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ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Newsletter – March/April 2019

A Message from the Reverend Diane C. Wong, Rector

After the installation service on February 2nd, one of the guests marveled at the many gifts that St. John's has. His compliment was based on the many different people he saw who actively participated in the service - the crucifer, LEM, torchbearers, lectors, choir, musicians, and presenters; and that the ages of the participants range from six to eighty-five. The different roles of the service were not undertaken by just a few people wearing many different hats. And there were different people who worked weeks before the service to make sure it would run smoothly on the appointed day.

Recognizing and empowering the different gifts in a faith community is done not to generate good impressions about the community; it is what a faith community would do as the Body of Christ; this is what a faith community does to be alive and vibrant. "Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many." (1 Cor. 12:14) To recognize these gifts is to recognize and respect Christ amongst us and in each one of us; and to empower these gifts is to allow the power of God working amongst us.

We all want St. John's to grow and be a vibrant community of faith. This means we joyfully and intentionally invite and lift up the gifts amongst us; and when invited say "yes" in order to be part of the life of the Holy Spirit here at St. John's, not worrying about our qualifications but trusting that God qualifies the called.

If currently you are not actively a part of the ministries at St. John's, I invite you speak to any of the Vestry members, so you can help us better develop and nurture the life of the Spirit here. If you are active in a ministry, especially if you are responsible for a ministry area, I encourage you to mentor a couple of people to develop new leaders. Leaders and doers, we are all an intricate part of God's mission for St. John's. "To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good." (1 Corinthians 12:7)

Thank you all for offering your gifts of time, talents and treasures for St. John's.

Diane+

Presiding Bishop Curry to Make Massachusetts Visit April 16-29

Presiding Bishop Michael B. Curry will be making a visitation in the Diocese of Massachusetts, Friday-Monday, April 26-29. Over the course of the weekend, there will be public gatherings with him on Saturday, April 27 and Sunday, April 28 to which all are welcome.

Saturday, April 27

- **“PB & J”: Youth Jamboree with the PB, 1:30-3 p.m.**

Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston. Pizza and special conversation program with Bishop Curry for middle and high school youth and their adult mentors. Register in advance [here](#).

- **Ministry Fair, 3-4:30 p.m.**

Leading up to the “Way of Love” Rally at 5 p.m., the Cathedral Church of St. Paul will host community gathering space and a Ministry Fair showcasing the good work of ministry programs across the diocese.

Those interested in having a table exhibit are invited to contact Martha Gardner, Missioner for Networking and Formation (617-482-4826, ext. 403 or mgardner@diomass.org).

- **“Way of Love” Rally, 5-6 p.m.**

Boston Common (exact location to be announced)

Gather and be inspired, challenged and blessed as Bishop Curry proclaims the transforming power of walking the “Way of Love” with Jesus. Everyone is welcome.

Sunday, April 28

- **“Our Episcopal ‘Big Tent’: How Big Is It?” 3-4 p.m.**

Grace Church (133 School Street) in New Bedford

How well does the Episcopal Church measure up to its “big tent” ideal? Come for a provocative panel discussion with Bishop Curry, Bishop Barbara C. Harris and House of Deputies Vice President Byron Rushing. Seating will be first come, first served. Reception follows.

Lenten Series - The Way of Love

Lenten Series - The Way of Love is a bible study / reflection series from the Episcopal Church. There are seven sessions that take place on Saturdays at 10:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall. The remaining sessions will take place on March 23rd, March 30th, April 13th, April 20th, and April 27th. Thank you.

Lenten Reflection Booklets

Two different reflection booklets are available for your use during the season of Lent. Please call the church if you are interested in having one or both of them.

Property Committee

The St. John's Property Committee is looking for volunteers! The committee currently consists of George Barr, Christine Carney and myself. Our scope includes looking after the physical plant of the church, soliciting bids for work, hiring and supervising contractors, coordinating activities such as spring and fall cleanup, congregation work days, snow clearing, boiler maintenance, exterior maintenance such as the block structure, roof and windows, as well as painting. We are not involved in church leasing activities. We have a loose structure at this time that does not involve committee meetings.

Volunteers may be called upon to phone contractors and co-ordinate their access to the church, be a contact during emergencies, and use their personal skills to help maintain the church. Construction experience is not needed! During the coming year we expect to be doing work in the kitchen, continuing to repoint the exterior masonry, fix the steps, re-roof the tower interior among other tasks. We will also need to gather information on costs to present in conjunction with church capital requirements.

Many hands and diverse skills are needed to keep the church in tip top shape and the committee is seeking volunteers who would want to become involved in this rewarding ministry. Thank you for considering this ministry.

Vern Brown, Property Committee

Vestry News

The newly elected Vestry met for the first time on February 25th, 2019. After our devotion, we moved on to strategic planning. The Vestry discussed the opportunities for new ministry. We can reach out to our neighbors, the Arlington Food Pantry and the Arlington Council on Aging to help them with their missions to serve Arlington. They both temporarily need space while their offices are being renovated. We discussed how we can work to prepare space in the church for the Food Pantry. Cate Barr volunteered to ask Parishioners to sign up for work times after coffee hour to clear out closets and throw away or find new homes for unneeded items. There was a wonderful response. Many people have stayed and helped these last two Sundays. We have cleared two closets and thrown out or found new homes for many items.

The Vestry also discussed holding its annual retreat, and set a date for Saturday, April 6th. It will cost approximately \$60 per person. The retreat will be open to all St. John's Parishioners. The retreat is still in the planning stage, so there will be more news coming. The Vestry also elected an Assistant Treasurer, Sharon Towle, and a Vestry Member, Dorothy Commons, serving a 1-year term.

The Vestry will hold a special meeting on Wednesday, March 13th, to discuss further plans for the Food Pantry's and the Council on Aging's use of the church. Our next regular meeting will be held on March 18th, 2019.

Dorothy Mallam, Warden

St. John's Coffeehouse Concerts & the February Concert for St. Cecelia

Musical events at St. John's have gotten off to a great start for 2019, with the Coffeehouse Concerts in January (Stanley and the Undercovers, with our own John Gibson on guitar) and March (Ruthann Baler and Walnut-Da Lyrical Geni and Friends), and with the February concert and dinner to celebrate St. Cecelia, the Patron Saint of Music, presented by our organist Kathleen McDougald-Lee's Ensemble 44. After payments to musicians and for other expenses, concert proceeds at St. John's benefit our mission and/or service agencies whose work we support. The January Coffeehouse concert (about 70 guests) was our first fundraiser in support of our NEAT dinners (Neighbors Eating All Together). The February concert raised money to benefit the St. John's Music Program, and the March concert raised funds to benefit the Arlington Food Pantry. Both of these latter concerts were also well attended.

Volunteers are very important to the success of our concerts, and we are thankful for the grace that each gives to this ministry. Volunteers help make bookings; sell tickets and count the proceeds; work the elevator; pay the musicians; set up sound and lighting; order refreshments from Food Link and oversee the refreshment service; write copy for the print newspapers and digital news sites; create, print and distribute posters in church, in town and beyond; and set up the sandwich boards in front of the church. Many hands make light work. Please consider volunteering at a concert. Talk to Charlotte Pierce, Vicki Ford, Christine Carney, or John Gibson on any Sunday at coffee hour or email Vicki Ford at vpford@gmail.com. Thank you.

Coffeehouse Concerts through October 2019

4/13 Foggy Mountain Consort
5/11 Alessio Miraglia & Friends (tentative)
6/08 Tracy Grammer
No Coffeehouse Concerts in June and July
9/14 Women Performers of Traditional Music
10/12 Reggie Harris with Lori Diamond & Fred Abatelli

Lastly, Vicki Ford sent out a doodle via email in February asking folks who would like to help us think about future directions for the coffeehouse to attend a meeting between March 26 and April 8 at church. Unfortunately the email had no title and so some people might have missed it. We apologize, and will send a new doodle with a new range of dates: March 26, March 28-April 10. Thank you.

Vicki Ford, Coffeehouse Concert Crew

Disaster Preparedness

In February, Rev. Diane and I attended a Disaster Preparedness class at the Cathedral, under the auspices of Episcopal Relief and Development. We were joined by clergy and laity from a number of other parishes... virtually all of whom came from coastal communities!

We are blessed to have active individuals in the Church, who bring a diversity of backgrounds and professional experience to bear in their ministries. (Indeed, we see this on a recurring basis right here at St. John's!) The disaster training was led by a deacon-in-formation, Hilary Greene, who -- in her day job -- works at the Executive Director of the American Red Cross for the Cape and Islands and Southeastern Massachusetts. We were introduced to the new Diocesan Disaster Coordinator, James Thomas, another deacon-in-formation, who works for the Barnstable County Sheriff's Department and has formal emergency management training.

We discussed both assets and challenges at our parishes and the considerations in the face of a disaster, including: protecting property; ensuring a continuity of worship and outreach; assisting, training and caring for vulnerable parish populations; and connecting with our local communities, neighboring parishes, and the Diocese.

I volunteered to serve as the Parish Disaster Coordinator, along with a committee of volunteers. First steps will be to pull together an inventory of assets, which will be plugged into a mapping tool. We will also start the work of putting together a Disaster Preparedness Plan, using a template provided by Episcopal Relief and Development.

If you are willing and able to assist in this effort, please let me or Rev. Diane know.

Joe Curro

St. John's Website is Up and Running

St. John's website is fully functional now and we have postings of events as well as information about who we are and the vision we have for a community in Christ here in Arlington. If you have not had a chance to visit the website please do. The address is:

www.saintjohns-arlington.org

The members of the Website Committee are: Jerry Clabaugh, Andrew Gronosky, Vesna Gronosky, and David Wilcox.

David Wilcox

A Box of Cookies

By Frank Foster

As I walked down the hill toward my house, I could see the young Girl Scout was waiting for me. Her mother was nearby holding a stroller with a younger child riding in it. I approached my driveway and front door and identified myself to the mother as the owner of the house. Her older daughter was a Girl Scout and, today, an eager cookie salesperson. I did not hesitate to place an order and pay for it with the cash I had on me. Sadie was a very convincing salesperson. She had the variety of cookies I wanted, and I was very happy to support the Girl Scouts and their programs as well as give a young salesperson my order.

So many times, people think they cannot do much good because they cannot do it on a large scale. Small scale is very acceptable to God and is grace filled. God presents to us all kinds of opportunities to do good every day. Yes, some are big, but many others just ask for us to be kind and thoughtful and willing to connect with others in ways we might not have thought possible. I hope Sadie comes again next year. The cookies were great but getting to know Sadie and her mom was the real joy for me.

Holy Week Services

Maundy Thursday – April 18th – Holy Eucharist w/ Foot Washing – 7 p.m.

Good Friday – April 19th – Service at 12 Noon

Easter Sunday – April 21st

Holy Eucharist Rite I at 8 a.m.

Holy Eucharist Rite II at 10 a.m.

Easter Flowers

If you would like to donate flowers for Easter, there will be an order form in the Sunday bulletin. Flowers may be given in memoriam or in thanksgiving. Please drop the form with a check or cash into the collection plate or mail it to the church.

Addition to St. John's Garden

We will be adding a bench to the garden this spring. We would like to know your thoughts on the type of bench we will install... granite or wood (this would be a synthetic wood for durability). There are slips of paper on the table at the back of the church where you can write your preference and drop it in the suggestion box.

March Birthdays: Billy Herman, Donna Downing, Bill Ford, Don Webb, Tom Davison, Savannah Curro

April Birthdays: Michael Boulet, Julie DiMilla, Claire Dornin

Upcoming Events and Ministry Opportunities

Come Serve at the NEAT Dinner on March 23rd – It's Fun!

Neighbors Eating All Together (NEAT) hosts Community Dinners at St. John's once a month (except in August). The past dinners have been a big success. The next NEAT dinner is on Saturday, March 23rd. The dinners run from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. and are free to all. Serving at the dinners is a great way to help the community, meet your neighbors, and have a lovely time. Please consider serving at NEAT. For more info or to volunteer, contact Laura Manion at 617-852-1380 or lpmanion@gmail.com. There is also a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.

Arlington Food Pantry Donations

Please remember to bring in donations of canned and dry food for the Arlington Food Pantry. They can be left on the table at the back of the church. For more info on the Food Pantry or to volunteer, see: <http://www.arlingtonma.gov/departments/health-human-services/food-pantry>.

**St. John's Episcopal Church
74 Pleasant Street
Arlington, MA 02476**

Rev. Diane Wong's office hours: Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at St. John's.
Please feel free to arrange with Rev. Diane for other times to meet.
Her cell phone number is 617-417-8102. Her email is dianeckwong@gmail.com.

Church Office hours: M, W, Th 10-1. Church Office phone: 781-648-4819

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