

St. John's Good News

From Rev. John...

The Book of Delights

I spent my early childhood in a rural community in Western Massachusetts. Summer boredom would propel me to wander around the local woods and meadows surrounding my house. In a field some distance from any house or road, I overturned a rock and found an entire community of assorted bugs who began scurrying around because their habitat had been so quickly altered. The movement of the bugs fascinated me. For the rest of the afternoon, I delighted in watching where they went and what they carried. Several carried eggs to protect their offspring and feared that I had come to do them harm. Later that night I lay in bed thinking that the meadow as covered with these rocks and each one hid a teeming community of bugs. As I lay in bed I wondered if these separated bug communities knew about the existence of other communities in that field. Perhaps, I could introduce them to one another and strange and wonderful things might be communicated upon their meeting of one another.

There were few neighboring children. When I returned to school in the fall, I tried to discuss with my new class mates the wonders of these bugs. This was a mistake. Most found it humorous that such things could be of interest to someone. It was a form of entertainment to introduce me to other kids as the bug boy.

As I grew older, I discovered that most of the people in my life equated sophistication with cynicism. Children demonstrate unspeakable cruelty in an attempt to make themselves feel superior to someone else. As children enter adolescence, they discover that the clothing, music, and entertainment which give them joy are looked upon with contempt by others. Increasingly, as we mature, we lose the ability to delight in the wonderful people and things we encounter every day.



Summer July-August 2024

Sunday worship remains at 10am, in-person and virtually—all are welcome to participate. The service also broadcasts through Zoom, with weekly dial-in and link options shared by email.

Phone: 781-233-1242

Twitter (now X.com):
[@StJohnsSaugus](#)

Facebook: St. John's
Episcopal Church
Saugus

<u>In this issue</u>	<u>Page</u>
From Rev. John, Bishop retirement event	1-2
Altar Guild membership	3
July 4th Facts, and new Presiding Bishop election	4

Cont'd.

The Book of Delight; Essays by Ross Gay is a beautiful exercise in re-discovering delight. Dr. Gay is a professor of literature who tries to remind his students (and anyone who cares to listen) that the world is filled with delights. The evening news speaks to the listener with contempt and cynicism. It would be more honest if they were to begin their report with the introduction “*Good Evening ladies and gentleman. This evening we will be recounting horrible things and said by horrible people. We will conclude by wishing you a good night.*” A steady dose of this will do violence to the soul.

Jesus proclaims “*The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full*” (John 10:10). Dr. Gay reminds us that we can exercise the delight muscle in our brain.

“*It didn’t take me long to learn that the discipline or practice of writing these essays occasioned a kind of delight radar. Or maybe it was more like the development of a delight muscle. Something that implies that the more you study delight, the more delight there is to study.*”

I heartily commend the book, and pray that we all take time during this beautiful summer to develop our *delight muscle*.

Peace,
John+

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

[From Diomess.org:](http://www.diomess.org)

Come together in celebration and gratitude for

Bishop Alan M. Gates & Tricia Harvey

and 10 years of episcopal ministry among us, as Bishop Gates

prepares to retire this fall.

Sunday, October 6th, 12pm - 4 pm

at The New England Aquarium, 1 Central Wharf, Boston

Aquarium admission is included – RSVP to this reception

at www.diomess.org/celebrate-bishop-gates

All are welcome!

ICYMI ~ New members needed for Altar Guild

The Altar Guild is seeking new members. It is a volunteer ministry to care for the vessels, linens, and vestments, prepare the altar for church, then disassemble and straighten up after Sunday worship and other services.

Present members have agreed that teams of two people work best, and the hope is to recruit two teams (four people). Members sign up for one week per month (perhaps twice in a 5-week month).

For more details, feel free to speak with any of the present Altar Guild members – this could be a new and meaningful way for parishioners to explore the inner workings of worship *and* serve St. John's!

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Every Child Deserves to Smile

A big shout out to all our donors! Your generous gifts keep this ministry alive, and your kindness is gratefully received by the families residing at a motel in our community.

During July and August, we will be collecting fresh fruit, snack items, and single serve beverages such as fruit juice, water, lemonade, iced tea, etc. We will also continue to collect non-perishable food items, toiletries, and everyday needs (paper plates, napkins, plastic utensils, baggies, etc.). Although summer has just gotten underway, it's time to think about BACK-TO-SCHOOL SUPPLIES!

We will be collecting school supplies for the children served by our *Every Child Deserves to Smile* ministry. Check out Staples for some deals!

Donations may be left in the *Every Child Deserves to Smile* collection basket in the vestibule or by contacting Jeanne Seaboyer.

Mark your calendar for **Saturday, September 7** - once again, plans are underway to make St. John's the sweetest place in Saugus on **Founders Day**. Our Ice Cream Emporium will be passing out complimentary ice cream sundaes from 10am - 2pm. Volunteers are needed to scoop and top ice cream and mingle with patrons! Help make St. John's THE place to be on Founders Day!

Contact Jeanne Seaboyer to volunteer.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Independence Day Facts

At the time our Declaration of Independence was drafted, the population of the United States was approximately 2½ million.

The youngest signer of the Declaration was just 26 years old.

Both the Declaration of Independence *and* the Constitution were signed in Philadelphia.

In 1781, Massachusetts became the first state to officially declare July 4th a state holiday, but it did not become a Federal holiday until 1870.

The oldest continuously running Independence Day parade is in Bristol Rhode Island and dates back to 1785.

The first public July 4th of July event at the White House took place in 1801.

Americans spend close to \$10 billion dollars on food for the 4th of July. (!)

~~~~~

**Late breaking news:** As current Presiding Bishop Michael Curry's term ends this fall, a new presiding bishop for the National Episcopal Church was elected at the 81st General Convention this week.

Election of The Rt. Rev. Sean Rowe, bishop of Northwest Pennsylvania and provisional bishop of Western New York, was confirmed June 26th, and he will begin his term November 1st. Additional details about Presiding Bishop-elect Rowe and other church news can be found at [Episcopalnewsservice.org](http://Episcopalnewsservice.org)

~~~~~

Have a safe & happy July 4th!

Officers: The Rev. John T. Beach, Priest-in-Charge, Brenda Caggiano, Sr. Warden, Daniel Casey, Jr., Warden, Phil Littlehale, Treasurer, Paul Felci, Assistant Treasurer, and Kristina Palazzo, Clerk of the Vestry & Sexton

Vestry: Bill Bidmead, Sr. (2026), Rose Holt (2027), Joanne Lancaster (2027), M. 'Dibby' LeBlanc (2026), Sandy Mears (2025), and John Rogalski (2027)