

THE EPISTLE

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH + MICHAELMAS + FALL 2019

From the Rector

The Rector's Column

Dear Parishioners of St. John's, The casual observer might think that the summer months are slow at St. John's. While it is true our normal activities, like Sunday School, have taken a break there have been several things happening behind the scenes this summer at our church. Many of these you can learn about in this newsletter. In particular, I am excited about our new formation opportunities. Soon we will be implementing several changes including a new ministry in our preschool, changes to our Sunday School format, realigning our confirmation curriculum, a complete overhaul of our Adult Formation, and new opportunities for seniors. No matter what age or where you are in life, there will be an opportunity for you to learn, build relationships, and grow in your faith.

Beyond our formation opportunities there are several exciting new things happening with our Sunday worship. First, as you may know, we will be restarting the 11:15 traditional service. Choirs will be accompanying both the 8:45 and 11:15 offerings. In addition, our new 5:00 pm Sunday service is being well received. This service follows the

“No matter what age or where you are in life, there will be an opportunity for you to learn, build relationships, and grow in your faith.”

format of Evening Prayer with Communion done with contemporary style music and language but in a softer tone which works well for an evening setting. I hope you will pop into that service and see it for yourself; it has become a real treasure to enjoy.

There have also been many other changes such as launching our new Realm software, adding sign up kiosks, the reestablishment of our outreach committee, redoing our columbarium and memorial garden guidelines, and much more.

As we look to the fall, I anticipate further changes. One of those changes

See [RECTOR](#) page 2

Inside this issue

Adult Formation	2
Youth Ministry	4
Children's Formation	5
Music	6
Parish Life	7
Stewardship	9
Outreach	10
Wednesday Night Dinner Menu	14
Of Note	15

THE EPISTLE

From the Rector

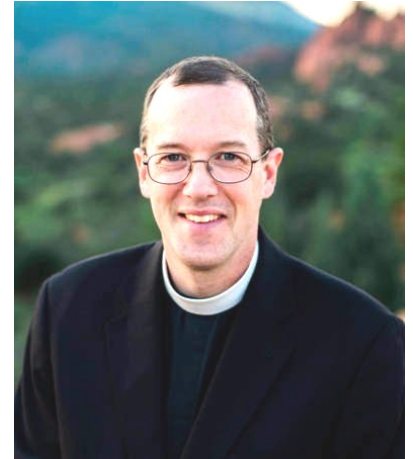
RECTOR continued from page 1

will be the completion of a comprehensive review of our property needs, as we work towards developing a way to address a number of serious issues. I am looking forward to Jeff Cummins joining us in September as our new facility manger, who will be able to spearhead this endeavor.

Finally, let me say that while all these changes may seem extensive, they are all for the simple purpose of helping us grow closer to God and one another in a deep and meaningful way. I hope you will join me in celebrating all we have accomplished and look forward with excitement to the months that lie ahead.

Faithfully,

Peter+



From the Senior Associate Rector : Adult Formation Programs

Greetings St. John's. I am very excited about this year's upcoming Adult Formation programs. In looking at our offerings, I've organized them around a backbone of 3 tiers (Tier 1: CELC; Tier 2: CEE; Tier 3: EfM), each one moving deeper: deeper in knowledge, but more importantly, deeper in one's relationship with Christ and neighbor.

Tier 1, "Christian Essentials for Living in Charlotte" (CELC) is highlighted at our Adult Forum (Sundays, 10:00am-11:00am, Parish Hall). Fall 2019-spring 2020 will focus on the theme, "Getting to Know Charlotte Again for the First Time." Our communities and nation are struggling with many complex and interrelated issues, leaving us to wonder about the health of the communities in which we live. In doing so, we can look at community health through various lenses: political, physical, spiritual, racial, economic, health care access, housing and homelessness, family systems, sexuality, and on and on...all impacting one another, none standing alone. As St. John's discerns what God is calling us to do as we seek to serve God and one another in the Charlotte region, the first step in discernment is to understand those very communities in which we live. To that end, CELC this coming year will be filled with exciting opportunities to learn about what's happening in Charlotte: the challenges; hopes and dreams; struggles. We will be exploring a broad range of topics (by no means exhaustive) all intended to inform our reflections about what St. John's can engage in the name of Christ. Maybe we could start some new ministries from scratch; others might already exist in Charlotte, but call on us to join and support. The fall will begin with several officials from our city

government who will help us at the 50,000 foot level. Thereafter, we'll move deeper into specific topics, periodically pausing in follow up sessions to openly reflect on what we've heard, to collectively debrief and discern how the Spirit is stirring our hearts, and to boldly respond with action, should the Spirit be calling St. John's to do so with the resources, gifts, and talents before us. CELC is intended to not only inform, but to transform us into action. See the fall season schedule for CELC. Do plan on being part of this exciting new adventure.

September

- 8 Councilman Tariq Bokhari (Dist. 6)
- 15 Councilman Ed Driggs (Dist. 7)
- 22 Braxton Winston (Councilman at Large)
- 29 Circle of Stewardship: Mal Underwood (part of the Stewardship campaign)

October

- 6 Mayor Vi Lyles
- 13 Chuck Collier (Dir., Racial Equity, Cabarrus County)
- 20 Lisa Bradford (CDO, Charlotte Family Housing)
- 27 Homelessness: Liz Clasen-Kelly (CEO, Urban Ministries)

November

- 3 Meet the Vestry Candidates (Follow up, if opportunity)
- 10 Stewardship Party & Vestry Elections
- 17 Elizabeth Novak (Alzheimer's Assoc.)
- 24 Tina Postel (Exec. Dir., Loaves & Fishes)

See ADULT Page 3

*From the Senior Associate Rector***ADULT continued from page 1**December

- | | |
|----|----------------------------------------------|
| 1 | No Christian Form. (Sunday after T-Giving) |
| 8 | Advent Series (Peter and Brad) |
| 15 | Advent Series (Peter and Brad) |
| 22 | No Christian Form. (Sunday before Christmas) |
| 29 | No Christian Form. (Christmas Break) |

Tier 2, “Christian Essential for

Episcopalians” (CEE) is a Wednesday night offering (6:30-8:00pm) for those who wish to deepen their understanding of the Episcopal tradition through which our Christian faith is expressed. While this is not a confirmation course per se, those who wish to be confirmed are to use this course to that end. Those who’ve already been confirmed are certainly invited to be part of this offering and to even consider being reconfirmed on the occasion of the Bishop’s visit in late spring. CEE is organized, to help us go deeper: deeper in knowledge, but more importantly deeper in relationships with God and one another. Therefore, the group experience is at least as important as the content of the subjects presented. Therefore, this class will have a registration requirement and be limited to 15 participants per season. It is arranged around Matthew 22:37-39: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’” The fall will be a 10-week series of topics focused on Loving God. The spring will be a 10-week series on Loving Our Neighbor. For those wishing to be confirmed, they will be asked for a commitment to both semesters. For others, they are free to take either or both semesters, but are asked to commit fully to the entirety of the semester(s) for which they’ve registered. Again, the group experience and the building of relationships is key. It isn’t about simply being informed, but being transformed through relationships with one another. If you are interested in this offering, the registration deadline is September 11. A waiting list will be arranged as necessary. Please contact Brad+. See the fall and spring schedule for CEE.

2019 Love GodSeptember

- | | |
|----|-----------------------------------|
| 18 | Love God: OT/NT Covenant |
| 25 | Love God: Worship (Liturgy/Music) |

October

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 2 | Love God: Worship (Sacraments) |
| 9 | Love God: Theology, Pt. 1 |

16	Love God: Theology, Pt.2
----	--------------------------

23	Love God: History
----	-------------------

30	Love God: Ecclesiology
----	------------------------

November

6	Love God: Creeds and Heresies
---	-------------------------------

13	Love God: Prayer (Daily Office)
----	---------------------------------

20	Love God: Prayer (w/out words)
----	--------------------------------

2020 Love Our NeighborJanuary

15	Love Our Neighbor: Anglican Communion
----	---------------------------------------

22	Love Our Neighbor: TEC
----	------------------------

29	Love Our Neighbor: Dioc. of NC
----	--------------------------------

February

5	Love Our Neighbor: St. John’s
---	-------------------------------

12	Love Our Neighbor: Healthy Community Systems
----	----------------------------------------------

19	Love Our Neighbor: Living Spiritually in a Multicultural World
----	----------------------------------------------------------------

26	Love Our Neighbor: Social Justice
----	-----------------------------------

(nothing in March as we focus on Lent series)

April

15	Love Our Neighbor: Outreach
----	-----------------------------

22	Love Our Neighbor: Stewardship
----	--------------------------------

29	Love Our Neighbor: Pastoral Care
----	----------------------------------

Tier 3, “Education for Ministry” (EfM) is a 4-year distance learning certificate program in theological education from Sewanee, based upon small-group study and practice. Since its founding in 1975, this international program has assisted more than 100,000 participants in discovering and nurturing their call to Christian service. EfM helps one encounter the breadth and depth of the Christian tradition and bring it into conversation with their experiences of the world as they study, worship, and engage in theological reflection together. We have had EfM at St. John’s before and are embarking on efforts to bring it back as a resource to both members of St. John’s and the Charlotte community. St. John’s does not charge for this course but there is a fee to Sewanee. The current fee is **\$475**. Participants in groups under institutional sponsorship (such as St. John’s) pay a discounted fee of **\$375**. The required texts are provided by Sewanee, additional reading materials suggested in the bibliographies. To assist students in need, a fee reduction provision is able on the basis of the total enrollment of the group. Scholarship funds are available from the EfM Alumni/ae Association Scholarship Fund.

See ADULT Page 5

St. John's Preschool

St. John's Preschool is launching many outreach and fundraising opportunities in the coming months. Be on the lookout for upcoming events!

September 25th 5-7pm Ben & Jerry's Night

The end of September will see the preschool hosting a Ben & Jerry's night, where a percentage of all sales during this time period will benefit the Preschool. Come enjoy some ice cream and support a great cause!

Link your VIC cards

Link your Harris Teeter VIC cards to support the Preschool's programs with **VIC number: 4131**.

If you are interested in learning more about the St. John's Preschool ministry, please see the website: www.saintjohnspreschool.org or contact Jenny Taylor, Preschool Director.

Formation

St. John's EYC : Connect with Youth Ministry Opportunities

St. John's has a vibrant [EYC group](#), which is spear-headed by Jillianne Booth who opens this ministry up for parent and parish volunteers to bring their time and talent to this group.

Youth Ministry Fundraiser

St. John's EYC has many opportunities coming this season, including the highlighted activities listed below.

September 22 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Off Campus EYC at Freedom Park
Dinner, Kickball, and Fun

October 27 Time TBD

EYC Serves: Community Halloween Carnival and Trunk or Treat

November 24 Time TBD by Crew

EYC Serves: 5th Annual Thanksgiving Shopping Spree
Youth bring \$10 and shop for Hagar's Basket
Crews shop together

December 15 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Friend-mas
Bring a friend night at the EYC Christmas Party

Fried Turkey

for Thanksgiving

Details to come

EYC meets on campus at St. John's each Sunday evening from 6:00 - 8:00 pm. Check out the Facebook page (www.facebook.com/sjeyc) or Instagram ([sjeyc charlotte](#)) for up to date information.

Formation

Children's Formation: Times Are A-Changin'!

Sunday School for children is a staple in most churches, and St. John's is not an exception. For at least four decades, St. John's used a traditional Sunday School model to teach children from age four through fifth grade. In this model, children are assigned into grade rooms in which they receive a weekly lesson about scripture, the church, or Christian life. This traditional approach worked very well for many years. Unfortunately, this model is faltering somewhat as family life evolves in the 21st century. With fewer families attending church on a weekly basis, with more dual-income families scheduling activities on the weekend, and with fewer parents attending Sunday offerings for themselves, the need for a new approach seems prudent.

To try and tackle some of these changes, St. John's is moving toward a Rotational Sunday School model. Rotational Sunday School is not a new concept; many churches use the rotational approach quite successfully. Nor is a rotational model completely foreign to St. John's. The Vacation Bible School programs we offer are all based on a rotational design. In Rotational Sunday School, rather than teaching on a single lesson each week, the students spend three to six weeks learning about a given theme or topic. While the topic does not change, the students explore that topic

in a different way each week.

To illustrate how this model works, consider an example from a three-week session that St. John's did to test the rotational approach in the spring of 2018.

“In Rotational Sunday School, rather than teaching on a single lesson each week, the students spend three to six weeks learning about a given theme or topic.”

Our theme for this trial run was “The Fruit of the Spirit”. We divided the children into three groups: the Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten group; the First through Third grade group; and, the Fourth and Fifth grade group. Each week these age groupings attended one of the three stations built around the Fruit of the Spirit theme. One week a group would go to the Theater station, where the children would act out what the Fruit of the Spirit would look like (or not look like) in real life. The next week the group would go to the Arts & Crafts station, where they made a craft stick “Jacob's ladder” decorated with the name of each of the spiritual traits. On the third week, the group would go to the Kitchen station, where the children made their own fruit salad as they learned about our spiritual fruit. So while each age grouping attended the stations in a different order, each group had a chance to attend every station over the three-week period. The primary benefit of the rotational model is what it offers to the children. For a child who

See CHILDREN page 12

ADULT continued from page 3

At this time, St. John's is raising up mentors to be certified by EfM to organize and lead groups. Consequently, we anticipate rolling out EfM in the spring of 2020.

In addition, to these 3 tiers, we offer a plethora of [other weekly opportunities](#) that can be found in the “Groups” section of [Realm](#): Book Club with Matt Williams, 3 Bible Studies, Lectio Divina (more groups to be added), Centering Prayer groups (with future workshops and retreats being organized), fellowship activities (ECW, Men's Ministry, Foyer Groups, Fly Fishing, Golf, T'ai Chi, Yoga), Daughters of the King, Intercessory Prayer Team, Monday Morning Prayer, Wednesday Evening Prayer, Labyrinth Keepers, and so many other opportunities.

If a person can't find something to link into, maybe that's a call to initiate something. Through Christ, in the Holy Spirit, let's dream big! The possibilities are limitless when we bring our faithful gifts and passions to the banquet table. 2 Corinthians 9:8: "God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work."

May God bless you all this coming year. There is much to explore and so many ways to grow. Indeed, God is good.

In Christ,

Brad+

Choir Crescendo: Musical Opportunities and Offerings Increase

Several exciting choir opportunities will be available this fall for singers of all ages. With the new schedule of church services beginning this fall, choirs will be singing anthems and actively leading the worship at the Sunday 8:45 a.m. service, Sunday 11:15 a.m. service, and monthly Evensong service.

8:45 a.m. Service

Treble Youth and Shepherd Choirs

The Treble Youth Choir is made up of enthusiastic young people in the third-through-twelfth grades. Several spots are available because a number of Treble singers graduated this past spring. Rehearsals are held in the choir room on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m.

The Shepherd Choir sings alongside the Treble Choir. Teens and adults in the Shepherd Choir provide alto, tenor, and bass voices to complement the Trebles. They rehearse with the Trebles at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesdays.

11:15 a.m. Service

St. John's Choir

Adults and older teens make up the St. John's Choir. This group sings a variety of anthems in four-part harmony, ranging from early church music to classical. The choir also leads the congregation in hymns, songs during communion, and music that is part of the liturgy. Rehearsals are held in the choir room on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.

Monthly Evensong Service

Members of the choirs are welcome to participate in Evensong services that rotate among St. John's, St. Martin's, and Holy Comforter churches. Choir members from all three churches join together in a combined choir once a month. The Evensong services provide a time of beautiful music and contemplative worship through song.

For [more information about any of these choirs](#) or to become involved, contact Alan Reed, Master of the Choirs in [Realm](#).

— *Carl Roberts, Choir Member*

St. Nicholas Training Choir

The best way for future choir members to get started is by singing in the St. Nicholas Training Choir. Boys and girls, kindergarten through second grade, are introduced to the fun of singing. They meet regularly to learn music principles and occasionally sing at the Sunday morning church services. For more information, contact Tracy Reed in [Realm](#).

Fall Sunday Schedule

Begins September 8th

7:30 – Rite I

7:30 – Breakfast (In Parish Hall)

8:45 – Rite II with Choir and Children's Sermon

10:15 – Christian Education
(Adults in Parish Hall – Kids in Tilson – Youth Upstairs)

11:15 – Rite II with Choir

5:00 – Rite III Evening Prayer with Communion (Acoustic Music)

6:00 – EYC

Parish Life

Group Spotlight: Daughters Of The King (DOK)

Nancy Nye, president of the St. Mary Magdalene Chapter of the Daughters of the King at St. John's, answers questions about the Order and the role they play at St. John's:

Why did St. John's establish a chapter of DOK?

Chartered in 2015 as The St Mary Magdalene Chapter, 11 women of the parish desired to draw closer to God and to reflect His love to all whom they encountered. This community is a vibrant demonstration of the teachings of Jesus, through prayer, service and evangelism. Although organized as a religious order, Daughters do not live in an enclosed community; however, because of our vow, we refer to ourselves as an order, not an organization.

What are the goals of DOK within the St. John's community? Within the national and world community?

The mission of the DOK is the extension of Christ's Kingdom through Prayer, Service and Evangelism, certainly within St. John's, and also wherever we go throughout the world. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, our vision is to make Him known to others, and to be reflections of God's love throughout the world.

How does the commitment and structure of the group support the group's goals? Each Daughter completes a 3 month discernment study before taking her vows and embracing a Rule of Life. Thereafter, her Rule of Life includes a 1) Rule of Daily Prayer, 2) Rule of Service, and 3) Rule of Evangelism. As Daughters, we realize that our faith is not to be a private faith hidden in our hearts, but a faith joyously proclaimed so that we may draw all to Him. Each monthly meeting includes sharing and reviewing prayer lists, reports and updates on service activities, both within St. John's and the larger Charlotte community.

How does the DOK support the goals of St. John's and the groups within the St. John's community?

1) Mission of the DOK: the extension of Christ's Kingdom through Prayer, Service, and Evangelism. St. John's Mission Statement: the mission of the church is to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ. We have DOK women involved as members and leaders in numerous [St. John's ministries](#) including: Habitat for Humanity, Hagar's Basket, Kanuga Kids at Camp Bob, Loaves & Fishes, Men's Shelter of Charlotte, Room In The Inn, Win Robinson Giving Tree (Merry Oaks Elementary School), Galilee



Ministries of East Charlotte, and Crisis Assistance Ministries. Daughters support our clergy with a small token of thanks on a monthly basis and provide a continental breakfast for clergy during all Easter Sunday services. Additionally, a Daughter serves on the Parish Health Team, other Daughters are Lay Eucharistic Visitors visiting the home-bound parishioners in continuing care communities. While the DOK is not allowed to raise funds for the Order, we do distribute funds from our DOK treasury to help support Hagar's Basket and Kanuga Kids.

How do the 3 guidelines of the group support the Daughters members to develop their faith? Simply, we are strengthened in our faith walk by the love and fellowship of other Daughters. This deepened faith is evident any time we gather together to put the teachings of Jesus into action by prayer, service, and evangelism. Romans 12:4-5 "Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body and we all belong to each other."

What should women do if they are curious about the group? Please join us at a monthly meeting and experience who we are and our unique intimacy. We open this community as a safe place where we share our faith stories, serve others, and grow in our knowledge and love for God and one another. Or, chat over a cup of coffee with any Daughter to learn more (all Daughters proudly wear a silver Fleury DOK cross, so we're easy to spot!). The [DOK website](#) offers loads of information including helpful introductory videos.

See DOK on page 13

Parish Shop: New Plans In Store For The Season

There have been exciting updates this summer at The Parish Shop. Please see what plans are in store for the upcoming season:

- ♦ **Snacks for Purchase:** The Parish Shop will have water (\$1) and healthy snacks (\$2) available for purchase
- ♦ **Ministry Sunday:** Once per month the Parish Shop will partner with St. John's ministries to host a Ministry Sunday. Proceeds from that day's sales will go to the ministry partner. St. John's ministry groups that are interested in participating, please contact Samantha Farnham in [Realm](#). Suggested dates are: September 15, October 20, November 17, December 8.
- ♦ **New Hours** to include: every other Sunday evening. Be on the lookout for specific dates and times!

Website page: <https://www.stje.org/parish-shop>
Contact: Samantha Farnham in [Realm](#)



Realm: Enhancing Communication for the St. John's Community

We are updating the ways we communicate and connect as a church. Realm is an online communication tool which enables the St. John's community to easily connect with each other.

Members can use this tool to: communicate with other church members and their groups, coordinate events for groups or ministries, follow church news, access the most up to date member directory, and coordinate and manage their giving.

St. John's member, Janie McIntyre states, "Realm is really helpful when you need a member's email, address, or phone number. It is not hard, but you do have to play with it a little."

Realm offers members communication and engagement in one streamlined tool.

Groups

Groups and classes are an important part of our church, and now you can easily connect with the people in them

throughout the week. Members can keep track of upcoming meetings and stay connected.

Some groups at St. John's include: Fellowship, Leadership, Music, Other Educational Groups, Outreach, Pastoral Care, Service, Spirituality, Sunday Morning Education, Worship Servers, Worship Services, Youth Ministry.

Please sign into your Realm account, click on Groups, and select the group you are interested in joining. Contact a Group Leader to find out more information.

Members who choose to use Realm must receive an email invitation from the church.

Log into our church Realm account at: www.stje.org/realm or download the free app from your app store: Realm Connect. For more details, please see our Realm brochure at the information desks at the church.

Please contact Laura Pruitt, Member Coordinator, with questions.



Stewardship

Endowment: St. John's Episcopal Church Endowment, Inc., a 501(c)(3) Entity

The Endowment was established to support and sustain the mission and activities of St. John's Episcopal Church and enable the church to more completely fulfill its mission by developing ministries beyond those possible through its annual operating budget.

What is a 501(c)(3) and Why does St. John's have one?

The St. John's Endowment Board thinks it's important and they have some good reasons.

First, St. John's has current needs that the Vestry manages and long term needs that the Endowment board supports financially. A 501(c)(3) helps separate the two groups and their responsibilities.

Second, when a person wants to give a planned gift for a specific purpose, it's helpful to know that a 501(c)(3) legal document is in place to assure that request will be honored, regardless of the passage of time and changing personnel.

Third, a 501(c)(3) requires an independent board with a fiduciary requirement to protect donated funds and

help them grow until they are needed to meet future needs.

Planned Giving can provide a donor some major tax savings and at the same time help St. John's meet its future needs. Tax consultants can guide donors through complex and changing tax regulations to accomplish specific objectives and St. John's can be the recipient of those efforts.

Through the committed and tireless leadership of Gary Williams and other St. John's leaders the difficult work was done to establish our 501(c)(3), which meets Internal Revenue Service (IRS) complex requirements and is now managed by the St. John's Endowment Board.

Now it is up to St. John's members to take advantage of our own 501(c)(3).

Additional information regarding the Endowment can be found on St. John's website; under "Give, Planned Giving": www.stje.org/planned-giving.

— *Bill Shotwell, Advisor for Board Communications*



JOIN US FOR...

St. John's Stewardship Family Reunion Party!

Saturday, Sept. 21st 2019, 5:30 p.m.

St. John's Front Lawn

Games, Music, Food, and More

RSVP Online at www.stje.org/stewardship

Outreach Committee: Vision and Scope

The St. John's Outreach Committee has been rebooted and is in full swing! Current leaders are Matt Williams (staff liaison) and Mike Harrington (Vestry liaison). The committee has been organizing and confirming all the outreach contact and opportunities here at St. John's. In addition, clarifying the scope of each of the ministries, the committee has drafted a monthly 'spotlight' schedule to provide parishioners detailed information on individual outreach programs through the end of the educational year. The focus months scheduled are:

- ♦ **August Spotlight** Merry Oaks Elementary School: Backpack and School Supply Drive & Teacher Back to School Breakfast
- ♦ **September Spotlight** Hagar's Basket: pantry which provides household & personal hygiene products to families in need
- ♦ **October Spotlight** Outreach Fair: held in the Parish Hall to give all parishioners the chance to meet the contacts and learn about outreach opportunities
- ♦ **November Spotlight** Room in the Inn: hosting homeless guests every Thursday night, December through March
- ♦ **December Spotlight** Win Robinson Christmas Tree: for the disadvantaged children of Merry Oaks Elementary School

The committee has been working with Rebekah Rode, St. John's new Communications Coordinator, on a plan to utilize the www.stje.org website, Realm, Weekly Announcement eBlast, and the new church information kiosks to communicate all outreach opportunities to the parishioners. Be on the lookout for details about upcoming outreach events and opportunities! If you are interested in joining the committee, contact Matt Williams.

For a complete list of Outreach Ministries Opportunities at St. John's, please see our website: www.stje.org.

— *Melissa Conway, Outreach Committee*



Merry Oaks Outreach Opportunities

Over the past 3 years, St. John's has been partnering with Charlotte area **Communities in Schools (CIS)** which is a national non-profit organization dedicated to supporting Title 1 schools. This partnership works to provide support to the teachers and students of Merry Oaks Elementary in East Charlotte. We provide Teacher Appreciation Breakfasts, an annual Backpack and School Supply Drive, a Clothing & Winter Coat Drive, and the Win Robinson Christmas Giving Tree for economically disadvantaged children. Events throughout the year are communicated through Weekly Announcement eBlasts, ECW Facebook page, and Realm. For information on volunteer opportunities or if you'd like to make a donation, contact: Melissa Conway or Margaret Errington in [Realm](#).

Outreach

Hagar's Basket Spotlight: A Ministry That Supports Our Neighbors

Hagar's Basket was initially conceived as a way to help reduce absenteeism in our local schools. Imagine a child having to go to school in dirty clothes, or without basic hygiene supplies like soap, deodorant, or toothpaste. Located downstairs in room 134, Hagar's Basket opened in September 2017. That first month we welcomed 6 families and almost two years later, we serve 146 families! Many of our families are referred to us by their schools, primarily Billingsville and Rama Road Elementary Schools and McClintock Middle School.

As word of mouth of this ministry spreads, we welcome young families and older folks alike.

We welcome families on the third Wednesday of each month between the hours of 1:00 and 5:00pm. Each month, we receive your kindly donated items in our collection barrels to stock the shelves. To supplement your item donations, we shop for best buys using donated funds. In our first two years of providing for our families, we have distributed 1713 deodorants, 1799 bottles of laundry detergent, 1670 packs of toilet tissue and 1670 tubes of toothpaste!



Before



During



After

Let's meet some of our Hagar's Basket customers who visited us in July!

- ◆ The first lady in line arrived at 9:00AM and waited until the doors opened at 1:00. The next three ladies arrived at 9:15. They were happy to wait and were most thankful for the supplies for their families.
- ◆ A 77 year old great grandmother resides in an independent living apartment and is dependent upon her family. She shares, "I am so grateful for the kind and happy people here!"
- ◆ A dad was happy to share the products he chose for his family. As he spoke little English, he gestured washing his hair, shaving his face, and exclaimed, "Clean!" as he touched his shirt!
- ◆ A thank you note from the Communities in Schools site coordinator at McClintock Middle School expresses, "You all have truly helped so many McClintock families in need and we appreciate the support!"

Let's meet some of our Hagar's basket volunteers!

- ◆ Celeste Brockington shares, "One of the things I love about Hagar's Basket is I always see my home and situation with new eyes when I've been there. The clients are so grateful for so little...I have so much."

See [BASKET page 12](#)

Hagar's Basket Shopping List

Laundry Detergent (40-100 oz)
 Toilet Paper
 Deodorant
 Shampoo (12-15 oz)
 Conditioner (12-15 oz)
 Diapers (sizes 2-5)
 Baby Wipes
 Toothpaste & Toothbrushes
 Feminine Hygiene Products
 Shaving Cream (7-10 oz)
 Disposable Razors
 Lotion (8-12 oz)
 Soap

Our Hagar's Basket Pantry Stocks These Items

CHILDREN continued from page 5

attends Sunday School irregularly (once a month), they have the opportunity to be introduced to the theme/topic that is being explored in an engaging way. For children attending on a regular basis (three or four times a month), the repeated theme and reinforcing workshops allow the child to really explore, learn, and apply the lesson. Some additional benefits of a rotational model include:

- ♦ Greater child interest in Sunday School because the model offers more variation in learning style and approach.
- ♦ Reduced lesson planning because teachers will lead one station for several weeks, simply adapting the plan for different age groups.
- ♦ Opportunities for more parents and adults to get involved since volunteers are only needed for a month at a time, rather than for a whole school year.

Beyond the change in teaching method, we are also planning a few other changes to make Sunday mornings easier for parents and more fun for children. These include:

- ♦ Introducing a single Sunday School drop-off/pick-up point for all children: **Tilson Hall**.
- ♦ Adding music to our weekly Sunday School kickoff.
- ♦ Holding “bring a family member” Sundays, so children and adults can explore a lesson together on Sunday morning and continue to share it at home during the week.
- ♦ Conducting the workshops in locations throughout the church.

Example of Rotation Model Chart — The Fruit of the Spirit

Unit	Location	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3
Craft Station	Room 125	1st, 2nd, &	4th & 5th	Pre-K & K
Kitchen Station	Room 201	Pre-K & K	1st, 2nd, & 3rd	4th & 5th
Theater Station	Room 129	4th & 5th	Pre-K & K	1st, 2nd, & 3rd

Clearly, things are changing for Sunday School at St. John’s! To stay informed about the new approach, the monthly themes and stations, and other updates, please join the Children’s Sunday School group in [Realm](#). To learn more about ways you can help and get involved, please contact Family Minister Matt Williams at the church.

— Matt Williams, Family Minister

Foyer Groups:

Registration Event and Kickoff Party

*

Join a Foyer Group! A Foyer Group is a small group of adults who meet in one another’s homes for food and fellowship throughout the year.

*

Register for the Kickoff Party on *Friday, September 6th* at the home of Meredith McGough, where you can learn more about Foyer Groups and get involved.

Please register on [Realm](#) or the [church Kiosk](#) for this event.

BASKET continued from page 10

- ♦ Susan Shield expresses her appreciation of this ministry, “Hagar’s Basket is a ministry I am very proud to be a part of. It means so much to help members of this community who face challenges to cover their most basic needs. I always leave with the joy of connecting with other community members in a very meaningful way.”
- ♦ Joe Early was surprised to learn that many items including toilet tissue, shampoo, toothpaste, feminine products, and diapers are not available under the food stamp program. Low income families face difficult financial decisions, food for their families or basic hygiene needs.

Hopefully, our St. John’s hygiene pantry helps these families stretch their budget dollars.

Please contact Laura McGinley, Michelle Sellers, or Kathleen Harrington in [Realm](#) for more information.

— *Beth Early, Hagar’s Basket Committee Member*

How can you help us meet the growing needs of our Hagar’s Basket families?

- * Purchase items for our Hagar’s Basket shelves.
- * Make a financial contribution: checks payable to St. John’s Episcopal Church, noting “Hagar’s Basket” on the memo line, or choose “Hagar’s Basket” if giving online.
- * Help us find corporate sponsors.
- * Volunteer to staff the pantry the third Wednesday of each month between 1:00 and 5:00 or help behind the scenes.
- * Host a donation drive at your church, business, school, or club.

As we celebrate the second anniversary of Hagar’s Basket, we invite you to:

- * Adopt A Family! A contribution of \$20 would provide supplies for a family for one month, \$120 for six months, or \$240 for a whole year.
 - * If you like to shop, donating 10 items from our shopping list each month would fill a family’s basket.
 - * Fill A Shelf! We stock 14 different items. Providing 150 of any item would fill a shelf. Costs will vary depending upon the item, ranging from \$150 to \$450.
 - * Sponsor The Pantry! Your group or business might feel called to support the pantry for a month. A donation of \$3,000 will completely stock the pantry and provide for 150 families.
-

DOK continued from page 7

What can church women who are not yet members do to support DOK? Recognize that we women are all individuals, diverse in so many ways, and yet we are one community in Christ. Consider joining with other like-minded women and becoming a Daughter.

Are there other sister chapters of the DOK within the Charlotte area? How do these groups communicate with each other? St. Margaret’s Episcopal Church in Waxhaw, NC, All Saints Episcopal in Concord, NC, and St. Patrick’s Episcopal in Mooresville, NC are active Chapters nearby St. John’s. There are currently 25 Chapters in the Diocese of NC, and all are invited to the annual Fall and Spring Assembly Meetings held in various cities. The 2019 Fall Assembly will be hosted at St. Margaret’s. The Assembly offers Daughters the opportunity to meet one another, introduce new Chapters, exchange Chapter news and Diocesan financials, interact during a group workshop, share a delicious meal and conclude with the Eucharist.

What other information do you want women of the church to know about the DOK? We would want “No Woman Left Behind” at St. John’s, because we are one body in Christ, each unique and important to the whole. Consider joining us in our faith journey.



Are there any questions that you could put to the women of the church that they may consider if they are interested in finding out more about the group? Or considering if they might be a good fit for the group? 1) Do you feel or think you’re on the “fringe” at St. John’s? 2) Would you like to reach out to our brothers and sisters in-need, those on the margins? 3) Would you like to strengthen a call to service and evangelism, 4) Would you like to nurture and grow our St. John’s community and build connections within the church?

For more details, please see the national DOK website www.doknational.org. or contact Nancy Nye in [Realm](#).

Wednesday Night Dinner

Begins September 4th

September

- 4 Baked Spaghetti
Salad
French Style Green Beans
Garlic Bread Sticks
Apple Pie & Ice Cream

- 11 Baked Chicken
Mashed Potatoes
Salad
Peas & Carrots
Dessert: Cobblers

- 18 Build Your Own Salad Bar
Brownies & Ice Cream

- 25 Chicken Tetrizzini
Salad
Lemon Mousse Cake

October

- 2 Chicken Fried Steak
Rice
Broccoli
Salad
Dessert

- 9 BBQ
Potato Salad
Slaw
Salad
Ice Cream Sundae Bar

- 16 Meatball & Sausage Subs
Salad
French Fries
Cupcakes

- 23 Chicken Wings
Fried Rice
Salad
Dessert

- 30 Hot Dogs
Hamburgers
French Fries
Onion Rings

November

- 6 Meatloaf
Mashed Potatoes
Peas & Carrots
Salad
Dessert

- 13 Lasagna: Meat or Veggie
Salad
Cherry & Blueberry Pie

- 20 Grilled Cheese Sandwiches
Soup
Salad
Dessert

December

- 4 Chicken Tenders
Au Gratin Potatoes
Green Beans
Salad
Dessert

- 11 Manicotti
Salad
Broccoli
Dessert

- 18 TBD

No Wednesday Night Dinner:

November 27

December 25

January 1

Of Note

Michaelmas Season + 2019

Look for Details: www.stje.org [Weekly Announcements](#) [Sunday Bulletin](#) [Realm](#)

August

- 25 Hilary Brown Dedication
- Back to School Supplies Drive Wrap Up
- Backpack Blessing
- Ice Cream Social
- EYC Kickoff
- 28 Choir Rehearsals Begin

September

- 4 Wednesday Night Dinners Begin
- 8 Fall Schedule Begins
- Breakfast Begins ****Parish Hall**
- Sunday School Begins
- Adult Forum Begins
- EYC
- 15 Youth Confirmation Class Begins
- 18 Christian Essentials for Episcopalians Begins
- 21 Stewardship Kickoff Party

October

- 5 St. Francis Service
- 11 Treble Choir Overnight
- 25 Men's Golf Outing
- 27 Trunk or Treat Event

November

- 3 Meet the Vestry Candidates
- 10 Vestry Elections
- Stewardship Campaign Closing Party
- 27 No Wednesday Night Dinner & Rehearsals
- 28 Thanksgiving Service & Breakfast

December

- 1 No Adult & Youth Formation
- 5 Room in the Inn Begins
- 8 ECW Bake Sale
- 22 Christmas Pageant
- No Adult & Youth Formation
- 24 Christmas Eve Services
- 25 Christmas Service
- 29 No Adult & Youth Formation

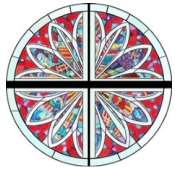
Looking Ahead....

January

- 6 Epiphany
- 26 Annual Meeting

Church Office will be closed:

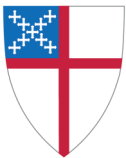
September 2 November 27, 28, and 29 December 24, 25, 26, and 31 January 1



St. John's Episcopal Church
1623 Carmel Road
Charlotte, NC 28226

Non Profit
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit # 975
Charlotte, NC

[The Epistle](#) is a publication of
St. John's Episcopal Church
Phone: 704-366-3034
Website: www.stje.org



Questions? Story Ideas?
Email: Rebekah Rode

Deadline for
[Epiphany Issue + Spring 2020:](#)
November 22, 2019