



February Newsletter

Going Deeper with Our Stories, God's Story

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.
Hebrews 12:1-2

New Testament scholar N.T. Wright compared Scripture to a five-act play, full of drama and surprise, wherein the people of God are invited into the story to improvise the unfinished, final act.
Rachel Held Evans, Inspired

Beloved St. John's community,

You may have all been wondering what I and the St. John's missional leadership team learned through the focus groups we conducted in September. It's time to tell you. As I mentioned in [my sermon from January 26](#), among the many responses we received, we heard several clear themes. First, you are hungry to connect more deeply with one another, especially around spirituality and faith, but you aren't sure you have the spaces or the tools to do so in a meaningful way. Second, many people feel they don't know enough about scripture or the Episcopal tradition, and you'd like to learn more about these things in ways that are actually helpful and relevant. Finally, you are deeply concerned about what is going on in the world around us, and you'd like to connect what we are doing at St. John's on Sunday to what is happening in the world in a way that makes a positive difference.

Our team decided to do a simple, short term experiment in order to address some of these concerns. During Lent, we are going to offer a number of small groups in which we explore some of our own stories and stories in scripture. In particular, given that Lent is most related to the spiritual practice "Turn," we plan to focus some of our time learning, sharing and seeking out "turning" stories in our personal lives, in scripture, and in the life of the world around us. Participation in these small groups might comprise your Lenten practice this year. When we are done, we'll reflect on what we learned. In what ways did we experience connection between one another, and between our stories and God's story? Did these groups help us with any of the themes we discerned through focus groups? Where did we sense God's Spirit working in these groups? What next steps might emerge when we pray and reflect on what we've experienced?

In the coming weeks, you will see more details about these groups and how you can get involved. In the meantime, may God grant us a deepening sense of identity, purpose and transformation through the Way of Love. May we continue to write the next chapter of the story of liberating love that began long ago, through the God who moved through our spiritual ancestors. May we do so with faithfulness, power and grace.



Faithfully,
Lisa

February Newsletter

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Racial Justice Book Group

Wednesday February 5, 12, Thursday February 20, 7:00 to 8:30pm

Waking Up White: And Finding Myself in the Story of Race

by Debby Irving

We are starting a series of book group discussions around the issues and challenges of race, privilege, and Black Liberation Theology. I have found this book to be a helpful starting place for this ongoing discussion. We will plan to meet 3 or 4 times to dig deeper into this book. Plan to read the first section, chapters 1 through 5.

I look forward to starting these discussions.
Blessings,
Rex



Shrove Tuesday: Where Pancakes and Mardi Gras Meet!

Tuesday, February 25th, 5:00 - 7:00pm in the Parish Hall

Somewhere along the line, the tradition of 'giving up' something for Lent led to another tradition – Shrove Tuesday – also known as Fat Tuesday. The concept is that on the night before Ash Wednesday and the start of Lent, a meal is served to use up all of the tempting items in the cupboard and refrigerator. In Shrove Tuesday tradition, this means pancakes and sausages.

Well, no matter how we got there, St. John's decided that this is a great opportunity for a party. Pancakes, sausage, and to add a little Mardi Gras flavor - Jambalaya! Returning for their third year, Mama Digdown's Brass Band will provide some great New Orleans soul.

*Grab your beaded necklaces and join us!
Bring your family, friends, and neighbors.
Tickets are available at the door –
\$5 for individuals, \$15 for a household.*



Ash Wednesday Services



Wednesday, February 26th, 7:00am, 12:00 and 7:00pm

This service begins the Lenten season with the Imposition of Ashes and Holy Eucharist.

Inquirer's Class



**Sundays, February 2nd and 9th 10:10am in the Chapel
(3rd date to be determined)**

We would like to invite you to attend this winter's St. John's Inquirer's Class series. This is a no obligation informational series for persons considering membership at St. John's. In these informal sessions, we will present information about our congregation, answer any questions you have about St. John's and the Episcopal Church, and spend some time getting to know each other better.

The class meets for two informative sessions. A third session will be a casual gathering in the home of our Greet & Connect chair, Sonia Toomey, date and time TBD, with snacks and beverages provided. *Please join us if you are interested!*

February Adult Forums

Rules of Life: Habits, Values or Resolutions

Sunday, February 2nd **Ann Kraemer**

We're still at the beginning of the year, and (perhaps) still pursuing diets, exercise, and other resolutions for a better future. How does today's scripture present a vision of the future? Has it come to be? What's your vision of your future? Is it in your power to control that? What actions are you taking to narrow the gap between the person you are and the person you want to become?

Seeing Choices

Sunday, February 9th **Heidi Joos**

We face numerous choices that range from the routine (whether to eat another cookie) to the unexpected and unwelcome (how to respond to criticism) to the larger life choices (where to live, how much time to work). What does today's scripture say about choice? Making choices can be unconscious, and many times should be or we'd be exhausted. Which choices do you want to make consciously? How will you recognize those types of choices?

Learning, Unlearning, and Learning Again

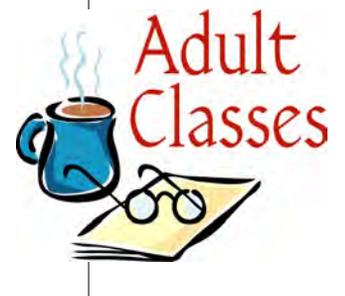
Sunday, February 16th **Charles Taliaferro**

You may have heard today's scripture many times before. Is there still something for you to learn from it, or unlearn? How do you know? Learning is at the heart of the quest to live in the presence of God. It involves openness and questions, thus stressing the term 'quest' in the term 'question.' We will consider the awesome, practical, onhand resources available to us in Christian mystical tradition.

All Parish Safe Church Training

Sunday, February 23rd **Rex McKee**

Each faith community will now offer this one-hour community-wide training annually. This is a new high level overview for all members of the community.



**Adult
Classes**

Affordable Housing Workday

Saturday, February 8th, 8:30am

St. John's work crews work the second Saturday every month. Usually our job is to help 'turn over' apartments – interior painting and cleaning so a new family can move in. So, if you can paint, clean or do light repairs, we have a job for you. Our work days are from 8:30am to 3pm - the day starts with coffee, juice, and treats.

The work starts at 8:30am, ends around 3pm, with a break around noon for lunch. Lunch is made and delivered by the St. John's affordable housing lunch crew. New volunteers are always welcome.

Please contact [John Corlett](#) for site work.



Our Saviour's Shelter Meal

Friday, February 14th, 3:00pm

Love Your Neighbor! Our Shelter Meal Ministry

We will again cook and serve a wonderful meal for guests at **Our Saviour's Housing Shelter** (2219 Chicago Avenue S, Minneapolis, MN 55404). Please take a moment to see if you might be able to help!

Meal Prep - 3-6pm: Come to St. John's and help prepare salad, meal, etc. (3-4 people needed).

OR Deliver & Serve - 5:45-8pm: Come to St. John's and transport, deliver, and serve the food to guests at the shelter (5-6 people needed).

Show your commitment by signing up on the chart pad in the hallway outside the Parish Hall. Thank you!

If you have questions, please contact [Caron Stebinger](#).

Brown Bag Eucharist

Tuesdays, 12:15pm in the Chapel

We offer a weekly Eucharist in which you are invited to bring your lunch - at 12:15pm every Tuesday in the Chapel. During this service, during the liturgy of the Word, we eat our lunches, have a lively conversation about scripture, offer our prayers verbally to God, and then continue with the liturgy of the table. We conclude by 12:50pm so people can get back to work.



Conversations from the Heart



**Saturday, February 15th, 12:30pm in the Library
NOW ON THE 3RD SATURDAY!**

'And still, after all this time, the sun never says to the earth, "You owe me."... Look what happens with a love like that. It lights the whole sky.' HAFIZ

This February's Conversations, you are invited to join a daring conversation about LOVE not just the flowery language of greeting cards, but your own descriptors, experiences and wisdom. Please join us, all are welcome! For questions, or if you would like more information, please feel free to contact [Nancy Herbst](#).

Lunch Bunch

Monday, February 17th, 12:00pm in the Parish Hall

Lunch Bunch will welcome [Carol Arney](#), a retired Episcopal priest who attends St. Mary's in St. Paul. She has attended presentations by Al Gore on climate change and will be sharing some of that information with us. We'll begin with a potluck lunch at noon, followed by Carol's talk on climate change. Please bring a dish to share and join us for this timely topic.



Children, Youth & Families News

Nursery

For both services and education hour, St. John's offers childcare downstairs in the nursery. We currently **need one more high school student or adult** to work once a month on Sundays (8:45am - 12:15pm). For more information, contact [Amy McGrew](#), Interim Minister to Children, Youth and Families.



Children's Chapel

Children's Chapel **needs a rotation of volunteers** to serve as a second adult in order to fulfill Safe Church practices during each service. Please consider signing up to join the children once a month or once this semester as a helper or teacher.

The role of a helper is to sit in with the children, model participation for them, and help redirect their attention when needed.

Once a month while Amy, Interim Minister of Children, Youth, and Families, attends her home church, we need a teacher as well as helper; those dates are marked. Amy will email the teacher an agenda to adapt as needed to fit their style as well as the location of all supplies needed. For more information or to sign-up, [click here](#).

Sunday School

During the Education Hour we are learning:

	Ages 3 ½ - PreK Godly Play	Grades K-7 Following Lectionary	Grades 8-9 Exploring Faith
February 2	Parable of the Good Shepherd	Matthew 5:1-2 Life-giving Attitudes	Different Denominations of Christianity and the 5 Major World Religions
February 9	The Good Shepherd & Holy Communion	Matthew 5:13-20 Let your Light Shine	
February 16	How the Church Tells Time	Matthew 5:13-20 New Ways for New Kingdom	
February 23	Holy Baptism	Matthew 5:38-48 Choosing Peace	

For more on
Children, Youth, &
Families
at St. John's,
contact:
[Amy McGrew](#)

Summer Camp Registration

The Episcopal Church in Minnesota has well run, age-appropriate and engaging camps that connect children and youth with peers in the region and state. For a full list of camps and the link to register, [click here](#).

Youth Group (6th-7th Grade)

Sunday, February 9th, is our Potluck from 6:00 to 8:00pm in the Parish Hall, so bring food to share. During our Potluck, we will play games and explore how our faith can impact life all week long.

Sunday, February 23rd, we are meeting at Buck Hill to go Snow Tubing from 3:00 – 6:00pm Watch email for waiver and pricing.

Pilgrimage (8th-9th Grade)

Last month, we dug into our values and goals for Pilgrimage, and chose three possible location sites—Ireland, Scotland and England. During this month's potluck, we will make final choice as well as explore who we are as individuals and discover who are the personalities that make up this group.

February 2nd	5:00-9:00pm	Super Bowl & Game Night
February 16th	6:00-8:00pm	Potluck (Come prepared for a photo to be taken.)
February 23rd	3:00-6:00pm	Snow Tubing at Buck Hill (Watch email for wavier and pricing.)



Children, Youth & Families News, cont.

Confirmation (10th-11th Grade)

Sunday, February 2nd, 10:00 - 11:30am

Confirmation Class on why the Bible is more than a relic and less than a God, including a Quiz Game.

Sunday, February 23rd, 10:00 - 11:30am AND 2:00-4:30pm

Confirmation Class on Leap of Faith vs. Leap of Action and later, 2-4:30pm, Snow Tubing at Buck Hill. Drivers needed; meet at St. John's at 2:00pm.

If you have questions about Confirmation at St. John's, contact: [John Bellaimey](#)

<p>REMINDER: NO RUMMAGE SALE</p>	<p>For years, Pilgrims have been grateful for the community's support and involvement in the Spring Rummage Sale. After thoughtful discussion, and for a variety of reasons, we have decided NOT to host a rummage sale this Spring. Thank you for your understanding, continued encouragement, and support of students going on Pilgrimage.</p>
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Safe Church Training

- Who:** All who help in Nursery, Children's Chapel, Sunday School, Youth Group, Pilgrims & Confirmation
- When:** Saturday, March 7th from 9:00am until 12:00pm
- Where:** St. John's Parish Hall
- What:** The new guidelines require renewal training every 3 years. We have also updated the training with revised and new videos. Everyone with access to the building, or who works with children and youth, and all employees are generally required to participate in Safe Church Training within 6 months of starting their role.



Interim Process Update

Two teams—a Transition Task Force (TTF) and a Search Team—are being formed to help prepare for and conduct our CYF Minister search. Amy McGrew, of InterServe Ministries, will facilitate both teams in conjunction with strong St. John's leadership. The TTF will have 6-8 St. John's members; two of these will continue to be part of the Search Team, composed of 4-8 members.

The TTF will do a current assessment of St. John's values and needs for children, youth and family ministry, and help pave the way for a successful search. The Transition Task Force will communicate more in February as they invite teens and the congregation to participate in this process. Please pray for both of these teams.

February Music News

St. John's Open Mic

7pm Friday, January 31st

Now in it's EIGHTH Season – St. John's Open Mic is a performance/presentation community opportunity taking place in the Parish Hall and running for one very special hour. The program takes place on the final Friday of the months: February 28, March 27, April 24, and May 29. All are welcome – on either side of the microphone. Join the fun! Childcare can be provided with advance notice. For more info and to get on the program, contact [Chad](#).

Children's Choirs sing & Chime Choir play

Sundays, February 16th & 23rd

St. John's Children's Choirs sing during the 9am service on Sunday, February 16th, and during the 11am service on Sunday, February 23rd. St. John's Chime Choir plays during the 11am service on Sunday, February 16th, and during the 9am service on Sunday, February 23rd.

Mama Digdown's Brass Band

6pm Tuesday, February 25th

St. John's own Erik Jacobson and members of his fabulous [Mama Digdown's Brass Band](#) bring the sounds of a real New Orleans Mardi Gras celebration to St. John's annual Shrove Tuesday Supper in St. John's Parish Hall. The band has been together for 20+ years and has traveled to the Crescent City over 50 times! Food is available from 5-7pm. [Mama Digdown's Brass Band](#) plays from 6-7pm. Don't miss it!!

NO Wednesday Children's & Chime Choir or Choir Dinner

Ash Wednesday, February 26th

NEXT St. John's Open Mic

7pm Friday, February 28th

Now in it's EIGHTH Season – St. John's Open Mic is a performance/presentation community opportunity taking place in the Parish Hall and running for one very special hour. The program takes place on the final Friday of the months: March 27, April 24, and May 29. All are welcome – on either side of the microphone. Join the fun! Childcare can be provided with advance notice. For more info and to get on the program, contact [Chad](#).



BIG Thanks & Gratitude goes to:

- Musicians **Wendy Smith, Doug Mensing, and Andy Vaaler** for their special musical contributions to our 9am and 11am Epiphany 1 – The Baptism of Jesus services on Sunday, January 12th.
- Musicians **Jo Bolles, Wendy Smith, and Andy Vaaler** for their special musical contributions to our 9am and 11am Martin Luther King, Jr. services on Sunday, January 19th.
- St. John's **Children's Choirs** and **Chime Choir** for their special musical contributions to our 10am Epiphany 3 service on Sunday, January 26th.
- **Wendy Smith, Jodi** and **Allie Bosacker** for their fine teaching & care-filled leadership of Wednesday evening Children's Choirs, Chime Choir, and Children's Activities through January.
- **Nancy Herbst, Ivy Booth, Jenny Lindberg, Allen Gooch** and **Friends** for their good work preparing Wednesday Choir dinners in January.
- St. John's **9am, 10am, & 11am Service Musicians** for their faithful service and participation - leading The People's Song on Sunday mornings throughout January!

For more on
Music at
St. John's,
contact:
[Chad Smith](#)



Music Highlight

Music Highlight: Edward Jacobson

Q: In what ways do you share your musical gifts at St. Johns?

A: I play trombone in church and I play in Chime Choir.

Q: What music do you listen to?

A: I like music by Lady Gaga, Rebirth Brass Band, Lil' Naz X, and Kirk Joseph the sousaphone player in the Dirty Dozen Brass Band.

Q: Is there any particular music or musician that has influenced you?

A: Duke Ellington and my dad.

Q: What musical endeavors do you pursue outside of St. John's?

A: In my school band at Hale. And I play trombone sometimes with my dad's bands, Mama Digidown's Brass Band and the Southside Aces.

Q: If you could meet any musical person, past or present, who would it be?

A: Louis Armstrong

Q: What is something people might be surprised to know about you?

A: That I am a good basketball player



Prioritize Climate 2020



The daily headlines regarding our climate crisis are terrifying. It is easy to feel overwhelmed and hopeless – after all, this is a global problem...what can we possibly do as individuals? ... and so little seems to be getting done at the national level. The *New York Times* recently published an [article](#) that recommends five steps to managing the anxiety many of us feel regarding the climate crisis, and how to influence meaningful, systemic change. The article addresses self-care and action tips, and conveys an important sentiment:

“...the climate crisis is not going to be solved by personal sacrifice. It will be solved by electing the right people, passing the right laws, drafting the right regulations, signing the right treaties – and respecting those treaties already signed, particularly with indigenous nations. It will be solved by holding the companies and people who have made billions off our shared atmosphere to account.”

To this end, Earth Matters is joining with over 50 organizations committed to engaging people in climate action, particularly in relation to the 2020 elections. With caucuses coming up February 25 (a *critical* early step in climate action), the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day (April 22), and of course the November 3 election, it is essential that we dig deep and take meaningful action to bring about transformational, systemic change with regard to climate action. Our partner, MN Interfaith Power & Light (MNIPL) is co-leading this effort through their “Prioritize Climate 2020” campaign, which will continue through the November 3 election.

Several St. John’s members have already participated in education and training sessions, but in order to rally collective action to build a majority for bold action on climate in Minnesota in 2020, we need to recruit as many people as possible to attend their caucus on February 25 as “Caucus for Climate Delegates.” (Note: There is a DFL presidential primary in Minnesota on March 3, a week after the caucuses, but we won’t

be caucusing for a presidential candidate on February 25.) While “caucus” is often equated with “long and boring,” this has been identified by over 50 climate-focused organizations as the single most effective technique at this stage of the 2020 election cycle. Please consider seriously the following invitation:

Caucus for Climate Training – one way YOU CAN make a difference for climate justice!

As people of faith, we are committed to acting boldly on climate change this year. One powerful step you can make is to attend your precinct caucus on February 25, at 7pm, to make sure climate is a top priority for your party, whichever you belong to. Thousands of Minnesotans caucusing for climate, across all parties, will send a powerful statement that climate is a top issue in 2020! Come to one of the Caucus for Climate trainings led by MN Interfaith Power & Light to get the tools you need to make an impact at your caucus and invite others to join you. We hope to see you at one of the following training options!

- **February 3** (5:30-7:00 pm) – at **MNIPL’s office**: 4407 E Lake St, Minneapolis [Register here](#)
- **February 10** (7:00-8:30 pm) – at **St. John’s** (Let’s fill the church! Invite your friends and neighbors!)

Let’s take the actions necessary so that on April 22, the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day, we have reason to truly celebrate as we take on this immense challenge from a position of faith, responsibility, and love. I am confident we can make meaningful change together. Please contact me if you have any questions or are interested in joining this important movement at this critical time in history. Thank you!

[Doug Mensing](#)

Caucus for Climate Training

**Monday,
February 10th,
7:00pm**



Altar Flowers

St. John's invites you to make a gift towards Sunday flowers in memory of, in thanksgiving for, in celebration of or in honor of a person or event. You may give once or on a recurring annual basis. The donor's name(s) and appropriate dedication are printed in our Sunday insert.

Sign Up Here

St. John's will be responsible for ordering the flowers from the florist. Donations are made directly to St. John's Flower Fund and are tax deductible. *The suggested donation amount is \$55.*



Mark Your Calendars



2020 Vestry

Senior Warden
Allen Gooch
(2021)

Junior Warden
Stacy Walters
(2022)

2021
Jane Gilgun
Beka Gonzalez-Olson
Kaitlin McDonald

2022
Mark Halley
Rachel Harrison
Shanti Mittra

2023
Craig Franke
Sarah Parker
Jennifer Stanerson

Treasurer
Michael Morrow
(2021)

Clerk
Jane Haakenstad



Calendar of Events

Feb 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 8:00, 9:00, 11:00am Holy Eucharist 10:00am Confirm Grp 10:10am Inquirer's Class 10:10am Educ. Hour 12:00pm Forum Mtg 5:00pm Pilgrim Grp 7:00pm Cont. Prayer	3 4:30pm Beginning Tai Chi Chih	4 10:30am Staff Mtg 11:00am Tai Chi Chih 12.15pm Brown Bag Eucharist 5:45pm Chair Yoga 7:30pm Polaris/Alanon	5 11:00am Yoga 12:00pm Spirit Group 5:15pm Choir Dinner 6:00pm Children Choirs 7:00pm Chime Choir 7:00pm Book Grp	6 1:00pm Alive & Aware	7 Vestry Retreat	8 Vestry Retreat 8:30am Afford. Housing workday
9 8:00, 9:00, 11:00am Holy Eucharist 10:10am Inquirer's Class 10:10am Educ. Hour 11:00am Cent. Fund Mtg 6:00pm Youth Grp 7:00pm Cont. Prayer	10 4:30pm Beginning Tai Chi Chih 7:00pm Caucus for Climate training	11 10:30am Staff Mtg 11:00am Tai Chi Chih 12.15pm Brown Bag Eucharist 5:45pm Chair Yoga 7:30pm Polaris/Alanon	12 11:00am Yoga 12:00pm Spirit Group 5:15pm Choir Dinner 6:00pm Children Choirs 7:00pm Chime Choir 7:00pm Liturgy Planning 7:00pm Book Grp	13 1:00pm Alive & Aware	14 <i>Newsletter deadline</i> 3:00pm Our Saviour's meal	15 12:30pm Conv. from the Heart
16 <i>New Member Welcome</i> 8:00, 9:00, 11:00am Holy Eucharist 10:10am Educ. Hour 6:00pm Pilgrim Grp 7:00pm Cont. Prayer 7:00pm Book Grp	17 12:00pm Lunch Bunch 4:30pm Beginning Tai Chi Chih	18 10:00am Staff Mtg 11:00am Tai Chi Chih 12.15pm Brown Bag Eucharist 5:45pm Chair Yoga 7:00pm Vestry Mtg 7:30pm Polaris/Alanon	19 11:00am Yoga 12:00pm Spirit Group 5:15pm Choir Dinner 6:00pm Children Choirs 7:00pm Chime Choir 7:00pm Liturgy Planning	20 1:00pm Alive & Aware 7:00pm Book Grp	21	22
23 8:00, 9:00, 11:00am Holy Eucharist 10:00am Confirm Grp 10:10am Educ. Hour 2:00pm Confirm Grp. 3:00pm Youth & Pilgrim Groups 7:00pm Cont. Prayer	24 4:30pm Beginning Tai Chi Chih	25 10:30am Staff Mtg 11:00am Tai Chi Chih 12.15pm Brown Bag Eucharist 5:00pm Shrove Tuesday 7:30pm Polaris/Alanon	26 7am, 12 & 7pm Ash Wednesday Services 11:00am Yoga 12:00pm Spirit Group	27 1:00pm Alive & Aware	28 7:00pm Open Mic	29