



# St. John's Prologue

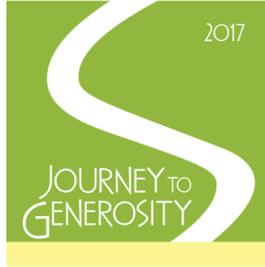
“In the beginning was the Word...”

St. John's Episcopal Church  
Williamstown, Massachusetts

October 2017

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## STEWARDSHIP 2017-2018



“Put simply, life is a God-given opportunity to become who we are, to affirm our own true spiritual nature, claim our truth, appropriate and integrate the reality of our being, but most of all, to say ‘Yes’ to the One who calls us the Beloved.”

Henri J.M. Nouwen

On Sunday, October 1, we will embark on our six-week annual giving campaign. This year's theme is *Journey to Generosity*. You will hear from fellow parishioners about how we are striving to live more generously as we offer our time, talent and treasure. Stewardship Reflections will be given each week in lieu of one of the scripture readings. Laura Williams will lead off on October 1<sup>st</sup>, followed by John Ladd on October 8<sup>th</sup>, Pete Morin on October 22<sup>nd</sup>, and Polly MacPherson on October 29<sup>th</sup>. Thanks so much to these brave friends for sharing with us at both 8:00 and 10:00! The Stewardship Ministry Team will invite everyone who is able to attend on October 22<sup>nd</sup> to participate in “packing for the journey,” and you should receive your 2018 pledge card in the mail by October 27<sup>th</sup>. On **Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup>**, we will have the **pledge card in-gathering** at both services. Please be praying about your pledge to St. John's for 2018.

## BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

The blessing of animals will take place on **St. Francis Day, Wednesday October 4<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.** on the front lawn of the church. This tradition, which dates back hundreds of years, is credited in part to St. Francis of Assisi, known for his love of God's creatures. If your pet is unable to attend, please bring a photograph. We'll have blessing tags and certificates, as well as snacks for two-legged and four-legged guests. *“Almighty God, you have made us and all living things. For these pets who give us joy, we thank and praise you. Make us faithful as we care for our pets. In so doing we share in your love for all creation. Amen.”*



With mixed emotions, the vestry accepted Organist/Choir Director Bob Hansler's resignation at our September meeting. Our sadness is balanced by joy for Bob as he takes on his new position as full time Organist/Choirmaster for Christ Church Cathedral in Springfield, MA beginning November 12. From the moment Bob entered our lives, we knew we had an outstanding musician and human being in our midst. We have treasured Bob's musical and personal gifts for the past three years, but we realize that the time has come for Bob to embrace his new ministry at the Cathedral.

St. John's is blessed with a dynamic, gifted choir and instrumentalists. Visitors often comment on the spirit-filled energy of the congregation in song and worship. We are deeply grateful to the choir for their musical and spiritual leadership. St. John's has a solid foundation on which to build. Over the next month a vestry team will undertake a modified search process to choose an interim organist/choir director. Stay tuned for more information.

Bob's last Sunday with us will be November 5. Let's enjoy the remaining weeks we have with Bob and use this time to say thank you and farewell. There will be an all-parish celebration for Bob on November 5 after the 10 a.m. service. God blessed us with Bob and Bob with St. John's. Now our Cathedral will share those blessings. God loves us all and will watch over us during the next steps and beyond.

Claudia Ellet and Margot Sanger, Co-Wardens

The Rev. Libby Wade, Interim Rector



## **FROM OUR YOUTH MINISTERS**

Lift Every Voice and Godly Play are both off to a wonderful start! In Lift Every Voice we've been learning and talking about the hymn "Eat at the Welcome Table." We are called to stand with those still yearning for a place at the table and must seek here and now to build the kingdom of God where all are welcome. We've also learned how to make the sign of the cross and to apply the old Anglican adage, "All may, none must, some should" when deciding when and if it might be helpful. This was our first introduction to using the body in prayer. Our candle processional music has been the fraction anthem at communion, so we've learned that, too.

In Godly Play the children have been engaged in the stories and focused on their work. We learned about the history of the Bible, how we can see the stories all around our room and will tell the stories each week in the old, old way, in a circle, as if we were around a campfire. We also learned the Circle of the Church Year where every beginning has an ending and every ending has a beginning and there is a time and season (and color) for everything. Come join us in the weeks ahead! We'd love to have you with us! (Lift Every Voice is for all ages. Godly Play is geared toward 5-12 year-olds.)

- Sloane Torres and Erin Keiser-Clark

## **MEET OUR NURSERY STAFF**

Where is God on Sunday morning? Of course, God is everywhere. When we gather for worship, God is with us. God is there when we pray. God is there when his word is read and preached. No matter where we go, God is with us. God is with the children and their teachers in the Godly Play room and God is with our youngest children in the Nursery. "And Jesus took a child and put him in the midst of them, and taking him in his arms, he said to them, 'Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me, receives not me but him who sent me.'" (Mark 9:36-37) When we welcome children, whether it is in the church, the Godly Play room, at Choir Rehearsal, or in the Church Nursery, God is with us and them.

On Sunday mornings, Charity Fletcher and Wendy Norcross staff St. John's nursery and are ready to welcome our youngest children from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. (and later on Sundays when there is an adult class after church). Wendy oversees the Nursery. She has bachelor's degrees in psychology and early childhood education and considerable experience. Charity, the Nursery Assistant, has a bachelor's degree in sociology and a child care assistant certificate, along with relevant experience. Both women have completed Safe Church Training. This fall is the beginning of their 4<sup>th</sup> year working at St. John's. They welcome the chance to meet parishioners and to give loving care to your children.

- The Rev. Libby Wade

## **A BOOK BITE ...**

*The Islamic Jesus: How the King of the Jews became a prophet of the Muslims* is written by Mustafa Akyol and published by St. Martin's Press, 2017. This book would be of great interest to anyone exploring the interplay of the Jewish, Christian, and Muslim faiths. The author states, "With Jews, we agree a lot on God — with Christians, we agree that Jesus was born of a virgin, that He was the Messiah, and that He is the word of God. Surely, we do not worship Jesus like Christians do. Yet still, we can follow him. In fact, given our grim malaise and His shining wisdom, we need to follow Him." Further, he interprets Islam's sacred texts as indicating that Muhammad, while seeing himself as the author of the Muslim faith, sees Jesus, the Prophet, as the end. Interesting stuff, eh? This new addition to our Church Library is a gift from Peter Elvin and was reviewed and recommended by John Ladd.



## **COMING COFFEE CONVERSATIONS DISCUSSION—October 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, and 29<sup>th</sup>**

If you're like me, finding time in my busy days to pay attention to the life of the Spirit is very challenging, if not seemingly impossible. And yet, when I can make the time, it's like opening the door of a stuffy room to cool, sweet-smelling breezes. This fall, at the suggestion of Libby Wade, we will be reading Lauren Winner's *Mudhouse Sabbath*, which takes up this very issue. Winner, an Episcopal priest who converted from Judaism, examines some of the ways our Christian lives might benefit from the spiritual practices that fed her early Jewish upbringing. The eleven chapters, each discussing a simple Jewish observance, are a quick and easy read. Hence we should be able to cover them all in four weeks in October. If you wish to be a part of the group and/or want to purchase a book, please let Madeline know as soon as possible. We will begin our discussions of the first chapters on Oct 1. Coffee Conversations meets in the Parish Library after the 10:00 a.m. worship service. Nursery care will be available.

- Sam Coughlin



## OUTREACH FORUMS –Sundays, October 22<sup>nd</sup> and November 29<sup>th</sup>

See weekly Sunday leaflet inserts for topics. Forums will be at 11:30 a.m. in the Lower Room.

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE MINI-EDUCATION AND ACTION CAMPAIGN

This four-week series will explore issues of criminal justice and reform on a local and statewide level through

- 1) A panel featuring Williams faculty and staff reflecting on Williams' course at the Berkshire County House of Corrections,
- 2) Discussion of excerpts from Michelle Alexander's book *The New Jim Crow*
- 3) A meeting with local elected officials to learn about statewide criminal justice reform efforts, and
- 4) An action for justice to be determined.

This group will meet at the Water Street Grill (123 Water Street) side room on Thursdays at 7 p.m., October 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 26<sup>th</sup>. To register for this group organized by Rev. Mark Longhurst and friends (1<sup>st</sup> Congregational Church), click this link . <<https://goo.gl/forms/exhpFgFF7a386S9p2>>.

## BOOK DISCUSSION – JUST MERCY – WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 7:00 P.M.

Ms. Lee Cheek, Chair of the Diocesan Social Justice Commission, will be with us to lead a discussion of the powerful book *Just Mercy* written by Bryan Stevenson, who recently spoke at Williams. The book offers a challenging look at the inequities of our criminal justice system. Books are readily available through Amazon or your local bookstore. Please invite your neighbors and friends to join us for what promises to be a lively discuss

## CENTERING PRAYER GROUP

At the first meeting of this new group, 14 people gathered in the church to learn more about this ancient prayer practice sometimes referred to as “prayer of the heart” or “prayer of loving attentiveness.” We will meet again from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. on **Thursdays October 12<sup>th</sup>, November 16<sup>th</sup>, and December 21<sup>st</sup>** in the church. Come join us for an hour of learning and quiet reflection, as we support each other in prayer. - Mary Pierson and Libby Wade

## OCTOBER and NOVEMBER VESPERS

Our October Vespers will be on **Thursday, October 19<sup>th</sup>**, and will honor Henry Martyn, who was a missionary priest in the early 1800s, perhaps best-known as a translator of the Scriptures and the English Prayer Book into Hindi and Persian and as one of the founders of the modern Christian Church in India and Iran.

Our November Vespers will be on **Thursday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>**, and will be a celebration of All Souls Day, an extension of All Saints Day (November 1<sup>st</sup>), set aside for remembering all the faithful departed though unknown in the wider fellowship of the Church.

Please note that the time for Vespers this Fall has shifted to **5:30 p.m.**

## FROM THE COORDINATOR OF SPECIAL EVENTS

On **Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 p.m.**, St. John's welcomes the **Misty Blues** for a concert to raise funds for their upcoming trip to Memphis, where the band will compete in the 39<sup>th</sup> International Blues Challenge. A local fixture for almost two decades, Misty Blues is led by singer Gina Coleman, who also composes many of the group's numbers. She is accompanied by guitars, sax, keyboard, and percussion. Also coming to St. John's that evening and traveling to Memphis to compete in the youth showcase of the Blues Challenge is the band **Born IV Blues**. Donations toward the cost of the trip will be gratefully accepted.

Looking forward, save the date! On **Sunday afternoon, November 5<sup>th</sup>, at 3:00 p.m.**, pianist **Igor Lovchinsky** will perform a recital to celebrate the **dedication of our Knabe grand piano**. Many parishioners no doubt remember Igor's previous visits to Williamstown, when he awed us with his virtuosity and charmed us with his personality. This piano, whose sound regularly enriches our worship, was a gift from Dorothy Reinke's daughter Diana Stugger. The piano will be dedicated to Diana's paternal and maternal grandparents: Gladys and Charles Wilson and Florence and Robert Sprague. Both Charles and Robert were vestry members at St. John's.



## OPEN DATES FOR COFFEE HOUR HOSTS – October 8 & 15, All of November & December

Thanks to recent coffee hour hosts Mary King and Aodhan and Ella Murphy (with mom Sarah Nix). Sign up on the easel in the Upper Room or contact Claudia Ellet to volunteer. If you've never helped with this hospitality time before, Claudia will be happy to explain the procedure.



*“My cup overflows with your blessing.” Psalm 23:5*



## **FROM OUR ORGANIST/CHOIR DIRECTOR**

There's a lot happening right now with music at St. John's! In our **adult choir**, you might have noticed that we have quite a few new singers this fall: Henry and Terry Walker, Will Kirby, Sarah Politz, Debbie Monahan, and Jimmy Bergin. That brings us up to 27 singers, which is why you might see some creative seating solutions at the front of the church this fall! Though it's rare to have all the choir members at once, our choir seating fits only 20 comfortably (22 if you add a folding chair on each side).

The **chorister program** also drew more interest than I anticipated, due in large part to personal conversations between Sloane and Erin and other Williamstown Elementary School parents. Margot and Jimmy also helped spread the word by passing along information to students and families in their circles. Thank you, everyone who played a part in getting the word out! As a result, we have 18 choristers signed up as of September 20<sup>th</sup>, which exceeds the estimate of 12 around which the plan was designed. The choristers will sing for the first time on Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup>, at the 10 a.m. service. Many have helped make a successful beginning to the program—parents who helped carpool, several people working with the school to arrange for the bus to take some of the kids to St. John's, and in other ways, too. Thank you, to all of you.

One part of the chorister program was that we would hire a **Music Scholar** whose primary responsibility would be helping with this program. Our Music Scholar for 2017-2018 is **Will Kirby**, a recent Williams graduate. Margot Sanger and I enjoyed conducting interviews, and we spoke with several gifted candidates. In the end, we both felt Will was an ideal match for the program this year. His references described him as open-hearted, hard-working, intelligent, and great with kids, and I am so glad that he has come on board for this year! Though it's not part of his official duties, Will is also singing bass in our adult choir!

Amidst all this exciting activity, I also shared some news of my own with the congregation on Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup>. **In November, I will be saying goodbye to St. John's as I begin a new position as Director of Music at Christ Church Cathedral in Springfield.** While it will be difficult to leave this community, which I have loved, I am excited for the adventure ahead. In next month's newsletter, I'll share more about this transition, but in the meantime, I'll enjoy these remaining weeks at St. John's.

- Bob Hansler

## **NOTES FROM SEPTEMBER VESTRY MEETING**

A slide show presented by Carl Jenkins from the Soaring Eagle Heritage Living Center for native Americans in Montana helped the vestry envision how our small donation will be put to use. Outreach Chair Van Ellet reported on a goal of increasing our sense of connection with groups we fund, as well as making St. John's more visible through our outreach efforts. He reported on church events focused on outreach to be held on three Sundays this fall. We also heard from Margot Sanger about two hands-on projects in the aftermath of recent hurricanes in Texas and the Caribbean and from Tom Nicholson asking for prayers for Myanmar and Bangladesh in the face of the Rohingya humanitarian crisis. Continuing the outreach theme of the night, we voted to nominate Robin Lenz and Charles Bonenti as MICA Award Honorees at the upcoming BIO celebration and to purchase an ad in the program and ten tickets for the event.

As Treasurer, Tom Nicholson reported that St. John's financial picture is good, and the budgeting process for 2018 is underway. We also heard reports from the Parish Life, Columbarium, and Search Teams. Purchase of new video equipment was authorized. Finally, Bob Hansler reported on the quite successful beginning of the Children's Chorus and announced his resignation in order to take on a full-time position as organist/choirmaster of Christ Church Cathedral in Springfield. The shocked vestry recovered its voice to thank Bob for his many excellent contributions to St. John's music program and congratulated him on this new step in his vocation as a church musician. His last Sunday at St. John's will be November 5<sup>th</sup>. The **next Vestry meeting** will be on **Wednesday, October 18<sup>th</sup>**.

## **CONVERSATIONAL SPANISH CLASSES**

An 8-week session to develop conversational Spanish skills taught by Ann-Marie Rodriguez is being planned at St. John's beginning Monday, October 16<sup>th</sup>. Both beginner and intermediate classes are offered. For information about this course or to ask about "Spanish in the Workplace" classes, email [Spanish.williamstown@gmail.com](mailto:Spanish.williamstown@gmail.com) or leave a message at 413-597-8915. *(This is but one of the many groups using St. John's space for the benefit of the community.)*



## **NEW PARISH DIRECTORY IS ON ITS WAY!**

Thanks to Kathy McKnight's hard work, as well as those who have worked on updating St. John's computer address files, we will soon have a new photo directory. The deadline for new photos has been extended through Sunday, October 15. See the September "Prologue" for all the ways you can make your family's photo available for the directory. To update your contact information or arrange for a photo to be made at a time other than Sunday morning, please contact Kathy at 413-458-1694.

## **BERKSHIRE INTERFAITH ORGANIZING (BIO) – TRUE PURPOSE**

“Who are you and why are you here?” As an exercise at a recent BIO retreat, Sr. Natalie asked me these questions over and over. In the end, I concluded that I’m a child of God who’s been blessed with abundant life and is troubled by the many barriers that keep others in my community and world from thriving. It’s not fair, and we know from scripture, reason, and tradition that it’s not God’s plan. I’m here with BIO because it provides a way to help right matters that well suits me and the times we live in.

As someone practiced at focusing on one thing at a time, I can too easily not see the struggles around me, and, as an introvert, my instinct is to work alone. In a healthy way, BIO pushes against both these tendencies. In one-on-one and group conversations, I get to hear the stories of, and build relationship with, those who struggle. And we then are able to work together to advance God’s desire for wholeness in our community.

That community, and the nation generally, has been changing in our time, not always for the good. In the 30-plus years that I’ve lived in Williamstown it’s become a much more exclusive, isolated, and therefore isolating place. It’s now a gated community. The gate’s invisible, but it’s there. This dynamic plays out across our nation. Studies show that we increasingly live in enclaves. As a result, it’s harder for us to understand, empathize with, and value people who aren’t just like us, which thwarts efforts to advance our common good.

BIO, more than any other local group I know of, pushes against this tendency. We believe that the power inherent in working with neighbors across lines of religion, race, sexuality, and social class can make justice real throughout our community. We’re already seeing results: more funds to reduce food insecurity, the passing of local trust act legislation, greater attentiveness to riders’ needs by Berkshire Regional Transit Authority, and rapid responses to the closing of vital grocery stores in North Adams and Lee.

It shouldn’t be remarkable—learning each other’s needs and working together to meet them—but it is. In a culture increasingly bent on driving us apart, BIO is radically designed to bring us together. For a purpose. That purpose is to make our community (our world) healthier. When all of us can thrive, all of us can more fully experience abundant life. And that indeed is God’s plan. (reprinted by permission from the BIO newsletter - Jim Kolesar

### **BIO MICAH AWARD HONOREES FROM ST. JOHN’S**

BIO is a group of clergy, their congregations and regional affiliates who together seek to make social justice real in our community. We work to build community, develop leadership, and take action on issues of shared concern such as hunger and access to transportation. St. John’s was a founding member of BIO and contributes dues each year of \$1350 from our Outreach Budget. Jim Kolesar serves as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President of BIO. Each year member congregations are invited to choose MICAH Award Honorees who exemplify these words from the prophet Micah: “And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.” St. John’s 2017 recipients of the MICAH Award are Charles Bonenti and Robin Lenz. Robin and Charles have each been community activists in many ways for an extended time through St. John’s and in the community at large.

Robin served as staff and board member of Higher Ground, assisting in the successful relocation of those who lost their homes in Williamstown as a result of tropical storm Irene. Robin volunteers with the Friendship Food Pantry in North Adams, has helped to distribute financial resources through St. John’s Outreach Committee for several years, and has been an advocate for immigrants relocating to the Berkshires. She participated in the Climate March in NYC and in the Women’s March in Washington. As a chef, she received an award from Berkshire Grown “For Outstanding Support of Local Food and Farms” in 2000. Recently, she worked with our Diocese to encourage churches to be more welcoming and inclusive.

Charles has also devoted countless hours of service to and advocacy for those in need. He has been very active with the Berkshire Dream Center, a drop-in center with clothes and food for distribution. He not only helps staff the office in North Adams, but also facilitates a monthly pizza gathering for men in the neighborhood of the Dream Center and visits people in their homes to help break their social isolation twice a month. Similarly, Charles delivers meals to shut-ins through the St. John’s meal project. In the broader community, he has served as chair of St. John’s Outreach Committee and as co-chair of Williamstown’s Affordable Housing Committee.

Together, Robin and Charles created the St. John’s “Garden of Eatin’” several years ago. Since then, they have tended this vegetable garden, collected unsold food from the Williamstown Farmers’ Market, and delivered the bounty of fresh produce weekly during the summer months to the Friendship Center Food Pantry. As of September 21st, they had delivered 502 pounds of produce to the Food Pantry in 2017.

The **MICAH Celebration** this year takes place on **Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup>, from 4-6 p.m.** at the newly opened event space in Dalton called The Stationery Factory. St. John’s has purchased ten **tickets for this event**. If you would like to join in this honoring of Robin and Charles, meet up with several hundred Berkshire residents interested in local social justice issues, and check out what’s purported to be one of the hippest new local venues, just let Madeline know at 458-8144 or saintjohns@roadrunner.com.

- Claudia Ellet and Jim Kolesar

## **HURRICANE AND EARTHQUAKE RELIEF**



The September “Prologue” noted that Raile’s Bowl (the small bowl hanging from the pulpit) is open to receive cash or check donations to assist recovery from Hurricanes Harvey and Irma. Now we have added Hurricanes Jose and Maria along with earthquakes in Mexico to the list of natural disasters. St. John’s will send money collected through Raile’s Bowl in September and October to Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD) for assistance in recovery in the areas affected by these catastrophic events.

## **MISSION/OUTREACH INTERESTS?**

Many of you have responded already to the invitation to list your favorite service-oriented interests (whether that interest manifests as a donation of time, talent, financial assistance, or advocacy) on the chart on the table in the church entry. The chart will be out and waiting for your input through mid-October. Your indication of interest will help the Outreach Committee make fresh decisions this year about funding and other forms of involvement. If you have any questions or suggestions or would like to serve on the Outreach Committee, please contact Van Ellet at [vellet1@roadrunner.com](mailto:vellet1@roadrunner.com) or at 413-884-6158.

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## **PRAYER FOR ST. JOHN’S SEARCH PROCESS**

*God of abundance and grace, you have blessed the members of St. John’s church with love for one another and with joy in our community. Help us to discern your will and be open to your guidance as we seek a new rector for our parish. Grant us the ability to hear your voice as we listen to one another. Give us wisdom and patience, courage and calm, mutual respect, and clarity of vision that we may receive a priest who serves with warmth and humor, enthusiasm and faithfulness, and who challenges us with the demands of love. In Jesus’s name we pray. AMEN*

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## **EVENTS IN THE NEAR FUTURE: SIGN UP SOON!**

**The President’s Own Marine Band Concert at UMASS:** On October 10<sup>th</sup> this renowned band, originally commissioned by Thomas Jefferson and once directed by John Phillips Sousa will perform at the UMASS Performing Arts Center in Amherst as part of their Northeast tour. Jane and Carl Jenkins’ son David is a member of this band. Tickets are free, but reservations are necessary. If you would like to attend this concert please make your reservations at [www.marineband.marines.mil/calendar/](http://www.marineband.marines.mil/calendar/). If you would like to carpool, there is a sign-up sheet at the Welcome Table in the church. Please indicate if you would like to be a driver or a passenger.

**Evensong at Christ Church Cathedral with Presiding Bishop Michael Curry:** The Most Rev. Michael Curry, who is the first African American Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, will celebrate evensong Sunday, October 15 at 4:00 p.m. at Christ Church Cathedral as part of the church’s 200th anniversary. If you would like to carpool, there is a sign-up sheet at the Welcome Table in the Church. Please indicate if you would like to be a driver or a passenger.

## **ANGELS WALKING THIS EARTH**

Thanks go this month especially to Dave Macpherson, Phil McKnight, and Dan Campbell, BBQers extraordinaire, and all who helped with the College Student BBQ and the Parish Picnic. We welcomed students in spite of a drizzle and made new friends. The Parish Life Team outdid themselves setting up for the Parish Picnic and a good time was had by all. Thanks to Erin Keiser-Clark, Jim Mahon, Margot Sanger, Mary King, Jim Wade, Alison and Jim Kolesar, the Rev. Jennifer Gregg and Claudia Ellet (as well as Robin Lenz and Van Ellet who helped plan, but couldn’t be present) for helping Libby prepare and lead the September 24<sup>th</sup> Food Outreach Focus Sunday. Thanks, also, to Mary Pierson and Jimmy Bergin for helping us “rock out” to the spiritual, “Eat at the Welcome Table,” during church that day.

## **DIOCESAN CONVENTION – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28<sup>th</sup>**

St. John’s Delegates this year are Eleanor Montgomery, Margot Sanger, and Claudia Ellet. Alternate Delegates are Robin Lenz, Van Ellet, and Laurie Glover. Of course, Libby Wade will be there as St. John’s Interim Rector. Anyone may register as a guest. This year’s theme is “Taking Risks for the Sake of the Gospel.” For more information, visit the diocesan website ([www.diocesewma.org](http://www.diocesewma.org))

## **GO GREEN!**

If you would like to receive the Prologue by email each month and are happy to dispense with the “hard copy,” please let Madeline know at [saintjohns@roadrunner.com](mailto:saintjohns@roadrunner.com). So far, 31 people have joined the Go Green group. We will, of course, continue to send the printed Prologue to those who prefer to receive it by “snail mail.”

## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Paul Park, Maisie Bayliss, Lucie Polk
- 2 Judy Ladd, Wendy Walraven
- 3 James Martin
- 4 Alleson White
- 5 David Sprague, Erik Wobus,  
Richard Scullin, Jr.
- 6 Peter White
- 7 Joyce Lincourt
- 8 Bart Robinson, Eric Kerns
- 9 Lynne (Myrth) Babcock, Carter Cummings
- 10 David Ware, Wendy Greene, Clarissa Allen  
Stephanie Birrell Luedke
- 11 Brandon Burns, Brooke Pickrell
- 12 Edward Ortiz
- 15 Tim Sunn (1969)
- 16 Natalie Beukers
- 17 Charles O'Brien
- 19 Evita Cobo, Ghetta Hirsch
- 21 Judy Myrth
- 23 Trevor Manning
- 24 Oliver Adler Torres
- 25 Aidan Kozik
- 26 John Elder, Jr., Virginia Talbot
- 27 Robert Greene
- 30 Jonathan Bolton, Alegra Secor
- 31 (Laura) Schuyler Montgomery-Nassif Gale

## WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Lew Fisher & Barbara Halligan
- 9 Eric & Molly Kerns  
Van & Claudia Ellet
- 11 Bob & Gail Burns
- 12 Dan Campbell & Lisa Bernard
- 17 Lou & Tracey Skidmore  
Bart & Ingela Robinson  
Ryan & Lynn (Myrth) Babcock  
Jonathan Bolton & Raquel Vega-Duran
- 24 James & Catherine Kocsis  
Richard & Dawn Daniels
- 25 Kristin Rehder & Susie Washburn
- 29 Steve & Polly Birrell

## CONGRATULATIONS to...

James Reddicliffe and Maeve Aplin, married at St. John's on September 23<sup>rd</sup>

## RECEPTION AS A PRIEST

- 9 The Rev. Charles O'Brien

## CONDOLENCES

### To the families of...

Ruby Carver, who died on September 16<sup>th</sup>  
Walt England, who died on September 24<sup>th</sup>

## FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF DEATH

- 4 Walter Bernard, Lisa's father

## FROM THE PARISH CALENDAR

### This month:

Stewardship Ingathering, see p. 1  
Blessing of the Animals, see p. 1  
Coffee Conversations, see p. 2  
Forums, Book Discussion, Centering Prayer,  
Vespers, and Special Events, see p. 3

## ONGOING:

### Tuesdays

9:30 a.m., Holy Eucharist, church  
7:00 p.m., ACOA, upper room  
7:30 p.m., AA, library

### Wednesdays

9:30 a.m., Early Intervention Playgroup, sunroom  
10:00 a.m., AA, upper room

### Thursdays

1:00 p.m., Affin-KNIT-ty Group, library  
3:30 p.m., Children's Choir  
7:00 p.m., AA, library  
7:30 p.m., Adult Choir rehearsal

### Fridays

Noon, AA, upper room  
12:00 p.m., Bible Study, room 3

### Sundays

7:30 p.m., AA, library  
5:30 p.m., The Feast (college students), upper room

## MONTHLY MEETINGS:

Thursday, October 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>

9:00 a.m., Cancer Support Group, upper room

Thursday, October 12<sup>th</sup>

5:30 p.m., Centering Prayer, church

Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup>

11:30 a.m., Home Delivered Meals  
1:00 p.m., Friendship Knot Quilters, lower room

Wednesday, October 18<sup>th</sup>

7:00 p.m., VESTRY, library

Thursday, October 19<sup>th</sup>

5:30 p.m., Vesper Service, church

## Worship Schedule

**Sunday Holy Eucharist:** 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m., 9:45 a.m. Lift Every Voice, Lower Room

**Tuesday, Holy Eucharist:** 9:30 a.m., Upper Room

**Bible Study,** Fridays, 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m., Room 3 (Church School wing)

### St. John's Parish, Williamstown

*We come from communities along the Hoosic River Valley in North Berkshire,  
Southern Vermont, and Eastern New York, united in Christ  
whose springs of living water we find here.*

#### Members of the Vestry

Mary King

Paul Heggeseth

Laura Williams

Lisa Bernard

Alison Kolesar

Rachaele Morin

Carl Jenkins

Curt Johnson

Tom Nicholson, Treasurer

Robin Lenz, Clerk

Claudia Ellet and Margot Sanger, Co-Wardens

The Rev. Libby Wade, Interim Rector

**413.458.8144**

**458.5650 (fax)**

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[saintjohns@roadrunner.com](mailto:saintjohns@roadrunner.com)

St. John's Church is Wheelchair Accessible

*+The mission of the people of St. John's Parish, Williamstown, is to know God and make God known through  
worship, love, and service, by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and in the strength of the Holy Spirit.+*