

St. John'S EpiScopal church



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Prelude to 2nd Wednesday Lunchtime Concerts

One of the many music offerings that St. John's will provide this year will be a monthly lunchtime concert on the 2nd Wednesday. These will officially begin in October and conclude in April. For more immediate information pick up a music brochure in the commons or bell tower. More specific information will also be in the next issue of the EAGLE.

Before this series kicks off in October, there will be an appetizer concert (no food, though). As part of the *Marquis de Lafayette* celebration during September, Michael Bennett will play a 20 minute organ concert on **Thursday September 6** at 12:10pm. Lunch will not be served, but this is a wonderful way to "get in the groove" for our Lunchtime Concerts! The concert will include Widor's well known *Toccata*, Bach's *Gigue fugue* and *Now Thank We All Our God*, and two British selections. The concert is free.

A View from the Big Pew

Dear Friends,

I'm writing just as we return to our two-service schedule and the beginning of 2007-08 programs. In the rectory we have been dealing with the reality of obsolescence in the technology realm and having to decide about phone systems and voice and data communication providers (Ma Bell, why did we ever break you up?), getting the new program brochures ready to circulate in print and electronically and ensuring that our sign and web site and *J&C* advertisement agree with what we're actually doing beginning August 19th.

That's on the first floor. Upstairs in the rectory there is similar bustling and thumping and calling back and forth from one office to another. I know that Michael has been working on start-up for the choirs. Heidi is getting herself and her teachers ready for children's classes and has been lining up resources for Adult Forums. Hilary has been working with our Youth Group advisors to get a calendar of activities lined up. She has been doing duty at Boiler Gold Rush and such with the Chapel of the Good Shepherd and is making some decisions about a proper office here on the Lafayette side of town.

Ironically, Pat and I will be leaving for our vacation and continuing education time just as staff and programs gear up after the summer vacation. Activity ramps up. Attendance increases as new folks give us a try and folks who took the summer off return. This is sort of a "wave in passing" to you and a promise that we'll catch up with one another later on.

Our travels will take us to Israel once again. Linda and Arliss Jeffries, Jo Roberts, Caryl Matthews, and Paula Franck from the diocesan staff (all EFM alums and one trailing spouse) will be joining us and share in a 14-day course at St. George's College. St. George's is a study center of the Anglican Communion located on the grounds of the Anglican Cathedral in Jerusalem and offering programs for both clergy and laity. This will be my third trip to Israel and Pat's second. We enjoyed two St. George's programs on our sabbatical in 1998. This is a chance for us to revisit and see what's changed and for others to have a similar but less lengthy experience of this complex and sometimes seemingly "unholy" holy land. Our primary course will be "The Palestine of Jesus," and will involve not only lectures but also much traveling by bus and foot about Jerusalem and Galilee. St. George's program goal is to help course participants/pilgrims come to a better understanding of the biblical narratives and their own faith, not simply as a received tradition but as a living reality, through theological reflection and first-hand encounter with geography, archeology, and the living stones – the people – of Israel/Palestine today.

Bethlehem's Manger Square and the Deheishe UN Refugee Camp (now raising it's third generation of Palestinian refugee families since 1948), the Dead Sea with Qumran and Masada, the Temple Mount and Dome of the Rock, the bazaars of the old city, Herod's palace at Caesarea on the Mediterranean, pickpockets at the Garden of Gethsemane. The call of the muzzein comes through your open window at the first hint of dawn, "Jesus' synagogue" at Capernaum, Ben Gurion airport customs officials, the sidewalk cafes and the pedestrian mall in West Jerusalem, beggars at the Garden Tomb (where some Victorian Englishmen thought Jesus was buried) are all part of the scene. IDF troopers watch pedestrian traffic from the rampart at the Damascus Gate. Oscar Schindler's grave is at the Mount of Olives. Scrumptious hummus and falafel sandwiches are available from tiny little shops. The stone steps and pavement would give OSHA inspectors apoplexy. The hostility of the major Christian bodies toward one another

in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre (where everyone except those Victorians believe Jesus almost certainly was buried) is evident. The smells and sounds and colors of a very different culture excite and overwhelm. The Wall of Separation slithers like a great blasphemy across the landscape. The poverty of Arab East Jerusalem and the affluence of the Jewish quarter overlooking the Western Wall plaza in the old city are shocking. I expect our companions will have many preconceptions to process and stories to tell. I hope you won't tire of listening to them. I hope, too, that they will be transformed by their experiences.

At the end of that course we will stay on for a couple of free days and then depart with St. George's staff for what is called an "Additional Sinai Extension." We will cross into Egypt at Taba and drive by Jeep to St. Catherine's Monastery and Jebel Musa, also called Moses' Mountain or Mt. Sinai. We'll camp under the stars two nights and spend one night at the pilgrim hospice at St. Catherine's (though sleeping again under the stars would be better!). We'll have the opportunity to climb Mt. Sinai, view centuries-old icons in the monastery church, see the original burning bush (the sign says it is so!), experience the silence of the desert and sample a three-star Egyptian fleshpot on the return trip. Back in Jerusalem we will part company. Paula and the St. John's folk will be returning home. Pat and I are staying on for a few more days at the Cathedral guesthouse.

The guesthouse is straight out of Agatha Christie. Built in the early 1900s, natural stone cloisters surround a lovely English style rose garden with bubbling fountain where staff serve drinks or meals and where you might encounter a bishop or a youth group, an archaeologist, seminary professor or journalist not wanting to pay what it costs to stay in the American Hotel up the street. The guest house garden is located right on the dividing line between Arab East Jerusalem and Jewish West Jerusalem. You might see IDF forces staging in the parking lot next door or Palestinian flags and palm branches tied to the antennae of cars zipping by. You can close your eyes and imagine that Hercule Poirot is taking the table next to you! It's a great place and the only B&B where I have been served sliced cucumbers, hardboiled eggs and processed white cheese for breakfast. From the guest house Pat will do some work for the United Thank Offering as their Board Member at-large for the Middle East.

Pat's responsibilities include reviewing all grant requests that come from the Middle East. This trip to Israel gives her (with me as photographer) the chance to visit a couple of previous UTO grant sites. We have been provided with letters of introduction from the Episcopal Church Center to help at the border if need be and have arranged with the Anglican Bishop Jerusalem, Suheil Dawani, for a driver/escort. We hope to cross into the West Bank (but not on the regular tourist routes) and visit St. Luke's Hospital in Nablus and the site of a Technical Education Project near Ramallah. Perhaps in the time available other opportunities will present themselves as ways in which to meet and come to better understand the beleaguered Christian Community in Israel/Palestine, and bring them some encouragement. We have yet to figure out what we will say to the authorities at Ben Gurion airport as we leave when they ask us where we traveled in Israel. I expect any stories we have to tell will be from these few days.

Here in Lafayette you will be enjoying the energy of the parish at the beginning of a new program year. One special Sunday during that time will be September 23rd. On that day the Worship Committee is sponsoring a more tightly focused version of last year's Ministry Call-Out during coffee and conversation time.

The thinking behind this year's Call-Out is this: for most people, the first thing they encounter at St. John's is our worship. The Committee knows that anyone can stop, think for a moment and realize that there are things unseen that support and make possible the Sunday worship they experience: a staff and all it takes to maintain it, a building and all it takes to maintain one of those in an historic neighborhood, the raising and management of necessary funds to support a staff and a building, a hierarchy (which at least the clergy have to remember is there), and the like. If you liken St. John's to an iceberg, then Sunday worship is for many the tip they see and the rest is unseen, below water level.

This year's Ministry Call-Out will focus on the tip of the iceberg. We will have displays and information that explain our Sunday liturgical ministries: what a lector is, what the altar guild does, how flowers are arranged and the church is decorated for Christmas and Easter, how to learn more about the choirs, or serve as an acolyte, or an usher or Oblationer, and so forth. I believe there will be information about our educational and formation programs and how persons can connect with those as well. We will invite folk to inquire about or connect directly with any of these ministry possibilities. The thinking is that this will accord an opportunity to take some ownership of the part of St. John's that many people see most immediately.

At the same time there will be information about the unseen body of the iceberg: the Property Maintenance Committee, coffee and conversation time hosting, the Parish Life Committee, our financial Stewardship efforts, our Food Pantry and other outreach efforts like Jubilee Christmas, the Community Lunches or Habitat for Humanity. This information will be more in the way of fact sheets and contact information. It will be there for the taking and, if prepared properly, will be good fact sheets for future use whenever such information is needed. The hope is of course that ownership on the level of the "seen" will grow into a deeper level of ownership on more foundational levels.

Ted Paget is coordinating the gathering of this information and I believe he has already been in contact with Vestry Liaison persons for all ministry areas. I encourage the vestry members to cooperate with Ted's requests and his deadlines. I encourage every member of St. John's as we begin a new program year to prayerfully consider what new ministry within the life of our parish – be it on the very visible tip or within the less visible body of the iceberg – God may be calling you to explore and undertake.

Please join me in praying that God will bless and watch over us in the coming days and weeks, and prosper our life and growth as a community of Christian faith in the months to come.



A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Ted Paget". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending from the top of the first letter.

Foyer Dinner Groups

Foyer Groups are an outgrowth of an organization in England begun after World War II. They have become a part of many parishes in the U.S. The idea is simple – let people share meals in small groups with no agenda other than becoming better acquainted and therefore really a church family.

Foyer is a popular way to enjoy fellowship with other members of our church family. Currently we have 8 groups of 8-9 members. Each participant will host his/her group for a shared meal once during the coming year. Singles often entertain together. Most people enjoy hosting one meal and being a relaxed guest at the other gatherings, but your group may choose a carry-in. The meal is usually dinner or brunch, but it may be a picnic in a park, soup with sandwiches and a movie, gathering at a restaurant “Dutch treat” (i.e. each pays for his or her own meal) or even dessert and coffee if you live in a small space. Be creative. The only real requirement is that you enjoy socializing with other adults. It is a wonderful way to get better acquainted in a relaxed setting.

New groups are assigned each October so join in the fun! The annual Foyer Kick-off is a wine and cheese reception on October 14 at 5:00PM in the parish hall. All current, former and potential members are welcome to attend. Current members are automatically re-enrolled unless you request to drop out for the next round. If you were added to a group during the year and are not on the printed list from last year, please remind me that you do want to be included in a group during the coming year. Note: I will try to remember to post a copy of the current groups in the parish hall.

If you have questions or wish to sign up, call or write: Lloyd Brewer 497-3669
lloydbb@insightbb.com

UTO

Do you know United Thank Offering grants are possible because of our offerings of coins and dollars given in thanks for the many blessings God gives us? Grants are in support of education, housing, health care, transportation, church buildings, staffing, food pantries, and etc. for those less able to cover their needs themselves. Prayers and gifts of thanksgiving have supported UTO grants since 1889. Here at St. John's we have two gatherings, one in spring and the other in fall. November 11, 2007 is the date of our fall gathering.

If you have any questions about UTO, please ask Patti Tourangeau or myself. You can find other material on the bulletin board in the Commons. Blue offering boxes are available both in the office at church and in the Commons. Hope you had a wonderful summer!

Yours in Christ,
Mary Louise Davis

Church School Fall Theme - *Becoming a People of God*

The development of the *Gather'Round* curriculum was inspired by three biblical texts: Deuteronomy 6:4-9, Luke 10:27, and Matthew 18:20. In Deuteronomy we are reminded that our awareness of God is to be in every aspect of our lives, in Luke we see the importance of relationships, and in Matthew we are assured that Jesus is with those who gather in His name.

This fall our theme is *Becoming a People of God*. We will start with the story of Shiphrah and Puah, the Hebrew midwives who showed courage and saved the baby boys from Pharaoh. Through the semester we will journey with Moses and the Israelites through the desert to Canaan.

I have reevaluated how to make Church School more children friendly and decided that larger classes and more hands-on activities for the children were two things I would work to achieve. The larger classes will give the important critical mass needed for the teachers to be able to lead more activities suggested in our curriculum. The hands-on activities will give the children more choices and opportunities to learn in the manner they each learn best. Come visit us and work with us!

Wish Tree

While searching for more hands-on activities to use in our classrooms I found Beulah Enterprises. This organization is a ministry of the Children's Mission of St. Paul & St. James Episcopal Church in New Haven, CT. Their mission is to "make available resources for imaginative spiritual play to Christian educators and Christian families; to provide financial support to the Children's Mission; and to provide employment opportunities for residents of inner-city New Haven." You can find out more about the Children's Mission and Beulah Enterprises at beulahenterprises.org.

Consider making a purchase for our Church School classrooms from Beulah Enterprises in thanksgiving for birthdays, baptisms, or just because. I created a "wish tree" of things we need for our classrooms. Look for the "wish tree" in the Commons. If you want to purchase something for our classrooms take the leaf with the item that catches your fancy and give it to me with a check made out to St. John's. Also, write on the leaf the thanksgiving or birthday you are honoring.

In addition to your purchase, Beulah Enterprises will also send us "Beulah Seeds" which I can use for dollars off future purchases. This will help us equip our classrooms to offer many hands-on opportunities for our children to grow in their faith.

Thank you for contributing to our children's faith formation. If you are interested in other ways to contribute please see me.

Heidi M. Kauffman
Christian Education Coordinator



**MINISTRY TO ALL OF US...
THANK YOU, JEAN JONES!**

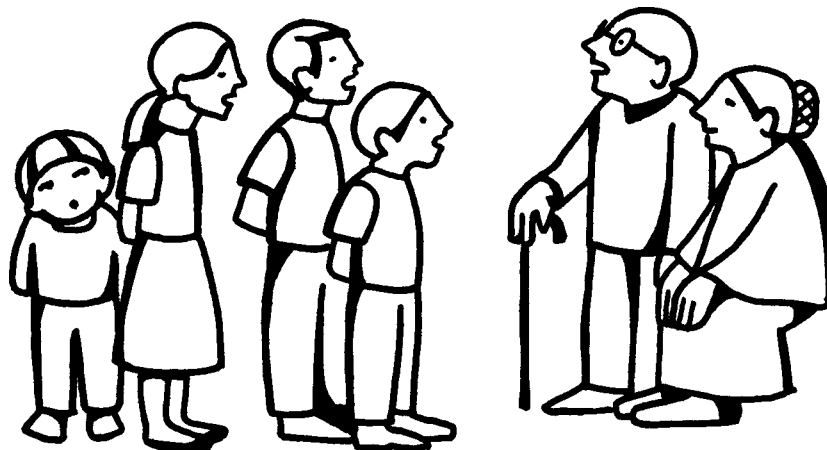
We are all ministers. Gordon Jones decided a long time ago that one of his ministries was to call each member of St. John's and wish him/her either a happy birthday or a happy anniversary. Gordon passed away quite a few years ago and his beautiful wife, Jean, picked up where he left off and made this her ministry as well.

For years now, whenever a member of St. John's has a birthday or an anniversary, each one gets a quick call from Jean Jones wishing them a beautiful day. It doesn't matter how old you are, a genuine wish for you to have a beautiful day is inspiring and joyful. Jean continues to call people every month even though her own health is somewhat precarious. It has become a tradition in our family to look forward to her calls. Actually, we never really feel as if it's a birthday or anniversary UNTIL Jean calls.

You may never have the joy of meeting Jean face to face. But, you have met her kindness, generosity, thoughtfulness, and ministry when you speak to her on your birthday/anniversary call. Enjoy the call – look forward to it. It's a special St. John's tradition that was conceived out of love and care and continues and grows in that same love and care. Even if you don't know Jean (and she doesn't actually know you), you know that she cares for and ministers to her church family in the best way she knows how. And, that ministry is showing the love of God to all who gather in our building.

Thank you, Jean, for your many years of caring. It is so truly appreciated.

E. Linda Jeffries



*What soever you do to the least of
my brothers, that you do unto me*

Saintly Sleuths @ St. John's Book Club Wednesday September 19 @ 7 pm

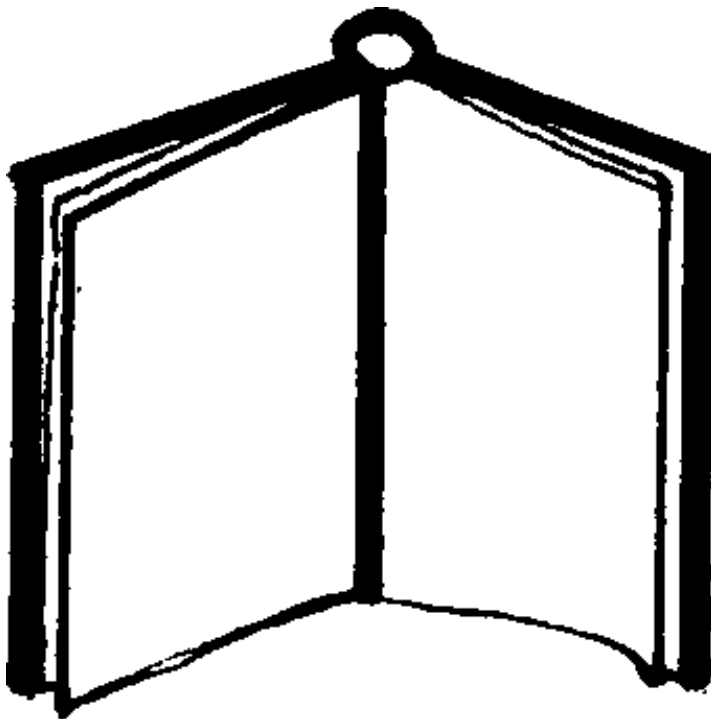
I am the superior of an order of three. We live in a house designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. Even though one of the members of my order has a policeman for a brother, I never hesitate to take the law into my own hands when I feel I am right. Who has created my character?

Join fellow St. John's parishioners (and bring friends too) for a fun evening featuring saintly sleuths, ecclesiastical mysteries, crime solving rabbis, sisters in crime...whatever! St. John's Book Club begins its fall season looking at the fine art of religious detective fiction. There are MANY reading suggestions on the credenza in the commons. Try one...try all! We meet from 7-8 pm...and yes, there will be a test (quiz) at the end of the evening!

On Wednesday October 17th, the book club will feature ***Flags of our Fathers***, Lafayette's OneGreatRead running from July 1 to November 11th. The author, James Bradley did extensive research on his father and the other five men who marched up the side of Mount Suribachi on Iwo Jima during World War II and raised the American flag—a moment captured in one of America's most famous photos. There's an edition of this book for teens, too! Let's have a multigenerational evening.

Bring suggestions for the rest of the 2007/08 reading season.
Questions? Email Amy Paget @ pagets@gmail.com

My crime solving career began one day when I slept in. I use my specific belief system to track down criminals. Unfortunately I am hampered by religious laws that restrict my mobility on certain days. Who has created my character?



Youth Group Calendar–Fall 2007

This year's youth group leaders are: Tony Bailey, Nancy Bowker, Zach Brooks and Debra Murawski. We have a lot of exciting events planned beginning with the Hunger Hike on September 16th. If there are any youth in the congregation (middle-high school) who have not received mailings from us, please let Hilary (hilary@goodshep.org) know ASAP! Below is our calendar of events for the Fall.

Hunger Hike (September 16th)

Halloween Party (most likely October 26th)

Raking/winterizing for parishioners (November 10th)

Fall Conference (November 16th-18th)–This is a Diocesan youth event and will be held at Waycross. It promises to be a lot of fun, as well as to provide an opportunity to catch up with friends from camp!

Jubilee Christmas Shopping (most likely December 9th)

If you have any questions, feel free to contact any of the leaders.



2005 Guess who????

Schedule of Services

(Beginning August 19, 2007)

Sunday Morning

- 8:00 a.m. Holy Communion
- 9:00 a.m. Coffee and Conversation
Choir Rehearsal
Nursery Care Provided (until 11:45 a.m.)
- 9:15: a.m. Education for All
Children and Youth Classes on the Upper Level
African Bible Study in the Bishop's Parlor
Adult Forum as announced
- 10:15 a.m. Holy Communion with choir and congregational singing
- 11:15 a.m. Coffee and Conversation

Prayers and Anointing for the Sick are available during the time of communion in the service in the Chapel of the Resurrection

Weekday Services

(All services are in the Chapel)

- 5:30 p.m. Evening Prayer - Monday, Wednesday and Friday
- 7:00 a.m. Holy Communion - Tuesday
- 11:45 a.m. Holy Communion - Thursday

