

The GUARDIAN

the newsletter of St. Michael's Episcopal Church, Arlington, VA

This issue includes news about October Outreach collections, Wednesday Book Group...and more

[Calendar of events](#)

St. Michael's Episcopal Church
BLOCK PARTY

Saturday, October 13
11 AM to 3 PM

Fun for all ages!

**BBQ, bounce house,
craft beer, face painting,
pumpkin painting & more**

**Live music provided by
SurAndes Native
Community, 11 AM-1PM
Jim Thorne & the
MoonDiggers, 1-3 PM**

Inova Blood Drive

In conjunction with our block party, the

A Party with our Neighbors

We've having a party on Saturday! Most recently known as the Harvest Festival, we've made a radical change this year and taken a risk by moving out onto our lawn. So we're calling it a Block Party, and inviting all of our neighbors -- literally.



As you may have noticed, we are the paradigm of a neighborhood church. Nestled in between residences, we are meant to be a beacon for all those who come within our orbit. However, those of us who attend church and love church, often forget how a church door may seem more like a barrier than anything. There are lots of customs that feel foreign, acronyms that are hard to decode, and cultural assumptions about what happens inside of churches. To cross over that threshold one has to summon a great deal of courage, and be in search of what we are offering. This means that we miss opportunities to be in relationship with many in our neighborhood. What might it be like for us to take the first step, and to venture outside of our building to meet people?

The planning committee has been asking these and many other thoughtful questions for months. They have planned a marvelous event whose goal is simply to be neighborly! We hope to be welcoming, engaging, and generous with those whom we meet. We hope to be curious about who they are, and the stories that give meaning to their life. We hope to be the kind of neighbors whom they are each grateful to know!

Several groups within the church have spent months discerning God's call to be in relationship with our neighbors. We don't have any answers yet as to exactly how this should look, but we have lots of enthusiasm and curiosity! We have been studying Alan Roxburgh's book, and have taken seriously his invitation, "God is abundantly and creatively present in our neighborhoods. What we

Inova Blood Donor Services Bloodmobile will be on site from 10 AM until 3 PM (*please note: the blood drive begins 1 hour before the block party*). Arranged by fellow neighbors in honor of Kim Sutter, this is an opportunity to support our greater local community. Details about the drive, including how to make an appointment, are [here](#). The direct link to sign up to donate is [here](#). Questions? Contact [Missy Simons](#), 703-801-8173.

want to do as God's people is practice how to listen in on what God is up to in the neighborhood so we can join God there." [1]

Let's start with a party -- a party in a place where even strangers might want to join, and listen attentively. The Holy Spirit will meet us there. Please come, and invite your neighbors!

*Blessings,
Beth*

[1] *Joining God, Remaking Church, Changing the World: The New Shape of the Church In Our Time*, Alan Roxburgh, p. 62.

October Mission & Outreach Collections

Outreach envelope: [Bukalasi Church](#)

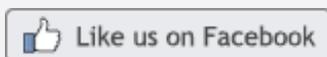
Outreach Basket: Cereal for the Arlington Food Assistance Center ([AFAC](#))

Communication Deadlines

Please submit short announcements of a timely nature to [Wil Harkins, parish administrator](#), by noon on Thursday prior to the Sunday that you'd like it included in the service bulletin.

Longer articles and items that are not time sensitive should be submitted to [The Guardian newsletter staff](#) by the 1st or 15th of the month. The newsletter is published on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month. All submissions are subject to edit and approval.

STAY CONNECTED



Support St. Michael's

Blessing of the Animals

Oct. 7, 2018

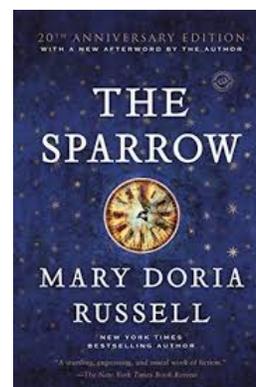


Wednesday Book Group News

St. Michael's Wednesday book group met on Sep. 24 and discussed our reading of *A Lesson Before Dying* by Ernest Gaines. While we agreed that the story was sad, we also decided that it was a well-written, thoughtful, and worthwhile read.

For the upcoming months, we chose the following books:

- Oct. 24: *The Sparrow* by Mary Doria Russell
- Nov. 18: *The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry: A Novel* by Gabrielle Zevin
- Dec. 19: holiday luncheon (hostess TBD)
- Jan. 23: *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr
- Feb. 27: *The Loney* by Andrew Michael Hurley
- Mar. 27: book TBD
- Apr. 24: book TBD
- May 22: *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* by Bryan Stevenson



The St. Michael's Wednesday book group meets the 4th Wednesday of each month, and we choose books where local

You can make single gifts and recurring donations (pledges) through our online service [Network for Good](#).

libraries have sufficient copies so that all members of the group can check one out. We welcome all who are interested in joining in our sometimes lively and always fun discussions!

Cindy Warkentin

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Our mission is to provide a nurturing spiritual community in Christ Jesus as the foundation from which we strive to go forth and serve God by the power of the Holy Spirit.