



St. John's Prologue

"In the beginning was the Word..."

St. John's Episcopal Church
Williamstown, Massachusetts

June 2018

Dear people of St. John's,

Wow - what an amazing welcome! On my first day I was greeted by a completely decked out office - a banner made by our children, bunting with messages from so many of you, and a table piled high with gifts. Your kind words, offers of help and affection shown to my family has meant the world. Thank you for making us all feel so welcome!

Arriving in Williamstown in early April we had three weeks to tackle our home improvement projects, unpack some things and learn where to find things in the local grocery stores. We also had the blessing of attending worship together as a family. Though it may be what some call a "busman's holiday" for me, I love attending worship when I'm on vacation or traveling. There is something incredibly renewing about being able to simply worship.

Being in town for three Sundays I also had the rare opportunity to worship with our local partners in ministry. The pastors and members of First Church in Williamstown, St. Stephen's in Pittsfield and All Saint's in North Adams were wonderfully hospitable. We are incredibly blessed to have wonderful clergy and people in our neighboring parishes. It is my hope that we will deepen those relationships and partnerships here in northern Berkshire county. Our community is in such need and denominational labels mean less and less to those outside our congregations. Whereas once churches were territorial and cliquish, today we wonder, why wouldn't we work together?

In addition to sharing my excitement about the opportunities locally for partnership, this article serves as an annual reminder/encouragement for you to take advantage of worshipping in other churches during your summer travels. If you make a habit of worshipping on the road, I think you will find it is relaxing to be in a church where you're not expected to do anything besides worship! Imagine that - no meetings, no sign ups, just the opportunity to worship God.

Additionally, it's a great blessing to see the diverse manifestations of Christian worship and community in other places and in other traditions. St. John's is an eclectic and risk-taking community - just think of all the great ideas and insights you might glean from worshipping in a new place with new people on your time away.

Once again, thank you for the over the top welcome to St. John's and Williamstown. We are so incredibly happy and grateful to be here. I pray that this time of summer may be renewing and enlivening for you. As I continue to get up to speed on everything at St. John's, I hope you'll stop by and give me the opportunity to get to know you better. I can't wait to see what God has in store for us and our ministry together.

Grace and peace,

The Rev. Nathaniel Anderson

NOONTIME SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

Monday, July 2nd marks the beginning of our 15th annual Summer Noontime concert series, which continues each Monday through August 20. The concerts begin at noon and last for one hour. Admission is free; donations to offset expenses are welcome. Detailed concert information will be updated weekly on the St. John's website www.saintjohnswilliamstown.org, on our Facebook page ("St. John's Episcopal Church, Williamstown") and at www.destinationwilliamstown.org.

The concert series is supported in part by a grant from the Cultural Council of Northern Berkshire, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency. The opening concert on July 2 features Andrew King, piano; Emily Kalish, violin; Jimmy Bergin, viola; Perri Morris, cello; who will perform Brahms: Sonata in G and Schumann: Piano Quartet.

JOIN OUR JOURNEY!

Are you new to St. John's? Have you been coming to church for months or years and are ready to get more involved? We have endless opportunities for you to share your time, talent, and treasure. This year, our stewardship theme is *Journey to Generosity*, and it continues through the summer. Maybe you would like to help host a coffee hour or sign up to be a reader during church services. We need more people on the rotations for ushers, Eucharistic Ministers, Altar Guild members, and helpers in the nursery and children's programs. You could join our Sweet Brook Evening Prayer team, become a Eucharistic Visitor, help in our Garden of Eatin', or participate in our Take and Eat ministry by cooking, packing, or delivering meals to those who need them. If none of these strikes your fancy, let us know what you would like to do for St. Johns and our community. We love new ideas! In addition to sharing your time and talents, you may be ready to make a commitment to share your treasure in a meaningful way. Pledge Cards are available on the table at the back of the church as are Planned Giving brochures. Please contact Madeline in the church office with your questions about any involvement at St. John's. She will connect you with the person who will welcome you to the Journey!

BEE FRIENDLY WILLIAMSTOWN

Join us for Coffee & Conversation (and a short film & discussion!) in the lower room on Sunday, June 17th, 11:30am, with Bee Friendly Williamstown.

The Bee Friendly Williamstown campaign seeks to raise awareness about bees, butterflies, and all pollinators and the crucial role they play in the web of life. We will watch the short documentary *Keep the Hives Alive*, which explores the reasons behind pollinator declines and advocates for ways to help them. After the film, members of Bee Friendly Williamstown will briefly discuss their work and what local residents can do to address this urgent issue.

Learn how to look at your lawn and garden in terms of pollinators and the entire life cycle they support.

"Creation care" begins in our own backyards: caring for pollinators realigns our priorities away from a sterile aesthetics of order in favor of a life-giving and life-sustaining vibrancy. Simple landscaping changes reduce threats to human, pet, and pollinator health and bring a joyful buzz of biodiversity and natural life to our environment.

The yearlong Bee Friendly Williamstown campaign is funded by a grant from the Toxics Use Reduction Institute at UMASS Lowell and co-administered by Bridget Spann and Anne O'Connor, in collaboration with a team of local residents, including Robin Lenz.

ST. JOHN'S SEEDLING SWAP - UPDATE

The in-gathering of seedlings and their distribution to parishioners after church on Sunday, May 20th was quite successful. We had kale, spinach, parsley, tomato, eggplant, snap pea, pole bean, beet and zucchini seedlings in addition to oregano and mint plants. Many folks took home collections of seedlings to plant. There are still some plants available for the taking.



These will be left on the outside landing in front of the Sunday school room. Please feel free to browse and take what you want. Financial donations are also gratefully received. All money will be given to local organizations that focus on food security. On Sunday we received \$30.00 in donations.

As the summer growing season progresses I encourage you to share the abundance of your gardens with your St. John's family. Baskets will be available in the breezeway between the upper room and the church for your convenience both to leave produce and/or to take what you would like for your kitchen. I see lots of social gatherings with vegetables as the main course over the summer and fall! Would you consider sharing a favorite recipe when you drop off your produce?

Happy planting and Harvesting!
Margot Sanger

OPEN DATES FOR ALTAR FLOWERS

July 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th
August 5th, 19th

The cost for two vases is \$35. Beginning on June 24th we will be switching to the summer altar and to one vase of flowers. The cost for one vase is \$20. As always, if you have an abundance of garden flowers, we would love them to adorn the altar.

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

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.



ART SHOW: "spring come back in my garden"

Young Ja Yoon Kim's drawing & mixed media artwork will be on display at the Milne Library between June 1st and June 30th. All are welcome to the opening reception on June 2nd, 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. at the library.



From the Berkshires, to the Pioneer Valley, and from the Valley to Worcester, we are...

Rekindling HOPE Sharing LIGHT Loving JESUS
#WMARevival

Our Presiding Bishop Curry has called the Episcopal Church throughout the country into revival. Bishop Curry and Bishop Fisher will be joining us for our Western MA Revival on Sunday, October 21st. The day will start in Berkshire County, where we will be holding the worship service. After the service, we will move on to the Pioneer Valley, and finally to Worcester for the last event of the day.

It is Bishop Curry and Bishop Fisher's hope is that the Revival weekend will be a springboard to further opportunities to "rekindle hope, share light, and love Jesus".

Stay tuned for more information for the worship service and events on October 21st as well as opportunities for faith formation and community service as follow-up on the Revival. In the meantime please visit:

<https://vimeo.com/260458184> for Bishop Curry's invitation to Revival 2018.

Prayer for Revival 2018

God of the living, your faithful love has made us a people of hope. This hope is your gift to be shared. We wonder how to share Jesus' mission of mercy, compassion and hope in this time, in this place. We hear voices that cry out for your justice. We see children who long for bread. We are waiting for your Word to spark our imagination. We are trusting that you will lead us to a deeper praise that touches hearts and lifts up those who are bowed down. We know that if we wonder, listen and wait, you will revive your people. We thank you for guiding our way and for what we, as yet, cannot see. In Jesus' name we pray. AMEN.

Claudia Ellet

Co-Chair of Berkshire Corridor Revival

ON SUNDAY, MAY 20th, WE CELEBRATED!

Not only did we celebrate Pentecost with a wonderfully spirit filled service with the church school children raising the flame to the rafters and having all in attendance share in the experience with flame headbands, we honored students who have or who are about to graduate from college including Evie Mahon (Williams), Henry Sanford (Salem State); Yves Nuvuny (Rwanda), & Kur Deng (South Sudan), and Maggie Magumba (Uganda), fellows at Williams CDE.



Congratulations to the following Williams College Graduates who lived in the Rectory during their senior year:

Louisa Abel, Clara Beery, Karl Böcker, Sam Ellison, Devin Flynn, Andy Robertson, Roberta Miller, and Brittany Soo Chung.



If you know of a graduate who should be listed, please call Madeline or Nathaniel so they can be included in the next Prologue.

MUSIC

On Williams Graduation Sunday, June 3rd, members of St John's choir joined with the choir of First Congregational Church to lead the music for a service celebrating "Creation". The liturgy took place at the Clark. This is the second year that the churches have collaborated for this liturgy. The music is chosen to be familiar and accessible.

On Sunday, June 10th, the service music will change with our first "ordinary time" ten o'clock Eucharist since February 11th. The choir will sing "Locus iste" by Anton Bruckner for the anthem.

Both St. John's Choir and St. John's Choristers will conclude their 2017-18 singing seasons on Sunday, June 17th. As has been the case since January, the ensembles will sing together. The anthem will be "Cantate Domino" by Claudio Monteverdi. Directly after the service there will be a gathering to celebrate and thank the choristers and their families for their participation in this inaugural year and to thank Mr. Will for serving as Music Scholar. Will and Anna, who helped with rehearsals during Lent, are getting married at the end of June and moving to Cambridge, MA for Graduate School. We will miss their presence and assistance and wish them the very best as they prepare to embark on the next chapter of their life together.

This has been a change-filled year for St. John's Music ministry. Gratitude is due to those who have kept us moving forward:

- Our Choir members for their flexibility and perseverance.
- Jimmy Bergin, Mariko Bolton, Paul Heggeseth, Carl Jenkins, Caleb Low, Oscar Low, Mary Pierson and Bart Saxbe for sharing their gifts as instrumentalists during services.
- Claudia Ellet, Mary Pierson, Michele Ridgeway, Margot Sanger and Libby Wade, St. John's "Aftercare Team" who designed and stewarded the participation of the choristers in a variety of fascinating activities after rehearsal each week.
- St. John's congregation, whose spirited and skillful singing makes such a joyful noise unto the Lord.

~ Mark Johnson

CANCER SUPPORT GROUP



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.*

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

MUST BE SUMMER!

We're grateful to parishioners with dirty hands, a sure sign that they're up to something good... Robin Lenz and helpers who have been working tending to our Garden of Eatin' (which has noticeably expanded) and potted plants have been set at church doorways, thanks to the efforts of Jeanne and Dick Blake, Kathy McKnight, and Dan Campbell.



LOOKING AHEAD

Coffee Hour Forum

Sunday, July 1st at 11:30 p.m.
in the lower room (*assistance available*)

Bart Saxbe will share his experiences on his past medical mission trips to Cambodia and Bolivia



ONE SUMMER ISSUE OF THE PROLOGUE

So all may be aware, we're expecting to issue *one July-August Prologue*, with a deadline of June 21st.

Send your material to Debbie Monahan (dlmonahan@gmail.com) or Madeline (saintjohns@roadrunner.com).

Thank you.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Pete Willmott, Joseph Jacobsohn
- 2 Robert "Bud" Fisher, Stephen White
- 4 Bob Hansler, Alexander Elvin, Rachel Glover,
Nathan Wootters
- 5 John Pritchard, Liz Tadros, Sheila Mason
- 7 Elaine Leander, Marisa Daley, Kathy McKnight
- 8 Eugenia Smith (her 90th!), Karen George,
Amanda Moore, Carol Perkin
- 9 Valerie Kennedy
- 10 Gary Wilson, Linda Carman
- 11 Trent Tabor, Marilyn "Sam" Coughlin
- 12 Shelby LaCosse, Gabriel Coughlin
- 13 Margie Duffield
- 14 Pim Goodbody
- 15 Nicholas Snyder, Anna Kelsey Tabor
- 16 Jim Kolesar, Adrienne Wootters, John Hyde,
Laura Groth, Carla Meehan, David Colt,
Henry Sanford
- 17 Emily Millard, Hugh Sanford
- 19 Susan Akers
- 21 Jeffrey Tovani, Polly Birrell
- 24 Ethan Budrow, Caitlin Kocsis
- 25 Elizabeth Shoreman, Michael Daniels,
David Coughlin, Joy MacNulty
- 26 Gayle O'Brien Kennedy, Karen McWilliams,
Francisco Friedrich
- 28 James Lenhoff
- 29 Laurie Glover
- 30 Richard Halverson

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

- 4 John & Suzanne Lenhoff
- 6 Carl & Jane Jenkins
- 9 Peter & Rachaele Morin
- 12 Gordon & Jennifer Holey
- 14 Rich Shotwell & Mary Lovvorn
- 15 Phil & Kathy McKnight
- 19 John & Jid Sprague
Jonathan Secor & Ana Maria Harkins
Jim & Libby Wade
- 20 David & Marilyn "Sam" Coughlin
Josh & Maggie Lawton
- 21 Charlie & Judy Blaisdell
- 22 Peter & Diana Elvin
Barry & Judy Walraven
- 26 Louis & Jennifer desCognets
Scott & Jennifer Hill
Pim & Pandi Goodbody
- 27 Roger & Julia Bolton

FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF DEATH or MEMORIAL SERVICE

- 4 Theresa Dube, Madeline Burdick's mother
- 24 Mary Crossin Kelley
- 30 Sylvia Caesar Shugg

FROM THE PARISH CALENDAR

THIS MONTH:

Shared Worship, see p. 1
Bee Friendly forum, see p. 2

ONGOING:

Tuesdays

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
(last session of academic year: June 6th)

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
(last rehearsal of academic year: June 14th)

7:00 p.m., AA, library

7:30 p.m., Choir rehearsal
(last rehearsal of academic year: June 14th)

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, June 7th & June 21st

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

Wednesday, June 13th

VESTRY, 7 p.m., library

Sunday, June 17th

Home delivered meals

Thursday, June 14th

Vespers, 5:30 p.m., church

Thursday, June 28th

Centering Prayer, 4:00 p.m. *(note new time)*,
church