Dear All,

Our adventure of being in a new time at St John’s continues. Two additions this month are our services are now being live streamed on Facebook each week, and our new adult education program will be a conference call in January. Hopefully this means we have out thought the snow gremlins for the bad weather months.

You can get to the livestream via St John’s Facebook page or our website if you are ill or traveling one week and cannot join us in person. We are hoping this will also allow people to check us out and decide to join us in person. You will find more information about the Faith Formation conference call in another part of this newsletter.

Now that the New Year is upon us, I hope that deepening your relationship with God is on your list of New Year’s resolutions. Winter is a wonderful time to curl up with a spiritual autobiography and learn how others have deepened their faith. Or start a new spiritual discipline like reading the Upper Room Devotional, which is available at the church or another resource daily. Or join the conference call Bible Study. We don’t need to wait for lent to learn a new spiritual habit and often in the winter months we tend to quiet down a bit, so it is a good time to start. If you want to act on your faith, this is a great time to find a volunteer opportunity and The General Assembly goes back in session, so you can lobby for those who feel called to serve.

Welcome 2019! May it be a time of ever growing and deepening faith. May you find how God is calling you in this time and answer the call…

The Rev. Linda Higgins
...By the way...I Said Yes!!!!!

My 2019 began early on December 18th, when Sandy proposed and we were engaged!

I know many of you learned through Facebook, and in the midst of all of the excitement, I didn’t make a formal announcement to all of you.

We are grateful for your support and it is important to us that we share our joy with those we love.

Peace, Love & Blessings
In the Coming New Year!
We are trying something new for January. We are going to do our Bible Study via a conference call. Yes, you can stay home or even take a late lunch at work and join us on Tuesdays from 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm.

We will be starting a year-long study of the book entitled: *We Make the Road by Walking: A Year Long Quest for Spiritual Formation and Activation* by Brian D McLaren. This book invites us into the story of the Bible through a lectionary type study, to get in sync with the church year we will start with chapter 19 - Jesus coming of Age on January 8th. Each week I will invite you to read a variety of scriptures and the chapter from the book (about 5 pages) before we meet, but we will read the material as part of our time as well.

**JANUARY’S CHAPTERS AND SCRIPTURES:**

**January 8  Chapter 19**  

**January 15  Chapter 20**  

**January 22  Chapter 21**  
Significant and Wonderful (2Samuel 11:26-12:15, John 2:1-12, Mark 1:21-28)

**January 29 Chapter 22**  
Jesus the Teacher (Proverbs 3:1-26, Jeremiah 31:31-34, Mark 4:1-34)

To join our Bible Study call (605) 468-8828 then enter the access code: 237512. If you tell me you plan to join. I will send an invite so it is easier to access. This is, of course, open to all so feel free to invite friends to join in.

**CONGREGATIONAL LIFE & CARE**

Congregational Life & Care will meet on Sunday, January 13, 2019 after morning worship service.

**JANUARY WORSHIP PLAN**

**January 6th Epiphany**  
Our service will include the arrival of the Wise Ones and Communion

**January 13th The Baptism of Christ**  
We will have a special service to remember our own Baptisms

**January 20th and January 27th**  
We will be looking at our gifts and talents as we read  
I Corinthians 12

**WOMEN’S MARCH**

There will be a group going to the Women’s March in DC on January 19th and there will be an event in Richmond on January 12th. If you want to participate in either event with St John’s friends, please let Pastor Linda know by call the office at 804-358-9291 so we can organize.
A Congregational Meeting was held on Sunday, December 2, 2018 wherein the 2019 budget, recommended by Council, was approved unanimously. The monthly meeting scheduled for Monday, December 10, 2018 was cancelled due to inclement weather.

THANK YOU FOR MAKING THE HOLIDAYS BRIGHT FOR OAR!
Making the holidays bright at OAR ~ Many thanks for all the shopping, the clothing and gifts, the gift cards, and the financial contributions. All gifts were delivered to OAR on Monday, December 17, 2018. St. John’s donated clothing, coats, and gifts for eight kids ages 2 – 16, gift cards for three care givers, and $300 in gift cards to Walmart and Kroger for the care givers to use to feed the families. OAR stands for Opportunity.Alliance.Reentry. OAR works with the Virginia Department of Corrections providing reentry services for people who have served their time and are working to reenter their communities. St. John’s donations went to families who are affected by incarceration.

CHANGE THE WORLD RVA
Change the World RVA was established to support high school and college students who are experiencing homelessness and housing instability. They partner with volunteers, churches, and organizations to make a difference in the lives of homeless youth. They are an all-volunteer organization and the only group in our area that specifically addresses the needs of homeless students. In 2016 they won the Governor’s Award for outstanding community service. Please join us at worship on January 13, 2019 to meet Natalie May and hear about this fantastic organization. If you would like to make a donation please use the bucket on the 1st Sunday, put your donation in a blue mission envelope, or add it to your offering envelope and indicate Mission of the Month. Please ask a member of your mission team if you have any questions. The next Mission & Outreach Meeting is Wednesday, January 16th @ 6:30 pm at the Agee’s home. Please call the office for information.

HEALTH KIT SUNDAY COMING IN THE NEW YEAR!
What’s your morning routine? I turn on the light and roll out of bed bleary-eyed and prepare to face my two hungry cats! After I have my coffee I am ready to take on my day. For many this has not been how their day started. This year many people have been displaced by hurricanes, tornadoes, fires, and floods. We are asking you to join us to help them restock on daily necessities. So when the next disaster occurs they can bring that caring feeling to people who have been displaced. We can carry some light into their darkness! Mission & Outreach will supply all the necessities. We need your hands! Large & small hands. Please stay connected to hear updates on Health Kit Sunday.

TAKING DOWN THE GREENS JAN. 6TH SOUP POTLUCK
We will be taking down Christmas decorations at the church on Sunday, January 6, 2019 after worship service. With your help we will be serving delicious soups and chili so please bring your favorite with you to share. Leftovers will be packaged and frozen to go to those who are ill or need a meal. This is being hosted by Congregational Life and Care. Please see Scott Siefert if you have questions or need additional information.
The Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy is hosting their Annual DAY FOR ALL PEOPLE @ the Lobby of the General Assembly Tuesday, January 22, 2019. Join people from around the Commonwealth for a day of advocacy at the General Assembly, meet with your legislators and learn about social justice issues. Tickets are $30 for early bird registration (before January 11th) and $40 after Jan. 11th. Student tickets are $15. There are Special group rate for congregations! $250 group rate for 10 people – early bird (before Jan. 11th) $350 group rate for 10 people after Jan. 11th.

A light breakfast will be available and the program will begin promptly at 8:30 am. We will review our legislative issues and everyone will meet with their State Senator at 10 am and Delegate around 10:45 am. Lunch will be served around 12 noon and people will have an opportunity to gather with others from their area. We will offer workshops about Medicaid Expansion and enrollment, Standing with Immigrants, Living Wage Certification programs, and Understanding & Identifying Wage Theft. The day will end by 3 pm.

LOCATION:
Centenary United Methodist Church
411 East Grace Street
Richmond, VA 23219 (Near the State Capitol)

ST. JOHN’S PLAYERS
The St John’s Players had their second Fundraiser of the year celebrating with a “Holiday Cabaret” on Saturday, December 8th, 2018, with a sold out crowd of 80 people. They raised over $1400 for the church operating fund. It was a beautiful night with twenty participants, including our own Tony and Anita Sharpenstein, (Directors), Rob Osborn, Helena DeLigt, David Craig, Shirley and David Townsend and Chris Hagan singing beautiful music to bring the holiday season alive.

This year, we served a wonderful Hor d’oeurve Buffet, thanks to Mark Souza and Betsy and Richard Bighinatti. Many thanks to Charlie and Terri Weaver and Dreama Terrill for their help during the evening and Jeff Jacobs and Bud Higgins for their help and support. Our behind the scenes crew of Rob, Richard, Betsy and Sam Auerbach made the production run smoothly.

Over the last 12 years of St. John’s players, we could not have given our audiences such wonderful performances without the musical talents of Shirley Townsend, our teacher and Director. Many thanks to all who enjoyed our evening. Check out highlights of the Cabaret on the next page!
Sunday parking is available at the VCU deck located at Broad and Harrison Streets. You will receive a ticket to access parking. Shuttle service is available one hour before service to transport members and guests from the parking lot to church and at the church following service and coffee hour. The bar code to use as you exit the parking lot, so you do not pay for parking, is on the weekly bulletin cover. Parking is also available on Sundays from 7 am to 2 pm on the island side of Monument Avenue. For more information, call the office at 358-9291.

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**St. Johns Church Shuttle**

The vans will pick up at the parking structure at 534 N. Harrison Street and transport to the alley behind the church. **Shuttle service from parking structure to church begins at 9:00 am and will run until 10:15 am.**

After the church services are complete the shuttle will begin transporting the congregation from the alley behind the church back to the parking structure at 534 N. Harrison Street. **The return shuttle will begin at 11:30 am and run until 12:15.**
Steps to Using a QR Code:

1. When coming into the deck press the button on the machine to receive an entry ticket.

2. Obtain a copy of the QR Code while at the church.

3. When exiting the deck reinsert the entry ticket into the machine so it can calculate time spent and the associated fee.

4. Scan your QR Code on the scanner just left of the machine.

5. If you are experiencing problems and there is no attendant nearby, please hit the “I” button and someone from our 24/7 Command Center will be with you shortly.
Please find a substitute if you are unable to perform your ministry and contact your Team Coordinator AND the office to let them know who will be filling in for you. Thank you for making our church ministries run smoothly!
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3 Marcie Agee  
6 Frieda Walsh  
8 Kathy Freise  
8 Pastor Linda  
9 Georgianne Stinnette  
10 Judy Brown  
14 Hank Allen  
20 Fritz Will, IV  
23 Vicky Lyle  
25 Joachim Altenkirch Charlotte Quick  
26 Bruce Miller

January 2019

Birthdays Look Who’s Celebrating!  
3 Rick Pearman  
3 Marcie Agee  
6 Frieda Walsh  
8 Kathy Freise  
8 Pastor Linda  
9 Georgianne Stinnette  
10 Judy Brown  
14 Hank Allen  
20 Fritz Will, IV  
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