



Enlightener

April 2024 Vol. XLIV, No. 04

St. John's Moving Forward! A Season of Change

Search and Call for Settled Senior Pastor:

We are glad to report that St. John's is making great progress in our Search and Call for our next Senior Pastor. The Church Profile has been completed by the Profile Team and has been submitted to the Conference so we can begin this next phase of our transition. We will be holding one of our communication sessions in the near future so you can see "What God is Calling us to Become."

The Search and Call Team has been formed and has begun to meet to plan the details of the search process with the assistance of the UCC Conference. The Elders and additional at-large members form the committee that will interview and evaluate potential candidates for our next Pastor.

The Search and Call team members are: Susan Fitzpatrick, Sally Atkiss, Anne Kinsey, Bill Cagney, Emilie Truscott, Chriss Bodde, Liz Vanderburg, Janet Morton, Steve Butz, Deborah Dayton, and Mark Bruen. The Search committee will bring forward a recommended candidate and call agreement, for Council to approve. The Search committee shall present their recommendation to the Congregation for a trial sermon at church, and for the Congregation to vote and approve. Once the Search team has confirmed the process for interviewing and evaluation within a few weeks, the Conference will post the Church Profile and we will begin to receive ministerial profiles of candidates who are interested.

Message from Reverend Addie:

For over a year now, many have wondered, "What's Addie going to do?" with regards to my moving into the Senior Pastor position. As I entered into my time of discernment about this very thing, I worked very hard to set aside the enormous amount of pressure that I felt, and I very intentionally shifted the question from "What's Addie going to do?" to "What is God going to do?". This is, I believe, the heart of faithful discernment and I did my best to engage in it fully. As is always the case when we dare to let go of ourselves and truly allow the Holy Spirit to guide us into the unknown, God responds—not always with what we want, but always with what we need.

After over a year of intense, thoughtful, and deeply prayerful consideration, I have discerned that God is not calling me to apply for the position of Senior Pastor at St. John's. I know that this may not be the answer that many of you were expecting or hoping for, and it may cause you to feel a sense of sadness, disappointment, panic, and even anger. I hear you and hold those very real feelings with you. And still, God's call remains and persists, both for me and for you as a congregation. Please know that I have been profoundly moved and appreciative of your support and prayers over the years and throughout my time of discernment, and I will continue to count on both as we move forward together.

As St. John's prepares to publish its church profile and launch its official, nation-wide search for a new, settled Senior Pastor, we do have great reason to hope! The profile team has worked tirelessly and done a truly remarkable job of crafting a thoughtful, thorough document that captures the spirit and vision of St. John's. My prayer is that we continue to allow the Holy Spirit to lead us through this season of searching, never doubting that God is faithful and good, always and in all ways.

Jeremiah 29:11 says, "For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope." May we take heart in this powerful truth as we wait and see what God is going to do!

Closing Thoughts:

St. John's has weathered an especially unsettled season of church life these last few years. We are so grateful for Reverend Addie and her ongoing and consistent leadership, wisdom, humor, and compassion for the congregation of St. John's throughout the inevitable ups and downs of our church in the midst of change. We affirm her commitment to a thoughtful season of profound reflection to discern and faithfully respond to God's unfolding call.

We hold our congregation, together with Reverend Addie, in a prayerful and sacred space of listening for God's guiding voice for St. John's as the church profile is published and we collectively move forward together in faith and anticipation.

We know the Church Council, Search and Call Team, Council Executive team, and Ministerial Team will continue to work diligently to complete this path we are on. We hope that you, the Congregation of St. John's, will prayerfully join us on this journey as we anticipate this next phase, the calling of our next Senior Pastor.

Yours in Christ,



Mark Bruen – Council President



Deborah Dayton – Council Vice President

APRIL 2024



Labyrinth—Symbol of Faith

For believers, the labyrinth stands for our way with and to God, but also for the way to ourselves—into our center. If you want to make your way to God, you will inevitably be confronted with your own path. In other words, knowledge of God is a difficult undertaking without self-knowledge. The way into our own center is the way to God. This view was recommended to us by numerous mystics for centuries. Walking the labyrinth symbolizes our itinerancy to God. It is not without reason that since the 10th century labyrinths have been laid into the ground in numerous churches, inviting people to follow this intricate path. The most beautiful example is certainly the labyrinth in the cathedral of Chartres. You will not get lost in the labyrinth; you will find yourself in the labyrinth.

FROM THE CREATION STEWARDS



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

One of St. John's goals this year is to reach out more to the North Penn community. So far, we have planned the following events:

A rose-pruning event open to the public was held on March 16. We had 12 people attend, including members of the Norristown Garden Club and the Lansdale Garden Club.

[continued at right]

We will continue to volunteer with the Garden of Health in Hatfield, which provides gluten-free produce and groceries to area food banks. Stay tuned for dates when we can help out.

Earth Day, April 27: The Creation Stewards will be handing out "Take the Pledge" St. John's reusable bags to use instead of plastic bags. All we ask is that you take a pledge to use them instead of plastic bags, which are terrible for the environment. And, if you forget to bring the reusable bags into the store with you, you agree to go back to your car and get them!

Lansdale First Fridays: We are looking for a few volunteers to organize a fun First Friday event on May 3 and June 7. The theme for May 3 is "Geeking Out," and the theme for June 7 is "Boardwalk." If you can help organize an event for one of these days, contact Mark Bruen or Don Atkiss. Let's let the community know who we are!

June 1, Lansdale Day: We are planning to have our annual Basket Raffle. This is always a well-received event in the community.

June 8, 10 AM to 4 PM: The Norristown Garden Club is including St. John's gardens on their annual garden tour! This is a big event, with 300+ NGC members expected to visit our gardens. The NGC also asked if members could tour our stained-glass windows inside (they were in awe of them), so we will have members of our Stained Glass Windows group present to describe the windows.

As you can see, this is an ambitious lineup, so we need plenty of volunteers to help.

ARTICLES DUE FOR MAY ISSUE DEADLINE: APRIL 14

All submissions must include your name and phone number and be typed or printed. Submissions can be placed in the *Enlightener* bin in the Church Office (top bin) or emailed to erickinsey46@gmail.com. If you have questions, please call Eric Kinsey at 267.886.5326.

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Eric Kinsey, Editor: erickinsey46@gmail.com

Were You There?

Thirty Years Ago:

Donations were requested to help pay for the New Century Hymnals.



Twenty-five Years Ago:

The Pre-Confirmation Class made a quilt as a stewardship project. Members of the congregation donated cotton squares for the project.

Twenty Years Ago: A retirement celebration with a turkey dinner was held for Bob Fritz.

Fifteen Years Ago: An overnight lock-in adventure was held for children ages 8 and up. It included bowling, night in arcade, pizza, and ice cream.

Ten Years Ago: Ice skating was enjoyed at Hatfield Ice during the open session.

Five Years Ago: A Visioning Team was formed to identify St. John's core values, considering what must be done to honor the wishes of those members (past and present) whose gifts made St. John's Endowment Fund possible.

One Year Ago: The Creation Stewards informed St. John's of a new venture in Hatfield called the Garden of Health. They grow organic crops to meet the special dietary needs of low-income families. Garden of Health relies on volunteers to help maintain the gardens, pick the produce, and deliver it to area food banks.



The Personnel Committee is searching for candidates to fill the Church Office Manager position pending Lisa's retirement. If you, a friend, or a family member is interested in this employment opportunity,

visit St. John's website: <https://st-johns-ucc.org/leaders-and-staff/staff-job-openings>, speak with a personnel committee member, or call Margie Jewell, Personnel Chair, at 215.272.1599.

Here is the chancel flower donation list for April 2024. Please review this list and contact the church office if you would like to remove, add, or update any information on the list.

Reminder: The requested donation for the chancel flower listing is \$35. Thank you!



April 7

In memory of Charles A. Pool Jr.'s April 4th birthday from his family

In memory of Martine Boorse's April 7th birthday from her husband, Richard

In memory of Robert and Madge Chandler; Marvin, James, and Maryetta Moyer; and Benjamin, Betty, and Helen A. Hammel from the LaVerne Moyer family and the Carol and Ben Hammel family

In memory of the Rev. Hugo C. Kellermeyer and Mrs. Josephine Kellermeyer from Lorene Ahrens and family

April 14

In memory of Mary C. Fritz's April 16th birthday from her family

In memory of Marvin Roshong's April 17th birthday from his wife, Jean, and family

April 21

In memory of Betty Focht's April 24th birthday from her family, Sally, Steve, and Eric Jarinko

April 28

In loving memory of Charles W. Lutter's April 29th birthday from his family



Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of Judy Reitz, who passed away recently.



**Chancel
Flower
Ministry**

Thank you for being a part of this important ministry. Many lives have been touched by your efforts. Flowers should be delivered after the 10:15 AM church service or on Monday. Feel free to deliver the flowers to whomever you want—anyone who is celebrating a birthday or an anniversary, people who are ill, people who are in the hospital, people who need a little extra care. The people you deliver to do not need to be members of St. John’s. They can be your friends, loved ones, and neighbors. The flower ministry is part of our outreach.

The flower room is through the door on the left side of the chancel—the side where the pastor preaches. All the supplies you will need are in this room:

- ◇ plastic vases
- ◇ St. John’s address directory
- ◇ cards.

Please take the flowers out of the brass vases and put them in the plastic floral containers located on the shelves in the flower room.

Return the green liners to the brass vases, they belong to the florist. Include a card for each bouquet. Also, write in the signup book who the flowers were delivered to on your assigned Sunday; this will help us avoid replicating recipients.

Please include a card for each bouquet. There will be a copy of these instructions in the flower room. If you are out of town on your assigned Sunday, please switch with someone. Again, many thanks for being a part of St. John’s flower ministry.

Lisa

2024

| | |
|----------|-----------------------|
| April 7 | |
| April 14 | Sally & Steve Jarinko |
| April 21 | Karen & Mark Methlie |
| April 28 | Bonnie & Ken Hales |

| Summary of Last Month and YTD Income and Expense | February 2024 | Jan–Feb 2024 |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| Ordinary Income/Expense | | |
| Income | | |
| Current Tithes/Offerings | 31,612.33 | 74,835.57 |
| Event Income/Fundraisers | 1,784.00 | 2,583.00 |
| Flowers | 587.00 | 657.00 |
| Rental Income | 3,250.00 | 6,500.00 |
| Use-of-Building Income | .00 | 100.00 |
| Miscellaneous Unrestricted Income | 62.00 | 67.00 |
| Interest Income, Savings Accounts | 1.19 | 5.18 |
| Total Income | 37,296.52 | 84,747.75 |
| Gross Income | 37,296.52 | 84,747.75 |
| Expense | | |
| Salaries and Benefits | 37,013.16 | 74,170.00 |
| Deacons Expenses | 2,058.96 | 3,070.53 |
| Elders Expenses | 537.54 | 627.81 |
| Trustees/Building Expenses | 650.13 | 2,537.08 |
| Building Operation Expenses | 7,272.13 | 15,374.18 |
| Operating Expenses | 5,591.07 | 11,859.90 |
| Miscellaneous Expenses | 0.00 | 324.04 |
| Total Expense | 53,122.99 | 107,963.54 |
| Net Ordinary Income | -15,826.47 | -23,215.79 |
| Budgeted Transfers from Investments | 10,599.58 | 21,199.16 |
| Net Ordinary Income Plus Transfers | -4,226.82 | -2,016.54 |
| Other Income/Expense | | |
| Other Income | | |
| Artist Series Income—Special | 12,210.00 | 19,910.00 |
| Benevolence Offerings | 4,952.00 | 15,147.13 |
| Special Accounts | 2,538.00 | 7,580.21 |
| Total Other Income | 19,700.00 | 42,637.34 |
| Other Expense | | |
| Artist Series Fund Expenditures | 8,299.63 | 8,705.08 |
| Benevolence Disbursements | 3,550.00 | 24,725.47 |
| Special Fund Expenditures | 1,777.90 | 5,005.80 |
| Total Other Expense | 13,627.53 | 38,436.35 |
| Net Other Income | 6,072.47 | 4,200.99 |
| Net Income | -9,754.00 | -19,014.80 |
| Net Income Plus Transfers | 845.58 | 4,200.90 |

What's Happening in Council?



Financial Report:

Matt Carson, Treasurer

In February we were again not able to reach our goal for tithes and offerings.

We received \$31,612.33 against a budgeted amount of \$43,080.00, a sizable shortfall of \$11,467.67. Our annual outlook is not good based on the first two months of the year. We are behind by \$22,736.74 as we enter March.

For Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) we have received \$8,474.71 year-to-date, against a projected total of \$9,997.72, meaning we are behind by \$1,523.01.

Please feel free to share your questions or concerns with Matt Carson, Treasurer.

Staff Reports:

Ministerial Staff (Dale Davis, Addie Stong, Andrew Paulson)

The Artist Series concert featuring *Illuminare, The Music of Elaine Hagenberg*, will be presented on Palm Sunday, March 24, at 4 PM. Andrew invited all to not miss the importance of Holy Week services.

Staff stated they will miss Lisa Delp as she retires but wish her well.

Abbie Lampe, Minister of Music for Children and Youth

Connect³ continues. The Family Choir will sing three more times before the end of school. The children are excited to see the number of books and flashlights donated for the Malawi project.

Lisa Delp, Office Administrator

Prayer Vigil (Noon Maundy Thursday to Noon Good Friday) Signup will be in the elevator lobby. Lisa stated it was a blessing to work at St. John's. She is looking forward to spending time with her mother.

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Board Reports:

Trustees (Dan Panachyda)

The heat sensor was replaced in the kitchen by Steve Hendricks for \$30.

The ceiling in the flower room has been removed due to a water issue.

Emergency lights in the elevator are not working.

The entire system needs to be taken care of at one time. Otis Elevator Company will repair it for \$945.30 in a 2-to-3-week timeframe.

Deacons (Scott Vanderburg)

Deacons will prepare coffee for the Sunrise Service social, which is right across from the bridge by the lower parking lot at White's Road Park.

Additional social hosts are needed.

Educators (Mary Billy)

Fifteen Goodie Boxes went out March 4.

Educators continue to assist Abbie Lampe with Connect³.

VBS discussion continues.

Elders (Susan Fitzpatrick)

The Sanctuary will be open during office hours for Prayer Vigil. The church will be locked after the service and overnight as indicated in the time slots.

Additional greeters are needed in the Narthex and at the ramp entrance.

February 2024 Attendance

| Sunday | | Wednesday Night Live | | Total/Week |
|------------------|-----|----------------------|----|------------|
| 2/4 | 140 | 2/7 | 19 | 159 |
| 2/11 | 135 | 2/14 Ash Wednesday | 70 | 205 |
| 2/18 | 112 | 2/21 | 31 | 143 |
| 2/25 | 129 | 2/28 | 23 | 152 |
| Average/Week=129 | | Average/Week=36 | | |
| Total/Month=659 | | | | |

New Business:

Priority #1: Hire Senior Pastor, Bridge Pastor, Office Manager, Communications Coordinator

Senior Pastor: Posting of Church Profile

(Mark Bruen)

The profile has been sent to the conference. It will not be officially posted for a few weeks to give the Search & Call committee time to prepare for the interview process. [continued on next page]

Bridge Pastor (Bill Leslie/Mark Bruen)

Kevin McLemore of the UCC Conference provided profiles for two excellent candidates. Based on the team review of each profile, it was decided to move forward on both candidates. We hope to make a selection and issue a call before the end of March.

Office Manager (Margie Jewell)

Margie stated the office-manager role was posted February 21 with 45 resumes received to date. The quality of resumes was not as expected. The committee sets up a Zoom call to meet with each qualified candidate for 30 minutes.

Communications Coordinator (Margie Jewell)

Over 100 resumes were received, and in-person interviews have begun. The committee is happy with the resumes and hopes the position will be filled in the near future.

Priority #2: Communications Internal and External (Deb Dayton)

Communications Sessions during Social Hour (Deb Dayton)

The first Communications/Listening session was held on the topic of Council structure and process, answering general questions as well as questions from new council members.

Listening sessions will be held after church at social hour once a month.

April: new-member meeting

May: church profile

Outreach Mission beyond St. John's (Don Atkiss/Mark Bruen)

Monthly events with the community are being planned. Three are scheduled:

Saturday, March 16, rose trimming.

Monday, April 22, Earth Day. We plan to give out reusable grocery bags, asking for a pledge to walk back to your car for your bag if you forget to bring it into the store!

Saturday, June 8, The Norristown Garden Club will tour our garden and stained-glass windows.

Lansdale First Fridays (May 3–November 1). Reach out to Don Atkiss or Mark Bruen if you have ideas for events or if you would like to help staff a St. John's booth for one of the nights.

[continued at right]

Reach Out to Members Initiative (Deb Dayton)

A small group is being formed to reach out to members not seen in a while.

Book Study—Governance and Ministry (Deb Dayton)

A highly recommended book on streamlining internal structures for greater energy in ministry is being considered for study by the council and Search & Call.

Membership Count Update (Grace Bruen)

St. John's member count with the conference has been incorrect for many years. Grace, Lisa, Addie, and Deb Dayton went through church records to update. This project will be ongoing through 2024.

St. John's Church Organization, Reporting Structures, and Decision Making (Mark Bruen)

A committee will be formed for review, clarification, and definition of our best organization.

Church Picnic (Scott Vanderburg)

Signup sheets will be out in early May. The pavilion has been reserved for June 9.

GARDEN HELPERS NEEDED

As you know, we have a fantastic group of about 20 church members who help plant and water our gardens. Volunteer teams adopt one garden each to take care of. It simply involves cleaning up, mulching, and planting the gardens in the spring, then weeding and deadheading over the summer. This makes maintaining the gardens a lot easier for everyone. This year we want to improve two of the garden areas: 1) Along the fence by the auto repair shop; 2) The fence by the dumpsters.

We will provide the plants and mulch. If you can adopt one of these gardens, please contact Don Atkiss (datkiss@comcast.net) or 215.872.7487. The best part of the Garden Helpers group is we never have meetings!



JOIN US FOR THE FINAL CONCERT OF THE 2023-2024 SEASON

Latitude 39: East Meets West

Sunday, April 28, 2024, 4pm



Latitude 39 is a dynamic and innovative collaborative trio comprising world-class musicians: Diana Seitz - violin, Nick May - saxophone, and Maya Tuylieva - piano. Drawing inspiration from both Eastern and Western musical traditions, Latitude 39 transcends boundaries, fusing diverse musical influences into a harmonious tapestry of sound. Drawing from a rich and eclectic repertoire, including masterpieces by renowned composers such as J.S. Bach, Hector Berlioz, and more, Latitude 39 showcases the power of collaboration and the beauty of musical diversity while also being committed to championing new works and collaborating with living composers. With a dedication to artistic excellence and a deep commitment to education and community engagement, Latitude 39 is equally passionate about inspiring and nurturing the next generation of musicians. Through masterclasses, workshops, and outreach initiatives, they foster a love for music and empowering aspiring future artists.

THANK YOU TO OUR PATRONS

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John & Cynthia Overwise (in memory of Phyllis Patton) • Dan & Lillian Panachyda

\$500-\$749

Marie Carota • Anne & Eric Kinsey • Ruth Kinsey • Judy & Bill Leslie

\$250-\$499

A Friend • Mary Billy (in memory of Grace Ehly, Linda Horst, Wendy Hunt, Edna McGinley, Jim Stevenson, & Jerry Umstead)
Susan Clemens • David Furniss • Phil & Wendy Hunt • Sally & Steve Jarinko • Barb & Robin MacMullen
Mark & Karen Methlie • John & Cynthia Overwise • Liz Rivett • Bob & Sandy Taylor • Scott & Liz Vanderburg

\$100-\$249

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