

January 2019
Volume 33.1

**St. John's
United Church
of Christ**

St. John's United Church of Christ is a diverse community forming a united congregation, seeking to grow our faith, share it with others, and serve God's people wherever the need is present. We are living God's love and all are invited!!!

**An Open and
Affirming
Congregation**

503 Stuart Circle
Richmond, Virginia 23220

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804.358.9291**

**The Rev. Linda Higgins
Pastor**

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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!**



Adult Faith formation

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

Jesus Coming of Age (I Kings 3:1-28, Luke 2:39-3:14; 3:21-22, I Timothy 4:6-16)

January 15 Chapter 20

Join the Adventure (Isaiah 61:1-4, Luke 4:1-30; 5:1-11, Timothy 2:1-9)

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.

CHURCH COUNCIL

Council News

information from us to you

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.

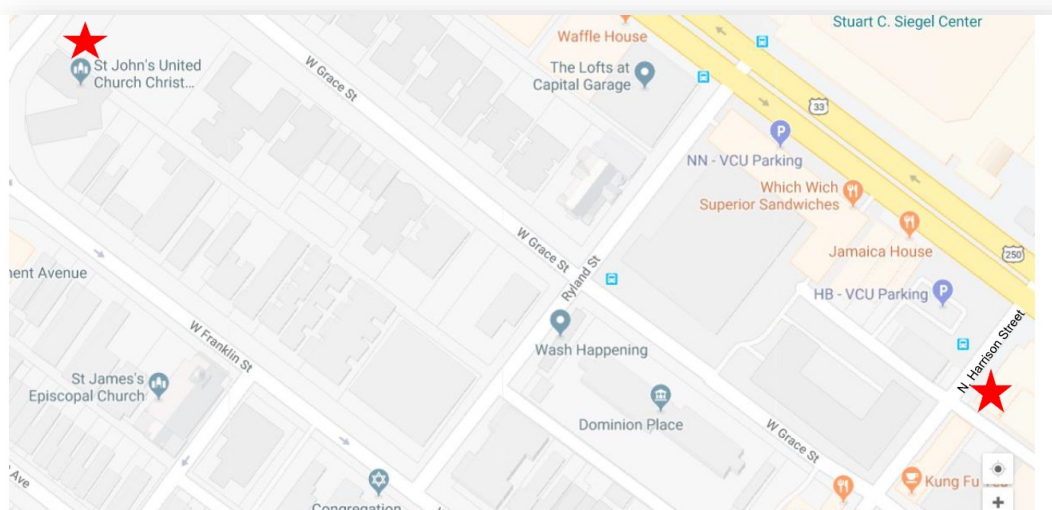
This year, we served a wonderful Hor d'oeuvre Buffet, thanks to Mark Souza and Betsy and Richard Bighinatti. Many thanks to Charlie and Terri Weaver and Dreama Terrill for their help during the evening and Jeff Jacobs and Bud Higgins for their help and support. Our behind the scenes crew of Rob, Richard,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



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.**



Expiration Date: 06/30/2019 11:59:59 PM

Validation Number: WB-603

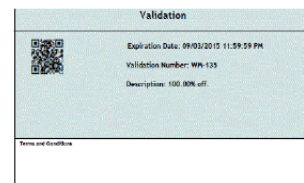
Description: 100.00% off.

Steps to Using a QR Code:

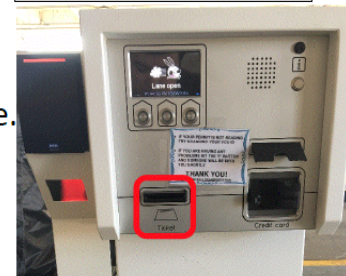
1. When coming into the deck press the button on the machine to receive an entry ticket.



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.



JANUARY

Volunteer Ministries

Ministry	January 6 Team 1	January 13 Team 2	January 20 Team 2	January 27 Team 3
Welcome Team Leader	Richard Bighinatti	Lynn Snyder	Lynn Snyder	Pam Miller
Sound System	David Pittman	Will Atkinson	Will Atkinson	Bruce Miller
Tellers				
Liturgist		Dreama Terrill		
Facilities	Richard Bighinatti	Jeff Hetzer	Jeff Hetzer	
Altar Guild	Erin Burnette Georgianne Stinnette	Lynda Merry	Johanna Gilbert Charlotte Quick	Helen Bunch
Fellowship Hosts	Congregational Life and Care		Terrie Pendleton	Dreama Terrill
Altar Flowers				

Teller Coordinator:
Bud Higgins
804-301-5059

Fellowship Host Coordinator:
Rev. Beverly Lindsey
804-239-2871

Celebrating a special occasion?
Honoring a loved one?



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!

January 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 HAPPY NEW YEAR	2	3	4	5
6 10 am Worship <i>Taking Down the Greens Soup Lunch</i>	7	8 2 pm <i>Conference Call Adult Formation Pastor Linda Birthday</i>	9	10 1 pm <i>The Fellowship Luncheon @ Terraza Restaurant</i>	11	12
13 10 am Worship Special Missions Presentation Congregational Life & Care Meeting <i>After Worship</i>	14 6:30 pm Church Council Meeting	15 2 pm Adult Form. Conference Call 5:30 pm Finance Meeting	16 6:30 pm Mission & Outreach Mtg. Agee's Home	17	18 Women's Group Dinner	19
20 10 am Worship	21	22 2 pm <i>Conference Call Adult Formation</i>	23	24	25	26
27 10 am Worship	28	29 2 pm <i>Conference Call Adult Formation</i>	30	31		



3 Rick Pearman
Marcie Agee

6 Frieda Walsh

8 Kathy Freise

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

