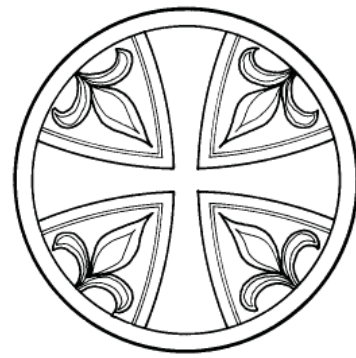


St. John's Newsletter



FOR THE PARISH FAMILY OF ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

Vol. 1, No. 8

June 2011

We're Only Getting Started

by The Rev. David C. Killeen

May was a quite a month. My head is still spinning. We gathered for the Festal Eucharist, the "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Eve" Party, Youth and Baccalaureate Sunday, and my Institution service as your rector — so much to process and so many emotions!

I can tell you that, after my wedding day and the birth of each of my sons, the day that I became your rector ranks as one of the most memorable days in my life. I will treasure every moment of the service, from processing in and seeing the church full of joyful people, to processing out side-by-side with our Bishop. Throughout the service there was, as the old spiritual goes, a sweet, sweet Spirit in the church.

The season after Easter is the season of the Holy Spirit. That's why we hear readings from the Acts of the Apostles during worship. In Acts, the Holy Spirit is the main character. Since August of last year, I have noticed that the Holy Spirit is the main character at St. John's.

I've witnessed the Holy Spirit moving powerfully in the month of May. A leadership team chaired by Nan O'Kelley planned "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Eve," which raised over \$22,000 for the mission and ministries of St. John's. I heard from many of our more "senior" members that they loved how the event was organized by new and younger leaders. Most importantly, the night was a time when people of all ages came together to enjoy each other's company. Church is one of the last places that people can come together across the generations in a meaningful way, and we had a wonderful time together during the party.

There has been a lot of laughter lately at St. John's. I hear it during staff meetings, at coffee hour on Sundays, and during informal conversations in the halls. I love C. K. Chesterton's dictum that "angels fly because they take themselves lightly." At St. John's we take God seriously and ourselves lightly. When we are

confident that God is in charge, we can relax and breathe, and when we breathe, we can be filled by the Holy Spirit.

This summer, the Spirit will continue to empower us. I can assure you that we are only getting started. The Rev. Abigail Moon and her husband, Rob, will be moving to Tallahassee in the early summer. Abi's first Sunday with us will be July 10. Please keep the Moons in your prayers as they prepare for their move from Augusta, Georgia. I know Abi well enough to know that she is a Spirit-filled leader who takes God seriously and herself lightly. Her faithfulness and enthusiasm is contagious, and I am confident that her ministry — especially with children and families — will bear much fruit.

I look forward to worshipping with you during the summer months. If you are traveling, don't forget to bring back bulletins and newsletters from the churches you visit. This summer, wherever you are, be on the lookout for the Holy Spirit. Relax, breathe, and laugh often!

At St. John's we take God seriously and ourselves lightly. When we are confident that God is in charge, we can relax and breathe, and when we breathe, we can be filled by the Holy Spirit.

Institution of David Charles Killeen as Rector of St. John's Episcopal Church, May 22, 2011

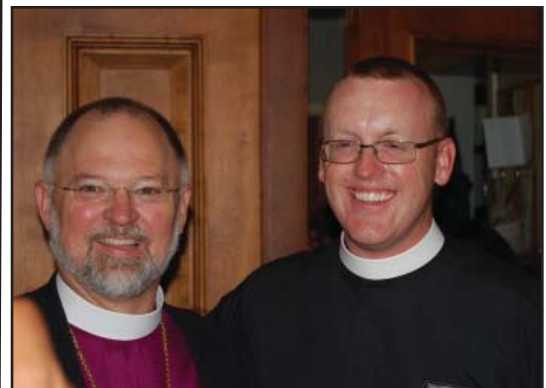


We came from near and far to join the celebration.





Family and friends participated in laughter and communion.



Recommended Summer Reading and Listening

From The Rev. David C. Killeen

- *Atlantic: Great Sea Battles, Heroic Discoveries, Titanic Storms and a Vast Ocean of a Million Stories* by Simon Winchester
- *The Eyes of the Heart: A Memoir of Lost and Found* by Frederick Buechner
- *After You Believe: Why Christian Character Matters* by N.T. Wright
- *Getting Involved with God: Rediscovering the Old Testament* by Ellen F. Davis
- *The Greater Journey: Americans in Paris* by David McCullough

From Randy Winton

- *Do Hard Things* by Alex and Brett Harris (A great book for teens who want to rebel against low expectations.)
- *Blue Like Jazz* by Donald Miller (Nonreligious thoughts on Christian spirituality)
- *The Way of the Wolf* by Martin Bell (I love this book of short parables written by an Episcopal priest and have several copies that I'd love to share.)
- *Soul Surfer* by Jeremy & Janna Jones (It's a movie now but the book is great, too, of Bethany Hamilton who lost her arm in a shark attack while surfing.)

From Mother Phoebe McFarlin

- *There is A God: How the world's most notorious atheist changed his mind* by Antony Flew
- *The God Theory and The Purpose-Guided Universe* by Bernard Haisch
- *The Heartbeat of God: Finding the Sacred in the Midst of Everything* by Katharine Jefferts Schori (To keep up with current Episcopalian thought)
- *Ethics for the New Millennium* by His Holiness The Dalai Lama (To absorb ethical standards in the 21st century)

And when all this is too much, there is always a murder mystery handy!

Favorite CDs for summer listening from Betsy Calhoun

- *Faire is the Heaven*, The Cambridge Singers
- *A Tudor Collection*, The Tallis Scholars
- *Hymns through the Ages*, The Choirs of All Saints' Episcopal Church
- *Out of Darkness, Let Light Shine*, Christmas at St. Olaf College
- *Grunt: Pignorian Chant*, Snouto Domoinko de Silo

From Betty Kummer/St. John's Bookstore

Book Review

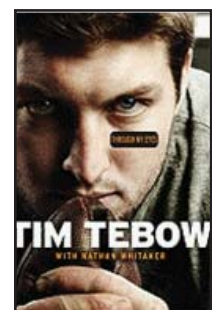
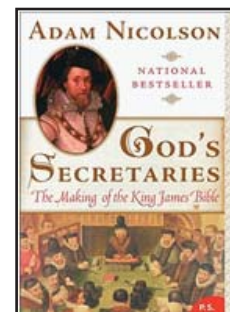
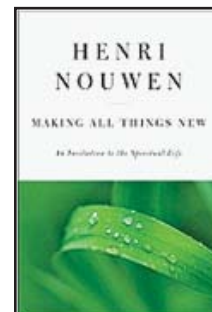
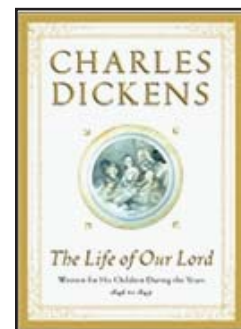
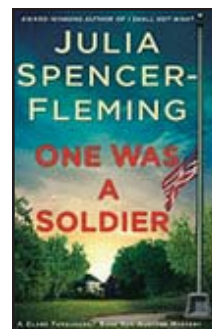
In the Bleak Midwinter by Julia Spencer-Fleming

by Susan Cassedy

Julia Spencer-Fleming grew up an Army brat and brings the military experience to her novels by "calling attention to the stress, nightmares, anger and guilt many military personnel experience on their return to civilian life."

In the Bleak Midwinter is Spencer-Fleming's first novel in her Clare Fergusson/Russ Van Alstyne mystery series. Reverend Clare Fergusson lands in the Millers Kill community fresh out of seminary by way of a military career as an Army helicopter pilot. She is immediately thrown into a professional relationship with Chief of Police Russ Van Alstyne when a newborn baby boy is abandoned on the steps of St. Alban's Episcopal Church. When a young mother is discovered brutally murdered, Reverend Clare and Chief Russ become a formidable team navigating the secrets surrounding the small town they both call home. There are many twists and turns with perhaps the most intriguing being the growing attraction between Reverend Clare and the married chief.

Julia Spencer-Fleming has won numerous awards including the Agatha, Nero Wolfe, and Gumshoe, to name a few. There are now six novels in the series and if you are a fan of the mystery novel, I recommend you start the series with this page turner!



June 13
Bookstore
Summer Hours
Closed Mondays
& Fridays

Youth Ministry News

by Randy Winton

The end of the school year is finally here and we rapidly approach a busy summer for our youth of St. John's. In my conversations with many of them, I find out just how busy they are with trips, vacations, and summer jobs. Our graduates are getting ready to move on to the next segment of their lives and some are experiencing new things before college. For example – Georgia Howard will be going on a two-week Outward Bound trip very soon before heading to Wilkes College in Jupiter, Florida, in the fall.

There are exciting times ahead for our students this summer. Many will be attending summer camp at Camp Weed for one of the great sessions. Sarah Beal, our youth intern, will be on staff again and I will have the privilege of joining her at the senior high session as a dean.

Please pray for our Camp Weed Summer

Staff: Nick Arminio, Douglas Basnight, Sarah Beal, Brett Bond, Matt Bowers, Cassy Chapman, RadhaDeitenbeck, Cami Fanning, Jaysen Good, Jude Holcomb, Randy Hooper, Jack Lee, Brian McMullen, Annie Page, Michael Richardson, Franklin Ritch, Meredith Row, Dylan Spann, Emily Vogelgesang, and our new Diocesan Youth Coordinator Wiley Ammons.

We have two great mission trips this summer: a trip to Cuba on July 17-26 and a trip to Birmingham, Alabama, on July 31 through August 5. Thank you so much for your prayers and support for us. We are still in the midst of fundraising for these trips and appreciate any donation you can make to help us.

Parents: We will be welcoming our new sixth graders into EYC by having a New EYC Retreat coming up in August. Details to come. If you have a rising sixth grader, please let me know so that we can get them involved with EYC.

I'd love to hear more about your summer plans and get to know all of our youth better. We have some awesome plans for the fall. I look forward to seeing you during the summer.

Vestry Report

from Kathy Bye

At its meeting on May 17, 2011, the Vestry:

- Reviewed revenue and expenses for April;
- Discussed maintenance issues;
- Was briefed on plans for Father Dave's Celebration of a New Ministry; and
- Approved monies for the Diocese of Cuba.

St. John's Church Calendar*

June

Mon, June 6 - Cafe Summer Hours
Begin / Closed Fridays

Fri, June 10 - Ultreya

Sun, June 12 - Pentecost / Baptism
& Confirmation / Reception

Mon, June 13 - Bookstore Summer
Hours Begin / Closed Mondays
& Fridays

Sun, June 19 - Ice Cream Sundays /
Summer Forums Begin / Blood
Drive

Tues, June 21 - Village Square

Sun, June 26 - Parish Breakfast

Mon, June 27 to July 1 - Vacation
Bible School

July

Mon, July 4 - Offices and Cafe Closed
No 12:10 Eucharist
RSCM 4 - 10

Sun, July 10 - Abigail Moon's First
Sunday / Parish Breakfast

Sun, July 17 - Ice Cream Sundays
Cuba Mission Trip 17 -26

Sun, July 31 to Aug. 5 - Birmingham
Mission Trip

** Please see The Chimes for a
detailed calendar of activities
and meetings.*

Youth and Baccalaureate Sunday

On May 22, St. John's celebrated Youth and Baccalaureate Sunday for its 2011 graduating seniors. Participating with Ft. Killeen in the sermon were Lacey Langston and Georgia Howard. Portions of their sermons follow:

Lacey: Flag football ended a couple weeks ago, so that means it's time to get back into shape! I decided the best way to this was to start running at Forest Meadows, my favorite place to run; I find peace there. Having spent every summer and fall day of my freshman and sophomore years there for Leon cross country, I knew most of those trails like the back of my hand. I started my run at a steady pace, listening to "We Live," by Superchick. The chorus goes: "We live, we love. We forgive and never give up. Cuz the days we are given are gifts from above And today we remember to live and to love."

That day I decided to take a slender bike trail. I had no idea where this trail led, but I decided to trust my instinct. The path took me quickly downhill, twisting and turning. Roots were everywhere and it took me seconds to stumble over them, catching myself right before I fell. After about 15 minutes of running, I was lost. I started to panic. The sun was going down; will I make it back to the trail head in time? What if a deer eats me? (yes, I can be a little dramatic) but, at that very second, the light shone down through the trees and a peace washed over me. I wasn't scared anymore. A mere five minutes later, I knew where I was and I was safe.

My journey through St. John's Episcopal Church started January 9th, 1994; the day I was baptized. Although I attended church throughout my elementary school days, I hardly remember ever wanting to come on my own, let alone come to church at all. By the time I had entered sixth grade, church had become nonexistent to me; but this was when our church was most stable. The summer before seventh grade, my family and I were becoming more involved in the church again. After the split, I believe that God brought us back here for a very special reason. During this time, when the church was at its most unstable, I was finding everything I needed here, in this very church. Before I knew it, I was involved with acolyting, happening, steering commit-

tees, mission trips, and much more. But our church was still twisting and turning on this downward path, and I don't think myself or any of us, the members of St. John's, knew where



Lacey Langston and Georgia Howard delivered homilys on Youth Sunday.

it was taking us. Yet, we still came to church and traveled on this journey with God. We prayed and kept faith in him throughout everything that our church has been through. Between you and me, I think that's what makes this congregation one of the best and strongest I have ever seen. We have been through more priests and youth leaders in the past five years than I think any church in the diocese. And look at us now: We have the most amazing youth leader for over a year, and Fr. Dave will finally be named rector of our church.

St. John's kept running on the path God put in front of us, not knowing where it would lead us. But the light has finally shown through the trees and God has revealed us the next path to take, and He couldn't have put us in better hands.

Not only has St. John's been my church for the past 17 years of my life, but it has also been my second home. I can come here on Sunday and Wednesday nights to just let loose, hang out with my friends, and play guitar. I can come to church and be greeted by the many smiling faces of this congregation and feel comforted in any situation I might be going through. Even though I have many

new opportunities of church families to join in Jacksonville, when I attend the University of North Florida next year, nothing can ever come close to taking the place of St. John's and the family I have here.

As I embark on the next chapter of my life, I know that I will always have my St. John's family to come home to. Through the lessons that St. John's has taught me, I know that I can go out into the world and live and spread everything I have learned here. St. John's has taught me to live like the lyrics of Superchick: In a sense that here, we live and we love; we forgive and never give up just as Christ would. We treat each day as precious as the last and we worship God in every aspect of our church. These are things that I will never forget as I keep running along the path that God has set for me.

Georgia: Help then, O Lord, our unbelief; and may our faith abound, to call on you when you are near, and seek where you are found: that when our life of faith is done, in realms of clearer light we may behold you as you are, with full and endless sight. AMEN.

In in Acts, Stephen's faith in God could not be stronger. "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" Though beaten to the point of death, Stephen never wondered if God had left him, but rather, asked for forgiveness for his vicious pursuers.

Faith, I think, is the hardest part of being a Christian. Faith, by definition, is a firm belief in something for which there is no proof. In this age of information, it's a difficult concept. Thou shalt not steal, bear false witness, murder, commit adultery, or take the name of God in vain. All are reasonable and mostly comprehensible. But faith is so different; so frustratingly vague. It's not an action or refusal to act; it's not defined by decisions. When we persecute others or persecute God,

we can come to terms with our mistakes, ask for forgiveness, and strive to do better. The process of strengthening our faith is not so clean-cut. Questions, doubts, and confusion are not sins; as inquiring people we are not designed to apologize for deep thought. So where do we put our doubts?

Growing up at St. John's, the word "doubt" never entered my vocabulary. I went to Sunday school, sang in the choir, went home to a kind and generous family. I adored the staff here, and I knew them well since my mom worked for the church. Surrounded by their love and constantly supported by fellow parishioners, there was no reason to question my religion. Christianity was untouchable. I felt deeply connected to God. As early as fourth grade, Camp Weed was a cathartic for me and the love of God always brought me both great joy and deep, awesome humility.

All this began to change in seventh grade. The priests of my church had planned quietly to leave the Episcopal Church and start anew at an Anglican church. Almost the entire staff was on board to leave St. John's, save a few, like my mom. I didn't understand what was so repulsive about the Episcopal Church. So many close family friends could see St. John's' flaws and I could not, and they were so ready to leave while my family was not. Every family from my parents' Bible study ultimately chose to move on; I don't know that my parents even considered it.

In the midst of this, everything became muddled. I had seen the priests of St. John's as pillars of God.



Back row: Harry Douglas, Emerson George, Jon Bielby, Trevin Blount; Middle row: Georgia Howard, Lina Gwynn, Jared Stich, Mario Rivieccio; Bottom row: Randy Winton, Lacey Langston, Lauren Lastowski, Claire Ellis; Not pictured: Cecelia Graham, Anna Teagle

But they were leaving and my family wasn't. My family disagreed with their choices and their beliefs. I felt misled. I had unquestioningly accepted the things I heard in church because I had trusted the people who taught them, but as my trust in people began to crumble, so did the "knowns." My life's undeniable truths became more and more ambiguous, and I was left embarrassed for being so ignorant.

For a year or two, I attended church and sang in the choir, but my heart was not in it. Life without faith was terrifying. The idea that after death would come nothingness was painful to consider, but I found no believable alterna-

tives. Despite close friends and family, I felt alone.

Yet, still being connected to the church – if just by a thread – I listened and began to formulate my own beliefs, accepting that I would not always agree with what I was taught. I often didn't take communion because I wanted to rediscover what doing so meant to me. Slowly, my faith rekindled. It's not the same as it once was; I continue to question all that Christianity has to teach, but I have learned that that's as it should be. Faith is not unquestioning belief, but belief that answers and endures all questions, tests, and doubts. My faith today is set on God, not on individuals, and had it not been for the painful divide in our congregation, I don't believe that would be the case.

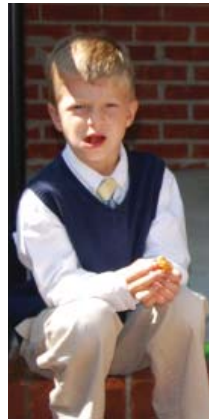
I leave you with a thought from Helen Keller, because I think she said it best. "It need not discourage us if we are full of doubts. Healthy questions keep faith dynamic. In fact, unless we start with doubts we cannot have a deep-rooted faith. One who believes lightly and unthinkingly has not much of a belief. One who has a faith which is not to be shaken has won it through blood and tears – has worked his or her way from doubt to truth as one who reaches a clearing through a thicket of brambles and thorns."



First Holy Communion, May 8, 2011



Wilson Howell Dearing
 McCall
 Smith Thomas Merrill
 Emily Anne Murphy
 Carter Casey Quiggins
 Zoe Kathryn Senior
 Camden Bradbury
 Shields
 Sara Merrill and Paige
 Loggins, Teachers



Midnight in the Garden of Good and Eve



John and Christa Perkins have a reason to smile. They just won the drawing for a new Honda CRV from Proctor Honda. The drawing was held during Midnight in the Garden of Good and Eve, May 14 in Eve's Garden. The fundraiser netted over \$22,000 for St. John's ministries.

More photos on page 12

Musical Ecumenicity

by Michael Corzine

On this past May 15, the adult choirs and choristers of St. John's and First Presbyterian churches combined for a festive musical occasion at First Presbyterian, beginning with an organ recital by Michael Corzine, organist & choirmaster at the church, and continuing with Choral Evensong directed by St. John's Betsy Calhoun and accompanied by organist Elizabeth LaJeunesse.

The recital celebrated the completion of the 1992 Taylor & Boody organ by the addition of three new stops (sets of pipes) and a Cimbelstern (bell-star). Michael demonstrated how the new stops would be heard in the recital pieces, and the Cimbelstern added its high-pitched bell sounds in the recital and in several of the choral works. Father David Killeen and Pastor Brant Copeland shared in officiating the service, which involved 75 singers.

The service continued a renewed spirit of cooperation between the two congregations, seen in the six-week Wednesday night Lenten series led

by Father Dave and Brant in Alfriend Hall, the Holy Week evening prayer services shared at First Presbyterian, and the two churches' combined choristers singing the Way of the Cross on Good Friday in Carter Chapel, officiated by Mother Phoebe McFarlin and the Rev. Copeland.

There has been a history of cooperation between the two congregations, especially in the realm of music and worship. The adult choirs combined for an Ascension Evensong at First Presbyterian in 1996, and one can recall that only a few years ago choristers from First Presbyterian would on regular occasions join with those at St. John's to sing the 9 a.m. service there, then process behind a crucifer down Call Street and up Adams Street to First Presbyterian to sing the 11 a.m. service there.

To quote Brant Copeland, commenting on a shared Evensong at St. John's in 2008, "It is a great privilege to take part in Evensong, that marvelous blending of two monastic offices. We from First Presbyterian do so

with heartfelt thanks to the faithful of St. John's for saving us a place in the choir, and to Almighty God for the ministry we have shared since 1832, and hope to share always."



Taylor & Boody organ at First Presbyterian Church

Reception Following Ft. Killeen's Institution



Rose Window in Memory of Bishop Edwin Gardner Weed

by Virginia Perkins

The rose window over the altar was installed in 1931 as a memorial to Bishop Edwin Gardner Weed, third Bishop of Florida.

Edwin Weed was born in 1847 in Savannah, Georgia, and was a student at the University of Georgia when the Civil War broke out. He left the university at age 16 in order to serve and enlisted in the Seventh Georgia Cavalry, but soon moved to the Confederate Signal Corps. At the conclusion of the war, he went to Europe and became a student at the University of Berlin. When he returned to the United States, he entered General Theological Seminary in New York City, was ordained to the diaconate in 1870 and the priesthood in 1871. He was assigned to the mission Church of the Good Shepherd in Summerville, Georgia, located outside Augusta. After 15 years as a parish priest, Edwin Weed was elected Bishop of Florida and moved with his family to Jacksonville.

He died in 1924, the same year the Diocese of Florida sponsored its first summer camp. As the camp grew, it acquired the name "Camp Weed" in memory of the Diocese's third bishop.



Fran's Best Loved Recipes

Parish favorites from Fran Doxsee, Culinary Director of The Lively Café at St. John's

Each summer, the Lively Café serves a variety of chilled soups that have become customer favorites. Here are two of Fran's best:

Chilled Cucumber Dill Soup

In a food processor, put:
2 peeled and seeded cucumbers cut into chunks
1 green onion, chopped
1 Tbs. lemon juice
16 oz. light sour cream or fat-free Greek yogurt
1 cup half and half
1 Tbs fresh dill, chopped
Salt, pepper and hot sauce to taste
Process until smooth.
Chill until serving.
Makes 4 to 6 servings.



Sweet Potato Vichyssoise

3 cups peeled and sliced sweet potatoes
1½ cup chopped leeks, white parts only (about 3 leeks.)
5 cups chicken or vegetable broth
Salt and pepper to taste
Put potatoes, leeks and broth in a medium saucepan.
Bring to a boil, reduce heat and simmer until tender, about 15 minutes.
Strain potato mixture and reserve liquid.
Put potato mixture into a food processor and puree until smooth.
Put pureed mixture along with reserved liquid back into saucepan and mix together until smooth.
Season with salt and pepper.
Chill thoroughly in a bowl at least 4 hours in the refrigerator.
When ready to serve, stir in ½ cup half and half.
Garnish with snipped fresh chives.
Serves 6 to 8.

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211 North Monroe Street
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Phone: 850-222-2636

Facsimile: 850-224-3122

E-mail: info@saint-john.org

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Midnight in the Garden of Good and Eve



Transitions

Transfers

Lucia F. Quintilani from Holy Comforter, Tallahassee
Stefan Grow, St. Andrews, Jackson, MS

First Holy Communion

Wilson Howell Dearing McCall
Smith Thomas Merrill
Emily Anne Murphy
Carter Casey Quiggins
Zoe Kathryn Senior
Camden Bradbury Shields

High School Graduates

Lorence Jon Bielby, Jr.
Georgia Ruth Howard
Anna Lucia Teagle
Emerson Whatley George
Lauren Kendall Lastowski
Mario Joseph Riviuccio
Claire Justine Ellis
Lina Blake Gwynn
David Jared Stich
Harrison Register Douglas

Lacey Marena Langston
Trevin Warren Blount
Mary Cecelia Graham