. Each year the list is updated.

Glad

A “THRIFTY” ADVENTURE

Happy Birthday wishes in October to:

- 1 Sally Brown
- 2 Frances Williams
- 3 Jason Riggs
- 6 Lola Brett, Elmer Jones, Don Cooper
- 8 David Richcreek, Mickey Super
- 9 Alivia Cagle
- 10 Norma Brooks-Parks
- 11 Cecelia Lowe, Emily Burgos, Elizabeth McCurtain
- 12 Norma McClellan, Tessa Giordano
- 15 Doreen Paine
- 16 Tom Kelley
- 18 Imogene McLean, Paul Chesler Sr.
- 19 Harris Brown, Tyler Hirschmann
- 20 Helen Fuller, Cathy Roberts, Dean Fryer
- 21 Carol Chesler
- 22 Joaquin Aja, Joyce Gibbs
- 24 Janice Whitman, Christon Blair
- 30 Patricia McHugh, Enid Ireland, Shiela Ladd
- 31 Dave Burton, Savanna Howard, Juan Lojo

Happy Wedding Anniversary wishes in October to:

- 4 John and Judi Fleming, Bill and Ruth Hickman
- 5 Robert and Nancy Barnes, Bob and Dottie Zimmerman
- 8 Bill and Beverly Nye
- 18 Ken and Pauline Burtner
- 21 Joaquin and Audra Aja
- 23 Ryan and Heather Joy

If your birthday or anniversary occurs this month and your name does not appear here, please call the Church Office to let us know.

St. John's has a Thrift Shop, and while this isn't "news," it is newsworthy. In all the years my family and I have been a part of the St. John's family, I have, just like so many of us, simply taken the Thrift Shop for granted. It's just always there. On occasion I've cleaned out a closet or gathered a few odds and ends that have outlived their usefulness at my house, but are still useful, and "dumped them off" at the Thrift Shop. I never gave it much more thought.

Then one day, Rev. Glad and a few of us got together to talk about how to improve St. John's usefulness to the community. One of the topics on the list was the Thrift Shop. We discussed what our Thrift Shop actually does, how it works, and the ministry it provides to the community. In shocked response to an outline of its usefulness, I said, "It makes how much money?!" I never knew that little brown building at the back corner of the parking lot had so much to give.

Did you know that a very small group of very dedicated volunteers spend long hours sorting and cleaning and pricing items to put out for sale to meet the needs of the less fortunate in our community?

Did you know that the volunteers work in a space that is only about twice the Church bathroom?

Did you know that you can bring old clothes that are unsuitable for sale to the Shop? Just put them in a separate bag, marked "Suncoast", and they will be recycled.

Did you know that the community brings us TONS of useful items and that the sale of those items has continued to give and give and give back to others in need?

Did you know that with a bit more space and a few more volunteers we could double our mission?

Did you know that with a lot more space and several more volunteers we might triple or even quadruple our mission?

Along with a small group of "dreamers", I was given a special tour of our Thrift Shop and learned its history and mission. I learned about the dedicated volunteers who take great pride in the "thrift community" that has developed. They describe watching a baby grow up as she comes on Saturdays with her grandma. She's now in Kindergarten and sports St. John's Thrift Shop school clothes. They worry when regular customers aren't seen for awhile.

"What would it take," we asked, "to help you help the Thrift Shop grow?" One of the answers is simple - some of your time. With enough volunteers we could stay open on Saturday afternoons when working families can shop. With enough volunteers we could move our merchandise through the process faster and get more items out for sale. With enough volunteers we could get the word out about the great bargains - and the special community that is the Thrift Shop. Of course, if you volunteer, you get to be among the first to see the great things that come into the store. You might even decide something has a useful place in your home!

If spending time in sales is "not your bag," or sorting and readying items for sale is "not your bag," there are other ways you can help. One is to spread the word about our great Thrift Store community. One is "find your bag" at the store! I'm not a shopper, but I know people who are and who LOVE thrift stores.

We can give to our Church and our Thrift Shop in many different ways - in time, talent, and treasure. I invite you - no, I challenge you to take a walk through our Thrift Shop and open your eyes, hearts, and minds to what you might be able to do to help move this vital St. John's mission into the future!

Bonnie Rosendale

YOUTH TO BE CONFIRMED AND RE-AFFIRMED

On October 16 Bishop Dabney Smith will celebrate the sacrament of Confirmation at St. John's. We will be presenting as many as 8 youth, to the Bishop, who will be making their confirmation and re-affirmation.

This next month YIA will be preparing with Confirmation classes. The first week will have us looking at the *Book of Common Prayer* and the Sacrament of Confirmation. Week two will focus on the Bible and the covenants God made with His people. Week three, we will be steeped in the sacraments, outward and visible signs of inward and spiritual graces. Lastly, we will go over the Nicene Creed, understanding the

promises that were made at our Baptism. If you have any questions regarding the classes or the sacrament of Confirmation, please see Rev Glad, Danene or Margaret

Later in the month, YIA will enjoy a day of games and fellowship with the youth at the Church of the Ascension. We meet together and play softball, capture the flag, soccer and even cricket thanks to Father Mike! This is our 3rd year meeting, and a great time is had by all.

Watch for our parish fellowship event on October 30. It will present an opportunity for different generational groups to get together with the intention



of becoming better acquainted. We seem to be groups that pass in isles on Sunday morning. What better way than on All Saints' weekend for the saints of St John's to get together learning more about each other. Better yet, it is the 5th Sunday, so we will have a pot luck lunch!

Amazing start to a new year!

God's Peace and Blessings
Danene and Margaret

A new Altar Service Book and campus-wide WiFi has been given in memory of Frank Glaze.

RECYCLE CELL PHONES—IT'S AN EASY CALL



Did you just get a new cell phone? Are you wondering what to do with the old one? Rather than adding it to your growing collection of unwanted mobile phones, recycle it!

Recycling cell phones helps the environment by saving energy and keeping usable materials out of landfills. The materials that comprise our old cell phones can also be recycled and reused to make many other products, helping to preserve the world around us. Imagine the difference each of us can make if we just do our part!

We have found an organization that will pay us for old cell phones, so you can recycle your old and broken cell phones to raise

money for St. John's. Dig through your junk drawer, closets and shoeboxes for used cell phones that are just collecting dust and taking up space. (They say the average household has 2 old cell phones sitting around.) **We will be collecting them during the month of October.** Look for the "Recycle your cell phones" box.

FORWARD IN FAITH, NOV. 12-13

This issue contains articles on God's work here in October. So how else is God at work? We believe that wherever God is leading St. John's, God goes before us preparing the way calling us to move "Forward in Faith." With God's empowering Spirit, that is what we will do together. In the fall farmers celebrate the harvest. This fall, November 12-13 is the weekend that St. John's will celebrate the boundless fruits of God's love harvested in our lives. Often called Consecration Sunday, we will have a lunch following the 10 a.m. service on November 13 in the parish hall.

At some services when the offering is brought forward, the congregation says in unison, "All things come of thee, O Lord. And of thine own hath we given thee." (1Chronicles 29:14) In this, the congregation is reminded that God's provision is sufficient and that it is a privilege to share that bounty for God's purposes.

Please consider the following story:

In the Old Testament, the people were filled with joy as they brought their sacrifices to the altar of God to give thanks to Him for all He had done. Today, we don't offer animal sacrifices to God. However, we can still celebrate all that God has done for us by bringing our tithes before the Lord. We know the Lord does not live on top of a box behind a curtain. Our God is here in this place, among us now, ready to accept our gifts!

"About eight or nine years ago, my wife Georgia and I joined Lake Ridge. At that time we had several college loans, a car payment, a young daughter, etc. etc. Boy, were we giving and giving. The typical beginning of the month was to pay all the bills. Then give to the church what was left over. Which I can assure you was not very much. A short time later, we were challenged to participate in the 'Forward in Faith' campaign. Our first response was 'We can't give more to the church, we barely make it now.' However, we sought God and trusted Him and we took

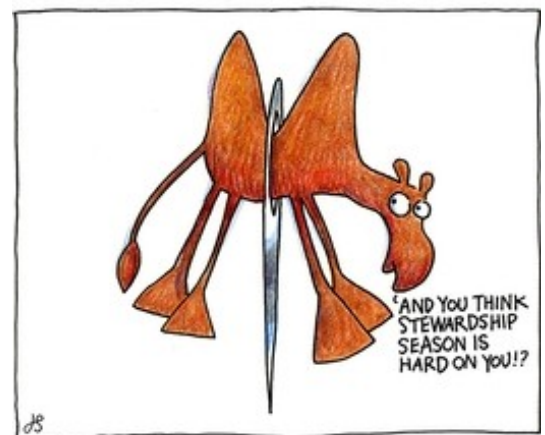
what felt like a gigantic leap of faith. Realizing that we were doing things backwards, the next month I did things in reverse. I wrote the first check to our church. I paid the bills with what was left. At the end of the month, we had made it!

"The Bible makes the purpose of tithing very clear—to put God first in our lives. We are to give God the first and the best of what we earn. What we do first with our money shows what we value most. Giving the first part of our earnings to God immediately focuses our attention on Him. It also reminds us that all we have belongs to Him. A habit of regular tithing keeps God at the top of our priority list and gives us proper perspective on everything else we have.

"The need I have as a giver to give is more important than the need of the church to receive. When we show gratitude and love for God's blessings by putting His check first rather than last, we are practicing the principle of first fruits giving that we read about in the Bible. When we do that, we get the results the Bible promises. We receive more than we give....

"What are you putting first? What do you trust—your money or God? When will you take a leap of faith?"

[Kent Winter, Lubbock, Texas] (from *Stewardship Nuggets* by Herb Miller)



*You make a living by
what you get, you make
a life by what you give.*

Billy Graham

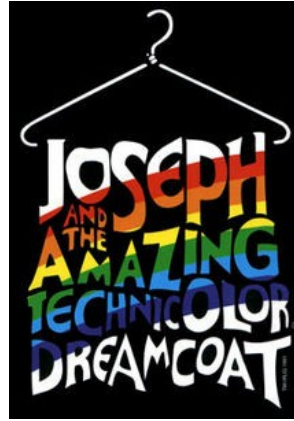
JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT

Bring your friends and family to see a traditional biblical parable unfold in a very untraditional way Saturday, Nov. 5 at 5 p.m. service and Sunday, Nov. 6 at 10 a.m. The musical is based on the Biblical story from Genesis of Joseph and his coat of many colors.

Joseph is the favorite son of Jacob, but his siblings resent the attention Jacob showers upon him so what do they do? Joseph's

brothers sell him into slavery and eventually the favored son finds himself in jail. However, his favorable interpretation of the dreams of the Pharaoh win him the admiration of the all powerful leader, and soon Joseph is one of the most powerful men in Egypt.

Broadway legends Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice tell the story of Joseph set to a modern pop beat.



FREE INTRODUCTORY WOODCARVING CLASS

Monday, October 24, 6–9 p.m., Taught by Bob Marek

Instructor Bob Marek, a carver for 50 years, carved numerous pieces in the 10-foot tree stump in Largo Central Park across from the Train Station. He is offering this free class to give people an opportunity to “try something new” or reconnect with an activity they might have done earlier in life. He will supply the tools. Participants pay only for any wood pieces they select (\$1-\$2). The evening will include instruction on safety and woodcarving techniques. Please come and “check it out.” Tell a friend at work or in the neighborhood. Bring a friend or family member. There is neither pressure nor expectation—other than fun. This is an offering for the community. Register with the church office, 531-6020 or churchoffice@stjohnsclearwater.org, so that we will have ample supplies.

St. John's priest Glad McCurtain is a novice and has found this hobby to be relaxing. “I don't have a knack for painting, sewing and other kinds of crafts. However, taking little chips out of wood at a slow pace is enjoyable. As the holidays approach, Bob and others have given me some really simple patterns to carve. Please join me.”

He will offer classes on Mon nights, Nov. 7, 14 and 21, 6-9 p.m., for \$7 each night. This gives people the opportunity to become more familiar with woodcarving—and possibly make a Christmas ornament and/or small gift.

Below: Carved Rolling Bear



Pattern of an easy Santa



Living Water

Christian novelist Flannery O'Connor has written, “You cannot understand life and its mysteries as long as you try to grasp it. Indeed, you cannot grasp it, just as you cannot walk off with a river in a bucket To have running water you must let go of it and let it run. The same is true of life and of God.”

YOU ARE INVITED TO CONTEMPORARY MUSICAL WORSHIP

Contemporary Musical Worship has come to St John's. Sing or just like to sing, play and instrument or not; come be joyful. Worship the Lord musically.

We are a small but joyful group meeting twice a month to raise our voices in a joyful noise to the Lord singing contemporary music selections with electric guitar and bass guitar accompaniment. Sometimes it is just that, noise, but it is always joyful and worshipful. This group is about being fed and growing in God's love and fellowship with each other. Whether you feel you have the ability to sing or just want to worship musically, come be a part of this new ministry at St. John's.

We will meet the 1st Saturday and 3rd

Wednesday with some exceptions. The dates proposed through the end of the year are:

9/21/11 Wednesday, 6 p.m.

10/1/11 Saturday, 4 p.m.

10/19 Wednesday, 6 p.m.

11/12 Saturday, 4 p.m.

11/16 Wednesday, 6 p.m.

12/3 Saturday, 4 p.m.

12/14 Wednesday, 6 p.m.

Come and join us joyfully singing praises to our Lord!

Prayerfully submitted,
Music Worship Team

Remember to Recycle at St. John's:

Aluminum cans

Printer cartridges

Mixed paper

Old cell phones

FROM ST. JOHN'S GREEN TEAM

Last month a group of us went on a tour of Pinellas County's Solid Waste Operations. It included a tour of the Waste-to Energy facility where Pinellas County's trash is burned and electricity is produced. Left over ashes go into the landfill along with extra garbage. We saw where they turn yard waste and tree trimmings into mulch. It is available for free to Pinellas County Residents.

Remember every item that is recycled and not put out to your curb in the trash helps to preserve natural resources and save landfill space.

We visited the Household Electronics and Chemical Collection Center located at 2855 109th Ave N in St.

Petersburg. This is the place where we should take our old electronics and chemicals for proper disposal. Many everyday items that seem harmless can damage the environment if thrown out with the trash. Electronics, including TVs and computers, contain hazardous materials such as lead. Hazardous chemicals include such items as paint, cleaners, batteries (especially rechargeable batteries including cell phone and hearing aid batteries) and fluorescent light bulbs (both the tubes and the new compact variety). Please take these to the collection center or to a Mobile Collection Event held around the county on certain Saturdays. For a schedule of the collection events visit Pinellas

County's website at www.pinellascounty.org/recycle. They will take residential hazardous waste free of charge. Business Hazardous Waste is handled differently and there is a charge (info can be found at the above website)

Please protect our environment. We all have old fluorescent bulbs, paint, chemicals or a broken digital device in our garages. These items need to be properly handled to protect our environment for future generations. If you have any questions about how to properly dispose of an item or recycling, please call Jan Tracy at her office 464-7533.

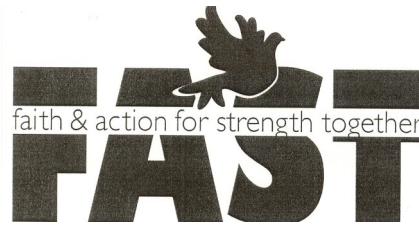
F.A.S.T.

Rethinking Justice Workshop

On Saturday, Oct. 1, FAST will host a justice workshop at Rock of Jesus Baptist Church, 3940 18 Ave. S., St. Petersburg, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. The Rethinking Justice Workshop will examine God's call to do justice. Join us as we read scripture, discuss the problems in our community that need addressing, and make a commitment to do justice as God calls us to do. 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. Organ-

ized money and organized people are two primary ways that change on a large scale

(systemic change) occurs. Like Martin Luther King, Jr., and the churches during the civil rights movement organizing at a grass roots level, faith congregations in Pinellas County today work together advocating for change that brings greater justice. We will carpool from St. John's parking lot at 9:20. Our rector, Rev. Glad McCurtain, will be a presenter.



Fall Annual Assembly, Oct. 17

The Annual Assembly will be at Blessed Trinity on 54th Ave. S. on October 17 at 7 pm. At that meeting the congregations in FAST will decide on the issues to research and address with public decision makers. Often FAST works on an issue for multiple years because the extent of the problem takes time to address and begin to resolve. We will carpool from St. John's at 6:10.

DANCE FOR HOPE—HELP FIGHT CANCER

The Barbados Association of Tampa Bay invites you to the 2nd Annual Dance for Hope, Friday, Oct. 21, 7 p.m. - 1 a.m. at the Egypt Shrine's Activity Center in Tampa. A Caribbean Dinner will be served. Music by DJ Charlie Brown. Admission is \$35 in advance; \$40 at the door. All proceeds aid in the fight against cancer.

Dance for Hope 2010 raised approximately \$10,000 all of which were donated to organizations such as the American Cancer Society, Susan G. Komen, Cancer Support Services, and Moffitt Cancer Center.

The Barbados Association is a nonprofit organization under IRS code 501C3 as a nonprofit charitable Association. Our goal is to play a more active role in educating the public through such programs as health fairs with emphasis on how to reduce incidence of cancers. In particular to provide an understanding of how our life style increases the incidence of cancer developing in our bodies. This includes cancer caused by cigarette smoking, heavy use of alcohol, obesity, poor nutrition, physical inactivity, infectious agents, and exposure of

our bodies to the sun's rays.

We need your support to make this event a success. Your support will provide us the ability to help cancer patients, survivors, caregivers and their families through a very emotional and difficult period. Remember cancer do not discriminate, today your neighbor, or a stranger, tomorrow it may be you, a relative, spouse or friend. Help us to help them.

For more information, contact Hendy Griffith at 510-3999 or hgriffit@live.com

***Dearly Departed**
Francis W. Glaze, Jr.
Judith D. Schierer
Jack Ryan*

May their souls and the souls of all the faithful, rest in peace.

CALLING ALL COOKS, BAKERS AND “WISH I HAD TIME-ERS”

Hmmm, wish you had a loaf of homemade bread or a breakfast casserole to pull out for company around the holidays? What about a homemade cake or pie for a special dessert?

If you would like to have a pie, cake, homemade bread, or casserole in the freezer for holiday company, this may be the answer.

If you love to bake or cook your favorites, this may be your chance.

We are trying to put together the two groups and add to the church coffers at the same time

If you are willing to make 5 or 6 (or maybe just 1 or 2) of your specialty items, please let Mary Anders know - you may get voice mail - 442-6102, or e-mail danders@ix.netcom.com. Tell her how many and describe what you are willing to make. Please respond by October 10.

As soon as we get the list, we will publish it and eve-

ryone will have a chance to reserve an item (or two or three) so the makers will know how many to make. The Sunday before Thanksgiving, November 20, will be delivery day. All items will be sold for \$10.00 with the money going to the general fund of the church.

This is a great opportunity for everyone to participate and have fun.

Please let me know,
Mary Anders

*Beverly Byxbee
Margaret Guyatt
Amanda Smith
will be installed as
Daughters of the King,
Sunday, Oct. 9,
10 a.m. service*

OPPORTUNITIES TO OBSERVE ADVENT

Quiet Days

On Dec. 3, Calvary is hosting a quiet day. The speaker is Bishop Barry Howe.

On Dec.10, St. John's, Holy Trinity, and Good Samaritan's is having a quiet day at Good Samaritan's, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Speakers include Deacon Sandy

Jamieson and Rev. Glad McCurtain. The focus is the crèche—what biblical characters brought to the crèche and the way their encounter with Jesus impacted their lives.

St. John's Wednesdays

Two Wednesday evenings, one hour each.

“Encountering Emmanuel: Exercises to Experience ‘the Sacred in the Ordinary.’” 11/30, and 12/7, 6:30 p.m. Slow down during this busy season and have fun perceiving Emmanuel “found” in news and magazine clippings and pictures. Come to one class or both!

MINI “BELIEVE IN A MIRACLE” TO BE HELD

All women are cordially invited to attend a mini Believe In a Miracle seminar at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Spring Hill, on Saturday, Nov. 5. This is a day set apart from all other days. It is a day for renewing our spirits. A day of expectation and hope. A

day to be refreshed by God's love. A day for re-energizing our commitment to living and sharing the Good News.

There is a \$6 registration fee which includes lunch. Forms are available from

ECW and in the Church Office, or call St. Andrew's, 352-683-2010.

CONGREGATIONAL DYNAMICS STUDY

Thank you very much for welcoming me to your congregation at the end of May and thank you to the vestry and to Rev. Glad for agreeing to participate in the research I am doing towards my Doctor of Ministry degree at Meadville Lombard Theological School. My thesis is entitled, "The Interaction of Congregational and Family Systems in Congregational Development". The goal of the research is to test a tool I have created which is designed to help clergy and lay leaders to identify systems patterns within their congregation and between the congregation and their own families with the hope that over time these understandings will lead to healthier congregations and healthier families. The tool involves creating a series of diagrams of a congregation over time including, history,

changing roles and responsibilities, emotional systems within the congregation and connections between emotional systems in the congregation and family systems of key leaders in the congregation.

On Friday, Oct. 7, at 5:30-7 p.m., I plan to meet with a group of St. John's members to hear a variety of perspectives on key events in the history of the congregation and to learn how people have responded and interacted with each other at those times. As you speak, I will begin a rough set of diagrams which will eventually map out the emotional system of the congregation over time. Please join us that day if you are a leader in the congregation (official or unofficial) or if you have been at some point in the past. Join us if you are a long time member who has

been involved over the years or if you are a newer member who has played a role in the recent history of the congregation. Or just come and listen and learn about your congregation.

Please RSVP to lynnacqua@verizon.net if you plan to come so that I have an idea of how many people to expect. In addition I will conduct individual interviews (1/2 hour each) on Friday, Saturday and Sunday with some of the people who participate in the larger meeting.

Please email me to sign up times for an individual interview. Please put St. John's in the subject line. All participants will be asked to sign a consent form. Thank you.

Lynn Acqua

*I have had many things
in my hands, and I have
lost them all, but
whatever I have placed
in God's hand, I still
possess.
Martin Luther*

ST. JOHN'S RETIREES

The Retirees are back on schedule. Our first meeting of the year, 2011 - 2012, was a learning experience. We added to our knowledge of Florida history. Did you know that Largo could have been named "Luluville"? Or that Dune-din might have been Jonesboro? (Wouldn't want to drink the Kool Aid there!)

Our next meeting will be held on October 10 in the

Parish Hall. The scheduled program will be presented by Sharon Hauser. She will tell us all about the S.P.C.A. Sharon will be joined in her program by a four-legged furry friend. The meeting begins at 10:00 A.M. There will be a fellowship time beginning at 9:30. Please, join us.

Here is a little more Florida history trivia:

1. What was the nickname of the first governor of

Florida who later became the 7th U.S. President?

2. Why was Tallahassee selected as the capital of Florida?

3. Florida's two main contributions to the Civil War were.....

1. Old Hickory (Andrew Jackson)
2. It is halfway between St. Augustine and Pensacola
3. Salt and cattle

Kids Corner

Color Me



FALL WORD SEARCH

W	A	R	T	H	A	N	K	S	G	I	V	I	N	G		
M	S	U	N	N	E	G	N	A	H	C	Y	D	N	A	AFTER SUMMER	LEAVES
Y	S	O	A	N	D	C	H	I	L	O	L	I	Y	R		
B	A	C	K	T	O	S	C	H	O	O	L	B	U	E	AUTUMN	NOVEMBER
R	T	T	N	G	N	I	K	A	R	L	O	E	T	T	BACK TO SCHOOL	OCTOBER
E	E	O	F	R	L	E	E	Z	A	U	T	U	M	N	BEFORE WINTER	ORANGE
M	I	B	N	G	N	U	I	F	N	G	H	Q	T	I	BROWN	PICTURESQUE
M	S	E	M	Y	A	R	F	E	G	L	T	S	H	W	CHANGE	RAKING
U	E	R	I	E	D	E	A	R	E	L	C	E	O	E	COLORFUL	RED
S	N	D	I	L	V	T	I	A	O	O	B	R	N	R	COOL	SEASON
R	S	R	F	L	O	O	V	R	M	L	R	U	A	O	FALLING	THANKSGIVING
E	K	E	I	O	N	E	N	G	S	P	O	T	E	F	HALLOWEEN	YELLOW
T	C	D	T	W	S	E	A	S	O	N	W	C	A	E		
F	C	U	L	A	R	F	A	L	L	C	N	I	O	B		
A	H	A	L	L	O	W	E	E	N	L	O	P	R	S		

YOUTH AND SENIORS TO SHARE THEIR STORIES

On Sunday, October 30, following the 10 a.m. service, Youth and their "elders" will get together in the Parish Hall to share their stories over a potluck luncheon.

So what is an Elder? Depends on one's perspective, I'd say. For sure, someone who is older than us, right? How about someone who is wiser than us? It could be a position of responsibility in a community held by someone who hopefully has grown wise along with growing older. However, wisdom is not necessarily a given with age. I have seen great words of wisdom coming from the young. Think about Jeremiah and Samuel; they were quite young when the Lord called them to the work of the Kingdom. So maybe the term becomes relative and not so much about age. The family of God is made up of all ages, all types of people, all with differing talents and gifts, all vital to the well being of the whole. None of us is too old or too young to contribute to the life of the family.

However, often times there are more than years that separate the members of our family. It can be hard for the generations to understand each other: the Youth - busy in mind and body, interests often incomprehensible to those who are older. Then there are the Seniors -

some busier than ever, some slower moving, often dodging a speeding Youth, some thinking they have lived out their lives and don't have much to offer, others thinking they've done their thing already now it's time to rest and let someone else do the work. Sometimes it seems like they live on different planets, ne're the twain shall meet.

Well, I'm here to tell you: This is just not so! This summer the Youth in the FISH Camp went to visit a Senior Center to share time and conversation. The experience was well received on both sides.

There is so much to share in this family that God has given us. Older people have the wisdom of experience, the joys and the sorrows of a lifetime of proving the faithfulness of the Lord. The Youth have energy, vitality, an eagerness to experience life. As we are taught in Proverbs, there are many voices in the marketplace competing for our attention. If we as the Elders of our family don't step up to the plate and share our love and the benefit of our experience, then the other voices will have little competition.

To this end we at St. John's will be given an opportunity to get to know one another better. In the upcoming months we will be having a fellowship with a focus on mingling the

generations. Around the holidays, the Elders will have a chance to share a skill that many Youth are eager to learn - cookie decorating.

An added benefit to these efforts will be a chance to build one-on-one relationships. Many of our Youth do not have grandparents nearby and many who are older don't have grandchildren nearby. These are needs built into us by God: the extended family. My own life was enhanced by the love of our adoptive grandparents - a relationship that lasted 54 years. Maybe I should share my own story! So many blessings!

So let's be thinking about this. We all have stories. Let's look back through our lives and remember that the Lord is good. Let God illuminate our experiences, remind us of the altars we've built through the years as special remembrances of the Lord's hand in our lives. Who better to share God's faithfulness than those who have proven it.

Hope to see you all in the Parish Hall on Oct. 30. Bring a dish to share.

Mary Greenough

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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.

The Evangelist

of
St. John's Episcopal Church
is published ten times yearly.

Issue Deadline: The tenth day or
the second Monday of each
month—whichever comes .

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

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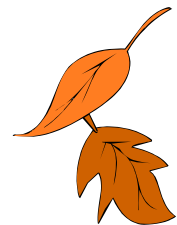
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Fall at St. John's



October

- 2 Blessing of the Animals
- 13-16 Cursillo weekend, DaySpring
- 16 Bishop Dabney Smith visits; Confirmation at 10 a.m. service; luncheon to follow
- 17 FAST Annual Assembly, 7 p.m.
- 21-22 Diocesan Convention, Punta Gorda
- 24 Introduction to woodcarving, FREE, 6-9 p.m.
- 30 All Saints' Day celebrated; potluck luncheon with intergenerational stories

November

- 5-6 *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*
- 12-13 Consecration weekend; Luncheon after 10 a.m. service
- 15 Interfaith Thanksgiving service, 7 p.m., St. Catherine of Sienna
- 24 Thanksgiving service 11 a.m.; Thanksgiving dinner to follow in Parish Hall
- 27 Advent begins

