



# St. John's Prologue

"In the beginning was the Word..."

St. John's Episcopal Church  
Williamstown, Massachusetts

November 2017

## ENDINGS AND BEGINNINGS

On Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup>, our brand-new Children's Chorus sang for the first time in church after rehearsing diligently for the last six weeks with their Director, Bob Hansler and Music Scholar, Will Kirby. They sang beautifully, and the presence of these children and their families greatly enriched our community's worship. 154 people worshipped at St. John's on the 29<sup>th</sup>! It felt a bit like Easter Sunday.

For three years, Bob Hansler has served as St. John's organist/choir director with utmost grace, humility, skill, wisdom, and good humor. The Adult Choir has grown each year and now twenty children have joined the Children's Chorus. Planning and leading worship with Bob this year has been a great pleasure. As Bob ends his time at St. John's to become organist/choir director for Christ Church Cathedral, our feelings of sadness mingle with joy for the opportunity set before him. On Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, we will celebrate Bob's many gifts to this community and send him off to Springfield in style with choral tributes, a holy hug, and a festive reception with a few brief words of farewell and a gift from the parish after the 10 a.m. service. There will be a basket for cards, if you would like to bring one.

At this time of beginnings for the Children's Chorus and endings for Bob at St. John's, the Chorister's Prayer from the Royal School of Church Music seems particularly appropriate: "*Bless, O Lord, thy servants, who minister in your temple. Grant that what we sing with our lips, we may believe in our hearts, and what we believe in our hearts, we may show forth in our lives. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.*" Bob Hansler modeled this prayer for St. John's. We send you forth with our love, respect, and gratitude, Bob!  
Libby Wade+

**DON'T FORGET  
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS  
THIS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5<sup>th</sup>!**



**DON'T FORGET  
TO SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK  
ONE HOUR SATURDAY NIGHT  
BEFORE YOU GO TO BED!**

## FROM OUR ORGANIST/CHOIR DIRECTOR

Dear friends,

As many of you have heard, I will be leaving St. John's this month to begin a new full-time position as Director of Music at Christ Church Cathedral in Springfield. I am sad to be leaving St. John's, this community I love so dearly. But I am also grateful that you have been such an important part of my journey. Here I have discovered just how deeply fulfilling this type of work can be, and you have shown me hospitality and support in countless ways. So while I am sad to be leaving, I am also glad that there is some part of St. John's that will remain with me wherever I go. And I am excited for what is ahead, both in my own life and here, at St. John's, as you go through the process of finding a new Rector.

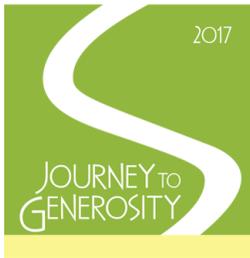
I consider myself privileged to have worked with such an incredible team of staff, from whom I have learned so much. In particular, I am grateful for time spent with Peter and Libby, both inspiring in their thoughtful spirituality and gifted in their unique manifestations of pastoral leadership.

St. John's Choir, too, has been a great source of friendship and joy, not to mention remarkable in its dedication and skill. From the beginning of my time here, the generosity of this parish when it came to musical gifts was astonishing. To see that generosity reflected also in children as we've begun the Chorister program has been exciting (and really fun!). I know that spirit of generosity will carry you into the future.

Thank you for being my spiritual home, these past three years. I will miss all of you, and you will remain in my prayers as I begin a new adventure in Springfield. And above all, thank you for the gift that you have been to me.

With gratitude, Bob Hansler

## 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

### **Pledge Ingathering - - Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup>**

Our Fall Campaign was a resounding success! Thank you to everyone who has returned your pledge card and to those who plan to return theirs very soon. We do not have a total amount pledged yet, but we will announce it as soon as possible. Special thanks to Laura Williams, John Ladd, Pete Morin, and Polly Macpherson for sharing their Stewardship Reflections at both services. Each one was inspirational, heartfelt, and encouraging. Libby’s sermons during October included important points about stewardship and generosity. Thanks, Libby, for your tremendous support. Also, kudos to John and Judy Ladd for fashioning our awesome Generosity sign. It is an outward and visible symbol showing many ways to travel toward generosity. We had fun sharing our own ways of being generous on luggage tags which are displayed in the special suitcase and on the sign. Our *Journey to Generosity* never ends, and at St. John’s we are so fortunate to have each other as companions along the way. Thank you for your generosity!

Mary Lovvorn

### **ANNOUNCING A NEW PARISH PICTORIAL DIRECTORY!**

The Parish Directory will be available in the rear of the church beginning **Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup>**. Please take one copy per family and check your name on the list next to the box so we will know if we need to mail some of these out to parishioners. The directories are free, though if you would like to contribute towards the cost (\$7.50 per directory), there is an envelope available for donations.

We are delighted with the result of your combined efforts and know you will be as well. Of course, there will be some immediate changes once any directory is published. Please contact Madeline in the church office with any corrections/additions/deletions. A "Directory Update" will be included in each monthly newsletter so that everyone can keep their personal copy as current as possible. Many thanks to everyone for your cooperation with this important endeavor — and for putting up with the itinerant photographer in your midst! Enjoy!

Kathy McKnight

### **FROM THE COORDINATOR OF SPECIAL EVENTS**

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.



On **Friday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m.**, Williams College student Leonard Bopp ’19 will perform a **trumpet recital** of works by Giacinto Scelsi, Matthias Pintscher, Mahler, and Enesco, featuring accompanists Qiana Yang ’19 and Sebastian Black ’19. Leonard is a junior at Williams pursuing majors in Music and English; he is a graduate of the Juilliard School Pre-College Division, and currently studies trumpet with Allan Dean, Professor of Trumpet at the Yale School of Music. At Williams, Leonard is Assistant Conductor of the Berkshire Symphony, Music Director of the Chamber Orchestra of Williams, and Student Director of the I/O Festival of Contemporary Music.

The St. John’s 3<sup>rd</sup> **Annual Messiah-Sing** (Part I and the Hallelujah Chorus) will be held on **Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.** (note earlier time!) in the church. Jimmy Bergin will conduct vocal soloists, an orchestra of local professionals, Williams students, and members of CIAO! (the Community Intergenerational Action Orchestra); audience members are invited to sing the choruses – bring your vocal score if you have one (the church will have some on hand). If you’d like to come and just listen, that’s fine too! Come help fill the church with the glorious sounds of Handel’s masterpiece!



Jimmy Bergin

## SEARCH TEAM PROGRESS REPORT

If the work of the Profile Team is a long, measured marathon, the work of the Search Team is the sprint to the finish! Canon Rich Simpson met with the Search team on October 11<sup>th</sup>, presenting us with a slate of potential candidates to fill the rector position and encouraging us to spring into action immediately. By the time you are reading this, we will have carefully reviewed the ministry profiles of all our candidates and conducted initial Skype interviews with most of them. We are blessed — each of our prospects brings impressive talents and spiritual depth to the table. After we have completed our Skype interviews in November, we will meet with the Vestry and recommend finalists, who will then be invited to visit Saint John's and meet with the Vestry and Search Team. As we enter into this time of focused discernment, we invite the whole St. John's community to join us in praying for:

- our new rector
- the work of the vestry and search team
- Libby, as she continues to nurture our community through transition
- all of our candidates
- our parish family, that we be ready and open to these next steps in our life together.

Finally, if you would like to dive into the calling of parish leadership in your personal or small group Bible study, here are some passages that might be helpful:

The Call of Samuel: 1 Samuel 3

The Anointing of David: 1 Samuel 16:1 – 13

The Annunciation: Luke: 1:26 – 56

The Call of Matthias: Acts: 1:12 – -26

“Having Gifts that Differ”: Romans 12:1 – 21

There is one Body...”: Ephesians 4:1 - 16

St. John's Search Team

## 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.*

## FROM OUR CHILDREN'S MINISTERS

In October in *Lift Every Voice*, we concentrated on the hymn “It's Me, It's Me, It's Me, Oh Lord” and discussed the meaning of the Lord's Prayer, which we now all know by heart in the contemporary version. “Take, O Take Me As I Am” was our processional song and also the Fraction Anthem in church. *Note:* Lift Every Voice is not just for children. All ages are welcome at 9:40 a.m. on Sundays in the Lower Room with Jimmy Bergin, Mary Pierson, and Sloane Torres.

In *Godly Play*, Sloane Torres continued as our storyteller, and Mary Pierson became our door person. We heard the stories of creation and the ark and the flood. Then we began to use our desert box. So many important things happened to the People of God in the desert that we need to have a piece of it in our classroom. We entered the desert (a dangerous place) to learn about the great family and the exodus. In November, Erin Keiser-Clark will take over as the storyteller while Mary Pierson remains as door person. The People of God will still be in the desert as the children grapple with the ten best ways to live, the ark and tent, the temple, and the exile and return. The green growing days of the season after Pentecost are coming to an end, and the days are getting shorter and shorter. Join us as we journey in the desert, and find out which color is coming next!

- Sloane Torres and Erin Keiser-Clark

## CENTERING PRAYER

Anyone who is interested in this spiritual practice is welcome to come at **5:30 p.m. on Thursdays, November 16<sup>th</sup> and December 21<sup>st</sup>** for an hour of reflection and silence in the church led by Mary Pierson and Libby Wade.

**Forward Day by Day** Daily Devotional Booklets offer a quick way to enhance your prayer life. Copies of the November-January issue are available in the Upper Room, the Breezeway, and at the welcome table in the Church.

*Be still  
and know  
that I am  
God*  
-PSALM 46:10

## PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Blessing of the Animals** – On St. Francis Day, October 4<sup>th</sup>, Libby blessed 21 pets, including a photograph of two shy cats and, by way of names given to Libby, two dogs living in Vancouver, B.C., along with three shy cats. The animals enjoyed treats afterwards, and their people enjoyed the company of other pet lovers.

**The President's Own Marine Band** – Nine parishioners and two guests traveled to UMass Amherst to listen to the Marine Band on the evening of October 10<sup>th</sup>. A dinner in Greenfield started off the evening before the concert. The musical program was diverse, rousing and inspirational, ranging from Sousa marches, Frank Sinatra ballads, two pieces written by contemporary composers, and Tchaikovsky ballet music. It was a joy to meet GySgt David Jenkins, Jane and Carl Jenkin's son, who has been a member of the band for several years.



**Solemn Choral Evensong at Christ Church Cathedral – Celebrating 200 Years Serving Springfield and The World** - A group of parishioners traveled to Springfield to celebrate Evensong with Bishop Fisher and Presiding Bishop Michael Curry. Hear Bishop Curry's sermon and watch the service at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lzYcQ7EoGXc>

### **Looking to the Future:**

December 16<sup>th</sup> – Advent Retreat – details soon.

December 17<sup>th</sup> – Caroling at Williamstown Commons – details soon.

Please let us know if you have any ideas for community activities!

Your Parish Life Committee: Jane Jenkins, Claudia Ellet, Ildi Bodor, Drew Gibson, Carl Jenkins, Lisa Bernard, Josephine Nicholson, Robin Lenz, Margot Sanger, Grace Breckenridge, Jim Wade and YOU.

## SUPPORT GROUPS

**Living with Loss Grief Support Groups:** Single session workshops and discussion groups will be offered in November and December by HospiceCare in The Berkshires. Please contact the Bereavement Coordinator at (413) 443-2994 to register. This agency is one of the many who will receive a grant this year from St. John's Outreach Budget.

**Cancer Support Group**, convened by John Ladd, meets at St. John's in the Upper Room on November 2<sup>nd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. Several **AA and ACOA groups** meet at St. John's. See the calendar for days, times, and rooms.

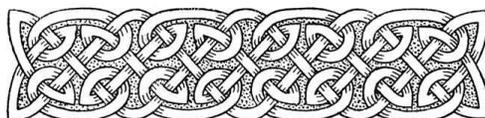
## NOTES FROM OCTOBER VESTRY MEETING

In addition to approving the 2016 Outreach Grants as presented by Van Ellet on behalf of the Outreach Team and setting the **Annual Parish Meeting date for February 11, 2018 (snow date—February 18<sup>th</sup>)**, your vestry heard an update from Laurie Glover and Tom Nicholson on the progress of the Rector Search and from Libby Wade on the progress of the Interim Organist/Choir Director Search.

In addition, reports were received from the Parish Life Committee and the Stewardship Committee. Rachaele Morin agreed to be in charge of the Advent Giving Tree and to recruit other leaders.

It was agreed that St. John's will participate in the Gun Violence Prevention Sabbath in December. Libby is looking for a coordinator.

Tom Nicholson presented the first draft of the 2018 budget, with added costs of having a full-time rector with health insurance for most of the year, as well as increases in funding for music ministry (because of the success of our Children's Chorus) and in children, youth, and intergenerational ministry. These increases reflect the current values and priorities of St. John's. *Next Vestry Meeting is Wednesday, November 8<sup>th</sup>.*



## **ST. JOHN'S MEMBERS ELECTED TO DIOCESAN POSITIONS**

At the Diocesan Convention on October 28<sup>th</sup>, Bob Ware was elected to a 3-year term on the Diocesan Disciplinary Board and Laurie Glover was elected to a 3-year term on the Cathedral Chapter. St. John's delegates to Convention were Eleanor Montgomery, Margot Sanger, Claudia Ellet, and the Rev. Libby Wade.

## **STUFFED TOYS FOR HOUSTON AND CAMBODIA**

Swift and intentional response to disasters and need in our community, our nation, and the world is one of the many things our St. John's family does really well. Your generous giving of stuffed toys for children impacted by Hurricane Harvey in Houston resulted in a whopping 168 wonderful toys that were sent to Liz Tadros (Margot Sanger's daughter) who hand-delivered them to Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Santa Fe. They will be given to any child in need from the Aldersgate outreach ministry. Liz continues to volunteer in Houston shelters as a translator and helping hand.



I must now confess that before I mailed off the last box of toys I separated out about a dozen of the smallest critters and added them to Bart Saxbe's box of items for Cambodia. (Bart left on November 1<sup>st</sup> on a medical mission trip to Cambodia with suitcases stuffed with items donated by St. John's. We sent him off with a holy hug & blessings on the medical team and the people they will serve.) I felt that the spirit of your generosity was honored in that I am certain the toys will go to children in need. Thank you to all at St. John's and to the students of Drew Gibson at Mt. Greylock who contributed so many lovely toys.



Margot Sanger

## **AID FOR PUERTO RICO**

Recently Sam Tadros (Margot's son) went to Puerto Rico to assist in the clearing of one of the harbors rendered nearly impassable by the debris of destroyed vessels after Hurricane Maria. He brought with him a portable generator and equipment for raising sunken vessels, responding to the environmental hazards of leaking diesel which can occur when a vessel sinks or is suddenly raised from the ocean floor. He donated his time and expertise as a diver and mariner to the Coast Guard and a salvage crew to clear as much of the harbor as possible. Sadly, some of his time was spent raising his own beloved sailing vessel, Zacapa, which had been sunk by the storm surge. Sam was struck by the level of destruction throughout Puerto Rico. He reports that electrical power is still one of the primary issues facing people there. He brought the generator with the intention of leaving it behind as a useful piece of equipment. With this in mind, he drove to a remote area of the devastated rainforest and located a small community there. They have a well, but no power to draw up the water. He left the generator and a supply of fuel with that community. He also left behind some of the tools for raising vessels, to be used by boat owners and marinas as they clear debris from their harbors, enabling marine traffic once again.

The generator and some of the tools were funded by generous gifts from our St. John's community. Thank you, Libby and Jim Wade and Adrienne and Bill Wootters for your immediate and generous support. Sam will continue his efforts to assist the rebuilding efforts in St. Thomas, St. John's, and the British Virgin Islands in the coming few months. He is working with several other Captains, construction experts, and carpenters to bring supplies directly to people on the Islands. Future Prologue articles will keep you posted on his progress.

St. John's provided further aid for Puerto Rico by participating in a united interfaith appeal initiated by First Congregational Church. In three short days, this appeal within our Northern Berkshire faith community raised over \$10,000! Through Raile's Bowl this fall, along with matching gifts from St. John's Outreach Budget, \$5200 was divided between the united interfaith appeal and Episcopal Relief and Development to aid hurricane recovery efforts in Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico, and other Caribbean Islands.

## **RAILE'S BOWL--A TALE OF TWO CHURCHES AND TWO CONTINENTS**

When I first came to St. John's as supply priest, I wondered why there was a bowl hanging from the pulpit. Where did it come from? What was it used for? Even when, as Interim Rector, I realized it was called Raile's Bowl, I had no idea who or what Raile was or even how to pronounce the word. (It's pronounced as if it were Riley.) Before long, I understood that St. John's uses Raile's Bowl as a receptacle for monetary gifts for rapid response to immediate needs in the world. In 2017, contributions to Raile's Bowl have been given for famine relief in South Sudan, for the purchase of school supplies in North Adams elementary schools, and for hurricane relief in Texas, Florida, and Puerto Rico. Gifts to each designated use of Raile's Bowl are matched up to \$1000 from our Parish Outreach Budget, so the bowl plays a vital role in demonstrating our care for brothers and sisters around the world. Raile was a Sudanese Anglican Deacon and the mother-in-law of the Rev. Caroline Bail, who served as pastor of First Congregational Church in Williamstown. Caroline wrote a moving story about Raile that I have adapted on the following page. Let Raile Daffala's story inspire you, as it did Williamstown back then.

Libby Wade+

“Arigboya Lu,” is what she said when we first met, and when we said good-bye. “Thanks be to God.” Thanks be to God for the life and witness of my treasured mother-in-law, Deaconess Raile Daffala of the Anglican Church of the Sudan. Raile was an internally displaced person, a widow, living in the ‘peace camp’ shantytowns around the edges of a swollen and squalid desert city, Khartoum. My husband wanted to bring his mother, Raile, to Williamstown to celebrate my installation as pastor of First Congregational Church, yet major obstacles, including being turned away by the U.S. Embassy in Cairo when she requested a visitor’s visa, prevented her arrival until a month later.

This remarkable woman was sustained by the power of her faith in God through war, the deprivations of life in a refugee camp, and the governmental hurdles of getting a visa. She was 72 years old, unable to speak any English (although she spoke three African languages), had precious little money in her pocket, and was legally blind. Finally arriving at JFK, she waited to be released to her son, who wrapped a warm woolen coat over her cotton dress, put shoes and socks on her slippered feet, and took her out into the chilly November air for the drive to Williamstown. As soon as she arrived, she made it clear that she wanted us all united in prayer, so we sat down, held hands, and listened to her heartfelt prayer in Moru as tears trickled down our cheeks. That day she met our children, her grandchildren, for the first time. The meeting was magical. God’s voice rose at full volume.

We learned so much while she was with us about her devastating experiences in the war-zone, and the unspeakable crimes committed against women and children. We learned about the ministry that she and other “Mothers of the Church” had begun in the Khartoum refugee camp providing food and care for hungry unsupervised children and beginning a school. She offered gifts to the church of a beautiful woven wall hanging and a hanging gourd bowl made by refugees. God spoke through her to us.

From the beginning, St. John’s Episcopal Church had given their financial and prayer support to us, since they knew Raile was ordained in their denomination. One Sunday, she spoke at St. John’s and presented them with a gourd bowl. At St. John’s, Raile’s Bowl is the miraculous multiplying container of gifts to various mission projects. Raile Daffala embodied God’s voice of compassion for this earth.

Though one might have expected her to want to stay here forever, Raile was at heart a minister of the gospel. She had her work, her children, to serve in the streets of Khartoum. And so with hearts full of joy and memories as well as heartache, we packed her up for the return trip to Cairo and Khartoum. About a week after she left, a group of people from both First Congregational and St. John’s Episcopal churches asked, “What can we do to continue this connection?” Church World Service challenged us to raise \$25,000 for the internal refugees of Sudan, which they would match. It seemed too tremendous a goal for such a small community, but Raile’s courage and persistence inspired us. In about a year and a half, we had reached \$25,000! Jeanne Blake and Elizabeth Williams headed St. John’s fundraising task force. They remember making and selling soup to help reach the goal. Elizabeth relates that Mother Raile is still living in Sudan and active in ministering to others.

With that \$50,000 from two Williamstown churches and CWS, a school was created for the children, a small shop was procured to make income for the mothers, and people were fed daily in the camps of Khartoum. The thread of Raile’s prayers of thanksgiving were woven throughout all her works of ministry. “Arigboya Lu.” With God, nothing is impossible. God grant us the courage and the faith of Mother Raile, so that all of us can be about God’s work in this world. God’s voice still speaks to us through Raile’s story and our continued use of Raile’s Bowl for outreach ministry.

Watch for Sunday announcements of future uses for Raile’s Bowl.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>THANKSGIVING DAY WORSHIP</b> <b>10:00 a.m. on Thursday, November 23<sup>rd</sup></b></p>
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**NOVEMBER ODDS & ENDS**

Interim Rector, Libby Wade, will attend a CREDO Conference for clergy and take a few days vacation to visit relatives in Alabama. In case of a pastoral emergency while she is away (November 7-16), please contact Madeline in the church office during weekdays or one of the Wardens, Margot Sanger and Claudia Ellet. They will be able to contact a priest for you.

We will not have a Tuesday Eucharist on November 7<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup>. That service will return on November 21<sup>st</sup>.

The Rev. Canon Dr, Rich Simpson will be celebrant and preacher on Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, and Williams’ College Chaplain Rick Spalding will be preacher on Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup>.

## **FORUMS EVALUATE OUTREACH**

St. John's is generally recognized as a parish which gives priority to outreach through a generous tithe of pledged income, individual participation, and strong interest in service to others and social justice. Efforts include a tithe to the diocese, special collections through Raile's Bowl, and supporting occasional mission trips. Several dozen folk gathered after the 10 a.m. service on October 15<sup>th</sup> to share ideas and questions about our budgeted financial outreach. The Vestry has just approved 29 grants, ranging from \$300 to \$2000. These include 9 (\$4500) for general and international outreach, 7 (\$6000) for local/regional food-oriented ministries, and 13 (\$8100) to area organizations such as Berkshire Immigrant Center, Ecu-Health, Habitat for Humanity, and Soldier On. Another smaller disbursement will be made in December. Details will be in the Annual Report. Van Ellet, aided by Libby Wade, led a lively discussion in which many questions were raised, suggesting the need for additional meetings to better evaluate our priorities and procedures. How are grant recipients chosen? How connected are we with recipients? Are parishioners active in these organizations? Is there any accountability for grant recipients? Do we need better guidelines and procedures to evaluate the effectiveness of our grants? Should we continue sharing funds in small amounts to so many organizations or consider larger grants related annually to parish priorities or specific organizational needs? Libby provided a handout of "Opportunities for Outreach Ministry" this fall & winter through St. John's and discussed several of these. She noted that an Outreach section will soon be opened on our website.

***The next Outreach Forum will be on Sunday, November 26<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m. in the Lower Room.*** "Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or naked or a stranger?" Join Libby and Van after the 10:00 a.m. worship service for a discussion of Matthew 25:31-46 as it relates to St. John's. 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.

Elizabeth Williams

## **ADDICTION PRAYER PILGRIMAGE**

Thirteen people joined Libby+ on St. John's lawn on October 22<sup>nd</sup> to offer prayers for hope and healing from addiction. This was part of the second annual county-wide interfaith effort initiated by our Episcopal Deanery. The final prayer in that service is a good one to continue praying as our region deals with the opioid addiction crisis and other addictions: "*O God, the source of light and life, help us to dedicate ourselves to the work of bringing your compassion and healing to all those in need and especially those in addiction in this community and around our county. Give us the courage to help them seek out the treatment they need to break the chains that bind them. Give us eyes to see beyond shame to see our friends and neighbors as your beloved children. We ask you to be present with us and give us your gifts of hope and healing. Amen.*"

## **CRIMINAL JUSTICE MINI-EDUCATION / ACTION**

Thanks to Ms. Lee Cheek, Co-Chair of our Diocesan Social Justice Commission, for leading an interesting discussion of Bryan Stevenson's book *Just Mercy* with a group from St. John's and First Congregational on October 25<sup>th</sup>. This education/action group also met on October 30<sup>th</sup> with Senator Adam Hinds and Candidate John Barrett for a timely discussion on the critical issue of upcoming criminal justice reform legislation in Massachusetts this fall.

**Save the Date:** Northern Berkshire Community Coalition Forum on Community, Justice, and Corrections, **November 17<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m. – Noon**, First Baptist Church, North Adams.

## **GO GREEN!**

The *Prologue* is now available on the St. John's website as "Monthly Newsletter" under "News and Events," at [saintjohnswilliamstown.org](http://saintjohnswilliamstown.org). 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). We will, of course, continue to send the printed Prologue to those who prefer to receive it by "snail mail."

## **500<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION – October 31, 2017**

October 31, 2017 was the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the day that Martin Luther tacked his 95 theses to a church door calling the Church to reform. That act touched off what came to be known as the Protestant Reformation. It seems fitting to hear words from Luther this month, so here's a quote that might apply to individuals, congregations, and the Church as a whole: "This life therefore is not righteousness but growth in righteousness, not health but healing, not being but becoming, not rest but exercise. We are not yet what we shall be but we are growing toward it, the process is not yet finished but it is going on, this is not the end but it is the road. All does not yet gleam in glory but all is being purified." This quote, in calligraphy by Michael Podesta, hangs in the breezeway between the church and the upper room. It's but one of many charming and meaningful pieces of art found throughout St. John's buildings.

**SING A NEW SONG UNTO THE LORD,  
SINGING ALLELUIA!!**



**BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS  
and all were quiet....**



←...even the cat!!

## **NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

- 2 Christopher Mahar, Polly Macpherson  
3 Eilleen Drummond, Stuart Crampton,  
Gigi Douglas  
5 Paula Stambaugh, Pablo Ortiz,  
Jameson Bayliss  
6 Lou Skidmore, Winthrop S. Alden, Jr.  
7 Scot Beattie, Jarrett Bayliss, Julia Petrino  
8 Elizabeth Wilson  
9 Penny Willette, Sarah Jane Acheson,  
Ana Maria Harkins  
10 Jeffrey O'Brien  
11 Julia Bolton, Gabriela Nicholson,  
Jane Skavlem, Emily Stump '18  
12 Mikayla & Isabella Ticconi  
14 Beth Michaels, Woon Chul Fisher  
16 MacKenzie Langman Zimmerman,  
Yo Matsui, Zoe Kerns  
17 Kimberly Montgomery  
18 Jennifer Noyes, Michaela (Lane) Foucher  
21 Richard Scullin III, Annie Pardoe,  
Angela Tang '19  
22 Alexander Scherr, Robin Alton,  
Burke Giordano, Paul Heggeseth  
23 Roger Bolton, Aidan White  
24 Toran Manning, Bob Buhner  
25 Margaret Ware, Doreen Forney  
29 Benjamin Lovell

## **WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES**

- 16 Willy Kramer & Joe Dewey  
25 Hugh & Laurie Glover

## **We extend condolences to...**

To the family of...

Paul Foster, Darlene Church's father,  
who died on October 20<sup>th</sup>

Jeanette Carlson, Lucie Polk's mother,  
who died on October 31<sup>st</sup>

## **FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF DEATH**

- 11 David Peth  
23 Jane M. Gibson, Drew's mother



## **FROM THE PARISH CALENDAR**

*This month:*

- Reception for Bob Hansler, see p. 1  
Upcoming Music Events, see p. 2  
Centering Prayer, see p. 3  
Future Parish Life events, see p. 4  
Support Groups, see p. 4

## **ONGOING:**

*Tuesdays*

- 9:30 a.m., Holy Eucharist, church (*not 11/7 or 11/14*)  
3:45 p.m., Evening Prayer, Sweetbrook  
(third Tuesday only)  
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*

- 9:00 a.m., Cancer Support Group, upper room  
(1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> weeks only)  
1:00 p.m., Affin-KNIT-ty Group, library  
3:30 p.m., Children's Chorus  
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, November 2<sup>nd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>  
9:00 a.m., Cancer Support Group, upper room  
Thursday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>  
5:30 p.m., Vesper Service, church  
Wednesday, November 8<sup>th</sup>  
7:00 p.m., VESTRY, library  
Thursday, November 16<sup>th</sup>  
5:30 p.m., Centering Prayer, church  
Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup>  
11:30 a.m., Home Delivered Meals  
1:00 p.m., Friendship Knot Quilters, lower room  
Sunday, November 26<sup>th</sup>  
11:30 a.m., Outreach Forum, Lower Room