



St. John's Prologue

"In the beginning was the Word..."

St. John's Episcopal Church
Williamstown, Massachusetts

May 2018

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Help us welcome

NATHANIEL, CAROLYN AND INGA

on

MAY 6th

at an

ALL PARISH POTLUCK PICNIC

After the 10:00 o'clock service in the LOWER ROOM

THE GRILLMASTERS WILL BE COOKING
HAMBURGERS, HOTDOGS AND VEGGIE BURGERS
(The church will provide the condiments)



PLEASE BRING A DISH TO SHARE

It will be a true potluck as there will be no sign-up

We would like to share the link below,
Seceived from Canon Rich Simpson

<http://www.ecfvp.org/blogs/2679/welcoming-a-new-rector>

Please let the Parish Life Team know if you have any questions.
Claudia Ellet, Jane Jenkins, Lisa Bernard, Pete Morin, Drew Gibson,
Josephine Nicholson, Morgot Sanger, Grace Breckinridge

Dear St. John's Family,

During the time of transition, your prayers, embracement of change, ability to work together, and encouragement for growth sustained our beloved St John's. With God's grace and your support, the parish moved through the transition process in an open and faith-filled way. From the bottom of our hearts we thank you for your shared talents and faith.



Your Wardens,
Claudia and Margot

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S NATHANIEL, CAROLYN AND INGA!!

On May 1, 2018 the St. John's community will be blessed with the arrival of our new Rector, The Rev. Nathaniel Anderson. In addition to his spiritual and leadership skills Nathaniel brings with him his wonderful wife, Carolyn and, (with apologies to all parents and grandparents) possibly the cutest little pre-toddler in New England. We welcome you all!

The joy and excitement with which we greet this next phase in the life of St. John's is enhanced by the certainty that God has been with us and the Andersons during this entire journey. The faithful work of the Profile and Search Teams led to the Vestry decision to call Rev. Anderson at the recommendation of the Diocesan Canon to the Ordinary, The Rev. Dr. Rich Simpson. As a congregation, we have been praying every time we gather for God's guidance and blessing during this process. We have no doubt that the Andersons have undergone a similar deliberate process of discernment and prayer. God has been abundantly gracious in response to all of this praying! Nathaniel, Carolyn and Inga are already part of our hearts and the fabric of our Parish.

We will have a Parish Picnic on Nathaniel's first Sunday with us, May 6th (*see p. 1*) directly after the 10:00 service. This will be a wonderful opportunity for all of us to begin the delightful process of getting acquainted with each other.

Margot and Claudia
Co-Wardens

OUTREACH FORUM: GLOBAL HEALTH PARTNERSHIPS (GHP)

One of the goals of the new grant application process is to build closer working relationships with organizations we help fund, as well as the people they serve.

Therefore, we are thrilled that Dr. Angelo Tomedi, MD, the founder of Global Health Partnerships, will be able to join us at St. John's on **Sunday, May 20th** following the 10:00 service in the lower room for a presentation on their work.

GHP is an organization that helps families in rural Kenya gain access to food supplies, medical care, and education that otherwise would be beyond reach. It has been supported by St. John's for a number of years.

The base of GHP's operation is a clinic and maternity center in a rural village, which like other sub-Saharan locations has a high child mortality rate, many of which occur in the first month of life. The GHP special impact grant application submitted for funding this year focuses on the prevention of deaths of this infant population. This GHP project has been in operation for several years, has demonstrated its effectiveness, but needs resources to expand the project, as requested by The Kenya Ministry of Health.

Dr Angelo Tomedi, who is a Board Certified in Family Practice from Albuquerque, NM, will provide information about GHP, the work that they do in Kenya, and answer your questions about how the resources from St. John's will be used this year, if funded.

Please join us in welcoming Dr. Tomedi!



GHP Clinic in Kenya

YEAR-ROUND STEWARDSHIP

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

Our Journey to Generosity continues throughout the year just as our commitment to our Outreach partners continues. Many thanks to everyone who is up-to-date on pledge payments. If you are not sure if you are or not, please check your latest Quarterly Statement mailed from the church office.

The Arbor Society, our group of generous folk who have included St. John's in their Planned Giving directions, now has 24 members. If you would like more information on how to join, please look for our Planned Giving brochure in the church or let Madeline know of your interest. We will be happy to assist you.

CENTERING PRAYER

"Centering Prayer is a receptive method of silent prayer that prepares us to receive the gift of contemplative prayer, prayer in which we experience God's presence within us, closer than breathing, closer than thinking, closer than consciousness itself. This method of prayer is both a relationship with God and a discipline to foster that relationship. Centering Prayer emphasizes prayer as a personal relationship with God."

Fr. Thomas Keating

(Fr. Thomas Keating is a founding member and the spiritual guide of Contemplative Outreach, LTD.)

Please Come To Centering Prayer

Centering Prayer is offered at St. John's on the last Thursday of the month. We meet in the church from 5:30 to 6:30. Please join us on May 24th. The summer schedule will be announced in May.

We would like to share our opening prayer as we enter into silence. If you are unable to attend please pray this prayer with us as you enter into your prayer.

*Dearest loving God, ever present in me,
May I now be present in you,
Attentive to your every word,
Attuned to your inspirations,
Alert to your touch.*

Empty me that I may be filled with you alone.

Please let us know if you have any questions,

Peace and blessings,
Mary Pierson and Claudia Ellet

ST. JOHN'S SEEDLING SWAP

On Sunday, May 20th, weather permitting; there will be a seedling swap on the front lawn of St. John's. If it is still snowing, or even raining, we will set up in the lower room. It is our hope that many of you have followed the lead of the St. John's youth and choristers and planted some vegetable and herb seeds in April. We are focusing on food producing plants for two reasons. The first is because this initiative is part of a larger outreach commitment to address food insecurity which has been identified as one of several issues of focus by the Outreach Committee. The second reason is to avoid conflicting with other Williamstown groups who sell flowering plants during the month of May. All of the seedlings available on May 20 will be free to take by parishioners even if you don't bring any seedlings of your own to swap. There are several ways in which you are invited to become involved.



1. Plant some seeds. Starter pots, planting soil and seeds will continue to be available at the back of the church through May 6th.
2. Bring your seedlings to church on May 20th to swap for something you didn't grow. Please label all of your seedlings!!!! Go into as much detail as possible. For example: Bush Beans or Pole Beans, not just Beans.
3. Bring a sturdy tray to carry your new seedlings home. You are welcome to take what you would like to complete your vegetable gardens.
4. Invite a friend to participate with you and bring them along on May 20th to share in the fun.
5. Green thumb let you down this year? No problem. Monetary donations are happily accepted. Pots will be available to put donations in whether or not you want to take plants home. All monies will be used to assist folks who are living with food insecurity.
6. Visit our Garden of Eatin' located behind the church beside the Rectory. Speak with Charles Bonenti or Robin Lenz to learn ways you can be involved in this project.
7. Consider sharing your summer harvest with the St. John's community. A basket for your harvest overflow will be provided. Produce will be available to the parish and to the larger community as we continue to address food insecurity.

Thank you for the enthusiastic support you have already given to this new adventure. Margot Sanger

OPEN DATES FOR ALTAR FLOWERS

June 10th, 17th & 24th

The cost for two vases is \$35. 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.

OPEN DATES FOR COFFEE HOUR

May 13th, 20th June 17th, 24th
July 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd August 5th, 12th, 19th

Contact Claudia Ellet (703-408-8473 or claudiaellet@msn.com) if you would like to help with this wonderful tradition of fellowship and hospitality after the 10 a.m. worship service on Sundays. You may also sign up on the easel in the upper room.



ANGELS WALKING THIS EARTH

We are grateful to so many people for sharing their gifts of time and talent:

The members of the Altar Guild who have the altar set up for us every Sunday morning and who had the brass polished and decorated the church so beautifully for Easter.

For all who helped James Fissel's family with the memorial service & reception that followed on April 7th.

Wade celebration: To all who helped make the send off for Libby and Jim one we are sure they will remember for a long time, to all those who contributed food, and to those who helped set up and clean up.

Coffee hour hosts for April: Cynthia (Grant) Tykot, Mary Lovvorn & Rich Shotwell, Claudia Ellet, Margot Sanger, and Janice Cook.

Chorister volunteers: Claudia Ellet, Jennifer Johnson, Mary Pierson, Michele Ridgeway, Margot Sanger, Madeline Burdick, and Libby Wade.



WE EXTEND OUR CONDOLENCE

Jimmie Cobo, Evita's mother, who died on March 12th. Remember Evita and her family in your prayers, this Easter season.

James Fissel, Allison Perry's father and Judy (Kalt) Skeels' former husband, who died on March 22nd. We think of James' family in this time of their grief.

Richard Wilcox, Amanda's father & grandfather of Ben & Nicholas, died in Kansas on March 30th. Keep Amanda and her family in your prayers.

John Hansler, Bob's grandfather, died April 21st in the state of Washington. Bob has asked "for your prayers for my Grandma Phyllis and the rest of the family!" He will be with his family getting ready to help send him off on his journey into eternal life at his service on Saturday, April 28th.



All who have cancer, have survived cancer, are a care giver to someone with cancer, or are affected by cancer are welcome to join us in *the Upper Room at St. John's at 9:00 a.m. on the 1st & 3rd Thursday of every month.*

We feel that the greatest need is often that time between diagnosis and the beginning of treatment, when affected people are most vulnerable, discouraged, and unsure of where this is all leading. To make ourselves available to those people, we will 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.

If you have questions or concerns, you may call the church office at 413.458.8144 or e-mail at saintjohns@roadrunner.com.

COMING SOON!!

EMPTY BOWL
to benefit Berkshire Food Project
FRIDAY, MAY 4th

two seatings: 5:30 p.m. & 7:00 p.m. tickets: \$30
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
WILLIAMSTOWN

WILLIAMSTOWN REPAIR CAFÉ
SATURDAY, MAY 12th from 1 – 4 p.m.
at SHEEP HILL,
671 Cold Spring Road, Williamstown

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Joe Dewey
- 2 Mary King
- 4 Justina Perry, Cole Kuster, Max Menkel,
Kimberly Perry
- 5 Michele Ridgeway
- 7 Lee Manning, The Rev. John Denaro
- 8 Tracy Skidmore, Anne Reed, Ella Murphy,
Alexandria Franz
- 9 Margo Menkel
- 10 Dan Campbell, Ava Howard
- 11 Sally White, Jennifer Bayliss, Bob Sanger
- 12 Barbara Halligan
- 13 Francis Ogert, Anthony Petrino, Stacie Goddard
- 15 Dawn Daniels
- 17 Maribeth Conroy, Lucius Park
- 18 Judy (Kalt) 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 Chambers
- 25 Steve Geislinger
- 26 Rachel Chenail, Edward Pelz – his 100th!!
- 28 Susan Matsui
- 29 Joan Soper
- 30 George Kennedy, Tim McKenna
- 31 Julie Hart, Amy Mendes

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

- 4 Fred & Gay Scarborough
- 20 James Bergin & Debbie Monahan
- 22 Charles Bonenti & Stephanie Johnson
- 26 Tom & Josephine Nicholson

ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION

- 14 The Rev. Gary Dickson

FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF DEATH or MEMORIAL SERVICE

- 12 Michael J. O'Brien, Charles' brother
- 26 June Ogert & William Ogert
- 27 Claire Putnam, Peg Putnam's daughter-in-law



FROM THE PARISH CALENDAR

THIS MONTH:

- Welcome picnic, see p. 1
- Outreach forum, see p. 2
- Seedling swap, see p. 3
- Empty Bowl, see p. 4
- Repair Café, see p. 4

MAY 7th: 7:00 p.m. in church.

FutureCIAO!/Kids4Harmony concert - reception in upper room after concert

MAY 13th: 4-5:00 p.m. in church. Free chamber music concert by Williams College students. Program includes Piazzolla: Piano Trio J.S. Bach: Brandenburg Concerto No. 6 in Bb

ONGOING:

Tuesdays

- 9:30 a.m., Holy Eucharist, church
- 3:45 p.m., Evening Prayer, Sweetbrook
(third Tuesday only)
- 7:00 p.m., Adult Children of Alcoholics,
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 chorus rehearsal
- 7:00 p.m., AA, library
- 7:30 p.m., Choir rehearsal

Fridays

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

Sunday

- 5:30 p.m., The Feast, upper room (academic year)
- 7:00 p.m., AA, library

MONTHLY MEETINGS:

Thursday, May 3rd & May 17th

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

Wednesday, May 9th

VESTRY, 7 p.m., library

Sunday, May 20th

- Home delivered meals
- Friendship Knot Quilters, 1 p.m., lower room

Thursday, May 24th

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