

# Opportunities for Ministry at St. John's

## Fall 2019 Homecoming Sunday

*We welcome your participation.*

### Worship

**Altar Guild:** The Altar Guild is responsible for maintaining all supplies necessary for the celebration of the Eucharist and other services conducted in the church. Members of the Altar Guild have regularly assigned weeks for their duties. Some examples of work done by the Altar Guild are ordering and arranging flowers for each Sunday service, preparing for weddings and funerals, setting up for baptisms, decorating the church for Christmas and Easter, and maintaining stewardship of the brass candlesticks and silver communion elements. This ministry brings order and beauty to all the services at St. John's. New members are always welcome.

The Altar Guild functions well as a result of constant coordination by the team leader, Lisa Wood. Lisa prepares the schedule for four teams, plans meetings, communicates with members and prepares orders for supplies as needed. Currently the altar guild is seeking someone to perform change-over duties between the two Sunday morning services the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month, beginning October 6. If you are interested in serving, Lisa can be reached at [lwood921@gmail.com](mailto:lwood921@gmail.com).



**Music Ministry:** The choir sings during our 10:30 a.m. Sunday service and at special services. We sing a variety of music from traditional to gospel and more. The choir practices on Thursday evenings during the program year and before the 10:30 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 [jbennett@stjohnsrichmond.org](mailto:jbennett@stjohnsrichmond.org).

**Servers:** There are a variety of ways you can participate in leading our worship services each week. In order to continue enhancing 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. If you are interested in becoming involved, please contact the Rev. Amelie Wilmer at [awilmer@saintjohnsrichmond.org](mailto:awilmer@saintjohnsrichmond.org) or August Butler at [augustmbutler@gmail.com](mailto:augustmbutler@gmail.com).



**Lay Readers and Lay Eucharistic Ministers/Visitors** - Lay Readers read the lessons and lead prayers at each service. Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEMs) assist at communion by serving the wine. The Lay Eucharist Visitors (LEVs) take communion directly from the worship service to 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 play an important part in the worship experience. They assist by making those present feel welcomed, guiding people during communion to the altar rail in an organized fashion, collecting the offering, and making sure worshippers have bulletins and prayer books.

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

**Greeters** - Members of this team greet members and newcomers upon their arrival at our worship services, assisting with name tags, handing out bulletins, answering questions, and distributing publications concerning current 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.

**Prayer Ministry** - During worship each Sunday, members of our prayer ministry offer personal prayers at the Colonial Altar

during communion. In addition, a prayer group meets every Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. in the Keeper's Cottage. If you are interested in participating or feel called to be a prayer leader, please contact Carolyn Dallas at [ccdallas@yahoo.com](mailto:ccdallas@yahoo.com).

### Outreach

Each month, St. John's parishioners spread the love and fellowship of our church beyond our gates to the Richmond community. On the third Saturday mornings of each month, we bring St. John's Church to the Richmond Coin Laundry where we provide quarters, detergent, conversation, children's activities and fellowship. On the first Sunday of the month, non-perishable food is collected for the Christ Ascension Food Pantry. Parishioners are also involved in supporting Bellevue Elementary with volunteer services and seasonal collections of supplies. Others regularly volunteer with RE: Work Richmond, Circles RVA, and Peter Paul Development Center. If you're interested in getting more involved, you're welcome to attend Outreach Committee meetings to learn details on our programs and our discernment of future projects. For more information, contact Patricia McNaught ([pjmcnaught@gmail.com](mailto:pjmcnaught@gmail.com)), Victoria Hauser ([vhauser@gmail.com](mailto:vhauser@gmail.com)), or Jane Hunnicutt ([janehunnicutt@mac.com](mailto:janehunnicutt@mac.com))

### Young Adults Ministry

The Young Adult group provides an opportunity for younger members of the church (20's, 30's, 40-ish) to get together socially, as well as sponsor outreach and other programs for the church and the surrounding community. The YA group generally gathers for one event per month, which has included our National Night Out ice cream social, opportunities to explore questions of faith, outdoor picnics/cookouts, an Epiphany bonfire, Richmond Flying Squirrels baseball, and social gatherings in members' homes like the annual Christmas and Super Bowl parties. We also provide food and refreshments once a month for Sunday Coffee Hour. Interested in this friendly, low key group? Please contact Liz Broda ([elizabethcbroda@gmail.com](mailto:elizabethcbroda@gmail.com)).

### Pastoral Care Ministry

The Pastoral Care team works with our Priest in Charge to support parishioners in times of need as they pass through life's phases and stages—new babies, bereavement, illness, etc. We send flowers/plants, provide meals, write cards and notes, and assist with errands/transportation if need be. Visiting Eucharistic ministers are also available to provide communion to those who are unable to attend church. New members are always welcome to help out. Please contact our team leaders, Reeves McCune [reevesmccune@comcast.net](mailto:reevesmccune@comcast.net) and Patty Soileau [psoil@aol.com](mailto:psoil@aol.com) or vestry liaison Rita Driscoll [driscoll.rita@gmail.com](mailto:driscoll.rita@gmail.com) if you are interested in helping out.



### Fellowship

Fellowship creates opportunities for God's people to come together whenever the church gathers in a social setting. Fellowship makes the event delicious and hospitable by celebrating God's love and joy of faith, providing opportunities for individual and group spiritual growth and renewal, caring for each other, supporting and nurturing relationships, and providing fellowship opportunities, inviting others to join us in the life and work of the Church, and joining others to work for the life of the Community.

Underlying all of this is our ministry of hospitality. This includes coordinating the Parish Hall and Kitchen supplies, planning for receptions for special events, such as funerals, concerts, and hymn sings, along with the following: weekly Sunday Coffee Hours, Annual Congregation meetings, Shrove Tuesday Pancake Suppers, Lenten suppers and programs, Chili Cook-offs, Easter Sunday meals, Newcomer Parties, Stars and Stripes Picnics, Homecoming Brunches, Bishop's Brunches, Pledge ingatherings, and After Christmas Brunches.

There are many opportunities to help out with these events. If you can participate, please contact team leader Susan White at [susanwhite1106@gmail.com](mailto:susanwhite1106@gmail.com)

### Faith Formation

Faith formation ministries offer a number of different initiatives for education, spiritual growth, and community building. These include the presentations offered during our **Sunday Adult Forum**, which takes place weekly at 9:15 a.m. from September through May. Last year's topics included emerging Christian leaders; different forms of prayer; explorations of the sacred in music, art, storytelling, and other religions; and a presentation on the Book of Revelation by Professor John Carroll.

Children's Chapel provides a worship and educational home for preschool and school-aged children every Sunday during the Liturgy of the Word. This is an area where we are particularly looking for more involvement from the congregation.

Wednesday Evening Programs offer members and friends an opportunity to gather weekly to discuss passages from scripture, compelling books, and sacred writings from authors both ancient and new. Evenings include centering prayer, a simple potluck supper, and discussion. Last year's readings included the Letter of James, the writings of Henri Nouwen, and Barbara Brown Taylor's *Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others*. All are welcome to participate.

On Wednesday evenings during Lent, we hold our Annual Lenten Supper Series, including a potluck supper followed by a program on a variety of topics concerning matters of faith, social justice, racial reconciliation, and spirituality. Last year's Lenten Supper Series followed the Episcopal Church's vision of "Becoming Beloved Community."

Each year a six-session Inquirers/Confirmation Class is offered for newcomers and members of the congregation seeking confirmation or the reaffirmation of their baptismal covenant in the Episcopal Church. This year, St. John's is offering its first Education for Ministry program for those who are interested in a more intensive study of scripture, theology, and church history.

Finally, the congregation is invited to an annual retreat at Shrine Mont, a sacred respite in the mountains of Virginia. This weekend away allows members to relax with one another outside of church and regular life, and to discuss topics like "Sabbath" or "Spiritual Practices for Real People" in a casual, low-key setting.



#### Newcomers Ministry

All newcomers and visitors are welcomed each Sunday by ushers and offered an opportunity to complete an information card or to give the greeter contact information when exiting the church. 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. If you want to become more involved, contact Susan White at [susanwhite1106@gmail.com](mailto:susanwhite1106@gmail.com), or Amelie Wilmer at [awilmer@saintjohnsrichmond.org](mailto:awilmer@saintjohnsrichmond.org)

#### Property Ministry

The congregation at St. John's is responsible for 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, all of which coordinate with the vestry. Each of these teams needs members of the congregation to join them and offer their gifts.

The Property Committee works closely with the St. John's Church Foundation. The Property committee coordinates regular, predictable tasks and also responds to emergencies, such as storms or water damage. There are innumerable other small jobs that need attending to: replacing light bulbs, replacing flags, assisting with sign rotation, installing blinds, trimming ivy, opening and closing the church grounds on Sundays, etc., and these are handled on an *ad hoc* basis by members of the committee, the vestry, or 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 for minor repairs and upkeep, as well as fellowship. The property committee needs members interested in assisting in all the dimensions of its role. If you are interested, please contact



liaisons Jamie Isaacs at [jisaacs1963@gmail.com](mailto:jisaacs1963@gmail.com) or Marc Dixon at [mdixon139@gmail.com](mailto:mdixon139@gmail.com). The members of the Cemetery Committee have the following responsibilities/goals: maintaining records of the St. John's Church graveyard dating back to the earliest days of the cemetery; identifying and mapping gravestones, as well as researching the histories of those buried at St. John's; identifying gravestones needing restoration; creating a database of those buried on the church grounds; enforcing regulations for the Columbarium as set forth in the original charter; responding to all inquiries received from those seeking information about the graveyard, and approving placement of new stones. John King and Judith Bowen-Sherman are the church's two most knowledgeable people regarding the cemetery and are a great resource. If you are interested, they would love your assistance. Contact Judith Bowen-Sherman at [stusherm@msn.com](mailto:stusherm@msn.com).

The St. John's the Archives Committee is primarily involved with the preservation and maintenance of church artifacts and records, which date back centuries. The committee meets every Tuesday in the Parish House and is composed of four members, Judith Bowen-Sherman (chair), Pattie Tobler, John King, and Carol Wharton. Members of this committee also work on artwork, documents, paperwork and reports, photographs, recordings, blueprints, site floor plans, relics and/or found objects given to the committee, and the archives display case in the parish hall. Contact Judith Bowen-Sherman at [stusherm@msn.com](mailto:stusherm@msn.com) if you would like to become more involved.

#### Stewardship

The Stewardship Ministry at St. John's has a dual role. One role is to assist parishioners to live into our 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 epitomizes where the Church is in its evolution. In 2020, our theme will be "Wonder in All," based on a stewardship program developed by the Diocese of Virginia. In the coming year, our stewardship team will invite us to consider how we manifest the baptismal gift of "joy and wonder in all of God's works" through our parish ministries and use of church resources.

Over the next couple of weeks, the Stewardship Ministry Team will talk more about the 2020 Campaign and the ways that you can get involved. Please feel free to contact the Stewardship Team Leader Marshall Schutt ([schuttm@yahoo.com](mailto:schuttm@yahoo.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

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Check us out on Facebook Search "St. John's Church," then "Like" us.

