



St. John's Prologue

"In the beginning was the Word..."

St. John's Episcopal Church
Williamstown, Massachusetts

May 2017

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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. So far, 11 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."

THOUGHTS ON EASTER MOMENTUM FROM THE INTERIM RECTOR

EASTER MOMENTUM

On Easter Sunday, 250 people worshipped at St. John's, setting a record for at least the last 5 years! After a week of meaningful Holy Week services, Easter Day unfolded with the glorious joy that characterizes our resurrection faith. Much work and prayer on behalf of volunteers and staff went into the planning and execution of the many and varied worship experiences of Holy Week and Easter Day. To begin thanking individuals in this space would inevitably lead to omitting someone unintentionally, so I'm not going to do that. If you had a role in reading scripture, praying, decorating, polishing brass, setting the altar, singing, playing an instrument, serving eucharist, planning or leading a children's activity, preparing leaflets, delivering meals or flowers, or any of the myriad activities that created our meaningful and beautiful worship, please know that I am incredibly grateful to you. I am also grateful to all who attended and participated in worship. The standing room only crowd at the 10 a.m. service on Easter Day and the outstanding attendance at the Great Easter Mystery Challenge for children after that service attest to the fact that St. John's has momentum going into the 50 Days of the Easter Season.

In many churches, the Sunday after Easter is often dubbed "Low Sunday," because of both low attendance and low energy. That was definitely not the case with St. John's as we celebrated with joy once again on April 23 with a full choir, then moved into the afternoon with a delightfully fun sing-a-long led by choir member Nathan Leach and friends, followed by an ice-cream social in the Upper Room. At the same time, the Friendship Knot Quilter's group was enjoying a workshop in the Lower Room and later that afternoon the RenewalWorks Team held its 3rd Workshop in the Library. As soon as they left the building, an AA group took their place in the Library. Then later that week, work began in the Garden of Eating to get ready for spring planting and St. John's hosted musical performances on both Friday and Saturday. In this issue of the Prologue, you will read about all sorts of activities that represent the positive momentum of life at St. John's in this Easter Season.

Here are a few other ways in which we are celebrating this season and slightly beyond:

+++Sunday, May 14th -- Celebration in church and at coffee hour of our Williams College and MCLA graduates. Sarah Neumann ('17) will be our guest preacher.

+++Sunday, May 21st -- Nathan Leach ('17) will be our guest preacher.

+++***Williams' College Graduation Weekend is June 3-4. St. John's will alter its worship pattern.***

Saturday, June 3rd, 4:00 p.m. -- Holy Eucharist without music at St. John's

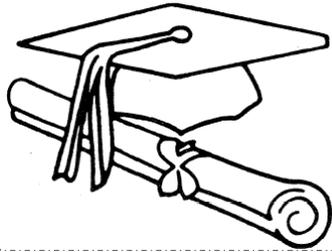
Sunday, June 4th, 8:00 a.m. -- Shared worship with 1st Congregational Church at The Clark with music.

+++Sunday, June 11th -- The Feast of Pentecost will be celebrated at St. John's (8 & 10 a.m.) with special activities.

+++Sunday, June 18 — We will honor our High School graduates.

Look for more details about the June events as we move closer to the dates.

The Rev. Libby Wade, Interim Rector



If you know someone connected to the St. John's community who is graduating this spring, please send his or her name along with the name of the high school or college to either Madeline or Libby in the church office. We are honoring Williams & MCLA grads on Sunday, May 14th and High School grads on Sunday, June 18th. We would like to list all grads in the June issue of the Prologue.

UPDATE ON RENEWALWORKS – MAY 11th

What are we learning from RenewalWorks? Our parish participation in the RenewalWorks survey was outstanding and has been very helpful to our understanding of ourselves and of some of the things we can do to keep ourselves spiritually vibrant and alive in these stressful times for the church at large. There will be a session for the Parish on Thursday, May 11, at 6:30 p.m. in the Lower Room to offer the team's preliminary observations.

Overall, we have learned that we are in the mainstream of what is called "Progressive Christianity." We value our theological and personal diversity (i.e., we mean it when we say, "All are welcome"), our commitment to social justice and service, and our personal relationships. We are interested in learning and in having conversations both about our own faith and about other faiths. Perhaps as a reflection of our many different church backgrounds, we are somewhat weak on understanding core Episcopal beliefs and practices and in understanding scripture. But we have a strong sense of "grace" and a commitment to showing up for our worship together. No matter what our personal beliefs are, we share a strong sense of "belonging" in our parish community.

Your RW team is now at work identifying helpful ways to keep our parish moving forward spiritually. Our final workshop will take place mid-May. In June we will share our work with the Vestry, and then later in the summer we will offer a full report to the congregation. What we have learned so far, along with what the Profile Team is uncovering in their interviews, group meetings, and the upcoming parish-wide Profile Survey, will certainly help in our search for a new rector. Meanwhile, we hope you will join Sam Coughlin and Libby Wade on **Thursday, May 11th at 6:30 p.m.** for a chance to participate in some of the exercises the team has done and hear a bit more about what we have learned.

PARISH PROFILE PROCESS CONTINUES GATHERING INPUT

The team developing a profile of the parish (its past, present, and aspirational future) continues to seek input from throughout the parish and beyond. In addition to three Sunday morning open forums, we've met with the Friday noontime Bible Study group and more than 15 individuals. More conversations are scheduled, and anyone who would welcome a chance to talk with a Profile Team member (listed below) should feel free to contact any of us. We're certainly learning how much St. John's means to so many people, and what a stable and dynamic parish our next rector will step into.

We ask you to be on the lookout for the upcoming Profile Survey. In May we'll administer the Congregational Assessment Tool recommended by the diocese. To complement all the qualitative input we've received, this 20- to 30-minute survey is designed to provide useful quantitative information indicating the parish's health, along with areas of challenge and potential growth. This survey is much broader than the one administered earlier this year for the Renewal Works project. As with that survey, you'll be able to complete this one either online or on paper. So, please do keep an eye out for future communications on this important part of the rector search process.

The Profile Team's goal is to further develop the parish web site and to produce the documents needed in time for the September meeting of diocesan canons who swap information on parishes with rector openings. At that point the Search Committee can begin its work of winnowing candidates down to the three (or so) they'll bring to Vestry for its final decision.

Julie Bolton rjbolton@verizon.net

Paul Heggeseth (Vestry liaison) pheggeseth@gmail.com

Kathy McKnight kmcknight@roadrunner.com

Celia Twomey cjtwomey@sover.net

Charles Bonenti cbonenti@yahoo.com

Jim Kolesar (chair) jkolesar@williams.edu

Nick Pesce nicholas.v.pesce@gmail.com

Amanda Wilcox awilcox@williams.edu

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

YOUTH MINISTRY

Sunday Morning Calendar for Kids:

May 7th: WOTB (Worship Outside the Box), 10 a.m. in the Sun Room

May 14th: Church School, 10 a.m. in the Sun Room

May 21st: Church School, 10 a.m. in the Sun Room

May 28th: WOTB (last meeting until the fall), 10 a.m. in the Sun Room

June 4th: **8 a.m.** service with the 1st Congregational church **at the Clark**

June 11th: 10 a.m. in the church, **PENTECOST** (observed) **Wear RED** if you like.

This service will have elements that are engaging for kids.

Thank you to all those who helped with the Good Friday Children's Stations of the Cross service! Thanks to Leah Pesce, Tyra Nurmi, and Paula Consolini, who hosted stations, and to Mary Pierson, who played guitar, and Jimmy Bergin and Mercer Greenwald who joined in musically for an impromptu grand finale! Thanks also to the 19 children and their families who attended!

On Easter, 26 big kids and several toddlers enjoyed the Great Mysterious Easter Challenge and toddler egg hunt. Thanks to Amanda Wilcox, who provided seed packets for children to take home, to Margot Sanger, who helped with the Easter baskets, to Libby and Jim Wade, who helped move furniture for set-up and made us a much-needed pot of coffee, to Evi Mahon, who helped supervise the toddlers, and to Tim Sunn, our sexton, who always helps with everything but was instrumental this time with clean-up. Most of all, though, thank you to teens Gabriela Nicholson, Mariko Bolton, and Erika Bolton, who painted the stones for our community mosaic and supervised the big kids as they searched for stones and created the community tableau. They did an extraordinary job, truly, and we're so grateful for their talent and willingness to minister to our community in this way and in so many others!

Summer Activities for Kids

We will be sending out emails over the summer to let you know of any and all activities there may be for kids outside of regular Sunday worship. We hope to have intergenerational gardening activities in our own garden where the harvest benefits a local food pantry. We're also contemplating other ideas, and if you want to hear about them, whether or not you have or know of children who might be interested, please let us know. You can send us an email at youthministry@roadrunner.com or contact the church office with your email address, and we'll add you to our email list! Please also let us know at that time whether you consent to a photo release so we can share pictures of our activities in church displays and/or on the church social media accounts and website. A Photo Release Form is available in this Prologue and in the church, also, for your convenience as we try to abide by this Safe Church practice.

Meanwhile, New Hope United Methodist Church is hosting "Ready, Set, Serve," a service learning camp, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. (with a shorter option for younger kids) on July 26-28. The cost is minimal, \$15/child and \$10 for additional siblings. Both of us enrolled our kids in this camp last year, and we can recommend the program wholeheartedly! The theme this year is "God's Green Earth." The main service project will involve building and creating a community fruit garden that will help support local food banks and food feeding programs, and the children will also participate in games and music, art, and cooking programs that focus on the theme of God's Green Earth. For more information or to register, go to <http://www.new-hopeumc.org> and click on the link for "Ready, Set, Serve" Camp.

-- Erin and Sloane

PARISH LIFE AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH

PARISH LIFE QUESTIONNAIRE

You will soon be receiving in the mail an invitation to get involved in supporting the needs of our parish community and those we serve. A brief questionnaire will ask you to list your gifts, talents, wishes for expanded ministries, and interest in coordinating projects, as well as your needs. We will be collecting your responses in a basket at the back of the church. We will look forward to hearing from you.

-- Claudia Ellet and Jane Jenkins

PARISH LIBRARY GETS A FACELIFT

Special thanks to Janice Cook and her law firm, Donovan O'Connor & Dodig, LLP, for their donation of shelving units to St. John's. Tim Sunn and John Ladd installed the new shelves; then, Judy Ladd, Rich Shotwell, and Mary Lovvorn reorganized the books. Next, we will label the shelves and alphabetize by author within each category. We redesigned the checkout log, so it's ready for you to use. Stop by to browse and borrow!

COFFEE CONVERSATIONS BEGIN SUNDAY, MAY 7

Coffee Conversations will meet on **May 7th, 21st, 28th and on June 4th (or 18th)** with a study of Walter Brueggemann's *The Prophetic Imagination*. Brueggemann is one of the most influential Old Testament scholars and theologians of the last several decades. Krista Tippett of *On Being* called him a "theological rock star...who knows the prophets as well as anyone living." Brueggemann also has a knack for making the OT relevant to us today, which makes his works especially compelling. Those who ordered a book may pick it up in the Church Office during the week or on Sunday morning. Cost is \$17. Sam Coughlin leads Coffee Conversations in the Parish Library **after the 10 a.m. worship service**.

RECONCILIATION IN TIMES OF POLITICAL DIVISION MEETS ON SUNDAY, MAY 14th

This group met twice during Lent and decided to continue meeting on the second Sunday of each month from 9:00 to 9:45 a.m. in the Parish Library. Charles Bonenti leads this non-partisan discussion about risking to love one another as God would have us do in these troubled times. Come join the conversation and feel free to invite a friend.

COME TO THE RIVER OF LIFE: CONNECTICUT RIVER PILGRIMAGE, MAY 31 – JULY 9, 2017

Rejoice in and give thanks for the miracle of all life that is made possible by the grace of God through water. Come on a spiritual journey of renewal, restoration, and reconciliation shaped by the Christian tradition, along the Connecticut River, from the Source to the Sea. Participate for a day, a week, or the entire 40 days on the river, beside the water, or at home or at church. Sponsored by the Episcopal Province of New England, the New England Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and Kairos Earth, this pilgrimage is open to people of all faiths, beliefs, and paths. For more information and to sign up, email kairosearth.org or river@kairosearth.org.

SAVE THE DATE FOR A PARISH RETREAT, OCTOBER 13-15

Rev. Steve White is planning a weekend silent retreat for St. John's parishioners at Holy Cross Monastery in West Park, NY. This will be a time for rest and spiritual renewal at the home of the Episcopal Benedictine Brothers. Watch for details and registration information in the coming months.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED! Coffee Hour at St. John's is a wonderful tradition of fellowship and hospitality.

Ask a friend to share the joy with you! Please email Claudia (claudiaellet@msn.com) or call her (703-408-8473) if you would like to help.

Dates available are:

May 7th June 11th, 18th, 25th

Or add your name to the schedule posted in the upper room. Thank you!



OPEN DATES FOR ALTAR FLOWERS are:

May 14th

June 4th, 18th



If you would like to provide flowers in memory of a loved one, or in thanksgiving, call Madeline in the parish office, 458-8144, or e-mail her at saintjohns@roadrunner.com. The cost for two vases is: \$35.

OUTREACH MINISTRY

HELP STAMP OUT HUNGER ON SATURDAY, MAY 13th

The Letter Carriers 25th Annual Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive is on Saturday, May 13th. The need for food donations is great. According to Western MA Coordinator Lesley Vila, 49 million Americans – 1 in 6 – currently are unsure where their next meal is coming from. Thirteen million are children who feel hunger's impact on their overall health and ability to perform in school. More than 5 million seniors over age 60 are food insecure, with many who live on fixed incomes often too embarrassed to ask for help. All donations in this area on May 13th will go directly to local food pantries to provide food to people in Western Massachusetts. Participating is simple: Just leave a non-perishable food donation in a bag by your mailbox on Saturday, May 13th and your letter carrier will do the rest.

WEEDERS WANTED

St. John's Garden of Eating, located in a corner of the Rectory yard, is being readied for planting thanks to Robin Lenz, Charles Bonenti, and their crew, along with Tim Sunn, who roto-tilled the soil. Produce grown in the Garden of Eating will be donated to the Friendship Food Pantry in North Adams to help ease food insecurity in this area. If you are interested in helping out, please email Robin at robinlenz@rocketmail.com

FAMINE RELIEF

At the suggestion of a parishioner, Raile's Bowl (hanging from the pulpit) will be open through the end of May to receive donations for famine relief in Sudan. Contributions received through Raile's Bowl will be matched dollar by dollar by the parish's Outreach Funds. So far \$421 has been contributed. Our Easter Offering of \$889.96 will also go to this famine relief effort.

ADULT CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS (ACA)

ACA began meeting in April in the Upper Room at St. John's on Tuesdays from 7:30-8:30 p.m. and is an ongoing group. For more information or questions, contact David L. at 617-877-1691.

SUPPORT FOR ORPHANS

Help "change the babies" reads the sign next to the tall clear glass container under the lectern in the front of the church. Your spare change can make a radical difference in the lives of Ghanaian babies who have lost their mothers in childbirth. These precious children live the first 4 to 5 years of their life in the **Mampong Babies Home in Kumasi, Ghana**. The Episcopal Diocese of Western MA and St. John's Church is committed to supporting the Babies Home. The Home's founder and Superintendent, Margaret Addai (who has visited St. John's) recently died suddenly while celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Home. Bishop Fisher called her "a saint in our time – a tireless, faith-filled servant of the Word of God." Supporting the Mampong Babies Home is a way to honor Maggie Addai's ministry at this critical time in the Home's life.

CANCER SUPPORT GROUP MEETS MAY 4th & 18th

The **Cancer Support Group** will meet in the Upper Room at St. John's at **9:00 a.m. on the 1st & 3rd Thursday of every month**. All those whose lives have been impacted by cancer are welcome. We feel the greatest need is often that time between diagnosis and the beginning of treatment, when effected people are most vulnerable, discouraged, and unsure of where this is all leading. To make ourselves available to those people, we need all of you to be our eyes and ears and voices so as to inform them that we are here and ready to help. John Ladd is the convener of the Cancer Support Group, which is open to anyone in the community (not just those who are part of St. John's).

COMMUNITY LOSS SUPPORT GROUP

A support group for those dealing with bereavement or other kinds of loss is meeting on **Tuesdays at the Harper Center, May 2nd - June 6th, from 3-4 p.m.** This group is open to new participants at any time during the six-week series. Contact Corinne Case for more information at 413-242-4495.



FROM OUR ORGANIST/CHOIR DIRECTOR

Thank you to all the musicians among us who contributed to our observance of Holy Week and Easter! Our choir participated in Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Easter services this year, as usual, but they also served at the Great Vigil service, jointly with All Saints' choir. We exceeded the capacity of the choir stalls at All Saints', so tenors and basses were sitting in chairs: a good problem to have! The choir had a great showing at both Maundy Thursday and Easter, too, even during this time of the year when we often have members out of town. Many choir members took on the added role of cantor or soloist during these special services.

Mercer Greenwald and Jimmy Bergin enriched our Good Friday observance with Massenet's *Meditation from Thaïs*, arranged for viola and piano—a piece which really highlighted the strengths of the beautiful grand piano that has found a home in our church, recently donated by Diana Stugger. At the 10 a.m. service on Easter Sunday, Nathan Leach and Paul Heggeseth provided the prelude: “The Trumpet Shall Sound,” from Handel's *Messiah*. Paul was our trumpeter through the rest of that service and at 8 a.m., helping to make those services truly festive! At the beginning of the 10 a.m. service, our children's choir took the word “Alleluia” out of the basket where it had been hidden since the beginning of Lent and then sang their anthem confidently, remembering all their words, leading the way into this new season. As always, but especially this year and at this time, just after Easter, I'm grateful for the diverse musical gifts which are generously offered here at St. John's.

Be sure to mark your calendars for these upcoming special services and musical events at St. John's:

Thursday, May 4th, 5:00 p.m.: Vespers on the Feast of Monnica, mother of Augustine. Guitarist Gef Fisher is providing special music at this brief prayer service.

Thursday, May 18th, 7:30 p.m.: Vivaldi's magnificent *Gloria*, with St. John's Choir and the Community Intergenerational Action Orchestra (CIAO!), conducted by Jimmy Bergin. Ellen Beebe, Alison Kolesar and Celia Twomey are the Vivaldi soloists. Admission is free.

Thursday, May 25th, 7:00 p.m.: Feast of the Ascension. We will host our bishop and members of other parishes in the Berkshires for a regional confirmation service. Our choir will sing for this special evening service.

Here are a couple of other musical events happening in western Massachusetts this month to keep in mind:

Sunday, May 7th, 4:00 p.m., Faith United Church, Springfield: Andrew D'Antonio is playing a solo piano recital, which will consist of the Ives *Concord Sonata*, a sonata by Haydn, and a new work that I composed called *Vigil*. I will give a pre-concert talk at 3:30 about the Ives piece. Free admission, but a freewill offering will be taken to benefit Womanshelter Compañeras.

Sunday, May 21st, 3:30 p.m., Christ Church Cathedral, Springfield: Our cathedral's Interim Director of Music, Joseph O'Berry, presents the third in a series of Bicentennial Concerts, featuring organ music of French composers César Franck, Alexandre Guilmant, and Olivier Messiaen.

-- Bob Hansler

FROM THE COORDINATOR OF SPECIAL EVENTS

On **Thursday, May 18th, at 7:30 p.m.**, there will be a performance of Vivaldi's *Gloria* by the St. John's choir, accompanied by CIAO!, the Community Intergenerational Action Orchestra. CIAO! will also play concertos by Bach, Telemann, and Vivaldi. FutureCIAO!, a group of younger players, will open the concert with short pieces by Bartok and Telemann. This will be our final concert of the year, and we'll be saying goodbye to seniors Serena Chow, Niku Darafshi, and Mercer Greenwald.

Also of interest, the Williams College Choir will perform Brahms's Requiem on **Friday evening, May 5th at 8:00 p.m.** in Chapin Hall. I am excited to be part of the orchestra for this beautiful and spiritual work.

Looking ahead, **Summer Noontime Concerts at St. John's will begin on Monday, July 3rd**, with a performance of chamber music by cellist Perri Morris, violinist Emily Kalish, and myself on viola. Details coming soon!

-- Jimmy Bergin

HOSPITALITY, OR RETURN TO PURPOSE:

A Chef Reflects on the Importance of Churches Being Open for Business

What brought me into the Episcopal Church was a small, felt sign on the front door that read: Open for Prayer. I had noticed the sign before, but this day I needed a church to be open. The stone building had long appealed to me: I felt reverence for the workmen with their horses and carts who carried the stones down the hill, and stone by stone, built the walls. I fell in love with the coolness, strength and beauty of the stones, much as I had fallen in love with the coolness, strength and beauty of the New England characters I found myself among.

My profession has been to welcome people into the kitchen. For more than thirty years I earned my living as a French chef. This is not an easy profession, especially in a cold climate with a short growing season in a part of the world dominated by English food. Nevertheless, people everywhere want to be in the kitchen: it is warm there, there might be something to eat, maybe even a glass of wine or cup of coffee.

However, when people walk into a restaurant, especially for the first time, the experience can be challenging. First, a hungry customer is walking into a strange place in expectation of a meal, with no guarantee they will get one. Your fate, when you enter, is most likely in the hands of the least experienced of the staff: young people, in their first job. From the staff's point of view, customers all come at once and everyone needs something different. During a busy mealtime, your staff will always have at least five things that need to be done right now. When overwhelmed and often afraid, a staff person's first instinct is to lower their eyes and not see their new customer, at least until they can clear a moment to give them their time. However, not being seen is often what a hungry person fears most.

I would tell my staff that at this moment of challenge, between hunger and fear, the best thing to do for both yourself and your customer is to not look away, but instead, to acknowledge their existence, maybe even smile! They would find that people would relax, start to trust, and become easier customers. In other words, what would help my staff most, when they were overwhelmed, was to connect with the other. Not build walls but break them down.

This doesn't always work, of course. Some people cannot ever be made happy. However, most people can, and opening the doors is the first step. Currently, there is barely a church in our Diocese which opens its sanctuary except for a few hours on Sunday morning, when most people are recovering from their work week, or having to ferry their children to sports. Also, there are many of us weekend warriors; in addition to restaurant workers, there are the police and fire departments, theater folk, bartenders, ticket takers, cleaners, emergency room doctors, nurses, and taxi drivers. I am not suggesting holding church services on Wednesday nights. I am saying: unlock the sanctuaries of our church during the day.

Is this what our churches have become: vaults for candlesticks? A second concern I hear is that by opening the sanctuaries, church staff might be vulnerable. I would like to request that we follow Safe Church practices and put locks on their doors, and not on the sanctuary.

The origin of the word "company" comes from the Latin phrase meaning "with bread," (*com pane*) or, one who eats bread with you. I say, open the doors, invite everyone to the bread and wine of our beautiful liturgy, and feel blessed to have so many friends.

-- Robin Lenz

(reprinted with permission from *Abundant Times*, April 2017)

(Robin is a member of St. John's, Williamstown, where the sanctuary is open every day.)

SAINT JOHN'S COLUMBARIUM

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. Hebrews 12:1-2a

When my great-great-grandchildren are searching for their roots, they will be able to find me in St. John's, Williamstown! It gives me great comfort to know that my remains will have a final resting place inside our church, and I will be in that "great cloud of witnesses." It is also comforting to know that my children will not have to worry about where to put my remains. I feel at peace knowing that I have provided a wonderful space by purchasing a niche in St. John's Columbarium. I am grateful to Mary King, her committee, and the Vestry for moving ahead on this project. It is going to be a beautiful addition to St. John's.

-- Mary Lovvorn

Applications for a columbarium niche are available in the church office. If you have any questions, please contact one of the committee members: Mary King, Mary Lovvorn, Charles Bonenti, Charles O'Brien, Jane Jenkins, Claudia Ellet, or Libby Wade.

PHOTO RELEASE FORM



Please return to St. John's Episcopal Church, 35 Park Street, Williamstown, MA 01267.

I grant to St. John's Episcopal Church, its representatives, and employees the right to take photographs of me and those members of my family listed below. I authorize St. John's Episcopal Church, its assigns, and transferees to use and publish the same in print and/or electronically.

I agree that St. John's Episcopal Church may use such photographs of me with or without my name and for any lawful purpose, including for example such purposes as publicity, illustration, and Web content.

I have read and understand the above:

Name(s) of child(ren) _____

Signature of adult(s), parent or guardian _____

Name(s) of adult(s) _____

If you have photos to share, please send them to Laurie Glover (laglov@gmail.com) or Madeline Burdick at the parish office (saintjohns@roadrunner.com).

ANGELS WALKING THIS EARTH

Thank you to Kathy and Phil McKnight, Grace Breckenridge, Cynthia Tykot, and Polly McPherson for orchestrating the Sing for Your Sundaes Sing Along. Thank you to the incredibly talented Williams musicians Nathan Leach, Julia Randell, Jordon LaMothe, and our very own Bart Saxbe. Thank you to Robin Lenz, Lisa Bernard, Dan Campbell, Mary King, Josephine Nicholson and Margot Sanger for serving up welcoming, delicious coffee hours. Thank you to Kathy and Phil McKnight for transforming the flower pots into spring gardens.

ST. JOHN'S PERSONALS

Congratulations to Ben Williams '18, who was a finalist for the William Sloane Coffin Prize for Passionate Public Speaking. You can read Ben's moving speech (and those of the other 5 finalists) on the Williams' Chaplains Website (<https://chaplain.williams.edu>).

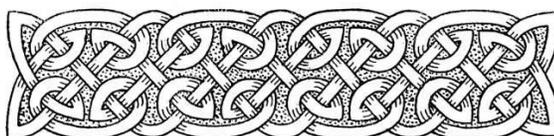
Congratulations to Evi Mahon for her leading role in the upcoming Williams College production of "August: Osage County". Break a leg, Evi!!

WE EXTEND OUR CONDOLENCE

Ruth Ruby, who died on April 1st in Bennington.

Tom Burgess, longtime parishioner and former resident of Williamstown, who died on April 1st. Tom first came to Williamstown in the late 1950's to work at Sprague Electric Company as an engineer in their transistor laboratory and later as a research chemist. In the early 1970's he and two other chemists form Burgess Analytical Laboratory, a independent chemical testing lab in North Adams. A private graveside service will be held in Rhode Island and a memorial service will be held in Falmouth, MA at a later date. We hold in our prayers his wife, Caroline.

Dan Lannon, Fred & Gay Scarborough's son-in-law, who died suddenly on Wednesday, April 5th in Stamford, CT. Even at a distance, we share in this family's heartbreak.



MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Joe Dewey
- 2 Mary King
- 4 Justina Perry, Cole Kuster, Max Menkel,
Kimberly Rose Perry
- 5 Michele Ridgeway
- 7 Lee Manning, John Denaro
- 8 Tracy Skidmore, Anne Reed, Ella Murphy,
Alexandria Franz
- 9 Margo Menkel (2000)
- 10 Dan Campbell, Ava Howard
- 11 Sally White, Jennifer Bayliss, Bob Sanger
- 12 Barbara Halligan
- 13 Francis Ogert, Anthony Petrino,
Stacie Goddard
- 15 Shaina Manning, Dawn Daniels,
Elizabeth Strano
- 17 Matthew LeSage, Maribeth Conroy,
Lucius Park
- 18 Judy (Fissel) Skeels, Kevin Hamel
- 19 Becky Haley, Peter Glover, Steve Birrell
- 21 Hugh Glover
- 22 Lisa Bernard
- 23 Sigrid McWilliams, Brianna Heggeseth
- 24 Bob Burns, Cecilia Marcela Chambers
- 25 Steve Geislinger
- 26 Rachel Chenail, Edward Pelz (his 99th!)
- 28 Susan Matsui
- 29 Joan Soper
- 30 George Kennedy, Tim McKenna
- 31 Julie Hart, Amy Mendes

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Richard & Marge Daniels
- 4 Fred & Gay Scarborough
- 20 James Bergin & Debbie Monahan
- 22 Charles Bonenti & Stepanie Johnson
- 26 Tom & Josephine Nicholson



FROM THE PARISH CALENDAR

This month:

- May & June worship news, see p. 1
- COMMENCEMENT WORSHIP CHANGES**, see p. 1
- RenewalWorks Parish event, see p. 2
- Church School schedule, see p. 3
- Cancer Support group, see p. 5
- Upcoming Music events, see p. 6

ONGOING:

- Sundays
7:00 p.m., AA, Sunday, library
- Tuesdays
9:30 a.m., Holy Eucharist, church
3:45 p.m., Evening Prayer, Sweetbrook
(third Tuesday only)
7:30 p.m., Al-Anon (ACA), 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
7:00 p.m., AA, library
7:30 p.m., Choir rehearsal
- Fridays
Noon, AA, upper room
12:00 p.m., Bible Study, room 3

MONTHLY MEETINGS:

- Wednesday, May 10th
7:00 p.m., VESTRY, upper room
- Thursday, May 11th & May 25th
9:00 a.m., Cancer Support group, upper room
- Monday, May 15th
6:30 p.m., RenewalWorks committee meeting,
- Sunday, May 21st
11:30 a.m., Home Delivered Meals
1:00 p.m., Friendship Knot Quilters, lower room
- Thursday, May 25th
7:00 p.m., Regional Confirmation Service

Worship Schedule

Sunday Holy Eucharist: 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.
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, Massachusetts

*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.*

Mary King	Paul Heggeseth	Laura Williams	Lisa Bernard
Alison Kolesar	Rachaele Morin	Carl Jenkins	Curt Johnson
Tom Nicholson, Treasurer			
Robin Lenz, Clerk			
Claudia Ellet & Margot Sanger, Co-Wardens			
The Rev. Libby Wade, Interim Rector			

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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.+