

TLHLIFE



Kate Kile, Director of Finance and Faith Formation at St. John's Episcopal Church, shares The Saint John's Bible with a group of parishioners in the church sanctuary. The church begins a 72-hour non-stop Bible reading Aug. 24. ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Miqra marathon

St. John's launches 'Year of the Bible' with 72 hours of public reading

Marina Brown
Special to the Tallahassee Democrat

There has been a lot of talk about books recently. Ones you should read and ones you mustn't. But there is one book whose longevity and ubiquity surpasses all others in American ownership. With 85% of U.S. homes owning 4.3 copies per household, and an estimated 5 billion sold worldwide, the only book with that kind of track record is, of course, the Bible.

Yet, despite the ownership quotient, one survey pointed out that only one in five Americans has actually read the entire Bible. Even with its drama and stories and poetry, and history, it seems that the Bible doesn't make for a good beach read nor even for a cozy evening by the fire.

But St. John's Episcopal Church in downtown Tallahassee plans on rectifying that. Father Lonnie Lacy has just celebrated his one-year anniversary as St. John's rector, but his enthusiasm and innovative approach to faith is already increasing its congregation.

'Deep dive' into Bible

Many have read about or watched Lacy's YouTube appearance during the pandemic, when he sang to music from "Hamilton," dancing down the aisle and promising parishioners that, "You'll Be Back!" And now, though not theatrical, Father Lacy is planning for a "deep dive" into the Bible that will involve the entire parish



St. John's Episcopal Church clergy, including Father Lonnie Lacy at right, are sharing The Saint John's Bible with parishioners in the church sanctuary ahead of launching "Year of the Bible" with a reading from Genesis to Revelations. ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

If you go

What: Miqra, 72-hour, round-the-clock public reading of the Bible

When: Thursday, Aug. 24-27

Where: St. John's Episcopal Church, 211 N. Monroe St.; 850-222-2636; visit saint-john.org

for the next year.

"To kick off our Year of the Bible," says Father Lacy, "We will begin with an ancient Hebrew tradition called a "Miqra." It recalls the reading of the Torah or sacred scriptures aloud before all. In our case, here at the church on Thursday, Aug. 24-27, we will begin our 72-

hour, round-the-clock public reading of the Bible.

From start to finish — Genesis to Revelations — parishioners will take one hour turns to read." Lacy says he had done a Miqra before some years ago and "It was transformative. There was something about being banded together, all with a common goal, concentrated over three days and nights, that expanded the hearts and minds of each person involved." And to that all-inclusive end, the entire 72 hours will be live-streamed.

St. John's has created a Bible study guide to accompany not only the Miqra, but the whole year's exploration of the holy book. In 2023-24, sermons, Sunday school lessons, as well as music and art events will all be focused on the treasures held within the Bible. And children and teens are very much a part of the all-church Bible study as well.

Father Lacy says, "For children there are small, illustrated "story book"-size Bible stories. For teens, another volume is suited for their reading level, and for adults who find more modern language easier to access, we have a larger volume called, "The Story." All are available at St. John's."

Hosting a Heritage Edition Bible

Which brings Father Lacy to something he and the parish are particularly proud of. "In early September, St. John's Episcopal Church will become the host of The Saint John's Bible, Heritage Edition. The volume is not named after our church, but rather for where this first hand-written, hand-illuminated Bible in 500 years was created," says Lacy.

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Local sculptor's Jazz Man plays on along history trail

Special to the Tallahassee Democrat
Tallahassee Democrat

Tallahassee's newest outdoor artwork strikes a historical note.

The second sculpture along the growing History and Culture Trail was installed earlier this month. A project of Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency, the City of Tallahassee and Leon County Government, the History and Culture Trail includes a variety of public artworks that honor the resilient neighborhoods, civil rights advocates and economic engines of the communities located adjacent to Cascades Trail and FAMU Way.

Once complete, new public art pieces will be installed through the project, representing the largest infusion of outdoor public art in Tallahassee's history.

Since its kickoff last October, three murals and two sculptures have been completed as part of the project. The artists, works, and locations are:



"The Jazz Man" sculpture was placed at the market area near the FAMU Way playground for the History and Culture Trail in early August. PROVIDED

- Bradley Cooley, Jr. (Lamont, Florida) - "The Jazz Man" sculpture, located at the market area near the FAMU Way playground.

- Mark Dickson (Tallahassee) - "In Honor of the Worker" sculpture, located at the St. Marks Trailhead on FAMU Way.

- Yasaman Mehrsa (Toronto, Canada) - "We Are All One" murals, located at Anita R. Favors Plaza.

- Joseph Cowdrey (New Jersey) - "A Stroll Down Seaboard" mural, located at the market area near the FAMU Way playground.

"The 'Jazz Man' sculpture is a distinctive artwork celebrating the profound history and culture of African American neighborhoods in our community," stated IA Board Chair and Leon County At-Large Commissioner Carolyn Cummings. "Seeing the History and Culture Trail come alive with each installation has been fulfilling. I eagerly anticipate celebrating the en-

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Miqra

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In 1998 St. John's Abbey and University in Collegeville, Minnesota commissioned renowned calligrapher and artist Donald Jackson to produce this massive volume. In the monastic tradition, six scribes, with hand-drawn illustrations and printing, recorded the words from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible.

Lacy says, "We believe this will make

this masterpiece accessible and understandable. At our church, we will have the Gospels and Acts from the Saint John's Bible on display in a special case, though throughout the year we will carry this illuminated masterpiece to schools, study groups, nursing homes, prisons...where others may examine it and even touch its pages."

St. John's Episcopal Church invites all to come and listen to the Miqra and become part of a reintroduction to Christendom's holiest book and perhaps find that one year is not enough to access its message.

Jazz

Continued from Page 3B

tire project with a community event upon its completion early next year."

The 1.5-mile History and Culture Trail between South Adams Street and North Lake Bradford Road is part of Blueprint's Capital Cascades Trail Segment 3 Project, which began construction in 2013. Once complete, the History and Culture Trail will join other amenities along FAMU Way, including the Skateable Art Park, Coal Chute Pond Park, Anita R. Favors Plaza, the market area, a playground and more.

In addition to the public art, 11 history monuments will be installed along the Trail. They will include images and information gathered through years of extensive research about the neighborhoods, businesses and individuals who lived and worked in the area. The Trail's public artworks further enhance and interpret these historical accounts while offering more opportunities for meaningful engagement and reflection.

"The Trail adds to the existing vibrancy of the Southside, growing it as a destination and economic hub," said City of Tallahassee Commissioner Curtis Richardson. "This exciting project complements the roughly \$315 million in public infrastructure investments we've recently made in the Southside, which are paying off for our entire community."

Bradley Cooley, Jr. a former resident of Tallahassee now living in Lamont, is one of the seven selected artists for the History and Culture Trail. Cooley created "The Jazz Man," sculpture to commemorate Tallahassee's rich musical history of jazz and the local legends who



Sculptor Bradley Cooper Jr. poses with his "The Jazz Man" sculpture, located at the market area near the FAMU Way playground. PROVIDED

have called the area home.

"The History and Culture Trail has been an exciting project for Blueprint," said Blueprint Director Autumn Calder. "The return on investment is substantial as public art and historical sites drive tourism, foster long-term economic prosperity, and contribute to creating a sense of place."

"I've done a number of pieces all over the country, but this piece is special. I'm humbled to do it and I think it'll be a great addition to our area. I hope the people of Tallahassee can enjoy it," said Cooley.

More sculptures and history monuments will be installed throughout the year. The grand celebration of the Capital Cascades Trail Segment 3 is anticipated for early 2024.

DEAR ABBY | ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

Boyfriend in no hurry to walk down the aisle

Dear Abby: I'm 44, and I have been dating a wonderful man for the last year and a half. He's 44 as well. He has a nice home and job and has 50/50 custody of his three children, who adore me. I'm good to them, and we all get along well, just like a family.

The problem is, he goes back and forth about marriage. I have made it clear that, although I have no desire to pressure him, I do want to be married again one day. I said I'd rather be let go than led on. He said he isn't sure, and some days he says he may never marry.

The last time we talked about it, he said it's a "possibility," but he didn't want to be pressured – it has to be his idea. How long should I wait until I say enough is enough? I'm not getting any younger.

Fixed On Marriage

Dear Fixed: When was the last time you had this discussion? You have described a man who is comfortable with things just the way they are. A year and a half is a reasonable amount of time to decide whether a relationship is serious enough to lead to something more.

Give him six more months, during which you do not mention the word "marriage." By then, you will have invested two years. After that, ask if he has made up his mind about the two of you being married, and if his answer is anything less than yes, move on.

Dear Abby: I have a family issue concerning the recent, untimely death of

my only (younger) brother, who died of pneumonia in Georgia. His wife had him cremated the following day instead of having a funeral. She didn't inform his immediate family about it until it was over. Was that legal? And was it the right thing to do?

No Family Closure

Dear N.F.C.: Please accept my sympathy for the passing of your younger brother. When the sibling is younger, the loss can be particularly poignant.

When a married individual dies, it is legal for the surviving spouse to determine what will happen to their loved one's remains.

We don't know if the subject of funerals, memorials, burials or cremations was ever discussed between your brother and his wife. If you are wondering, rather than judge her, ask her. He may have expressed a wish not to be put into the ground, or he may have been cremated for financial reasons.

Dear Abby: Do I give my daughter her baby book now that she's in her 40s? Does the same answer apply to a son? I just need to know if it's something a parent does.

Wondering Mom

Dear Wondering: Some parents give their children these mementos when they are downsizing their homes. Others offer it to them once they marry, settle down or prove they are responsible enough that it won't be lost.

Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com.

CELEBRITY CIPHER | LUIS CAMPOS

"S U C H J C G X C O M P J M S M B J A
N V B B S W I G S Z S B C B S F W M F W Z O M J G T ,
Y F B U N P F T J M M S F W C G G O C W A
N J P M F W C G G O ." — Z C P G J J Z C B G S W

Previous Solution: "Young people, take heart: The older you get, the fewer commandments you will have the strength to break." — Mark Russell

TODAY'S CLUE: *Revels*

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