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StJohnsWorthington.org

The Rev. Gia Hayes-Martin,
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The Rev. David Burman,
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Stephen Sollars,
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Bella Olmstead,
Parish Engagement Coordinator

What Is the Bible?

One of my favorite parts of parish ministry is taking newcomers to St. John's out for coffee. I get to listen to their faith stories, learn how God is at work in their lives, and share my enthusiasm for St. John's and the Episcopal Church. Each conversation is always a gift. As I've listened to newcomers over the last year or so, and talked with David about his conversations with newcomers, I've noticed that some people come to St. John's completely new to Christianity. Others are already familiar with the Episcopal Church. Still others were active in another branch of Christianity but are just learning about Episcopalianism. Whatever their previous experience, most people have questions about the Bible, the sacraments, and other cores of Christian faith. They often feel as though they should know these things—and they're right, they should, but that means St. John's needs to teach them.

To that end, our Sunday-morning adult formation this year will focus on those cores of Christian faith. We'll begin this fall with three sessions on What Is the Bible? We'll look at what is in the Old and New Testaments, how the books of the Bible were chosen, and how Episcopalians read the Bible (hint: we take the Bible too seriously to read it literally). Everyone is welcome, whether you are brand new to Christian faith or a lifelong churchgoer, and no question is too foolish to ask. This series will meet on Sundays, September 15, 22, and 29 at about 10:20 a.m. in Kilbourne Hall. Godly Play for kids and Youth Roundtable for middle and high schoolers will happen at the same time, and nursery care is available for very young children.

Later this fall, we'll explore prayer and sacraments. Topics for the winter and spring are still being determined. If there's something you would like to learn about this year, or something you'd like to teach, please let me know!

Blessings, Gia+

Godly Creativity

How often in our lives do we stop ourselves from sharing an idea or asking a question because we think that our idea or question isn't good enough to be shared? God calls us not to let self-consciousness get in the way of our creativity, so one of the aspects of the Invite Welcome Connect effort we are launching at St. John's is the way we're invited to share ideas freely, without worrying about whether those ideas are "good enough."

Invite Welcome Connect (IWC) is a ministry used across the Episcopal Church that helps congregations with their newcomer ministries, and one of the early steps of IWC is to brainstorm ideas for how a congregation can enhance its newcomer ministry.

We've already begun these brainstorms at St. John's – this summer we brainstormed ideas about ways we can invite folks to visit us at St. John's. I loved getting to share ideas as a community about how we can share that welcome, and I loved that we shared those ideas without worrying about how good they were. We do give different priorities to those ideas after the brainstorming events, but a key part of IWC is letting ideas flow freely.

We have two more brainstorming sessions for IWC coming up this fall, both on Sunday mornings between services:

- **On Sunday, September 8, at 10:20 am** in Kilbourne Hall, we'll brainstorm ways to enhance the good work we already do **to welcome newcomers when they join us on Sunday mornings.**
- **On Sunday, October 6, at 10:20 am** in Kilbourne Hall, we'll brainstorm ways to enhance the good work we already do **to help newcomers get connected to the St. John's community.**

We hope you can join us for one or both of these sessions, and share your insights and Godly creativity as we brainstorm new ways to Invite, Welcome, and Connect folks with all that St. John's has to offer.

David Burman



Invite • Welcome • Connect®

Singles Dining Out

In August, 13 happy diners gathered at Cafe Istanbul, savoring a wide variety of Turkish fare. We happily welcomed two new participants and enjoyed wide ranging conversations, surrounded by beautiful flowers while the Scioto River sparkled below us.

Our next Singles Dining Out adventure will take us to **City Barbecue** on **Wednesday, September 18, at 6:00 pm**. We will gather at the City Barbecue located at 2111 W Henderson Rd, Columbus, OH 43220. You can explore City Barbecue's varied menu at citybbq.com/location/arlington/menu. Please RSVP to Judy Gallucci at jacgallucci@gmail.com or 614-268-1647 so she can let City Barbecue know the size of our group.

You may also want to mark your calendar for our October Singles Dining Out so you can plan ahead. We will gather on Wednesday, October 16, at Cuco's Taqueria, also on Henderson Road. Watch the Sunday announcements and October Crossroads for more information.

Singles Dining Out is an informal group of St. John's parishioners and friends, always happy to welcome new participants. Singles and married individuals who will be attending without their spouse are welcome to participate, and feel free to invite a friend who is not a member of St. John's. We hope you can join us at City Barbecue on September 18 or at Cuco's Taqueria in October, or both!

Mary Bailey



Facing Loss

We will convene in the St. John's Atrium at 1:00 pm on Monday, September 16. A discussion of Listening Ministry will be led by Cynthia Woodbeck. We welcome all, regardless of faith practice, or not. Bring whatever you grieve, we are compassionate listeners.

Our Facing Loss Lunch will take place on Monday, September 23, at Worthington La Chatelaine at 12 noon in the back room. No reservation needed for either. Enjoy a delicious meal and engaging conversation.

Call or email Cynthia Woodbeck, SJE Co-chair (614-847-9529 or cwoodbeck235@gmail.com) or call Louann Shearer, WPC Co-chair (567-377-3194) if you have questions.

Friendship Dinner

It's time again to start preparing for the September 12th Friendship Dinner and signing-up to volunteer. The sign-up sheet is on the table in the Atrium. This month we will be celebrating **Oktoberfest** with bratwurst, German potato salad, and veggies. We will also be serving an allergen safe/vegan/vegetarian menu with vegan brats, as well as a kid's menu of hot dogs, glazed baby carrots and tater tots. Any questions, you can text me (John Ross) at 847-254-1821 or email me at jbross53@gmail.com. If you are unable to volunteer, please join us for a wonderful meal - the meal is open to all and best of all, it's free.

Garden Glories!

“And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good.” Genesis 1: 31

Birds, bees and butterflies.

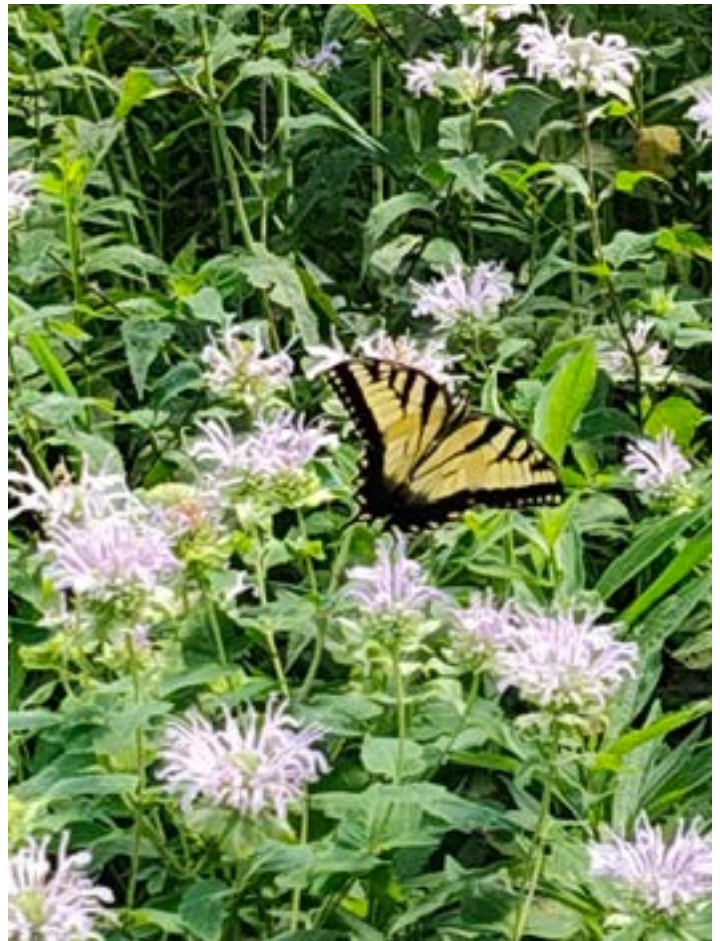
While August has been an especially hot and dry month, there are still birds (yellow finches), butterflies (two different swallowtails), and bees, enjoying the flowers in the prairie garden and elsewhere in our 20+ gardens.

Rose swamp milkweed and orange butterfly weed, both native species, have been added to the staff parking lot gardens. Feel free to sample the herbs that have recently been transplanted to the herb garden.

Remember to look for the late blooming Montauk Daisies, the stunning Black and Blue Salvia and ripening figs.

Our dedicated volunteers/lay weeders continue to show up every other Saturday or on their own time to tend the gardens. We have begun collecting/cleaning up walnuts and can always use extra help. We only meet once in September, due to a conflict with a city festival. See you at the garden sheds on **Saturday, September 21**, at 1 pm.

Ellen Stukenberg and Wendy Ciriegio
for the Lay Weeders



Early Education Center

Teachers have been coming back into the building to set up their rooms, prepare bulletin boards and create lesson plans. The classrooms are freshly painted and the carpets have been cleaned. Teachers are already making their rooms personal for their new students. A new playground is being installed currently and should be ready for lots of play beginning in September. New for this year are monthly walking field trips for our students enrolled in our enrichment program. Students will walk to local businesses and learn about everything from how to make ice cream to how to make candles. They will also take tours of the post office and fire station and walk to local playgrounds for scavenger hunts and nature walks. Also new this year is a return to a dedicated classroom for our youngest students who have birthdays after the September cut-off date. These students will begin in January and enjoy their own room with an experienced teacher who is especially in tune with the needs of our youngest learners.

You may not know that students at St. John's Early Education Center go to a Spanish class each week. Additionally, students have yoga and music on alternating weeks and art class weekly. Art class introduces students to different artists and their mediums of choice and provides an opportunity for children to create pieces using everything from paint to paper mache.

SJEEC is still enrolling, so if you or someone you know is looking for a preschool home, be sure to give us a call. We'd love to give you a tour and introduce you to our teachers and their classrooms.

Carrie Troester
SJEEC Director



Parish Picnic

St. John's Church Picnic is returning on Sunday, September 15. Services will be at 9:00 and 11:15 am as usual. From 12:30 to 2:00 pm we will enjoy hamburgers, hot dogs and fries, as well as alternative choices for those with gluten and/or dairy allergies, as well as vegan/vegetarian alternatives. Salads, sides, and desserts will be potluck dishes provided by parishioners. We will be holding a dessert competition for the top three St. John's desserts. A signup sheet is on the table in the atrium to let us know approximately how many will be attending the picnic. We look forward to seeing all of you on the 15th!

We will need volunteers to help set-up and clean-up for the picnic. We will need help setting up the tables and chairs from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm. We are hoping to get approval to use the southeast corner of the Village Green; if not we will set-up on the south lawn of the church. In case of rain, we will set-up in the undercroft. Clean-up will be from 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm. We will need to move the tables and chairs back to St. John's and police the Village Green for trash. We will be using disposable plates, silverware and cups. If you can help with set-up or clean-up, please sign up on the volunteer sheet on the table in the atrium.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me by email at jbross53@gmail.com or text 847-254-1821. Due to many scam calls I receive, I do not answer calls if I don't recognize the phone number.

I'm Here for Habitat!

A Commencement Ceremony was held on August 13 to celebrate the building of the Ahmed and Ibrahim Family home.

Come together to inspire hope, build a home, empower a family, and develop a community with other St. John's parishioners on Saturday, September 21st and/or Saturday, October 12th. Contact Jean Duncan at jeanduncan59@msn.com or 215-534-7290 for more information or to volunteer.



Thank You! The James Cancer Hospital Drive

Thank you, St. John's parishioners, for your time and participation in tying blankets and writing greeting cards. You made The James Cancer drive a wonderful success! All six blankets and 54 cards were delivered to The James where they will be distributed to oncology patients at their bedside, to help promote a calm environment and bring a message of encouragement. Thank you. Together we were able to do this!

The Outreach and Social Justice Committee



Food Pantry

Remember the Worthington Resource Pantry's Summer Stock Up Food Drive in which we participated back in June? WRP's July newsletter included this message: "We are thrilled to announce the successful completion of our Summer Stock Up food drive! Thanks to the overwhelming support and generosity of our community, we reached our ambitious goal of collecting 15,000 pounds of food. This achievement demonstrates the compassion and dedication of our community, who came together to ensure that no family goes hungry during the summer months. Meeting our 15,000 pound goal also unlocked a generous matching donation from the Harding-Buller Foundation of Worthington, doubling the impact of our efforts. This match will enable us to stock our shelves with even more nutritious food options, ensuring that we can meet the growing demand for our services." The parishioners of St. John's played a role in helping WRP meet its Summer Stock Up goal, which was 50% higher than last year's goal. Thank you for your donations!

August was Back to School month, which meant extra expenses for families with children. WRP's August newsletter included this heartwarming message: "Thanks to the generous donations from the Dublin-Worthington Rotary, the Worthington Presbyterian Church, and Schweitzer Engineering Labs our Resource Center was stocked with everything from colorful backpacks to essential school supplies. Our neighbors were thrilled to have the opportunity to choose from an incredible selection, allowing their children to express their unique styles with fun prints and patterns. The smiles on the faces of both kids and parents as they shopped for these much-needed items were priceless. It's moments like these that remind us of the power of community and the impact we can have when we come together to support one another."

As always, you can support the Worthington Resource Pantry and Gladden Food Pantry with food and toiletry items, or you may prefer to support them with financial donations instead. You can donate financially to the Worthington Resource Pantry at www.worthingtonresourcepantry.org/donate and you can donate to the Gladden Pantry in Franklinton at www.gladdenhouse.org/food-pantry. Here are some suggestions for September, but please feel free to donate any healthy food items, toiletries, or pet items or make a donation online.

September 1 – cereal; conditioner

September 8 – peanut butter; shampoo

September 15 – granola bars; dish detergent

September 22 – chunky soup; bar soap

September 29 – baby food, formula; diapers (4-5-6)



Central Ohio Crop Hunger Walk

The 2024 Central Ohio CROP Hunger Walk is on Sunday, October 13th, at Scioto Audubon Metro Park. Help to end hunger and poverty in our community and around the world! The goal is to raise \$60,000. The funds raised will support the international and domestic efforts of Church World Service and the local efforts of Mid-Ohio Food Collective; Neighborhood Services, Inc. Food Pantry; Westerville Area Resource Ministry, Westland Ecumenical Community Food Pantry; and Worthington Resource Pantry. The Impact/Activity Fair is from 1 to 2 pm on October 13th, with the Walk Send-Off at 2 pm. You are encouraged to register or to donate at www.crophungerwalk.org/ColumbusOH.

The Outreach and Social Justice Committee



Kroger Community Rewards

The Kroger Family of Companies makes charitable donations to local organizations through their Kroger Community Rewards Program. This program is separate from and does not impact your personal Kroger Rewards.

Kroger charitably gives a percentage of the price you pay for groceries to St. John's; these funds help support our various Outreach ministries.

Below is information on how to link your Kroger Card to St. John's Episcopal Church. The website address is www.krogercommunityrewards.com.



1. Create a digital account.

A digital account is needed to participate in Kroger Community Rewards. If you already have a digital account, simply link your Shopper's Card to your account so that all transactions apply toward the organization you choose.

2. Link your Card to St. John's Episcopal Church.

1. Update the Kroger Community Rewards selection on your digital account.
2. Sign in to your digital account. Make sure you have a preferred store selected.
3. Search for our organization, St. John's Episcopal Church.
4. Enter the name (St. John's Episcopal Church) or NPO number (**LK142**) of the church.

Select the appropriate organization from the list and click "Save".

St. John's Episcopal Church will also display in the Kroger Community Rewards section of your account. If you need to review or revisit your organization, you can always do so under your account details.

Ohio History Connection Open Doors Comes to St. John's!

We will be sharing 220 years of our history with visitors from near and far on **Sunday, September 8**, from 1:00 - 4:00 pm. St. John's will again be taking part in the Open Doors event highlighting historical places in Worthington. Come and learn more about the church once called St. John's in Worthington and Parts Adjacent through self-guided tours, activities, and talks demonstrating our connections with the community and our stewardship of this beloved church. Ted Dziemianowicz (ted.dziemianowicz@comcast.net), Nancy Elkington (nancyelkington@gmail.com), and Jean Duncan (jeanduncan59@msn.com) are coordinating this event. Please reach out if you are interested in volunteering to support this fun and informative day. There are lots of ways you can help, and we'll be sure to match you with your interest and availability. Volunteers of all ages are welcomed!

September Calendar

Sun., Sept. 1, 9:00 AM	Worship in the Nave
Sun., Sept. 1, 11:15 AM	Worship in the Nave with Streamed Service on YouTube
Mon., Sept. 2	Church Office Closed for Labor Day
Mon., Sept. 2, 1:00 PM	Centering Prayer with Teri Foley-Nelson
Tues., Sept. 3, 5:30 PM	Property Committee in the Conference Room
Wed., Sept. 4, 10:00 AM	Wednesday Worship and Bible Study in the Nave
Thurs., Sept. 5, 7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal
Sun., Sept. 8, 9:00 AM	Worship in the Nave
Sun., Sept. 8, 10:20 AM	Invite Welcome Connect brainstorming in Kilbourne Hall
Sun., Sept. 8, 11:15 AM	Worship in the Nave with Streamed Service on YouTube
Sun., Sept. 8, 1:00-4:00 PM	Ohio History Connection Open Doors event
Mon., Sept. 9, 10:00 AM	Centering Prayer with Teri Foley-Nelson
Tues., Sept. 10, 5:30 PM	Finance Committee on Zoom
Wed., Sept. 11, 10:00 AM	Wednesday Worship and Bible Study in the Nave
Thurs., Sept. 12, 6:00 PM	Friendship Dinner in the Undercroft
Thurs., Sept. 12, 7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal
Sun., Sept. 15, 9:00 AM	Worship in the Nave
Sun., Sept. 15, 10:20 AM	What Is the Bible? – in Kilbourne Hall
Sun., Sept. 15, 11:15 AM	Worship in the Nave with Streamed Service on YouTube
Sun., Sept. 15, 12:30-2:00 PM	Church Picnic
Mon., Sept. 16, 10:00 AM	Centering Prayer with Teri Foley-Nelson
Mon., Sept. 16, 1:00 PM	Facing Loss Support Group in the Atrium
Mon., Sept. 16, 6:30 PM	Arts and Crafts Ministry in the Atrium
Tues., Sept. 17, 4:00 PM	Bells Across America, Village Green
Tues., Sept. 17, 7:00 PM	Vestry in the Atrium and on Zoom
Wed., Sept. 18, 10:00 AM	Wednesday Worship and Bible Study in the Nave
Wed., Sept. 18, 6:00 PM	Singles Dining Out at City Barbecue
Thurs., Sept. 19, 7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal
Sat., Sept. 21, 8:30 AM-3:30 PM	Habitat for Humanity workday
Sat., Sept. 21, 1:00 PM	Lay Weeders
Sun., Sept. 22, 9:00 AM	Worship in the Nave
Sun., Sept. 22, 10:20 AM	What Is the Bible? – in Kilbourne Hall
Sun., Sept. 22, 11:15 AM	Worship in the Nave with Streamed Service on YouTube
Mon., Sept. 23, 10:00 AM	Centering Prayer with Teri Foley-Nelson
Mon., Sept. 23, 12:00 Noon	Facing Loss Lunch at Worthington La Chatelaine
Wed., Sept. 25, 10:00 AM	Wednesday Worship and Bible Study in the Nave
Thurs., Sept. 26, 7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal
Fri., Sept. 27, 6:00 PM	Women's Retreat, Transfiguration Spirituality Center
Sun., Sept. 29, 9:00 AM	Worship in the Nave
Sun., Sept. 29, 10:20 AM	What Is the Bible? – in Kilbourne Hall
Sun., Sept. 29, 11:15 AM	Worship in the Nave with Streamed Service on YouTube

September Birthdays

Andrew Nelson	Sept. 1	Everett Bradley	Sept. 14
M. Diane Blain	Sept. 3	Mack Cullen	Sept. 15
Donna DeRemer Hissrich	Sept. 3	Brea Daniel	Sept. 15
Joe Factor	Sept. 3	Kevin Ballard	Sept. 18
Anne Davidson	Sept. 4	Len Gibler	Sept. 18
Ross Hederman	Sept. 4	Thomas Stevens	Sept. 18
Karen Patterson	Sept. 4	Loretta Strang	Sept. 18
Wyatt Starkie	Sept. 4	Karlah Gibbs	Sept. 19
Joan Kendall-Sperry	Sept. 5	Matt Rice	Sept. 19
Leah Gonzalez	Sept. 6	John Sheridan	Sept. 20
Carol Newcomb Alutto	Sept. 8	Jeanne Winget	Sept. 20
Quinn Cullen	Sept. 10	Dick Danke	Sept. 21
Kim Ellcessor	Sept. 10	Garrett Thesing	Sept. 21
Kathy Hayes	Sept. 10	Connor Hogan	Sept. 22
Mark Lewis II	Sept. 10	Laura Wallace	Sept. 22
Roland Stanton	Sept. 10	Helen Macdonald	Sept. 23
Evan Thurman	Sept. 10	Punky Cline	Sept. 24
Ida Williams	Sept. 10	Toby Reel	Sept. 24
Marianne Broere	Sept. 11	Gia Hayes-Martin	Sept. 25
Kathy Hall	Sept. 11	Eve Herold	Sept. 27
Jonathan Johns	Sept. 12	Ben Austin	Sept. 20
Kay Wheeler	Sept. 12	Rachel Fuller	Sept. 30
Christine Arnold	Sept. 13	Tricia Herban	Sept. 30
Mary Bailey	Sept. 13	Steve Organ	Sept. 30
Donna Nguyen	Sept. 13	Adrian Turner	Sept. 30
Larae Schraeder	Sept. 13		



**Office Closed for
Labor Day!**