Rector Ramblings on . . . Surgery

I will have been an ordained priest now for 15-years next month – December 18 to be exact. And in that time I don’t think I’ve ever been part of a congregation that has experienced as many surgeries of one kind or another in such a short time frame as here at Saint John’s right now.

Knee surgeries and hip surgeries seem to top the list. Adding to that a heart surgery, a few major procedures, several other less-major procedures, and, well, we might have a whole new congregation!

I’m not all that old, but I can remember when surgeries, all surgeries, were a big deal. When my mother had her hysterectomy, you would’ve thought the world was coming to an end; not because of anything she did or said, but because the rest of us were all wondering if mom was ever coming back. And when I had my tonsillectomy (about age 7, so take this with a grain of salt), I remember spending days in the hospital and another week laid up in bed. **Side note: My parents thought it would be a good idea to give me a bell so I could rest my throat – that lasted about an hour. And a few other surgeries I’ve had required at least one night in the hospital.

But now it seems like everything, or almost everything, is done with as little cutting as possible and a timer counting down the minutes until discharge.

Surgeries are funny things. Some people are terrified of them and think about all the scenarios that could go wrong. Others are a little anxious and hope and pray everything will go right. Some people are eminently practical about their
situation and, with a wave of their hand, tell you they’ll see you on the other side. I suppose that’s like everything else in life – there is no standard, one-size-fits-all reaction to anything we experience in life, let alone a situation where we allow someone access to our insides.

As I said, the past month or so, and continuing into this month, has seen a variety of Saint John’s people going in for some type of surgical procedure. I do my best to keep up with everyone, but it’s still helpful to call or email me or the office a day or two before so we can make sure you’re on the prayer list and let our pastoral care team know to check up on you and provide some level of care if needed.

Along with all of the above mentioned surgeries, there’s another one coming up that you all need to know about, and that’s my own.

On November 13 I will be going in for back surgery. Most of you know about the chronic back pain I’ve mentioned and that, ironically, the most painful part of my job is administering Communion and offering healing prayers during the Eucharist.

Where am I on the scale of anxiety about the surgery? Oh, I’m less concerned about the actual surgery than I am about the recovery. I worry (probably over-worry) that the surgery won’t correct any of the problem and I’ll still be left in as bad, or maybe worse, shape than I am now. But I have a good surgeon and I’m hopeful that I’ll be able to wash my hands and tie my shoes without pain.

At this point in time I don’t know what the recovery period is – I have a pre-op appointment in a few days that should go over all that. In taking a rough, semi-educated guess, I estimated being out for three Sundays. Those Sundays are 11/17, 24, and 12/1.

On November 17, the Rev. Stuart Wright, Diocesan Canon for Transition, will preside at both the 8 and 10:15 services. And on November 24 and December 1, the Rev. Brandt Montgomery, Chaplain at St. James School, will preside at both services. Depending on how everything goes, I may be at church on some of those days, but I will most certainly be in a pew doing my best to take things slowly.
Deacon Sue and Dusty Graham will be overseeing pastoral care during this time. If you have an emergency, please feel free to call them, or leave a message at the church office. Our Senior and Junior Wardens, Lou Lamb and Ellen Collins respectively, will also be available if so needed. And, as always, Melonie will be in charge of the office and everything.

For all of you who have had surgery recently, know that you are in our prayers for a full recovery and please remember to call the office, Dcn. Sue, or Dusty Graham if you need assistance. For all of you who have an upcoming surgery, please know that you are in our prayers for both a successful operation and full recovery; and please remember to call the office, Dcn. Sue, or Dusty Graham if you need assistance. And for me, I’ll remember to be the good patient and keep the necessary people informed.

I’ll see you on the other side,

Todd+

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**Discretionary Report**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beginning Balance (September 26)</td>
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<td>Seminar Fee for Staff</td>
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</table>

**Balance as of October 27:** $1,050.00

Currently have 11 Sheetz cards ($10/ea) and 1 Martins cards ($20/ea).
Music Notes

Choral Evensong for the Sunday after All Saints’ Day
As part of the 2019-2020 Music at Saint John’s Series, Choral Evensong will be offered on Sunday, November 3 at 5:00 p.m. The Officiant for the service will be Father Todd Young, and the music led by Mark King. In addition to congregational hymns and service music, the Parish Choir will sing a setting of the Magnificat and Nunc dimittis by the living South African composer, Peter Klatzow who was director of the College of Music and Emeritus Professor in composition at the University of Cape Town. He received his musical training at the Royal College of Music in London. The anthem for Evensong was composed by the Romantic French composer, Alexandre Guilmant who was the organist at La Trinite Church in Paris, a noted pedagogue, performer, improviser, helped start the Schola Cantorum de Paris, and Professor of Organ at the Paris Conservatory. At the Evensong here at Saint John’s, a free-will offering will be received. A reception in Trimble Hall will follow Evensong, coordinated by Bruce Massey and Jerry Bock. Plan to make Evensong a part of your All Saints’ observance and invite a friend, neighbor or family member to attend this tradition of worship which goes back thousands of years – a tradition that is alive and well in the 21st century.

Children, Youth and Adults
If you have been involved in a fall activity and are now free – come check out choir!

- **Saint Francis Choir** (grades 1-3): rehearses Mondays 5:00-5:30 p.m.
- **Dinner for Saint Francis and Canterbury Choirs**: Mondays 5:30-5:45 p.m.
- **Canterbury Choir** (grades 4-12*): rehearses Mondays 5:45-6:45 p.m.
- **Parish Choir** (grades 9-12 and adults*): rehearses Thursdays 7:00-8:30 p.m.
  *Youth in grades 9-12 have the option of singing in either or both the Canterbury Parish Choir.

The Saint Francis and Canterbury Choirs sing at the 10:15 a.m. Eucharist approximately once a month, at the 6:30 p.m. Christmas Eve service, and present a liturgical drama in March.

The Parish Choir sings at the 10:15 a.m. Eucharist most Sundays, September to early June. The Canterbury and Parish Choirs have been invited back for a 3rd time to sing at the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) Choir Festival in early May at the Church of the Redeemer, Baltimore.
For more information about the choirs, please contact Mark King at 301-733-2560 x 108, or mking.stjohns@myactv.net.

**Guest Choir to Sing at Saint John’s**
Saint James School Choir will be the guest choir at the 10:15 a.m. Eucharist on Sunday, November 10. Under the direction of Linda Stowe, the choir presented a concert last season as part of our Music at Saint John’s Series.

**Premiere Performance**
A new member of the parish, Hollis Thoms, will have his opera “Adam and Eve” premiered by Bach in Baltimore under the direction of T. Herbert Dimmock on Sunday, November 3, 4:00 p.m. at Christ Lutheran Church, Baltimore. The performance commemorates the 50th wedding anniversary of Hollis and Jacki. For tickets, go to bachinbaltimore.org.

**From Bach to Rock Pops Concert**
A Pops Concert presented by the local Cumberland Valley chapter of the American Guild of Organists will take place on Sunday, November 10, 4:00 p.m. at St. John’s Lutheran Church, Hagerstown. The concert will feature favorite songs, re-imagined for the pipe organ, including Flight of the Bumblebee, West Side Story, and Star Wars. The concert is free and the public is invited to attend.

**November Carillon Recitals at Mercersburg Academy**
Nov. 3 – Janet Tebbel (Philadelphia, PA), Nov. 10 – Jim Brinson (Mercersburg Academy), November 17 – Buck Lyon-Vaiden (McDonogh School, Owings Mills, MD). The recitals begin at 3:00 p.m. and are free and the public is invited to attend.
Deacon’s Corner

Early Sunday morning, November 3rd, we move back to Standard Time. Since June 21st, we have been losing daylight every day. It’s a daily slow trickle of vanishing light, but as we adjust our clocks on November 3rd or in my house before we go to bed Saturday night, the sunlight all the more seems to disappear. Besides losing an hour of sleep, we will have a stark Sunday afternoon as the shadows lengthen around 4 pm. This time change has always been a difficult one for me. It takes more energy to walk the dogs, clean up, and get ready for the next day. Some folks would call this Seasonal Active Disorder or SAD. To remedy some of this lack of enthusiasm, I love and am grateful for bright days with sunshine. I spend more time with God.

Let us check in with each other and our neighbors this month to see how things are going. I’ve called this the How Yah Doin’ Ministry. It is more than the “passing by” question. It is a more deliberate question on How Yah Doin’? Give a call to someone who might suffer from sadness and remind them that they are not alone. This is a time to reach out to neighbors who are at risk of not being able to make it to the store for groceries or remember to change the air filters in furnaces.

Here at St. John’s, we have ample opportunities to welcome the lonely and perhaps sad. We know Christ’s light brings hope to the hopeless. Invite folks to worship here. Don’t forget there is a Thanksgiving Day dinner here at Church, sign up, bring a side dish, and show up for pie. Let Christ’s Divine light brighten the hearts of those who are missing the Daylight Saving Light.

Deacon Sue

Youth Update

November 10 is our monthly EYC meeting.

We will have meatball subs and Oreo’s.

Our activity is TBD.

J2A Youth will soon be called to help with the Christmas Boutique.
Our Heart, Love, and Pledging

A heart, the source of life and a symbol of love, gives a body drive and devotion to accomplish much. God’s love is at the heart of St. John’s and energizes our church body as a whole and its members individually. One way we show our heart is by pledging to offer our treasure, time, and talents. This time of year reminds us to consider how we can give and share our heart and love of God.

We express this love by living out our stated mission to Worship, Welcome, Serve, and Encourage. We Worship quietly alone and joyfully together. We warmly Welcome people into our church, hearts, and lives. We reach out and Serve others through our many programs, and we Encourage people with their spiritual, emotional, and physical needs. To continue our mission, we need your help.

As of October 16, 2019, St. John’s had a shortfall of $12,915. We ask that you prayerfully consider giving of your treasure, time and talents. Please fill out the pledge card you recently received in the mail and return it no later than November 10. You may mail your pledge card to the church office, place your pledge card in the offering plate during services, or give electronically on St. John’s website by clicking on “Online Pledges/Gifts”.

We look forward to celebrating our Pledge Campaign with you on December 1 when we will express our praise and thanksgiving for what has been offered.

Thank you and Bless you,
Lou Lamb, Senior Warden

Did you know...

If you are over age 70 ½, and required to take distributions from your retirement pools – consider making your charitable contributions to religious and other qualifying nonprofit organizations by making a direct contribution of all or a portion of your required minimum distribution. If you do not qualify to itemize your deductions, this is a more tax efficient step to accomplish your charitable commitments. You are not taxed on the direct withdrawal and transfer of the required minimum distribution you direct to your favorite charities (i.e. St. John’s Episcopal Church).

Please be sure to discuss with your financial and tax advisors to determine how a charitable RMD may apply to your individual circumstances.
Lifelong Learning

We are lucky to live close to an Episcopal seminary – Virginia Theological (VTS) is only 1-1/2 hours from Hagerstown (but then, isn't everything?).

One of the things to which VTS has made a major commitment is their Lifelong Learning Department. This is a program for both clergy and laity that offers resources for current and future ministries. There are day and evening classes, as well as workshops and webinars.

VTS is also offering participants of this program a 20 percent discount for on-campus accommodations, meaning you don’t necessarily have to pay for a hotel room or fight traffic on a daily basis.

You can register for classes at www.virginiaseminary.eventbrite.com.


You can visit their website at www.vts.edu/coned

You can also sign up to receive newsletters and other Lifelong Learning information.

Do you have plans for Thanksgiving? Fixing dinner for family? Going to visit family or friends? Not sure what you are doing yet?

Saint John’s has been so generous with their support of the Café over the years that Susan and I wanted to do something to show our appreciation. So we would like to propose reviving what, according to what we have heard, was a tradition of having Thanksgiving Dinner at the Church. This would be a Parish Family event so we could give thanks to the parish for their support, not only to the Café, but to all of the outreach programs that we all contribute to.

We would prepare the turkey, gravy and mashed potatoes and you bring a side dish to share.

If you don’t have plans, consider joining us and bringing your family and friends! There will be a sign-up sheet at the Antietam St. entrance. Please let us know how many would be coming and what dish you are going to bring.

Where: Trimble Hall
When: Thanksgiving Day @1 p.m.

Happy Thanksgiving

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You can also sign up to receive newsletters and other Lifelong Learning information.
Thanksgiving Pies

Thanksgiving is a little under a month away! And, do you know where you are getting your pumpkin pie? Well, look no further! The Service and Outreach Commission will be selling their premium pies and cheesecake again this year. This year's selection will include apple and pumpkin pies for $12 and apple-cranberry-walnut, cherry, pecan-cheesecake pies for $15. These pies are in deep dish ten-inch pie pans. You may purchase them freshly baked or frozen, ready to bake. They are truly a wonderful compliment to any holiday meal.

SOC will also be selling cheesecakes for $25. You will not want to miss Gerrie Mangum's delicious lemony cheesecake! New to this year's St. John's bakery will be Pumpkin Cheesecake. Both cheesecakes are 9 inches of pure, creamy deliciousness. It's the holidays.....go ahead and treat yourself. Both can be frozen for later entertaining too.

Pie sales will begin Sunday, October 27. Last year we baked 135 pies. Please help us set a new record! All proceeds from our fourth annual Thanksgiving pie sales will support Service and Outreach projects. Questions may be directed to Bruce Massey, 240-675-4498. Thank you!

Annual HARC Thanksgiving Service

The annual Hagerstown Area Religious Council Thanksgiving service will be held this year at First Christian Church, 1345 N. Potomac Ave., in Hagerstown, beginning at 7 pm, on Sunday, November 17.

This annual event brings together clergy and laity from our various faith traditions (Christian, both Catholic and Protestant; Jewish; Muslim; and others) as we celebrate religious freedom and diversity.

I encourage you to attend as we focus on what brings us together over what separates us.

Blessings,

Todd+
A Request from St. John's Shelter

As you may or may not know, the St. John's Family Shelter has been affiliated with our parish for over 30 years. This affiliation, however, does not include any direct financial support; ie there is no line item on the parish budget for the Shelter. Therefore all financial support comes from donations and via a variety of grants.

That said, St. John's Shelter would like to remind everyone that Giving Tuesday is December 3rd. If you are looking for a worthwhile charity to make end of year donations, please consider the Shelter as we work to offer temporary housing for families of Hagerstown.

Please look for our Facebook page (St. John's Shelter) for more information about this vital service. To help, you can either send a donation to P.O. Box 1833 Hagerstown, MD 21742, or give it directly to Saint John’s Episcopal Church memo’d for “Shelter.”

We will also be collecting donations to give the families at the shelter a gift card for Thanksgiving and Christmas. If you would like to make a donation, please make checks payable to Saint John’s Shelter noting in the memo section, Thanksgiving or Christmas. Thanksgiving donations are due by November 20th. Christmas donations are due by December 16th. You may give checks to Bill Soulis or Ann Chaney.

St. John’s Artisan Fair
Saturday, Nov. 16 from 9 am until 2 pm in Trimble Hall.

Arts and Crafts! Music! Food!

Invite your friends to come to St. John’s first Artisan’s Fair and see what our congregation has to offer. Start your holiday shopping early! Art and Craft goods will be available for purchase and there will be live music throughout the day. There is no fee for entry, but the proceeds from all sales will go towards the community charities: St. John’s Shelter and Micah’s Backpack.

If you are interested in helping with sales, donating crafts, baked goods, or with food preparation, contact event chair Rebecca Connor at rebeccaconnor@gmail.com or (717) 597-5646.
St. Nicholas Day Festival  
Sunday, December 8, 2019 following the 10:15 Service.

Please join us for lunch where you can purchase Grilled Cheese Sandwiches, Tomato soup and chips. There will be crafts for the kids to make and take home. Don’t forget you can purchase delicious baked good from the Snowflake Bakery. Saint Nicholas will be there to take pictures with. We hope everyone will join us and make this a wonderful day together.

If you would like to volunteer to help in the kitchen to prepare the food for the luncheon, please contact Kathy Argueso, 717-404-8357 or by email at kargueso0920@gmail.com and for the Snowflake Bakery donations contact Judy Raysely.

All proceeds from the lunch will be donated to The Rector’s Discretionary Fund and proceeds from the Snowflake Bakery will go to Personal Blessings.

URGENT!!

CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE REMINDER!

The Y2A Youth Group needs your donations for the Christmas Boutique fundraiser! Re-giftable items such as jewelry, collectible items, art, picture frames, scarves, hats and gloves, men’s ties, attractive useful kitchen items/ decor, home décor, stationary, children’s activity materials such as coloring books, colored pencils, glitter pens, art paper, children’s toys, games, puzzles, decks of cards, and other items you think someone would appreciate receiving as a gift. But, PLEASE, no furniture, tools, shoes, sports equipment or clothing, or Christmas items. Leave donations in marked box(es) on stage in Trimble Hall. Contact Melissa Hutton at 240-625-6550 with questions. MANY THANKS!!
Stephen Ministry and Stephen Ministers

Are You in Need of Care, Know Someone who could use Care or Have a Calling to Become a Stephen Minister?

What is Stephen Ministry?
Stephen Ministry began in 1975, when Rev. Kenneth C. Haugk, Ph.D., a Pastor and clinical psychologist, trained nine members of his congregation to assist him in providing care and support to people in the congregation and community who were experiencing life difficulties.

Stephen Ministry is confidential. Only the Stephen Leader and the assigned Stephen Minister know which care receiver is connected to a care giver.

Who are Stephen Ministers and what do they do?
One way to put it is that Stephen Ministers are the After People.

Stephen Ministers are there:
...after the phone call you hoped you’d never get.
...after the funeral, when everyone has left and the emotions you’ve held at bay come crashing in on you.
...after the relationship falls apart and the bottom falls out of your life.
...after the doctor says, “I’m sorry, but there’s nothing more we can do.”
...after the nursing home director shakes your hand and says, “Welcome to your new home.”
...after the last child honks the horn, waves, and drives away – and the house suddenly seems empty.
...after the gavel comes down, the handcuffs go on, and your loved one is led away.
...after the baby arrives, demanding more of you than you ever dreamed possible.
...after you find a pink slip with your final paycheck.
...after your family and friends have heard your story one too many times, but your still need to talk it out.

Stephen Ministers are the After People. They are ready to come alongside you - -or your friends, neighbors, coworkers, or relatives – and provide comfort and support for as long after as needed.

A Stephen Minister is a layperson who has received 50 hours of training in how to provide distinctively Christian care & support.

Need Care or Know Someone Who Would Benefit
Contact the church office (301) 733-2560, talk with Father Todd or Dcn Sue or reach out to Sherrie Burkholder, Stephen Leader (301) 790-3718

Have a Calling to Become a Stephen Minister
A new training session will begin in January 2020. The new class will meet once a month on a Saturday morning for 4 hours. Training materials will be provided. Total training is 50 hours, after which you will be commissioned as a Stephen Minister.
For more information contact Sherrie Burkholder, Stephen Leader, 301-790-3718 or email abigailvonlong@myactv.net.
Reach Cold Weather Shelter

St. John’s week at the Reach Cold Weather Shelter for homeless adults is scheduled for February 9th thru February 16th, 2020. We are looking forward to fulfilling our commitment this year as we have in the past.

This year my co-coordinator is Kim Halsey. She has graciously offered to assist with the task of filling our week and assisting you our volunteers in fulfilling your duties for the week. Also Carla Charles has once again agreed to take on the daily task of keeping the kitchen volunteers in line and making sure we have awesome meals each evening. Thank you both.

We typically utilize about 70 volunteers for our week, and the sooner we can fill our schedule the better. If you know what you would like to do early just let one of us know, either in person or by e-mail. I hope to have volunteer sign up the middle of Dec. this year thru the 1st week of Feb.

All volunteers can go online and read their duties and responsibilities along with filling out your volunteer application. The application must be filled out before our week please. Kitchen help must be 13 and older, with a maximum of 10 in the kitchen at one time.

For more information or to sign up: Missy 717-420-7118, nmmjj101119@gmail.com or Kim 610-360-0637, kimberlyeph@gmail.com, Carla 301-991-7934.

HATS OFF TO:

- Mark Cook and his jazz group on their performance at the Washington County Museum of Fine Arts. The program was designed by Mark Cook based on an exhibit at the museum entitled “Blues and the Abstract Truth,” taken from the eponymously titled 1961 album by Oliver Nelson. The concert was entitled “Blues as an Abstract Truth.” Through music the group explored how the Blues have evolved throughout the indigenous American Jazz Style.

Keep me in the loop by sending information to my email address: uofapsu@verizon.net. Feel free also to pull me aside to share your good news so I may share it with St. Johns.

Kelly Slocum
**Pastoral Care Support Needed**

The somewhat newly formed Pastoral Care group is trying to anticipate needs members of our Parish may have in the future.

We are looking for volunteers to help us with...

- Making a meal
- Providing transportation to and from doctors’ appointments
- Knit or crochet prayer shawls
- Call a shut in.

If you can help us in any of these, please contact Dusty Graham (301-991-5612 or dustyg@myactv.net)

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**Daily Service Schedule Change**

Due to Fr. Todd's upcoming surgery (you can read about it in this month's Ramblings if you missed it), the Wednesday 12:15 Eucharist on November 13, 20, & 27 will be cancelled.

The 5:30 Evening Prayer (M, T, Th, & F) service from November 14 through the end of the month, will continue as scheduled.

The Thanksgiving Eve Service and Pie Social on November 27 will either be Holy Eucharist or Evensong, depending on Fr. Todd's status. Either way, please come and worship with us and then enjoy pie.
HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Morgan Fuller  11/01  Marilyn Tonseth  11/11
Elsie Holloway  11/01  Iris Heichel  11/14
Becca Burford  11/02  Tina Angle  11/15
Kimbra Tweedy  11/03  Maya Wells  11/16
Charles Chaney  11/05  Sallie Bailey  11/17
Mark Platek  11/05  Sally Perryman  11/19
Maureen Sheridan  11/05  Annie Malloy  11/21
Mark Halsey  11/07  Linda Norrington  11/21
Charlotte Happel  11/07  Caroline Happel  11/22
Liam Magno  11/07  Marsha Knicely-Masood  11/23
Carol Bachtell  11/08  Doris Haines  11/24
Cathy Bushey  11/08  Ben Alvestad  11/25
Jason Happel  11/08  Beth Parker Bellinger  11/25
Adam Hebb  11/09  Ruth Cozzoli  11/26
Gary Heichel  11/09  Kathy Fuscick  11/26
Mary Mallery  11/09  Nathanael Mummert  11/26
Bruce Foreman  11/10  Melinda Smith  11/27
Nicolee Forte-Wright  11/11  Barbara Rhodes  11/29

Happy Anniversary!

Alvin & Marty Massey  11/02
Bill & Pat Abeles  11/12
Bill & Phyllis Beard  11/21