

Opportunities for Ministry at St. John's

Fall 2022 Homecoming Sunday

We welcome your participation.

Worship

Altar Guild: The Altar Guild maintains all supplies necessary for the celebration of the Eucharist and other services conducted in the church. Members have regularly assigned weeks for their duties. The Altar Guild orders and arranges flowers for services, sets the altar for communion, prepares for weddings and funerals, sets up for baptisms, decorates the church for Christmas and Easter, and maintains brass candlesticks and silver communion elements. This ministry brings order and beauty to the services at St. John's. We are still rebuilding our team after our Covid hiatus and are eager for new members to join us. The commitment includes just one shift per month and training is provided throughout the year. All genders and ages are welcome.

If you are interested in serving in this important ministry, please contact Lisa Wood at lwood921@gmail.com. If you are interested in arranging flowers, contact Reeves McCune at reevesmccune@comcast.net.



Music Ministry: The choir, having resumed singing during our 10:30 a.m. Sunday service and at special services, sings a variety of music from traditional to gospel and more. The choir practices on Thursday evenings during the program year and before the 10:00 a.m. service on Sunday mornings. Other elements of the music ministry include hymn sings, concerts, and helping to lead singing during our Lent and Wednesday evening programs. Everyone is invited to participate. Singers and instrumentalists of all ages are encouraged to contact Jim Bennett at jim@saintjohnsrichmond.org.

Servers: In order to enhance our worship at St. John's the participation of adults, youth, and children in our worship ministries is vital. Training for these roles is scheduled throughout the program year. Please contact the Rev. Amelie Wilmer at awilmer@saintjohnsrichmond.org or Victoria Hauser at vahauser@gmail.com to become involved.

Lay Readers - Lay Readers read the lessons and lead prayers at each service.

Lay Eucharistic Ministers and Visitors - Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEMs) assist at communion by serving the wine. The Lay Eucharist Visitors (LEVs) take communion to the homes of those who request it, bringing the St. John's community to those who cannot attend church on Sunday mornings. Both the LEMs and the LEVs are licensed by the Diocese of Virginia. Training for these ministries is scheduled throughout the year.

Ushers - Ushers make worship participants feel welcome, guiding people to the altar rail in an organized fashion during communion, collecting the offering, and making sure worshippers have bulletins and prayer books.

Acolytes and Crucifers - Members of this team assist clergy and other servers throughout the worship service. Acolytes light and extinguish the candles and assist clergy at the offertory and at the altar during the Eucharist. Crucifers lead all processions during the service. Anyone aged 8 and above is invited to serve.

Greeters - Greeters greet members and newcomers upon arrival at our worship services, assisting with name tags, answering questions, and distributing publications concerning church activities. After the main Sunday morning service, greeters stand in the receiving line with the clergy and collect contact information and other pertinent data from visitors.



Outreach Ministry

Each month, St. John's parishioners spread the love and fellowship of our church to the Richmond community. Our First Fruits program collects non-perishable food for the Christ Ascension Food Pantry on the first Saturday morning of each month on 24th Street next to the Parish House, and on the first Sunday of the month during worship. Parishioners also support Bellevue Elementary with volunteer services and by providing supplies for teachers. Prior to the pandemic, they brought St. John's Church to the Richmond Coin Laundry, providing quarters, detergent, conversation, children's activities, and fellowship on the third Saturday of each month. We eagerly await a time when it is safe to resume this ministry. If you're interested in getting more involved, attend Outreach Committee meetings (held every other month) to learn about our programs and our discernment of future projects. For more information, contact Kathy Dixon (kathymdixon139@gmail.com).

term commitment to racial healing, reconciliation, and justice. The series meets weekly through November 30 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. via Zoom.

On Wednesday evenings during Lent, we traditionally offer an **Annual Lenten Supper Series**, including a potluck supper followed by a program on topics concerning matters of faith, social justice, racial reconciliation, and spirituality.

Each faith formation year offers a six-session **Inquirers/Confirmation Class** for newcomers and members of the congregation seeking Confirmation, Reception to the Episcopal Church, or Reaffirmation of their Baptismal Covenant.

St. John's also offers **Education for Ministry** for those interested in a more intensive study of scripture, theology, and church history. A 4-year curriculum of study developed by the faculty the University of the South, the program meets via Zoom for two hours each Monday evening, September through May. The group is currently comprised of 2nd, 3rd and 4th year participants. New participants may join in September of any year. First year participants and transfers are welcome. There is a fee involved, and scholarships are available.

Finally, the congregation is invited to participate in an **Annual Parish Retreat**. This year we will return to a fully in-person retreat at Shrine Mont, a sacred place of rest and recreation in the mountains of Virginia. Although our remote, and "hybrid" retreats over the last two years fed us with much needed study and fellowship time, there is nothing quite like a visit to the wide porches, abundant food, glorious mountains, outdoor shrine, and leisure of a weekend at Shrine Mont together—a welcoming backdrop for spiritual exploration and fellowship. This year's theme is "Connection."

To become involved in our faith formation efforts, contact Maureen Matsen (mnnmr@verizon.net) or the Rev. Amelie Wilmer (awilmer@saintjohnsrichmond.org). For more information about Children's Chapel, please contact the Rev. Anne Lane Witt (annelanewitt@icloud.com). To learn more about Inquirer's Class, please contact Amelie Wilmer, and for EFM, please contact the Ven. David Curtis (deaconjdc@gmail.com).

Newcomers Ministry

We welcome newcomers and visitors and encourage them to complete an information card or to give the greeter contact information when exiting the church after services. This information is entered into our data base, and Amelie follows up with an email to the visitor. We are eager for members of St. John's to assist in reaching out to our newcomers and engaging them. We hope to offer several newcomer events this year, including gatherings in members' homes. To become more involved, contact Amelie Wilmer at awilmer@saintjohnsrichmond.org

Property Ministry

The congregation at St. John's is responsible for maintaining one of the oldest buildings in the City of Richmond (dating to 1741) and its artifacts. The church is a National Historic Landmark, and its grounds are the final resting place for generations of church members, including a signer of the Declaration of Independence. The parish has three committees charged with overseeing and maintaining these facilities: a Property committee, an Archives committee, and a Cemetery committee. Each team needs members who can offer their gifts.

The **Property Committee** works with the St. John's Church Foundation, coordinating routine tasks and responding to emergencies. Small odd jobs are handled on an *ad hoc* basis by committee members and other members of the congregation. The Property committee chair schedules at least two parish workdays each year, typically once in the spring and once in the fall. These workdays provide opportunities to perform minor repairs and upkeep, as well as fellowship. To become a part of this ministry, please contact Marc Dixon at mdixon139@gmail.com or Lora Toothman at loratoothman@gmail.com.

The **Cemetery Committee** maintains records of the St. John's Church graveyard, identifying and mapping gravestones, researching the histories of those buried at St. John's, and entering them into a database; identifies gravestones needing restoration; enforces regulations for the Columbarium as set forth in its original charter; responds to inquiries from the public regarding the graveyard; and approves placement of new stones in the churchyard. If you are interested in joining this committee, contact Amelie, and she will connect you with a team member.

The St. John's **Archives Committee** preserves and maintains church artifacts and records, meeting Tuesdays to maintain archives and the archives display case in the Parish Hall. To part of this committee, contact Pattie Tobler at toblerpj@aol.com.



Social Justice Ministry

What does the Lord require of you? To do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God. (Micah 6:8)

St. John's Episcopal Church formed a Justice Ministry in the fall of 2020 to engage more fully in our biblical call to promote social, economic, and environmental justice in our local community. We aim to do this on an individual level by supporting those who live at the margins, as well as by working at the systemic level, mobilizing and advocating for a more just society.

This year, we will again join RISC—*Richmonders Involved to Strengthen our Communities*—a grassroots, direct-action organization made up of 22 congregations throughout the Richmond Metro Area. Founded in 2002, RISC uses the power of large numbers of people to hold our public officials accountable and to solve critical community problems. Since we have been a member, RISC has focused primarily on three issues: affordable housing, gun violence, and climate change. The organization is currently hosting conversations to decide where to focus its advocacy efforts this year, although we are certain gun violence will be a focus once again.

We also support ReWork Richmond—a non-profit dedicated to helping members of the East End community find meaningful employment—through board involvement, volunteer assistance, and outreach grants.

This year will serve as a season of discernment for the justice ministry, as we continue to evaluate the best way for us to promote justice as a congregation. We welcome your ideas, participation, and passion.



Young Adults Ministry

The Young Adult group provides opportunities for younger members (20's, 30's, 40-ish) to get together socially, and to sponsor outreach and other programs for the church and the community. The YA group generally gathers for one event per month, which has traditionally included our National Night Out ice cream social, picnics and cookouts, the Epiphany bonfire, Flying Squirrels baseball games, and the annual Christmas and Super Bowl parties. They also provide food and refreshments once a month for Sunday Coffee Hour. Interested in this friendly, low-key group? Please contact Liz Broda (lizabethcbroda@gmail.com).

Pastoral Care Ministry

The Pastoral Care team works with our Rector to support parishioners passing through life's challenging phases—new babies, bereavement, illness, etc., sending flowers/plants, providing meals, sending cards and notes, and assisting with errands/transportation. Visiting Eucharistic ministers provide communion to those who are unable to attend church. Please contact one of our team leaders, Barbara Bayler barbarabayler@gmail.com or Rita Driscoll driscoll.rita@gmail.com to get involved.

Fellowship

Fellowship creates opportunities for God's people to come together in a social setting making such events delicious and convivial. Our ministry of hospitality includes coordinating the Parish Hall and kitchen supplies, planning receptions for special events, and coordinating refreshments and meals for weekly Sunday Coffee Hours and special events. There are many opportunities to help out with these events. If you can participate, please contact team leader Ann Hardy at annshardy@gmail.com.

Faith Formation

Our faith formation ministry offers opportunities for education, spiritual growth, and fellowship.

Sunday Adult Forum is a 45 minute interlude for learning and discussion each Sunday morning. This fall, the programs are aimed at answering questions from parishioners—about scripture, faith, the church, worship, or other topics that arise in our life together at St. John's. We will begin with presentations by the staff of Richmond Hill and our own Ryan Smith exploring "What is our history?" Sunday Forum meets in the Parish Hall from 9:00 to 9:45 a.m.

Also on Sundays, **Children's Chapel** provides a worship and educational home for preschool and school-aged children during the Liturgy of the Word. Led by the Rev. Anne Lane Witt, our children discuss stories from scripture and the lessons they teach and engage in creative play. They join their parents in church to participate in the Eucharist. There is plenty of room for more participation and support from members of the congregation. If you are interested, contact Anne Lane at annelanewitt@icloud.com.

Wednesday Evening Programs offer members a chance to gather weekly to discuss passages from scripture, compelling books, and sacred writings from authors both ancient and new. Our clergy and guest leaders facilitate these explorations, usually for 4-6 Wednesdays in a series. This fall we are offering an eleven-week series centered on faith and race, *Sacred Ground*, a curriculum developed by the Episcopal Church as a part of its work toward *Becoming Beloved Community*, a long



Ministry of Care for Parish Administration

This team focuses on supporting our clergy and staff and ensuring that we are showing our gratitude for the leadership and work they provide to St. John's. If you are interested in learning more, contact Stewart Gamage at shg7f@virginia.edu or Paul Broughton at paulb2000@verizon.net.

Stewardship

The Stewardship Ministry at St. John's has a dual role. One role is to assist parishioners in living into their baptismal vows, made at our baptism and confirmed each time we say the Baptismal Covenant, which collectively encourages us to engage in worship, proclaim the gospel, and serve others. In terms of stewardship, this means giving of our time, treasure, and talent to support the church.

Each year the Stewardship Ministry Team chooses a theme that embodies where the church is in its evolution. In 2023, our theme will be "Be Courageous." This theme is based on a passage from the blessing Bishop Goff uses during Holy Eucharist: "Be of Good Courage," which spoke to the Stewardship team and to the Vestry. These past couple of years brought changes we did not expect, and others we thought we were ready to take on. Our annual campaign this year will reflect the encouragement of the many voices who come as messengers in our lives and remind us that God's love is greater than the fear we may feel.

Over the next few weeks, the Stewardship Ministry Team will talk more about the 2022 Campaign and the ways that you can get involved. Please feel free to contact the Stewardship Team leader Brendan Cleary-Wildt at bren.wildt@gmail.com.



Prayer for St. John's Church

O God, creator of life and giver of gladness, let us be your Beacon on the Hill, shining your light so brightly that others may come to know you, to love, and to be loved. Help us to reach out to those around us, Bearing fruit through acts of kindness, welcome, and fellowship. Amen

Our Mission

We are a caring, spiritual community, Joyfully embracing and nurturing all; Serving God, each other, and the community.

St. John's Church Vestry

Mike Broda, Senior Warden, michael.broda@gmail.com

Ann Hardy, Junior Warden, annshardy@gmail.com

Brendan Cleary-Wildt, bren.wildt@gmail.com

Stewart Gamage, shg7f@virginia.edu

Victoria Hauser, vahouser@gmail.com

Maureen Matsen

Doug Payne, ndp696@gmail.com

Daryl Quackenbush, daryl.quackenbush@gmail.com

Lora Toothman, loratoothman@gmail.com

Staff

The Rev. Amelie Wilmer, Rector, awilmer@saintjohnsrichmond.org

The Rev. Shelby Ochs Owen, Priest Associate, sowen@saintjohnsrichmond.org

Patty Duffy, Parish Administrator, pduffy@saintjohnsrichmond.org

Jim Bennett, Minister of Music, jim@saintjohnsrichmond.org

The Rev. Anne Lane Witt, Children's Chaplain, annelanewitt@me.com

St. John's Church

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