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## ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Newsletter – Spring 2018

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### **A Message from the Priest in Charge, Rev. Diane C. Wong**

After Jesus' resurrection and ascension, many of his followers came together to be a community and live as a community. They shared what they had and took care of one another, they continued Jesus' ministry as a community, and they dedicated time to prayer and fellowship as a community. This community grew in faith and in numbers. How did they share in Jesus' ministry as a community?

When Paul undertook his three missionary trips, he did not go alone. Timothy or Barnabas was with him most of the time. In the different cities, some of the local residents looked after the disciples. However far and wide Paul traveled, Jerusalem was his headquarters; and even when he disagreed with Peter, Paul still communicated with the disciples in Jerusalem. He made his way back to Rome to share his journeys and missions with the disciples there. He acted in community.

Peter, the rock on which the church was built, knew to share his leadership so the needs of the community could be better looked after. According to Acts, Peter appointed seven men to use their gifts on certain areas of Jesus' ministry, so he and the other disciples could attend more fully to other areas. I call this team ministry and delegation.

The first Christian community offers us much wisdom towards our own goal to be strong and vibrant, and to flourish. When we see things are done by just one person, and there are, would we offer our gifts to be a part of it? And if we are in a one-person ministry, would we invite others to share their gifts and expertise so this one-person ministry becomes a team ministry, to include more people in this body of Christ? When we feel overwhelmed by the demands of our ministry, would we trust our fellow brothers and sisters enough to delegate and share our load with them? And when we are asked and invited, would we say, "Yes" to help make this parish stronger?

Communication, delegation and team ministry. This is discipleship.

Blessings

Diane+

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# Neighbors Eating All Together

## NEAT Community Dinners

By Laura Manion

NEAT has been serving community dinners for almost a year now, and we'll continue into the summer. We've had many different kinds of meals served -- from BBQ to pasta to Asian food -- many new and many returning volunteers -- our own parishioners, parishioners from Park Ave. Congregational Church, and two town officials -- and have served an average of 75 guests each time -- the young, disabled, elderly and others (including ourselves as volunteers).

One main goal for NEAT moving forward is to have more guests attend. To that end, we are working on communication to the town; and we are also hoping to network with some successful efforts here in town including the Food Pantry, Food Link - who donate all flowers, bread and desserts for every dinner, and ArlingtonEats. Our own Frank Foster is attending the Arlington Food Security Group which gathers various food representatives within our town and secures safety for our various tasks and efforts. Dorothy Commons and Vicki Ford are working with the Advocate; and Cate Barr continues to create beautiful posters that we place around town. Gerry and Jaquie Clabaugh have secured a domain name -- [neatarlington.org](http://neatarlington.org) -- and are working on a web page and a logo.

To portray our commitment to this effort and our community, the NEAT team is planning to hold a workshop on May 16th at 7 pm in our Memorial Room at St. John's to brainstorm ideas for our logo, a tag line and our branding. We want to show our goals and mission via a visual and a cleverly worded tag line; once that is decided, we'd like to purchase merchandise to display our new logo on aprons, hats and possibly napkins.

Our NEAT budget is tight, so we have applied for a grant with the Episcopal Diocese. Further, John Gibson's band -- Stanley & the Undercovers - have offered to host a fundraising dance party. And our team is brainstorming new fundraising ideas so we can secure the monies needed for all our goals. Any and all donations toward our efforts are welcome. Thank you in advance for any help you can offer.

Please join us on May 16th for the workshop, any meetings that we hold -- new team members always welcome -- or any of the dinners, which are held the 4th Saturday of every month. We are always looking for volunteers, and a sign-up list to participate is usually found outside of the office. You are welcome to contact me directly at 617-852-1380 if you have any questions.

I'd like to thank St. John's, Park Ave. Congregational Church, Food Link, Food Pantry, all my team members and the many volunteers for all the commitment and help you lend to our goal of outreach to our community. Many hands are feeding many people. Thank God.

## **Parish Discernment Committee**

**By Christopher Butler**

St. John's is currently in the middle of the Priest in Charge discernment process and established a Parish Discernment Committee last December, comprised of (alphabetically) Christopher Butler, Christine Carney, John Gibson, Dorothy Mallam (co-chair), Stephen Mascoll (diocesan priest-in-charge consultant), Amy Meadows, David Wilcox (chair), and Rev. Diane Wong. According to official Episcopal Church documents, "the objective of the discernment process when a congregation has engaged a priest-in-charge is to assess after two years:

- whether the congregation believes the priest-in-charge is the right person to lead the congregation as rector;
- whether the priest-in-charge wishes to continue to lead the parish;
- and in these respects, whether the congregation and priest-in-charge have a shared vision for the future."

The committee started its work in January and should wrap up in early June. The next phase of the discernment process is to gather feedback from the parish community to inform the final stage of the process. To complete this phase, the committee sent out a survey by email. We ask that everyone take the opportunity to complete the survey and provide the information the committee needs to complete its journey.

## **Ministry Discernment Committee**

**By Joe Curro**

The Ministry Discernment Committee has been meeting since January, assisting Andrew Nyamekye as he discerns a potential call to the permanent diaconate. By this early summer, the committee will make a recommendation to St. John's Vestry whether or not to support Andrew in his call. The committee is chaired by Joe Curro, and it includes Jacqueline Barnard, Barbara Hayes, and Dawn Shearer. In preparation for the work of the committee, Joe attended the 2018 Ministry Discernment Conference at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, and Andrew attended the 2017 conference, together with Reverend Diane. The Commission on Ministry has appointed a liaison, Dr. Laura Crain, who will be meeting with the Ministry Discernment Committee in the coming weeks.

# Finance Committee

By Mary Jo Larson

Vernon Brown and John Gibson are hosting monthly Finance Committee meetings. The next meeting is Tuesday, May 8<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm. At the first meeting, Committee members volunteered to take on routine monthly tasks to share responsibility with the Treasurer. At the April 8<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Committee reviewed and developed an Action Plan to respond to the last Audit Findings in response to the Vestry's request. Parishioners are welcome to come to meetings or to ask Vernon or John about how they can become more involved and knowledgeable about Church Finances. Our Finance Committee consists of Vern Brown (chair), John Gibson, Dan Gillis, Mary Jo Larson and Sharon Towle.

# Church School

## Check out the New Homes for the Nursery and Church School

By Mary Jo Larson

We made some big moves these past months. The Nursery, staffed by Kayla, has new space in the Children's Chapel so the infants and toddlers are closer to parents who are celebrating the service. Recently, three new infants have used the space which is bright and cozy. The Children's table at the back of the church has been stocked with new supplies and often you will see a busy group reading and creating drawings at the new circular table.

The children and parent-teachers from the Church school are very happy about their move into their new space, which is in the room formerly used by the Nursery. We have play stations set up, new creativity materials, and the children act right at home. They sit in a circle on the rug to hear the weekly Gospel story, and all feel more comfortable taking off their shoes. Then they move to the table, sit on wooden chairs to do activities related to the story, or move to a play station where they discuss Noah's ark, shepherds and lambs, look at pictures in a new children's bible, or play with other Godly Play items. Attendance has been steady, and occasionally we are joined by two children from a new family.

The next Children's Sunday is **May 13<sup>th</sup>**. The last Sunday for Church School will be **June 17<sup>th</sup>**. Come and support our young members.

# **Easter Reflections**

**By Frank Foster**

Easter teaches us to be the people of the Resurrection. As such, we are always called to look at and be an active part of the larger picture. Larger pictures can at first seem overwhelming. But in our Parish community, we are together in mission. I believe our trust and confidence as a parish is "on the grow". For me, this has a lot to do with our willingness to continue what we do yet at the same time to look at new ways to meet wider goals. An immediate example is our Church School's new use of the Children's chapel while also using the nursery area in new ways. What is new can bring us challenges but it can also show us hope and new possibilities.

In my garden there are unexpected daffodils. Soon there will be multicolored tulips. But starting off the parade of bloom about ten days ago there were crocuses. I hope the remaining days of Easter give you opportunities for new hope and abiding Joy in Jesus and also in life and in all your relationships.

## **Guatemala Aid Fund (GAF)**

### **GAF Visits Church School and Hosts a Teen/Family Evening**

**By Mary Jo Larson**

The children had another visit with Bethany Eisenberg, the director of GAF. They made worry dolls and discussed how to make the world a safer place. They asked questions about the children in Guatemala. Bethany thanked them for their fundraising. The children and parish together raised over \$300 for GAF towards a new bus in Guatemala so more children could go to elementary school safely.

St. John's also hosted a Festive evening for teens and families where a raffle was held, fun games were played, and volunteer leadership of the youth was celebrated. St. John's members donated jewelry items, paper goods, and cupcakes. Bethany shared stories about the youth in Guatemala, again thanked the St. John's church school, and honored all the youth volunteers who gave back to their local community. Youth came from Boston, Medford, Arlington, Concord, Lexington and beyond. We are glad to be partners and friends with such a vital, local group that is offering financial support to two children's homes and a school in Guatemala, in places where children would not be in school without our support.

# Holy Rowers Crew - Register Now!

By Charlotte Pierce

Thanks to Rev. Diane's original suggestion last year, we are happy to announce that St. John's is floating an 8-person crew boat, the "Holy Rowers," out of Community Rowing (CRI) on the legendary Charles River!

St. John's parishioners, friends, spouses and other family members are invited to join Charlotte Pierce and Frank Foster and several other Arlingtonians in the boat for Sessions 2-4. No experience is necessary, training is provided, and the physical intensity can be what you make of it. The beauty of "sweeps" rowing is that it's low-impact as well as a marvelous team-building/bonding activity.

The first three practices were in the brisk mid-April weather, but a couple of the sunsets were spectacular and it's just fun to be on the river, see the wildlife like herons, cormorants, turtles - and the competitive varsity crews whizzing past (not us). It's warming up and simply beautiful out there.

We've been rowing on Wednesday evenings at 6:30-8:30 - though our practice may move to Mondays. When you register, you'll get a chance to state a practice-day preference. CRI is currently taking registrations for Session 2 of the four sessions this year. Each session runs 5 weeks and ends with a fun regatta and barbecue at Community Rowing, 20 Nonantum Road in Boston (near Watertown Square).

Please note, the fee is discounted 20% for those who register early! Though the first 8 to register are guaranteed a "seat" in the boat, we are always in need of additional rowers to substitute for our regular crew. No experience necessary, just come a few minutes early for a briefing.

Please visit the Team Page for additional details and fun videos about rowing, or contact Charlotte Pierce, [stjohns02476@gmail.com](mailto:stjohns02476@gmail.com). See you on the Chuck!

**ROWING TEAM REGISTRATION PAGE: <https://goo.gl/D2r4a4>**

## **English Conversation Groups Continue at St. John's**

**By Vicki Ford**

St. John's continues to offer English conversation groups to adult immigrants and refugees through English at Large. These groups are facilitated by Vicki Ford and other Arlingtonians. Our most recent learners, from Central and South America, Europe, and Asia, represent a broad range of language groups and professions. We work on developing conversation skills, including American speech patterns and accents. The summer class will go from mid-June to mid-August. For more information, contact Vicki Ford at LHFVPF@mac.com or 781-266-6989.

## **Make an Impact: Serve on the Council on Aging as a Member of St. John's**

**By Rev. Diane Wong**

The Arlington Council on Aging (CoA) has openings for three new board members.

The CoA is a municipal department under Health and Human Services. Its board meets at 6 p.m. every third Thursday, except for the months of July and August.

Individuals must be Arlington residents and should have some knowledge of the Council on Aging activities and an interest in aging services.

If interested, send a letter to Town Manager Adam Chapdelaine.

Mara Klein Collins said that, as the outgoing board chair, "I commend our board for advocating for Arlington seniors. This advocacy has influenced additional funding, extending our part-time social worker, as well as a total renovation of the Senior Center in 2019. The building hasn't been updated since the 1980s."

# Join Our Coffeehouse Concerts Crew

By Charlotte Pierce and Vicki Ford

St. John's parishioners and family members, friends, spouses, and other are invited to join a core group of parishioners and others from the community to help spread the word and put on these concerts. You can pick what you like to do; can sign up month-to-month on the sign-up sheet that we circulate; and you don't have to do the same job all the time.

"The old-timers" on the crew will train you. For each performance, there will always be a more experienced person on hand to back you up. Crew members for each concert get a "comp" ticket that night.

We all have busy schedules, and we want to be able to grow and explore new directions in bringing music to the Coffeehouse, and to our mission of supporting the Arlington Food Pantry and Housing Corp. of Arlington (affordable housing organization). This is hard to do if we don't give each other time to rest, explore, and renew. There is a more detailed list below; you can also email the crew at [stjohns02476@gmail.com](mailto:stjohns02476@gmail.com).

Coffeehouse service can be divided into "pre-show" and "show-night" for each show.

- Pre-show service includes scouting, auditioning, and booking new shows; preparing and printing posters, preparing and sending out announcements to the media, poster in Arlington and neighboring towns; planning show-night performance support for the musicians; arranging for refreshments including our order from Food Link; printing programs for show night as well as a blurb for the next show; and lastly, lining up the volunteers for show night.
- On show night, you can choose to set up the sound and lighting; welcome the musicians into the building; set up the refreshment table and prepare coffee or iced beverages; serve as an usher; sell tickets; count the proceeds from the sales; assist at the handicap accessible entrance; circulate the mailing list clipboard to the audience; help with the raffle; and help clean up after the performance.

We hope you'll join our merry band!

[COFFEEHOUSE CONCERT CHECKLIST](#)



**Shown at left:** John Gibson pitches in as crew for the Copley Cats concert.



# Milestones

## Birthdays:

**April:** Michael Boulet, Julie DiMilla

**May:** Win Barnard, Jeanne Danton, Barbara Johns, Larry Barr, Dorothy Commons

## Communion of Saints:

Beverly Brinkerhoff, a long-time Arlington resident (March)

Pauline Lombardo, our parishioner (March)

William Ramos, former parishioner (March)

Sidney Noel, a former parishioner (April)

## Graduations:

**High School** - Rin Barr, Bridget Carney, Lillian Wilcox

**College** - Paige Carney, Melissa Perry

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## Upcoming Events

### Game Day at St. John's – Sunday, June 10<sup>th</sup> – 2 p.m.

Scrabble, Uno, Chutes and Ladders—all going on at the same time!!! We are holding a “Game Day” at St. John’s on Sunday, June 10<sup>th</sup>. This event is open to all ages. Please feel free to bring your own games or come and discover some new favorites. If you have any questions, please ask Dawn Shearer or Peggy Jo Webb.

### Parish Retreat, Saturday, June 23<sup>th</sup>

For the past three years, the Vestry had an annual Vestry retreat with a focus that was set by the diocesan guidelines. This year we have more flexibility, so instead of a Vestry retreat, we would like to make it a parish retreat, and use the opportunity to be refreshed. The sign-up sheet is on the piano.

**Location** - Bethany House of Prayer in Arlington Heights

**Time** - 9:30 - 3:30

**Cost** - suggested contribution of \$65 (lunch included).

If you are interested, please let Rev. Diane or Christine Carney know. Thank you.

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## Worship

**Our regular schedule consists of two services each Sunday:**

**Holy Eucharist I at 8 a.m. & Holy Eucharist II at 10 a.m.**

**Nursery Care & Church School are available Sundays  
during the 10 a.m. service.**

**Choir rehearsal is Sunday at 9 a.m. – Come lend your voice to the choir !**

**Gluten-Free Hosts:** We offer Gluten-Free Hosts for communion. If you would like to receive gluten-free hosts, please let Rev. Diane know ahead of time or during the Peace.

**Altar Flowers:** We invite people to use Altar Flowers to remember, celebrate, or give thanks for special occasions or people. If you are interested in contributing to the flower fund, please contact Miriam Davison at 781-643-1679. We invite you to contribute to the altar flowers for any Sunday in 2018. Thank you for supporting the flower ministry at St. John's.

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## Arlington Food Pantry



We encourage people to continue to drop off food for the Arlington Food Pantry. We collect and donate food throughout the year – donation baskets are at the rear of the Sanctuary. Andrew Nyamekye will collect and deliver your contributions every 4-6 weeks. Additionally, the Food Pantry is always in need of volunteers. Visit the food pantry's website at <http://www.arlingtonma.gov/departments/health-human-services/food-pantry> or see the posters on the downstairs bulletin board for more information.

## **CoffeeHouse Concerts**

The coffeehouse concert program continues with some great music scheduled. Coming up on Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, the Coffeehouse Concert series will feature Andy Cohen, a blues musician from Memphis. Cohen's music includes everything from ragtime to country blues, with material from before the 1920's to about the 1950's, much of it from nearby states. The opening act will be Robin O'Herin, a blues and gospel musician based in the Berkshires. Coming up for June, the main act will be jazz by the Fulani Haynes Experience. Tickets to the coffeehouse concerts are \$15 in advance (\$12 for seniors, students, and veterans) and \$18 (\$15) at the door. All proceeds after paying the musicians are donated to the Arlington Food Pantry and to the Housing Corporation of Arlington, which supports affordable housing throughout Arlington. For more information and to purchase advance tickets, see the St. John's website (below).

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

**Rev. Diane Wong's office hours - Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 3 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](mailto:dianeckwong@gmail.com)**

**Church Office is open M, W, Th 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

**Please call to see if the office is open at other times.**

**Church Office Phone: 781-648-4819 Email: [st.johns\\_arlington@verizon.net](mailto:st.johns_arlington@verizon.net)**

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