

# St. John's Good News

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**From Reverend Sarah...**

*Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.  
Ephesians 3:20*

Dear Friends,

As I write this I'm sitting in my back-yard listening to the birds and gentle breeze rustling the green leaves. Their bright green pops against the grey over cast sky that hint at this evening's rainy forecast. I feel as if I'm sitting in a secluded paradise, totally cut off from the outside world. Time stops and dreams arise.

Dream and imagination are not words we often hear in the church. Our Christian faith tends to place more emphasis on static ideas that easily fit into our understanding of the world. And yet Paul's choice of words suggest that God expects us to imagine. God gave us brains with the gift of imagination so that we would use it, not let it lie dormant. We value imagination in children with their ability to imagine new ideas, games, and worlds. As we grow up this gift is ignored by all except artists, inventors and entrepreneurs. So the vast majority of us adapt to a culture that tells us imagination is useless. It can't help us in our careers or even in faith.

So did God make a mistake in giving us an imagination? Absolutely not! We are the ones who make the mistake of not using this gift. Through the gift of imagination we can come closer to the God who created us, who imagined us into being. When we imagine, in whatever context we may be, we become co-creators and co-sustainers with God.

It can be easier to accept this reality in our own lives. People who knit, sing, sew, paint, draw, plant, pray—these are all actions that require imagination. Imagination in a church feels more risky. Church communities are built upon traditions and rituals which hold deep meaning as well as connection with the past. Before we can begin to imagine in church we have to loosen our hold on these traditions and rituals. They must form a frame into which we imagine the community's future.

*contd.*

June 2018

Summer Worship  
Schedule

June thru August

**Sunday Morning  
9am Rite II**

Phone: 781-233-1242

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In seminary I took classes that talked about the importance of imagination in worship, Christian education, preaching and it all seemed so easy. Do you want to imagine a new worship service—pick the prayers, find the musicians, print the bulletin. Do you want to imagine a new Christian education series—find the curriculum, set a schedule, advertise in the newsletter. Do you want to imagine a new way of preaching—read this Bible text, practice in front of a mirror, uses props. All easy steps right? You imagine it and then you build it.

Except that in parish ministry the imagining must always happen in community. Imagining isn't the job of the Rector or the Vestry, it's the job of the whole congregation. When we imagine together we find a deeper well of possibilities from which we can draw our hope for the future. And so I hope you join in holding this words close to your hearts: *Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.*

Peace, Sarah

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**JUNE 3: BIG SUNDAY!** June 3 will be a busy Sunday: we move to our summer schedule of one worship service at 9am, we baptize Brooke Snyder, and say farewell to Nick White as he leaves for Purdue University!! During the baptism Brooke's parents and godparents will make promises on her behalf that she will learn to make on her own as she grows and becomes an adult. We, the St. John's congregation, will promise to *do all in our power to support Brooke in her life in Christ.* Many years ago, St. John's made a similar promise to support Nick who now is prepared for the joys and challenges of college. Please join us on this very special Sunday!!

**COFFEE/OFFICE HOURS WITH REV. SARAH ON WEDNESDAYS, 10-12.** For the month of June (starting on June 6) Rev. Sarah will hold open coffee/office hours at the Dunkin Donuts on Hamilton Street in Saugus. Please stop by to say hello or chat and bring a friend or 2!

**ACOLYTE TRAINING AND CELEBRATION ON SUNDAY, JUNE 10.** After the 9am service our Verger, Stephen Belyea, will lead a training session for acolytes with a special invitation to new/interested acolytes (acolytes must be in grades 6-12). The training will be followed by lunch then a trip to Canobie Lake Park for a fun afternoon with Rev. Sarah. The church will cover half the cost of the entrance fee (\$20) and provide transportation. Please sign up with Rev. Sarah at [svangulden@gmail.com](mailto:svangulden@gmail.com).

**BIBLE STUDY: STILL WORKING THROUGH ACTS AND GETTING READY FOR PAUL!** The Bible Study crew is taking its time delving into the sermons and stories of Acts of the Apostles. We have reached the half way point where the book moves from the work of Peter to Paul's missionary trips around the Mediterranean. By the end of June we will begin reading Paul's letters to the various communities he supported as they grew into their Christian faith. Stay tuned!

**EPISCOPAL CITY MISSION CELEBRATION JUNE 12, 5:30-8:30 AT ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL.** Join Episcopal City Mission for a night of action, fellowship and this year's focus on prophetic hope: the capacity to fully see the world's brokenness alongside the hope of what God might create through us. Keynote speaker will be Christena Cleveland, a public theologian, social psychologist and professor at Duke Divinity School. She is also the author of *Disunity in Christ: Uncovering the Hidden Forces that Keep Us Apart*. The event is free to all! Speak with Rev. Sarah if you would like to attend.

**TRAVELING JESUS—SIGN UP TO BRING JESUS HOME FOR A WEEK OR TWO!**

Traveling Jesus is on the move after his week with the White family. He especially enjoyed seeing Nick graduate from BC High (check out Facebook). Traveling Jesus still has open slots visit with individuals and families in their homes and summer trips. He is available for week or two-week long visits and we ask that you take lots of photos and shares stories for our Facebook page. Please sign up in the Ashworth Hall and ask Rev. Sarah for more questions.

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**EVERY CHILD DESERVES TO SMILE**



**Thank you** to all who continue to help the homeless families residing at the motel. We continue to collect everyday items—non-perishable food items, paper plates, napkins, plastic flatware, baggies, etc.

During the month of June we will also collect summer activities for the children—card games, board games, jump ropes, matchbox cars, sidewalk chalk, playdoh, etc. Due to the close proximity of the busy road, PLEASE NO BALLS OR TOYS THAT COULD END UP IN THE ROAD.

Lend your voice to this important ministry! Join us at the next **quarterly meeting Thursday, June 7, 9:30AM in the Hurl Room** as we discuss plans for the remainder of 2018. Donations may be left in the Every Child Deserves to Smile collection container in the vestibule. If you have any questions, please contact Jeanne Seaboyer 781-662-4342/ [jmseaboyer@gmail.com](mailto:jmseaboyer@gmail.com)

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

**Many thanks to our youth participating in the 30 Hour Famine who took on the task of putting together** the toiletry care packages from the items collected over the past six months. Over two dozen care packages have been distributed to patrons of The Bread of Life and homeless families supported by our Every Child Deserves to Smile ministry. Thank you to all who made this project a success!



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**YARD SALE**

**Saturday, June 9th ~ 9 am - Noon**

**Helpers needed to make this a success!** Call Donna at 781.233.5640.

To anyone wishing to donate: pick up is available for lighter-weight items.

**Greatly appreciated!**

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**Adopt-A-Garden at St. John's!**



Enjoy gardening and have a bit of extra time? Help us maintain our beautiful landscape! St. John's currently has garden space available; on the corner of Prospect and Central, in front of the sign facing Central Street, any portion of the Memorial Garden, or even a new garden may be created. It can be as simple as planting a few things and tending to weeding or for the more ambitious

include replacement of shrubs and bushes. Please contact Fritz White through the parish office. Thank you!

### Word Search

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

Barbeque ~ Camper ~ Fathers ~ Fellowship ~ Gardening ~ Gospels ~ Graduates  
Grasshoppers ~ Lightning ~ Picnic ~ Presider ~ Sanctify ~ Sightseeing ~ Solstice  
Unity ~ Vacation ~ Watermelon ~ Waterski

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### Plant Sale Results

Finally, we are happy to report the plant sale reaped over \$1, 050! Many thanks to T.J., Martin, Donna Manoogian, Jeanne Seaboyer, The White Family, and others who pitched in to help make our event a success!



**Officers:** The Reverend Sarah van Gulden, Priest-in-Charge ~ T. J. Martin, Sr. Warden ~ Fritz White, Jr. Warden ~ Phil Littlehale, Treasurer ~ Janet Lancaster, Asst. Treasurer ~ Sandy Mears, Clerk of the Vestry

**Vestry:** Brenda Caggiano (2019) ~ Dale Coogan (2021) ~ Al Coppola (2021) ~ Paul Felci (2020) ~ Sandy St. Clair (2019) ~ William ‘Bill’ St. Clair (2021) ~ Jeanne Seaboyer (2020) ~ Jenna Sharwood (2020) ~ Diana White (2021)