

# St. John's Good News

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## From the Priest ~ The Rev. Mary 'Scottie' Wagner

Beloved Friends in Christ:

When Bishop Alan asked me to consider an appointment as your bridge priest, I had to admit to him that I had very much hoped (and prayed) that he would ask me, and that I would not need to think about it at all—I could tell him yes, right on the spot. I am so looking forward to getting reacquainted with all of you, and to getting to know the folks I haven't met yet. Some of you may remember that I served for a couple of months, to fill the brief period after an interim had left and before St. John's called Father Kevin, and his family moved to Saugus. I truly loved my time at St. John's and was grateful for my time at your parish, and I can't wait to be your bridge priest.

In the next few months, we will work together in the discernment process at St. John's prepares to call a new rector or priest in charge. As you know, the parish is blessed with strong and talented leadership, and your vestry is committed to being responsive, creative, and attuned to the Spirit as you call a new priest. I will do everything I can to make sure this time of transition is productive and that I am present, loving, and attentive to our St. John's family. Kevin Olds is a gifted priest, and I know he is leaving St. John's in great shape, and that I will be able, as they say, to hit the ground running. In addition, Kevin and I are good friends, and I know he will do everything he can to ensure that I will be up to speed in no time at all.

One big challenge the parish will face is how to negotiate moving from a full-time priest who lives in the rectory to a half-time priest who lives off-site. I want you to know that I will be working closely with our wardens and vestry as we discern how I should best spend my time, and to set priorities together. We will be looking in the next few months at what it is essential for your priest to do, and what ministries can be taken on by lay leaders and volunteers. For now, I know I will need to focus on our Sunday worship and liturgy, a sermon, our confirmation class, and Bible study. I will, of course, be at vestry meetings and will be meeting regularly with our wardens and other parish officers. Of course, I will be on hand for pastoral care and visits, and for special liturgies like holy days, and burials. I will also make sure our parish is represented at deanery and diocesan events and meetings.

I hope you will feel free to stop in during office hours and say hello, or to call me for a time to have coffee or for me to come to you for a visit. Most of all, I hope that you will continue to pray for St. John's and for its people. And I hope you will actively participate in this time of transition and discernment. I am looking forward to my first Sunday, February 5, and to Annual Meeting. I hope to see you then!



**February 2017**

### Worship Schedule

**Sundays**

**8am ~ Rite I**

**10am ~ Rite II**

Phone: 781-233-1242

Twitter:

@StJohnsSaugus

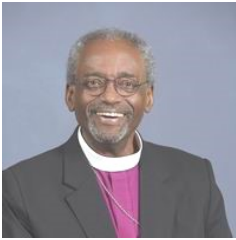
Facebook: Friends of St. John's Episcopal Church Saugus

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## **In honor of Black History Month, we are profiling our own Presiding Bishop, The Most Reverend Michael Bruce Curry**



Curry was installed as the 27th Presiding Bishop and Primate of The Episcopal Church on November 1, 2015. He was elected and confirmed at the 78th General Convention of The Episcopal Church in Salt Lake City, UT, on June 27, 2015. He is the Chief Pastor and serves as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society and chair of the Executive Council of The Episcopal Church.

Born in Chicago, IL, on March 13, 1953, Presiding Bishop Curry attended public schools in Buffalo, NY, and was graduated with high honors from Hobart College in Geneva, NY, in 1975. He received a Master of Divinity degree in 1978 from Yale University Divinity School in New Haven, CT.

Presiding Bishop Curry was ordained to the diaconate in June 1978, at St. Paul's Cathedral, Buffalo, NY, by the Rt. Rev. Harold B. Robinson and to the priesthood in December 1978, at St. Stephen's, Winston-Salem, NC, by the Rt. Rev. John M. Burgess. He began his ministry as deacon-in-charge at St. Stephen's, Winston-Salem, in 1978 and was rector from 1979-1982. He next accepted a call as rector at St. Simon of Cyrene, Lincoln Heights, OH, serving from 1982-1988. In 1988 he was called to become rector of St. James', Baltimore, MD, where he served until his election as the 11th Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina in February 2000.

Throughout his ministry, Presiding Bishop Curry has been active in issues of social justice, speaking out on immigration policy and marriage equality.

In his three parish ministries in North Carolina, Ohio, and Maryland, Presiding Bishop Curry had extensive involvement in Crisis Control Ministry, the founding of ecumenical summer day camps for children, preaching missions, the Absalom Jones initiative, creation of networks of family day care providers, creation of educational centers, and the brokering of millions of dollars of investment in inner city neighborhoods.

In October of 2016, Curry was part of an Anglican delegation to Rome to meet with Pope Francis, led by Archbishop Justin Welby. The gathering also commemorated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the Anglican Centre of Rome. During this event, Presiding Bishop Curry highlighted the necessity for Christian cooperation in the following:

*'[the] mission of the church is to help the human family, with all its variety and all its diversity and all its differences, to find a way to become not simply a disparate community but a human family of God. Dr. Martin Luther King said it this way, 'we shall either learn to live together as brothers and sisters, or we'll perish together as fools.' The choice is ours, chaos or community.'*

He is married to the former Sharon Clement, and they have two daughters, Rachel and Elizabeth.

*(Some excerpts courtesy of The Episcopal Church website and Wikipedia)*

**Think you know Saint Valentine? Think again.  
An (unexpectedly) mysterious martyr.**

Surprisingly, little information has been authenticated about the existence of St. Valentine. He was said to have been the Bishop of Terni, in Italy, during the third century, performing miracles of healing. This drew the attention, and ire, of then Roman Emperor, Claudius II.



The emperor had him arrested and brought to Rome, where the bishop was accused of religious proselytizing (conversion), performing unauthorized marriages, and other ‘crimes’. Valentine reportedly even attempted to convert the emperor himself, infuriating Claudius, and ensuring his demise.

While Valentine has come to be associated with love and marriage, he is also the patron of beekeepers, epilepsy, and fainting, among other attributes. Through the middle-age period of ‘courtly love’, this saint came to receive significant notoriety, which continues in the modern day. St. Valentine is venerated in several Christian denominations, and yet, he is not celebrated in many others – because of his rather enigmatic history.

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**February is National Bird Feeding Month**



Who knew?!

Winter is tough on our fine feathered friends. Please remember them when you shop and pick up seed or suet (protein, in particular, is important to sustain them through cold weather months). :)

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**Lobster Roll Sale**

Our next lobster roll sale is scheduled for Friday, March 3rd. The deadline for orders is noon, on Wednesday March 1st (Ash Wednesday!). If you wish to volunteer to assist with set-up the day before (Thursday), local deliveries, or bake brownies, please contact us or the parish office. As always, we appreciate your help!



- Sandy & Bill St. Clair

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**Every Child Deserves to Smile**



**Thank you** to everyone who supported the January collection of canned meats, microwavable foods, pasta, etc. We passed on 3 grocery bags full of non-perishable food items. Thank You!

**The next quarterly meeting will be March 2, 2017 at 9:30 in the Hurl Room. All are welcome.**

~ Jeanne Seaboyer

## Word Search

R C J M A T R I M O N Y P F B N I  
 T H Q Z O H U J W E B P W R E T Z  
 H O I W V J S C L N Z C Z I T P Z  
 A C S L A Q N Q T G B O V G R T S  
 D O C O C Q O S H A F U H I O O W  
 C L A V A P W W O G P R A D T E A  
 Y A N E T S B E U E C T P A H O S  
 H T D B I C A E G M S S P F E R H  
 I E L I O H L T H E U H I F D Z I  
 K W E R N E L H T N B I N E B L N  
 L D M D R R D E F T R P E C O I G  
 R M A S E U H A U U I Z S T U N T  
 M L S T F B E R L S S C S I Q C O  
 C K N W L S N T N H K W T O U O N  
 M I I M G E Y L E N T I E N E L P  
 W U J O Q R G I S N E S W P T N P  
 U S M I T T E N S S F C B Q J S M

Affection ~ Betrothed ~ Bouquet ~ Brisk ~ Candlemas ~ Cherubs ~ Chocolate  
 Courtship ~ Engagement ~ Frigid ~ Happiness ~ Lincoln ~ Lovebirds ~ Matrimony Smitten ~  
 Snowball ~ Sweetheart ~ Thoughtfulness ~ Vacation ~ Washington ~ Winter

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**Bookkeeper Wanted:** Our longtime bookkeeper, Stuart Ross, retired at the end of 2016. We need to fill the position, which requires one afternoon per week, one to three hours (June-August, every other week). Experience with Quickbooks is helpful, but training will be provided. Please contact the parish office or Paul Felci for more details if you are interested. Thank you!

**Clergy & Officers:** The Rev. Mary 'Scottie' Wagner, Priest ~ Lisa Saraceno, Sr. Warden ~ Fritz White, Jr. Warden ~ Phil Littlehale, Treasurer ~ Janet Lancaster, Asst. Treasurer ~ Sandy Mears, Clerk of the Vestry

**Vestry:** Nancy Belyea (2019) ~ Brenda Caggiano (2017) ~ Alison Coppola (2018) ~ Armand Couture (2018) ~ T. J. Martin (2017) ~ Cheryl Miller (2019) ~ Sandy St. Clair (2019) ~ Oliver Sharwood (2017) ~ Nick White (2018)

**Note:** New officers and vestry members confirmed for 2017 will be announced after the Annual Meeting.