



# SOUNDINGS

The Newsletter of Saint John's Episcopal Parish, Hagerstown, Maryland

## March 2023

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### *Ramblings from the Rector on . . . Overwhelmed.*

As December came to a close and the calendar rolled over to January, it was immediately filled with important events. The major events were Mark King's retirement (and everything associated with that), the annual meeting, and the search process to find Mark's successor. With everything going in January, I kept thinking, "If I can just get through January, it'll all be okay."

Then February arrived.

Ash Wednesday fell on the 4th Wednesday of the month, the normal day for Vestry meetings; so that meeting had to be moved up a week. That led to a lost week as everyone had to get reports turned in earlier than normal. The Vestry also gathered on the 25th to get to know each other, plan, and meet with a consultant as we continue to develop. Add to that the Parochial Report (the annual report parishes submit to their diocese and the Episcopal church), six Ash Wednesday gatherings with some time at the hospital, a holiday, and Melonie's vacation, and February hasn't been any better than January.

Maybe March will give us time to breathe.

But then I look at the calendar, and March has the Lenten soup and program every Wednesday, jury duty, the special convention to elect our next bishop, the arrival of our next Minister of Music, and all the preparations required for Holy Week.

It seems that things just keep piling up with no break. But then I remember what I wrote on February 15 – “How you live your life today is how you live your life.”

And while that quote had to do with Lenten disciplines, I could have used that small piece of advice in January and February (and now March). Sometimes our schedules can get so full of things, so busy, and so overwhelmed that we forget our day-to-day lives are a gift. In my case, I was so overwhelmed with the annual meeting, Mark’s retirement, the search for a new Minister of Music, interviews, the parochial report, an early vestry meeting, and, and, and, that I probably missed just being able to enjoy the moment.

As January rolled into February that rolls into March and schedules continue to fill up and get busy and threaten to overwhelm us, remember to find time to appreciate each day. Remember to make time to spend with God. Remember to find time to appreciate the day you have been given. Remember to breathe. You may not be able to avoid being overwhelmed, but you just might find the time to focus on what you have right now.

*Blessings,*  
*Todd+*

JUST  
*Breathe*

## *Thoughts from an Interim*

Since coming here in February to do the interim music work, I've enjoyed meeting you, working with the choir (who is quite well trained), and working with Father Todd. I became aware fairly quickly that this work would be different from doing the work of a substitute, which I have done quite a bit. A substitute comes in and basically clones the ways of the resident musician, but the calling of the interim is more involved as the time is used to prepare for the entry of a permanent musician who is going to be different. This realization has put me on a journey of adjusting my head and discovering the ways of deliberately changing bits and pieces to "rattle the cages," so to speak. This is done to help you become aware that there are different ways that things can be done and managed.

You, as a congregation, have had 28 wonderful years with Mark, who is a well-loved and highly respected musician par excellence. You have been blessed! You are used to the ways of that tenure and those ways are deeply rooted in this church. As I hopefully am helpful at preparing you for the transition, we have to remember that things that are different are just that...different; not good, not bad, just different...and things are going to be different.

It is probably easier for you to tolerate/enjoy the differences that I bring in because you know that I am temporary and I will be gone in a few weeks. The permanent person is just that—permanent—and that will feel different to you...perhaps making you feel more anxious about what is to come. As it just so happened, I ran across some quotes that humored me about the subject of anxiety and I share two of them with you.

"Rule number one is, don't sweat the small stuff. Rule number two is, it's all small stuff."  
—*Robert Eliot, medical doctor and author*

"Anxiety's like a rocking chair. It gives you something to do, but it doesn't get you very far.."  
—*Jodi Picoult, writer*

I am enjoying working with the choir and the choir has been very receptive of following my lead. Mark and I have worked as a team to get the music planned for the choir through my tenure here. I'm enjoying intersecting with Melonie in the office and talking with and coordinating the services with Father Todd who is being quite helpful with giving language to expectations. I've enjoyed meeting you as time goes by and I really do enjoy that mirror on the organ!

Basically, I'm having a ball here and my hope for you is that you continue to be the delightful people that I have come to know and you share all that you are with the permanent musician as you journey with him. I suspect that the transition will work out just fine.

Blessings for the journey,  
*Brenda J. Weiser*

## *Many Thanks*

Dear Saint John's family and friends,

I would like to thank you very much for the spectacular retirement celebration held on January 29! It was good to see so many of you. A special thank you to Parish Life Commission and the many others who provided the beautiful reception and all the delicious food. Thank you parishioners, friends, vestry, wardens, and Father Todd for the very meaningful words, generous gifts, and cards. Choristers of all ages, parishioners, and friends, keep singing at church! Your united song is one of the many great assets of Saint John's, an integral part of worship, and helps make the world a better place.

*Sincerely,  
Mark King*

## *The Gospel of John Bible Study*

The Gospel of John Bible Study begins on March 7th @ 7pm on Zoom (Meeting ID: 852 9852 7075 Passcode: 853906). This Gospel is rich with metaphor and absolutes. As Matthew, Mark and Luke tell us the history of Jesus along with teachings, this Gospel dwells on bread, water and spirit. Join us on Zoom for an hour of God dwelling with and in and through us.

## *Saturday Morning Prayer March 11th @ 9:15 @ the Rogation Altar*

This Daily office will be kept on the Saturdays when we have Pantry on the Go throughout the year during our service to our community. Join Deacon Sue in the Nave Saturday morning for prayer and reflection and then volunteer your time in service with Pantry on the Go.

# Music at Saint John's

*Revised February 2023*

**Friday, September 9, 2022 – 7:00 p.m.**

*Silent Movies: The Haunted House (1921) with Buster Keaton, and Haunted Spooks (1920) with Harold Lloyd*  
*Silent Cartoon: Alice the Whaler (1927) by Walt Disney*  
Dave Calendine, organist for the Fox Theatre, Detroit

**Sunday, October 23, 2022 – 5:00 p.m.**

*Senior Organ Recital by Lorie Payne*

**Sunday, November 6, 2022 – 5:00 p.m.**

*Choral Evensong for the Sunday after All Saints' Day*

**Sunday, December 18, 2022 – 10:15 a.m.**

*Festival of Advent Lessons and Carols*

**Sunday, April 23, 2023 – 4:00 p.m.**

*Chelsea Tanner; flautist, performer, teacher, and mindset coach in New York City*  
*Andrew Stewart, pianist*

**Thursday, May 18, 2023 – 7:30 p.m.**

*Saint James School Chapel Choir*  
Linda Morgan Stowe, director

**Sunday, June 11, 2023 – 4:00 p.m.**

*Jacqueline Pollauf, harpist*

## Music at Saint John's

This series is a result of the extra generosity of those who believe that such programs are a vital ministry in the community. If you feel that programs such as these are important, we ask for your financial support to ensure their continuance.

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## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

*Please make check payable to:*

SAINT JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH (Memo: Music Series) ~ 101 South Prospect Street, Hagerstown, MD 21740

Donations to the Music Series can also be made electronically via online Giving/Music Series on the church's website – [www.stjohnshagerstown.org](http://www.stjohnshagerstown.org), smart phone QR code, or download the Vanco Mobile app.



### SUGGESTED CATEGORIES

Benefactor.....\$500 or more	Patron.....\$250 to \$499	Sponsor.....\$100 to \$249
Cultivator.....\$50 to \$99	Friend.....\$10 to \$49	Amount Enclosed: _____

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Please print your name as you would like it to appear in the music program that is posted on our Website and Facebook page*

☐ Please do not include my name in the music program.

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Providing your email address will keep you informed of upcoming musical events.*

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

# *A Call for 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 you 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 hopefully begin in early spring. Total training is 50 hours, after which you will be commissioned as a Stephen Minister. The next meeting to begin training will be Sunday, March 19 at 11:30am in Saint Mary's Chapel. Cost of materials, which included the 2 training manuals is \$50.00. Monies will be paid to St. John's Episcopal Church

For more information contact Sherrie Burkholder, Stephen Leader, 301-790-3718 or email [abigailvonlong@myactv.net](mailto:abigailvonlong@myactv.net).

### ***Reach Cold Weather Shelter***

A major **Thank You** to all who volunteered either their time, money for supplies, and food. We couldn't have done it without ALL of you. I will be scheduling a party at my house for all who helped.

*Missy McCray*



## *Adult Forum Movie Night*

*March 24, 2023 @ 7 p.m.*

### *Father Stu*

Based on a true story, *Father Stu* is an unflinchingly honest, funny and uplifting story about finding purpose in a most unexpected place. After surviving a terrible motorcycle accident, Stuart Long (Mark Wahlberg) wonders if he can use his second chance to help others find their way — and leads this former amateur boxer to the surprising realization that he is meant to be a priest.



Despite a devastating health crisis and the skepticism of Church officials and his estranged parents (Mel Gibson and Jacki Weaver), Stu pursues his vocation with courage and compassion, inspiring not only those closest to him but countless others along the way.

If you have not signed up before, send an e-mail to [ayrer1937@gmail.com](mailto:ayrer1937@gmail.com) to receive the Zoom link.

### *Giving Envelopes*



If you would like to use giving envelopes or replenish your supply, please contact the Parish Administrator at [secretary.stjohns@myactv.net](mailto:secretary.stjohns@myactv.net) or 301-733-2560. We have plenty of envelopes so please do not hesitate to ask for an envelope packet. Your packet will be labeled with your name and left at the back of the church unless you make other arrangements with Melonie.



## *Deacon's Corner*

This is the time of year that can be as crazy busy than those six weeks between Thanksgiving and New Year's. I noticed as I walked into the parish kitchen on Fat Tuesday night, seeing Betty Markle working her magic in the kitchen, that I wasn't the only one with their hands full. St. John's is blessed with a ton of opportunities for fellowship, and Parish Life is all about bringing us together. Parish Life is a gift to us and to God.

What a contrast this year has been compared to the COVID years, as we gather and celebrate each other and God. I see new faces in the pews, some might be new to me, but others who are coming back to be the hands, feet, eyes and love of Christ. It takes a village to find talent for a new Organist, a video communications person, and just keep up with the day to day. During March, on Tuesdays, there is the new Bible Study on John's Gospel; Wednesday is Soup and Bread Lenten Study; Thursdays are the Adult forum and then the Commissions and a monthly Vestry to do the business of the Church. Almost every night St. John's has something for everyone to join in on.

As we moved through the season of Lent, intentionality becomes a focus. The season asks us to pray, fast, and give alms among other disciplines. Intentionality is the difference between the giving up or adding on, versus taking on a new direction. Through our ordinary time with Jesus being revealed to us in Epiphany, we may have seen with new eyes the invitation to deepen our faith, but without a sense of urgency. Lent asks us to turn, with urgency, and with intentionality toward Christ. Christ was a new thing last season, today in our current season, Christ is the way, not new, but of our beginning to see God's work in us as we are.

While we are busy with all that is going on around us, turn as you can toward the face of God. See God in your neighbor's eyes, in the mirror reflection, in your quiet prayers when you rise, at the noon time, and as you fall asleep. Let the urgency of this world slow, and your urgency to God hasten. May your intentions lead you to a deeper faith in God.

*Blessings,  
Deacon Sue*



*It's our 11th annual Hike!*

**Saturday  
June 10, 2023**

*On the beautiful*

**C&O Canal Towpath**

in Washington County, Md.

Check-in location for all hikers: **Shepherd's Spring Camp & Retreat Center**  
**16869 Taylors Landing Road, Sharpsburg, Md. 21782**  
*You will be shuttled to your start point on the towpath*

*Three distances to choose from:*

<b>4K (2.5 miles)</b> Check-in: <b>9:00 am</b> or <b>9:45 am</b> Individuals \$40; Families \$65	<b>10K (6.3 miles)</b> Check-in: 8:00 am Individuals \$50; Families \$85	<b>Half-marathon (13 miles)</b> Check-in: 7:00 am Individuals \$60; Families \$105
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- **\$10 Early-bird discount and guaranteed t-shirt if you register by May 21**
- Enjoy snacks and drink stops along the way
- All hikes conclude at Shepherd's Spring Camp & Retreat Center
- Post-hike Celebration for all hikers at Shepherd's Spring with food, music, fellowship!
- Photo scavenger hunt for youth & nature scavenger hunt for younger children
- Prizes for top fundraising individual & team; prize drawing for anyone who raises funds



To learn more & to register, visit  
[www.harccoalition.org/hike](http://www.harccoalition.org/hike)  
or scan this QR code:



Online registration open through  
June 9th. Same-day, in-person  
registration is permitted.

### Virtual Hike

You can also hike virtually!  
See our website for details.

### Challenge Hike

Up for a bigger challenge?  
Join us **Saturday, May 13**  
for 20 miles on the AT!  
Details on our website.

### Proceeds benefit HARC & Micah's Backpack

- Micah's Backpack, a program to feed food-insecure school children on weekends
- Strengthening houses of worship and interfaith relationships
- Early childhood education and well-being programs



## ***Commission Highlights from February 2023***

### **Service and Outreach**

- Boxes of markers, crayons, and glue sticks given to School Supply Drive
- Boxed lunches delivered to Potomac Towers
- Pantry on the Go February 11
- Circles: Thanks to Dusty, patsy, Bill, Mark, Bruce, Carol, and Jenny
- Babypalooza- Do we want a table?

### **Parish Life**

- Kitchen Maintenance conducted
- Numerous upcoming activities. Check the bulletin board above the coffee table for dates, events, and times. February - Chili Cook Off and Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

### **Fabric and Grounds**

- Tree trimming for several trees
- Antietam Street Gate (StM'sC) soon to be installed
- On site maintenance continues-Church roof, Baldwin Tower

### **Welcoming**

- Pride Day Participation July 8, Doub's Woods
- Meet 'n Greet April 28. Looking for ideas and helpers
- Checking advertising for Easter services and activities at the local theater
- Help needed from parishioners to ask visitors to sign guest book in back of church
- Meeting with Commission Chairs March 12 at 9am in Teen Room

### **Christian Stewardship**

- Welcome David Davis to commission
- Parish off to a healthy start financially in 2023
- Commenced planning process for fiscal year 2024
- Congratulations to New Chair Gary Heichel. Thanks to Brian Connolly for his service.

Full reports can be read on the Bulletin board in Trimble Hall, southeast corner.

## *St. John's Painting*

Everyone at St. John's is familiar with the pen and ink drawing of our beautiful church. But have you ever noticed the initials "GSH" in the bottom right corner? Those are the initials of the artist, Grant S. Haines, a longtime member of St. John's. Grant was known for his pastel portraits and oil landscapes. This picture is the only pen and ink that he undertook, purely for his love of St. John's.

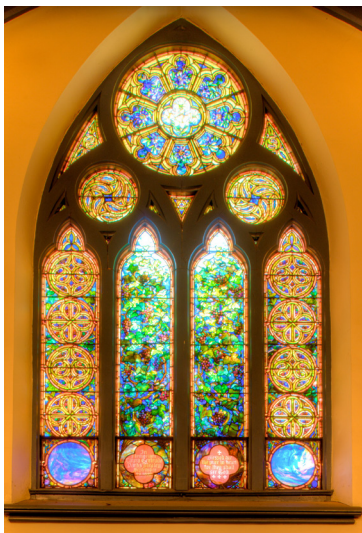
Grant was born in 1916 and raised in Winchester, VA. He and his 13-year-old son Billy moved to Hagerstown when he married Doris Madden at St. John's on May 1, 1954. This church was his spiritual home until his death in 2011 at the age of 95.

During his years at St. John's, Grant served as a Lay Eucharist Minister, served on the Fabric and Grounds committee among others, and the Vestry. He was the Senior Warden in the early 1970s when Rev. Knisley sadly took his own life. Grant held the church together during this trying period, stepping in as minister until a substitute could be found. Some of you may remember him giving sermons from the pulpit during this time. Confirmation classes continued to be held, and he and Doris hosted Bishop Leighton at their home afterwards. The church survived!

Later, he and his good friends Jerry Sowers and John Chabot were instrumental in overseeing the restoration of the church cemetery on Mulberry St. They researched plots, dug up old stones and restored the ones they could. It was a labor of love.

Grant loved this church and was proud of its beauty. He said the music was his favorite part of the service, and he loved showing the pipes to visitors. He was a self-taught artist, and later in life taught himself how to play the piano and organ. He was also an avid flower gardener, a gift he inherited from his mother. The eastern redbud on the northeast corner of the church was planted in honor of Grant and Doris' 50th wedding anniversary.

So the next time you see the drawing, remember it's not just "a painting of the church." It is a true gift of the heart done by a proud St. John's Episcopalian.



## Saint John's Mystery Question and Answer of the Month



One of our windows is a Tiffany window.  
Did you guess which one?

*Answer: Located at the back Narthex door.*

### *Tidbits of St. John's history*

The bell tower is built of stone and was given in memory of Sallie Roman Baldwin by her husband Christopher Columbus Baldwin, who was a businessman and eventually appointed by President Cleveland to be the Naval Officer of the Port of New York. Sallie and her family were members of this church. St. John's ran out of money to complete the tower, so they reached out to Baldwin. At its dedication, dignitaries from New York to Philadelphia arrived in private railroad cars to attend the event, which was written up in the society pages of the local paper. The tower has a 3-bell peal. The bells were cast in New York and brought here by rail car.



## *HAPPY BIRTHDAY*

Karen Freitag	3/1	Eleanor Brown	3/13
Nicole Martin	3/4	Roderick Cox	3/15
Caroline Wright	3/4	Katie Williams	3/20
Robert Hershey	3/5	Sarah Miller	3/21
Jon Hulka	3/5	Madyn Abeles	3/25
Elizabeth Baker	3/7	Daphne Coyer	3/25
Nancy Rickards	3/7	Jennifer Sealing	3/26
David Martin	3/8	Charlie Foreman	3/27
Frances M. Young	3/8	Barbara Porter	3/27
Kim Halsey	3/10	Susan McCardell	3/28
Julie Barlup	3/12	Audrey Slocum	3/31

## *Happy Anniversary!*

Jose & Yolanda Velazquez	3/6
Connie & Bonna Nakopoulos	3/7
Dakota & Megan Overcash	3/10