

St. John's Good News



June 2019

From Reverend Sarah...

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called...Ephesians 1:15-18

Dear Friends,

On Thursday, May 30 the church celebrates Ascension Day which remembers the moment Jesus was finally taken up to heaven. According to the Gospel of John, the risen Jesus visited with his disciples offering more teachings before he finally "ascended" to be God. The Epistle reading for this day comes from Paul's Letter to the Ephesians. In the above passage, Paul prays for the church in Ephesia. Although a small church, they are well known for their faith and devotion to Jesus Christ.

As I prepare to say goodbye, I have a similar prayer for you all at St John's. I have not heard, I KNOW, that you love Jesus. I also know that there are always new ways to love and serve Jesus, always new ways to live out of abundant hope rather than despair.

So here are my 10 top observations about how you love Jesus and how you could continue to live in hope (in no particular order):

Your ability to adapt to change is one your main strengths. It shows that your faith keeps you grounded.

You need to hold on to the joy we have created. Together we have built up joy with alleluias, bible studies, baptisms, Traveling Jesus and so much more! And now it's up to YOU to harness that joy!

You are a big, loving family! Many of you have lived your whole life at St. John's and know all the stories and prayers that have been shared. Right now, the family is growing, so reach out to the newest members. Make sure everyone feels invited to live their lives at St. John's.

You have families in the parish that are struggling with life, work, kids, faith etc. Don't ignore the struggle! Talk to another parent you may not know well and maybe invite them to a summer BBQ for parents (with childcare provided).

Cont'd.

Summer Worship

June through August
9am

Phone: 781-233-1242

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You have a strong group of teenagers who want to be at church. These teens are not the future of the church they are the PRESENT of the church. They need adults to organize youth group gatherings fun and outreach.

You have discerned and discerned and yet there is no mission statement or long-term plan. So I get why you might be tired of discerning. But this time, what if you invited people from the community to a discernment team? Invite the School Superintendent, a police officer, a neighbor etc., and don't assume you know what they will say.

You are survivors. There is a lot of pain in your past. You have lost parishioners because of clergy behavior and decisions made by the national Episcopal Church. And yet St. John's is still here. Don't deny the pain but don't let it define you.

You need to advocate for the parish. Don't let your small size make you feel unimportant.

You are generous stewards of the building. When I arrived, I expected grumbling about sharing space with other groups. Yes it is not always easy, but as a congregation you have made it work.

You made the right decision to move to a half-time priest.

I hope these observations are helpful as you move forward in your journey. As I follow my own journey please know that I am deeply grateful for the time I served as your priest. Your love and support made me a better priest as I learned how to lead a church. St. John's will always be in my prayers.

And I will miss Hot Dog Sunday!

Peace,

Sarah

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**SUNDAY, JUNE 2: WORSHIP AT 9 & HS2 FUNDRAISER AT PANERA BREAD!** Don't forget: next Sunday we worship only at 9am! Also, help raise funds for Healthy Students, Healthy Saugus (HS2) by enjoying delicious food at Panera Bread in Saugus. Simply present the flier at time of purchase and 20% of the amount will go right to HS2!

**JUNE 9: PENTECOST CELEBRATION!** On Sunday, June 9 we will celebrate the birthday of the church! Please helps us give thanks by bringing in a "birthday gift" to present during worship. Gift ideas are written on paper doves can be found on the bulletin board—please take the dove that has the item you would like to give to the church. No need to gift wrap!

**BIBLE STUDY: IN THE BEGINNING!** Genesis tells the stories of our first spiritual ancestors as they met God in the desert and agreed to be God's people. This week we read the story of Noah and the great flood! Come and see what you remember from Church School! Every Tuesday, 10:30-noon, over coffee and treats we'll read a few chapters followed by conversations about the Bible and life!

*Cont'd.*

**DUNKIN' OFFICE HOURS WEDNESDAYS, 10-NOON!** Continue the Easter celebrations with Rev. Sarah every Wednesday with coffee, tea, donuts, and great conversations at the Dunkin's on Hamilton Street. Please note, there will be no office hours on June 19.

**EPISCOPAL CITY MISSION CELEBRATION JUNE 11, 5:30-8:30 AT BOSTON UNIVERSITY.**

Episcopal City Mission builds relationships and collective power across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for racial and economic justice as the expression of God's transforming love. This year's annual celebration will focus on the importance of finding hope in the now, through our actions in a place rather than focusing on a lofty intangible hope that will manifest in the future. This year's featured Speaker: Dr. Miguel A. De La Torre is a professor of Social Ethics and Latinx Studies at Iliff School of Theology, scholar-activist, author, and ordained Baptist minister. His books include *Embracing Hopelessness* and *The U.S. Immigration Crisis: Towards an Ethics of Place*.

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From the Sr. Warden...

I had expected use this update to report back to everyone on our Vestry retreat, which we held May 18th in Rockport. As you all know, however, Rev. Sarah is leaving and most of the retreat was spent discussing her departure, and the next steps for St. John's.

While there is never a good time to learn that your priest is leaving, learning the news together as a vestry enabled us all to openly discuss how we felt, and work through our feelings. The retreat, ultimately, proved very productive as we were led by the wise consul of The Rev. Clyde Elledge, from Marblehead. Lynn Smith, our priest-in-charge consultant, was also with us and provided advice on how to proceed.

Unexpected change isn't always welcome and can be quite unsettling. Change, however, is one of the constants in life, especially when following the path God has laid before us. The change we are now facing at St. John's is one that finds us in a much better position than when Fr. Kevin left us. We are also in a much better place from when Rev. Sarah joined us just 18 months ago - we know we are comfortable with a half-time priest; we know we want our priest to be out in the community.

The Vestry decided to continue with the Priest-in-Charge process and I have spoken with Rev. Canon Martha Hubbard, as she will work with us on the transition. I have emphasized our desire for a bridge priest who would be with us throughout the summer until we hire our new Priest-in-Charge. Rev. Hubbard will join us for our vestry meeting on June 9th, and I encourage you to attend if you have any questions about the process.

Of course, there is still the loss of Rev. Sarah to get over. We have developed a wonderful connection with Rev. Sarah since she joined us, and we will miss her energy and compassion. However, those qualities are already alive and well at St. John's, and they will encourage us as we continue on our journey together. Before she leaves, we will have a celebration of Rev. Sarah's time with us. I'm not sure, just yet, of the exact details, but an announcement will be made during a Sunday service.

Sincerely,

T.J. Martin, Senior Warden

EVERY CHILD DESERVES TO SMILE



Summer is coming! During the month of June we will continue to collect summer activities for the children. This will be our 9th year of providing summer smiles for the children! Some suggestions that have been popular in the past are coloring and activity books, drawing paper, pens, pencils & markers, board games, checkers, puzzles, play-doh, cars, dolls, jump ropes. Please, no balls or toys that could roll into the street.

We also continue to collect every day needs of non-perishable food items; pasta, sauce, canned meats, etc., as well as large microwavable bowls or containers, serving utensils, can openers, colanders, paper plates, napkins, plastic utensils, baggies, and toiletries.

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 Our next quarterly meeting will be **Thursday, June 6, 9:30AM** in the Hurl Room. All are welcome!

We will be preparing a meal on July 21, at 10:30AM in the kitchen. Join us as we prepare and deliver a meal to the families residing at the motel. **NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!**

If a child is given love, he becomes loving ... If he's helped when he needs help, he becomes helpful. And if he has been truly valued at home ... he grows up secure enough to look beyond himself to the welfare of others. - Dr. Joyce Brothers

Our never ending thanks to all who continue to support *Every Child Deserves to Smile*. Your donations and prayers send a message of love and keep a light shining for families in need in our community.

~ Jeanne

Plant Sale ~ Our May 11th Plant Sale was a great success! Thank you to everyone who donated time and talent on Friday for plant pick-up and preorder organization and on Saturday for set-up, sales, clean up and everything in between! A special **thank you** to Steve White, Bill Bidmead, Armand Couture, Paul Shultz, Donna Manoogian, TJ Martin, and Diana & Fritz White for all their behind the scenes help. It takes a village! Profit for the day: \$1,210 and lots of happy customers! Congratulations to Saugus resident, Jean Swanson, lucky recipient of the beautiful New Guinea Impatient hanging planter.



Back-to-School Supplies Yes, you're reading it right! It's not too early to be thinking of the upcoming fall events. As in past years, we will once again be collecting school supplies to fill backpacks that will be delivered to the Saugus Public Schools for Saugus school children who need help with procuring their back-to-school necessities. During the months of June, July and August we will collect pens, pencils, markers, highlighters, crayons, erasers, notebooks, binders, folders, and paper and deliver the items to the Superintendent's Office in early September. Contact Jeanne Seaboyer with any questions: phone 781 662-4342 or email to jmseaboyer@gmail.com



It's coming....!

Founder's Day, September 7, 2019

Look for the sign-up sheet on the sign-up board in Ashworth Hall.

Don't miss out on the fun!!! Questions? Contact Jeanne Seaboyer: 781 662-4342



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**Yard Sale**

**Saturday, June 8th ~ 9am-1pm**

**Books, Toys, Kitchen utensils, Bric-a-Brac, Clothing,  
Dishes, and many other useful items!**

It's never too late to donate items to the church. Kindly bring them downstairs to the room across from the classroom. Volunteers are needed to sort, set-up and sell. Please contact the office or Donna Manoogian if you can lend a hand.

**Mark your calendars!** St. John's annual fair is **Friday and Saturday, Oct. 25th & 26th**. Over the summer, please consider donations for our raffle baskets ~ they are a popular part of our event!

As always, thank you!!

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Prayer List

Please help us keep St. John's prayer list current—contact the office with any name changes or additions. **Thanks!**

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**Office Hours**

Beginning June 4<sup>th</sup>, the church office will be open Tuesday through Friday, 8:30am-1:30am.

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WORD SEARCH

Find these fathers and prophets from the Bible...

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

Aaron ~ Abraham ~ Adam ~ Daniel ~ David ~ Elijah ~ Ezekiel ~ Habakkuk
 Isaiah ~ Jacob ~ Jeremiah ~ Job ~ Joseph ~ Joshua ~ Malachi ~ Moses ~ Noah

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**Officers:** The Rev. Sarah van Gulden, Priest-in-Charge ~ T. J. Martin, Sr. Warden ~ Daniel Casey, Jr. Warden ~ Phil Littlehale, Treasurer ~ Janet Lancaster, Asst. Treasurer ~ Brenda Caggiano, Clerk of the Vestry

**Vestry:** Dale Coogan (2021) ~ Paul Felci (2020) ~ Rose Holt (2022) ~ Kieron Sharwood (2020) ~ Sandy St. Clair (2020) ~ William 'Bill' St. Clair (2021) ~ Jeanne Seaboyer (2020) ~ Jenna Sharwood (2020) ~ Diana White (2021)