

News For Immediate Release

Contact: The Rev. Kara Wagner Sherer, rector@stjohnschicago.com 773.725.9026

CHURCH CELEBRATES ANNUAL DARWIN DAY

Saturday, February 10, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church at 3857 N. Kostner Ave. Chicago, IL 60641

Chicago, January 12, 2018– Celebrate Charles Darwin's birthday with a conversation about climate change and the future of our food supply. The speakers will be Dr. William Bromer and Vicki Westerhoff. Bromer is a professor of biology and environmental science at the University of St. Francis in Joliet and an expert on the biology of streams and rivers and the species they sustain. He is a devoted fly fisherman and environmental activist. Vicki Westerhoff is an organic farmer whose farm, Genesis Growers, supplies organic vegetables to the St. John's drop site and other Chicago locations. Westerhoff will speak about her journey to turn her family farm into an organic farm. The evening will include a dinner and a gift of heirloom seeds as door prizes. The dinner is free; cash bar and donations support the Darwin Day program. St. John's is located at 3857 N. Kostner Avenue, Chicago, IL 60641. *The event is free and open to the public.*

Why Darwin Day? "While many fundamental Christian churches deny science we embrace the opportunity to learn more about the universe, believing that God gave us brains so that we can use them. Darwin Day has been a great opportunity for people of faith to celebrate science, embrace the amazing strides that scientific discovery has made, and to admit that we don't know everything; that questions and doubt are essential to faith," says The Rev. Kara Wagner Sherer. "Tackling our part in global warming is an essential ethical response."

About St. John's Episcopal Church

The parish of St. John's Episcopal Church began as a small Sunday School in 1883 in Old Irving Park. A neighborhood congregation committed to worship and service, St. John's is a diverse group of people of all ages, races, abilities, and identities. St. John's has a history of reaching out to the community. Besides the annual Darwin Day celebration of science and religion, the community of St. John's is involved in a partnership with the Diocese of Southeast Mexico, Hands to Help Ministries, which serves the local homeless population, and is the drop-off site for Genesis Growers, a Community Supported Agriculture organic farm at www.genesis-growers.com. The church is located on Chicago's northwest side, on the corner of Byron and Kostner. Additional information may be obtained on the St. John's website www.stjohnschicago.com.

About The International Darwin Day

Darwin Day is an international celebration of science and humanity held on or around February 12, the day that Charles Darwin was born on in 1809. Specifically, it celebrates the discoveries and life of Charles Darwin -- the man who first described biological evolution via natural selection with scientific rigor. More generally, Darwin Day expresses gratitude for the enormous benefits that scientific knowledge, acquired through human curiosity and ingenuity, has contributed to the advancement of humanity. The International Darwin Day Foundation website www.darwinday.org provides resources and publicity for individuals and institutions across the world to celebrate science and humanity every year, on, or near, February 12, Darwin's birthday. In addition to information about the life and legacy of Charles Darwin, this website provides practical examples, advice and templates for organizing and publicizing Darwin Day events. It also provides a directory of events where you can find celebrations taking place near you or register your own event for others to find. Recognizing science as an international language accessible to all individuals and societies, the International Darwin Day Foundation provides a new global holiday that transcends separate nationalities and cultures. Darwin Day can be celebrated in many different ways. Organizers may include: academic societies, science organizations, freethought groups, religious congregations, libraries, museums, galleries, teachers and students, families and friends. In Darwin Day, we are able to recognize the diversity among us, while celebrating our common humanity and the universal understanding we share.

-end-