



St. John's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

**common
life** NEWS

No matter where you are on your journey of faith, you are always welcome at St. John's Church, and most importantly at God's table.

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Adult Education Opportunities

Inquire Within

Adult Forum

Sundays at 9am

A discussion around the Gospel reading for the following Sunday

BibleWorkBench

Tuesdays 10:30am - 12:00pm

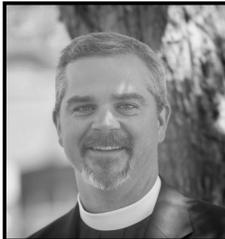
We explore our story through sacred stories. The morning concludes with Midday Prayer.

St. John's Night

Wednesdays 6-8pm

We gather to Eat, Learn, and Pray. A shared meal is followed by an opportunity to learn together. The evening finishes with Night Prayer.

october 2015



Rob's Ruminations

Fear Not!

The Reverend Robert E. Stevens, Jr., Rector

"Fear Not" is perhaps Jesus' most frequent statement in all the Gospels. It makes sense doesn't it? We are quite fearful if we take a moment and examine our lives. I am not suggesting that all fear is harmful. For example, if you come upon a bear in the woods, fear is quite appropriate and can be life saving indeed. The fear that I think that Jesus is referring to is a fear of goodness or a fear of abundance. Jesus recognized that people have a deep fear that there will simply not be "enough" for them. Scarcity is the core belief of our culture and it is the principle that drives our economy. However, scarcity is counter to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Abundance is the core belief of the Gospel and it is the principle that drives God's economy...but still we struggle to believe it and live it.

So what do we do? How can we begin to live Jesus' suggestion to "Fear Not"? Fear and anxiety for many is quite simply a habit. We have been taught that worry is the same as love and anxiety is the proper response to any stressful situation. Jesus offers a different way...he offers a practice of life that does not deny the challenges and struggles but rather a way of life that embraces the challenges and the joys with a posture of abundance. John 10:10 states that Jesus, "came that you may have life, and life abundantly." And Matthew 6:25-34 reads,

"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. "So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.

This reminder that we have a choice is the first step for me. How do we continually remind ourselves that anxiety and fear of goodness and abundance is a choice? Like any habit, breaking it takes practice, intentionality and discipline. Using a breath prayer or mantra is an ancient and helpful practice when the old habit of anxiety rears its head. My favorite is from Psalm 46, "Be still and know that I am God." When things get too stressful for me at work I try to remind myself, "It's just church...it'll be ok." And I have to remember that "It'll be ok," doesn't mean that it'll work out the way that I want it to but rather that God is in charge (not me) and that is a very good thing! In the end what we can control is how we treat each other and ourselves. In the end Kindness is the work of community. Life will happen and beautiful and terrible things will occur. We can choose to remain in a posture of scarcity and fear or we can take Jesus at His word and believe and live His hope for us. "Fear Not" is His refrain...How we respond matters greatly.



Associate Rector's Reflections

"Pilgrims on the journey"

The Reverend Anne C. Williamson, Associate Rector

Sometimes (often?) it is harder to receive than it is to give – there is a spirit of a generosity at St. John's that heartens me, whether it is the gift of time or talent or treasure – we are blessed with abundance in so many ways. I am aware, too, that the times in our lives when we find ourselves in a place of needing help, sometimes due to a joyful occasion like the birth of a child, or a sorrowful occasion, like the death of a loved one, or through illness or misfortune, it can be hard to ask for help, hard to receive help, hard to be vulnerable – this is New England after all! We are not alone - it was hard for Simon Peter to let Jesus wash his feet, even after Jesus had repeatedly told the disciples that he had come to serve, not to be served. It can be hard for us to be served, to be ministered to especially if we are accustomed to being the givers rather than the receivers. In this Year of Pilgrimage here at St. John's I invite you to consider how we might both continue the generosity of spirit that marks out this community as followers of Christ, but also invites each of us to minister to one another, and to be ministered to, in the joys and the sorrows, as we share our life of faith and walk this pilgrim walk together. As I have mentioned before, I often pray with songs and hymns, and have shared a few with you in my sermons. A number of folks have asked for the words to the song I mentioned in my September 20th sermon – the Servant Song – which gives voice to that invitation to share the journey, a prayer about receiving as well as giving:

*Brother, sister, let me serve you; let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.*

*We are pilgrims on a journey, and companions on the road;
we are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.*

*I will hold the Christlight for you in the nighttime of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.*

*I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow, till we've seen this journey through.*

*When we sing to God in heaven, we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony.*

*Brother, sister, let me serve you; let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.*

Richard Gillard



Music Notes

Do you think Meg was a bit too busy this month to write a proper newsletter article?

Margaret Harper, Director of Music





Caring Connection

Kid's Programs

Lizzie Bristow, Director of Youth Ministry

Starting in October, the Youth Group is back to **cooking dinner for Crossroads** after school in Thaxter Hall - this is scheduled to happen the first Wednesday of every month. I will start cooking at around 2:30, so any who are interested and able to join me please walk over to St. John's after school — we will prepare supper to deliver to Crossroads by 5:00. **Wednesday, October 7th** following our cooking we will have a tour of Crossroads to learn more about the amazing and important work they do.

We need to update our records for all children in St. John's programs!

Please help us to do this successfully and completely by filling out a registration form. This will ensure that you receive current information and e-mails from us and know what is going on in the St. John's Youth Program. Additionally, it allows us to have current emergency contact information and permission for the various programs throughout the year. The registration form can be found on the St. John's website - www.stjohnsnh.org - under Education: Children & Youth: Registration. Please read the guidelines carefully. Our preference is that you fill out the form online, but you can also print and return these to the office at the Tebbetts House or to one of the Kids Church or Youth Leaders. Forms can also be picked up in the office.



Developing Disciples

Children's Ministries Updates

Ashley Wade, Director of Children's Music and Ministries

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

9:00AM Nursery open

9:30AM Kids Church – classes in the basement of Thaxter Hall

KIDS CHURCH is open to all children in PreK through 5th grade. (*Youth Groups for middle and high school students meet at the same time.*) Children join their families in church at the Peace to celebrate the Eucharist together.

WORKING WITH CHILDREN AT ST. JOHN'S

Working with the kids at St. John's is a life-giving and soul-nurturing ministry. Volunteers are required to complete a background check and complete Safe Church training. Kids Church Leaders are a lovely, blended group of adults with many different gifts and passions. There are many options for levels of commitment. We are happy to work with individuals to create schedules that fit into your life. Happy volunteers equal a healthy, vibrant Kids Church family.

KIDS DO BETTER WHEN THEIR PARENTS ARE INVOLVED.

If you have children in our program, consider volunteering. Your presence and awareness of your child and the other kids in the program can boost your child's confidence and help them feel even more connected to St. John's and our community of kids. (And you'll probably have some fun while you're at it!)

IS IT IMPORTANT TO YOU THAT ST. JOHN'S HAS A THRIVING CHILDREN'S COMMUNITY?

If you answer "yes," consider volunteering. Scheduling is flexible and there are many different opportunities to share. You don't need to have any experience teaching Sunday School or know your Bible verses by heart. Most adults who give to the program say what they get back is more than they could have ever hoped. Our children have so much light to share! Our job is to help draw out what is inherently good inside of each child. We have curriculum to give us structure. Come to the meeting on 9/12 mentioned above to learn more and ask questions.

ST. JOHN'S YOUTH MUSIC

Our beloved choirs are back, and will remain completely separate from the St. John's Choir School. Look forward to spring 2016 when we may do a collaborative Sunday!

CHERUB CHOIR

For children, min. age 4 through age 8. We meet weekly on Wednesday afternoons 3:30-4:25 in the Choir Room. Children gather and share a snack and share in fellowship for the first 20 minutes. Children are led through simple vocal exercises and musical instruction, learning many songs that will ring through your house for the rest of the week! Children are cast as the "friendly beasts" and angels in our annual Christmas Pageant and may have the opportunity to participate in our annual youth musical production.

JUNIOR CHOIR

For children and youth, age 8 and up (min. age must be able to read and follow music with light assistance). We meet weekly on Wednesday afternoons 4:30-5:30 in the Choir Room. Singers are led through beginner-intermediate level vocal and musical instruction, learning choral arrangements to perform in church. Singers are cast as leads in the annual Christmas Pageant and youth musical production.

ST. J'S SINGERS

For youth, grade 7 and up (7th and 8th graders required to participate in Junior Choir, with some exceptions). We meet weekly on Sunday after church 11:30-12:30 in the Choir Room. Singers direct the course of the group, keeping an upbeat and modern edge on our music. The St. J's perform during coffee hour in Thaxter Hall, and are scheduled to be featured on Kickoff Sunday, during the festive reception after Lessons and Carols, as well as any Sundays listed for Youth Choirs.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT, SUNDAY, 20 DECEMBER, 10:00AM

Rehearsals begin on Wed, Dec 2nd. Dress rehearsal Saturday, 19 December, 10AM-12PM.

YOUTH MUSICAL, TBD

Any and all children & youth are welcome to join our cast! Stay tuned for more...

FALL 2015 CHILDREN & YOUTH PROGRAMS, AT A GLANCE:

OCTOBER

Oct 2-4 (Fri-Sun) Merrowvista Youth Retreat (6th through 12th grade)

Oct 4 (Sun) Choir School at St. John's joins the Parish Choir

- NO St. J's Singers Rehearsal

Oct 7 (Wed) 2:30PM Cooking for Crossroads & 5PM Tour - Youth Group Monthly Ministry

Oct 11 (Sun) NO St. J's Singers Rehearsal

Oct 18 (Sun) Cherub Choir sings in church

Oct 25 (Sun) Youth Choir sings in church

Oct 31 (Sat) 5PM Halloween graveyard service/potluck – 7PM Portsmouth parade

NOVEMBER

Nov 1 (Sun) Choir School at St. John's joins the Parish Choir

- 5PM Vespers for All Saints

Nov 4 (Wed) 2:30PM Cooking for Crossroads – Youth Group Monthly Ministry

Nov 8 (Sun) Cherub Choir sings in church

- Baptisms in church

Nov 22 (Sun) Rite 13 Ceremony

- Youth Choir sings in church

Nov 25 (Wed) No Kids Choirs

Nov 29 (Sun) 9:30AM Wreath-making event - First Sunday of Advent

- Choir School at St. John's joins the Parish Choir

Quick! Sing this!

Have you ever wanted to be able to sing a piece of music that someone put in front of you - I mean, without any help? Most of us can't do this naturally - many great singers don't know how to read music! But it would be more fun if we could.

I'll be leading a course this fall on learning to sing at sight. You don't need to have any previous training - that's the point! We'll start with what is already in our heads, naming the language already inside of us.

How Long? Six 90-minute sessions

When? 5:00 - 6:30PM on Sunday evenings, October 11, 18, 25, November 8, 15, 22

Who's doing this? John Stromgren

Where do I sign up? E-mail lutepisk@gmail.com, or call 603-431-5172



Parish Life

THE CHOIR SCHOOL AT ST. JOHN'S

Dear Friends,

Exciting times are afoot! The Choir School at St. John's is gearing up to open on September 14. There's much to be excited about with this new program, but there's also much behind-the-scenes work to be done.

Many of you have spoken to me over the past few months about your desire to volunteer with the Choir School. Unfortunately, my memory needs a bit of help. If you have not already done so, please take a moment to send me a short email at music@stjohnsnh.org to remind me of your interest.

For those of you who are interested but unsure where you'll fit into the picture, here is a list of ways that you might help:

- We need volunteers to supervise snack time: help to supervise, get to know our kids, oversee group games, etc.
- We need volunteers who are comfortable providing homework help: if you feel comfortable with subjects that kids might cover in grades 3-7, this is a great spot for you!
- We may need volunteers to assist with transportation. If you are comfortable driving a large van, we can use you.

You don't need to have any special skills to help out with the Choir School at St. John's. What's most important is that you be open to getting to know some stellar kids, and being a force for good in their lives.

Please do be in touch with me as soon as possible if you're interested in being involved with the Choir School. This is an exciting time to be at St. John's. I'm looking forward to taking this adventure together!

Best, Meg

Musical offerings presented for you this year!

Friday, 2 October	4:00 p.m.	Masterclass for area youth with Bob Stibler, trumpet
Sunday, 4 October	10:00 a.m.	Debut of The Choir School at St. John's
Sunday, 4 October	4:00 p.m.	Concerts on the Hill featuring Bob Stibler, trumpet
Sunday, 1 November	5:00 p.m.	Vespers for All Saints, featuring Michael Haydn's Requiem in C Minor
Sunday, 13 December	5:00 p.m.	A Service of Lessons & Carols
Sunday, 20 December	10:00 a.m.	Christmas Pageant
February 5 and 7		Musical
May 22	4:00 p.m.	Kick-off of Concerts on the Hill 2016, featuring a world premiere for choir and organ.

October

SUNDAY ADULT FORUM

10/4 9:00a, Philbrick Room

A discussion around the Gospel reading for the following Sunday

10/11 9:00a, Philbrick Room

A discussion around the Gospel reading for the following Sunday

10/18 9:00a, Philbrick Room

A discussion around the Gospel reading for the following Sunday

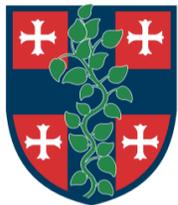
10/25 9:00a, Philbrick Room

A discussion around the Gospel reading for the following Sunday

SUNDAY	MONDAY
4 8a Rite I 8:30a Parish Choir 9:00a Nursery 9:30a Kids Church/Youth Grps 10:00a Rite II 11:00a Coffee Hour 11:30a Youth Choir rehearsal	5 2:30p - Choir School 7p - FA
11 8a Rite I 8:30a Parish Choir 9:00a Nursery 9:30a Kids Church/Youth Grps 10:00a Rite II 11:00a Coffee Hour 11:30a Youth Choir rehearsal	12 2:30p - Choir School 7p - FA
18 8a Rite I 8:30a Parish Choir 9:00a Nursery 9:00a Gospel Chat 9:30a Kids Church/Youth Grps 10:00a Rite II 11:00a Coffee Hour 11:30a Youth Choir rehearsal 12:30p Book Group	19 2:30p - Choir School 7p - FA
25 8a Rite I 8:30a Parish Choir 9:00a Nursery 9:00a Gospel Chat 9:30a Kids Church/Youth Grps 10:00a Rite II 11:00a Coffee Hour 11:30a Youth Choir rehearsal 12:30p Book Group	26 2:30p - Choir School 7p - FA

TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT
		1 9:30am - Healing Service 10:30a - Centering Prayer 10:30a - Econ Shop 12pm - Common Table 2:30p - Choir School 6:30p - Women's Book	2 10:30a - Women's Book Group	3
6 10:30a - 2:30p ES Baking 10:30a - Bible WB 2:30p - Choir School 6pm - Youth AA 4p - YOC Meeting	7 9a - Econ Shop 12:30p - Staff Meeting 1p - Knitting 1p - Cooking for CRH 3:30p - Cherub Choir 4:30p - Junior Choir 6p - St. John's Night	8 9:30am - Healing Service 10:30a - Centering Prayer 10:30a - Econ Shop 12pm - Common Table 2:30p - Choir School 6:30p - Women's Book 7pm - NA	9 10:30a - Women's Book Group 3:30p - Salvation Army cooking	10 7pm - AA
13 10:30a - 2:30p ES Baking 10:30a - Bible WB 2:30p - Choir School 6pm - Youth AA	14 7a- Men's Bk Grp 9a - Econ Shop 12:30p - Staff Meeting 3:30p - Cherub Choir 4:30p - Junior Choir 6p - St. John's Night	15 9:30am - Healing Service 10:30a - Centering Prayer 10:30a - Econ Shop 12pm - Common Table 2:30p - Choir School 6:30p - Women's Book 7pm - NA	16 10:30a - Women's Book Group	17 7:30am - Pancake breakfast 7pm - AA
20 10:30a - 2:30p ES Baking 10:30a - Bible WB 2:30p - Choir School 6pm - Youth AA	21 9a - Econ Shop 12:30p - Staff Meeting 1p - Knitting 3:30p - Cherub Choir 4:30p - Junior Choir 6p - St. John's Night	22 9:30am - Healing Service 10:30a - Centering Prayer 10:30a - Econ Shop 12pm - Common Table 2:30p - Choir School 6:30p - Women's Book Gr 7pm - NA	23 10:30a - Women's Book Group	24 7pm - AA
27 10:30a - 2:30p ES Baking 10:30a - Bible WB 2:30p - Choir School 6pm - Youth AA	28 9a - Econ Shop 12:30p - Staff Meeting 1p - Knitting 3:30p - Cherub Choir 4:30p - Junior Choir 6p - St. John's Night	29 9:30am - Healing Service 10:30a - Centering Prayer 10:30a - Econ Shop 12pm - Common Table 2:30p - Choir School 6:30p - Women's Book 7pm - NA	30 10:30a - Women's Book Group	31 7pm - AA

Parish Life



EPISCOPAL
CHURCH OF NH

Announcing ChIPS for 2015

Christmas comes to **Children of Incarcerated Parents** every year with *your* help: you and sponsors like you who donate gifts and funds to make it happen! Both the families and the incarcerated parents themselves are deeply grateful for the opportunity that the ChIPs program affords them. The prisons count the number of gifts needed for each age and gender group. Volunteers collect your gift donations, and use your monetary donations to supplement the gifts provided. Once the presents are sorted, they're brought to the prisons, and the inmates get the chance to choose one gift for each child on their list.

Children of prison inmates can live lonely lives. It's easy to believe that a parent you never see just doesn't care. Inmates also find themselves feeling isolated and abandoned, unable to provide for or to be a part of their families. Being able to offer their children a gift at the Christmas visit gives the inmates an opportunity for connection, for a sliver of normalcy in their family relations.

At the Men's Prison in Concord, once the gift is chosen, volunteers wrap it. The prison then throws a party! The family visits, and the inmates are able to give presents to their children. The ChIPs program also includes an age-appropriate book to go with each gift, helping to promote literacy within this sometimes underprivileged population.

There are many ways you can help:

- You can purchase a gift directly or contribute \$20. If you decide to make a monetary donation, please make out your check to St John's Church with ChIPS written on the memo line of the check.
- You can help sort the gifts at St. Paul's School.
- You can help with wrapping of the gifts at the New Hampshire State Prison for Men in Concord. (The date for wrapping has not yet been set.)
- You may drop off gifts or monetary donations at your church. The delegates to the Diocesan Convention will bring your gifts to the Convention on **November 7th** where they will be transported to St. Paul's School for sorting.

Continued on next page

Parish Life

ChIPS continued

Gift Guidelines

- We group gifts according the following age groups: birth to 1; ages 2 to 4; ages 5 to 7; ages 8-11; and ages 12-15
- Gifts should not exceed \$20 (**original retail value**).
- One \$20 gift is preferable to four \$5 gifts as it is difficult to group items together to equal a \$20 gift.
- If you don't want to purchase a \$20 gift, any monetary donation will be gladly accepted.
- **Books** are a separate category and our goal is to provide each child with a gift **and** a book. (both hard cover and paperback books are appropriate)
- If you purchase a gift that requires batteries, **please** purchase those as well and attach them to the gift. It's so discouraging to receive a gift with no batteries.
- Consider buying a gift appropriate for both boys and girls such as balls or board games.
- Don't forget the older children. It is often easier to buy gifts for younger children. There is always a shortage of gifts for older children.
- **No used items, homemade items, or gift cards can be accepted.**
- **The following items are NOT acceptable:** jewelry, balloons, crayons, play dough, glue, bubbles, make up, long sticks, knitting needles, crochet hooks, or paint brushes, glass items, clothing, sharp tools or toy weapons of any kind.

For more information, please contact Charlie Nichols at ack4me@comcast.net or 603.531.0715

Thank you!

The Common Cents Economy Shop

is now open Wednesdays from 9:00am to 1:00pm
and Thursdays from 10:30am to 12:30pm.

We would like to expand the hours of both these days. If you are interested in joining a very fun group of people please contact the office with your name and number. The shop will open with an end of season half-price sale. (We need donations of jewelry, handbags, kitchen items and men's jeans.)

Concerts on the Hill

FIREWORKS!

Music for Trumpet and Organ by G.F. Handel

Dr. Robert Stibler, Trumpet

Joined by:

Dr. Margaret Harper, Organ

Jenni Cook, Soprano

Mark Zielinski, Trumpet

Adam Gallant, Trumpet

Sunday, October 4 at 4:00 p.m.

St. John's Episcopal Church

100 Chapel Street

Tickets available at the door for a suggested donation of \$15 (general admission) / \$10 (students, seniors).

Children are welcome and encouraged to attend for free. More information at www.stjohnsnh.org/COH.

PARISH LIFE

2016 Annual Pledge Drive Kickoff

Sunday, October 18th

100% of the Worship, Music and Education services and programs are supported by parishioner pledges.

Your participation matters!

Connect with any Vestry Member with questions about Pledging.



Legacy Giving

Ensuring the continuation of the St. John's mission through a planned, future gift.

Have you considered leaving a St. John's a legacy gift? Such planning now can create a powerful continuation of your work for the church for generations to come.

If you have already included St. John's in your will, thank you! We would love to recognize your gift now by including you in our Legacy Society, honoring those who have made a planned gift to St. John's. But we also want to respect privacy. Connect with Joanne or Rob to indicate you have a St. John's planned gift and whether you would like to remain anonymous or if we can add you to the St. John's Legacy Society list as a way to further inspire other people to remember St. John's in their Estate Planning and Will.

If you are interested in remembering St. John's in your will, you can discuss a gift with your lawyer, financial advisor or life insurance company.

PARISH LIFE

PANCAKE BREAKFAST



Saturday Oct 17
7:30am to 10:00am

Thaxter Hall

Kids	\$3.00
Seniors	\$4.00
Adults	\$5.00

Thaxter Hall Renovation We are so done!

With amazing flexibility, cooperation and patience, we have braved the chaos of workmen, dust and inconvenience and come out the other side with an amazing result. The new lighting, ceilings, paint and bathrooms have transformed the basement into a bright and inviting space. The expanded meeting space in Thaxter Hall provides a welcoming room for our older kids to meet and an alternative if the Philbrick Room is booked. And the addition of the commercial dishwasher will make clean up so much more efficient.

This project couldn't have been done without the amazing team of Randy Carey, Laura Ludes and Gerry Simpkins overseeing all the details. And the Common Table crew preformed incredible acts of gymnastics getting the kitchen ready for construction while continuing weekly lunches al fresco (on lawn behind Thaxter Hall).

But none of these wonderful things would have even been considered without the wonderfully generous planned gift from Margaret Tebbetts. By leaving her house to St. John's through her will, we were able to renovate 100 Chapel St. into our beautiful office space and update the classroom spaces and bathrooms in Thaxter Hall. Quite remarkable!

Please be sure to check out all the new spaces next time you are here.

PARISH LIFE

*Happy are the people whose strength is in you!
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.
Psalm 84:4*

Lent is coming!

Join us for a weekend pilgrimage to the Monastery and Guesthouse of the Society of St John the Evangelist, Cambridge, MA

Taking time away from the demands of everyday life, to be quiet, to pray, to worship, to read, rest, and relax, allows us to refocus our lives on what is most important to us. Our relationship with God, like all relationships, needs attention and care to grow. Times of retreat allow us to turn our whole selves to the love of God, to listen and be attentive to the voice of God and many people experience retreats as times when God seems particularly near.

The Society of St John the Evangelist is a monastic community of The Episcopal Church. The Monastery and Guesthouse is located in Cambridge, MA, near Harvard Square, and we invite you to join us for a Lenten retreat, February 26-28, 2016. Our retreat begins Friday afternoon at 3:00 pm and concludes at 2:00 pm Sunday.

In addition to joining the Brothers in their regular round of worship, silence, and meals, we will attend a series of meditations on a retreat theme, offered by a Brother who is our retreat companion. Customarily, most of the retreat is observed in silence.

The cost of the retreat is \$270 per person and space is limited to 14 participants. If finances are an issue, assistance may be available. Please speak to Charlie Nichols at your earliest convenience for more information or to reserve your place. Your place will be reserved by a non-refundable deposit of \$135. Charlie can be contacted at ack4me@comcast.net or 603.531.0715.



Mission Trip & Pilgrimage to Cuba April 2-9, 2016

The Rev. Mark Pendleton of Christ Church, Exeter is leading a return visit to Cuba. Earlier this year, Charlie Nichols, Christine Niles, and Ann & Peter Tarlton joined a similar group from Exeter. St John's also generously contributed personal care products and over-the-counter medications.

The **Episcopal Church of Cuba** (*Iglesia Episcopal de Cuba*) traces its origins to the foundation of an Anglican presence on the island of Cuba in 1901. It consists of forty-six parishes, and about 10,000 members.

Its rich culture, unique political history, and continued economic hardship make it one of the most eye-opening countries travelers can learn from. Experiencing Cuba means participating in its rich and diverse culture and recognizing how Cubans improvise on a daily basis to live fulfilling lives on their own terms. Participants gain an understanding of Cuban life and spirituality through the lens of the Episcopal Church.

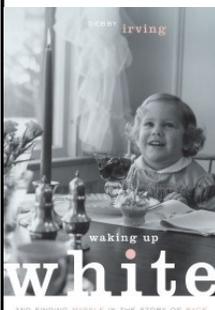
The trip has a maximum of 20 travelers and a commitment with an initial deposit of \$150 must be received no later than September 30, 2015. Please speak to Charlie Nichols for more information or contact Charlie at 603-531-0715 or ack4me@comcast.net.

PARISH LIFE

This fall, Anne and Rob will be co-facilitating a book group led by Kimberly Green and Chloe Green exploring the issues of white privilege and racism in the northeast.

“Whiteness and Privilege and the Story of Race and Racism”

While understanding how race works in America is “impossibly complicated,” as *Atlantic* writer Ta-Nehisi Coates puts it, we can deepen our awareness by viewing the disjunction between our ideals of love, liberty, and equity and the continuing reality of racial injustice through a critical lens on whiteness and privilege. Three contemporary works of non-fiction (see below) will provide context for short exercises and small group storytelling that will help us examine race and racism in our region and time. Please make special note that this is an opportunity to gather as co-learners, and to begin a conversation about how we are socialized as well as what the effects of that socialization are. We hope that this beginning creates shifts in awareness that lead us to learn more and to go more thoughtfully into the work of love for liberty and equity. **Sundays from 12:30 to 2:30**, October 18 through November 15. Participants must plan to attend all five gatherings and commit to reading the books. Pre-registration required. Minimum enrollment (6); maximum enrollment (16).**



Sunday October 18 from 12:30 to 3pm**

Group Formation (this first gathering, required, is slightly longer than the others).

Sundays Oct. 25, Nov. 1, 8, and 15 from 12:30 to 2:30pm

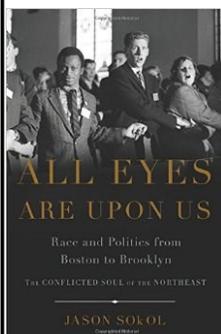
Books

(It is **strongly suggested** that you read *Waking Up White* and *All Eyes are Upon Us* in advance of the program.)

Waking Up White by Debby Irving

All Eyes are Upon Us: Race and Politics from Boston to Brooklyn by Jason Sokol

Citizen: An American Lyric by Claudia Rankine



Discussion Schedule

October 18: *Waking Up White* by Debby Irving

October 25: *Waking Up White* by Debby Irving

November 1: *All Eyes are Upon Us* by Jason Sokol

November 8: *Citizen: An American Lyric* by Claudia Rankine

November 15: *Citizen* by Claudia Rankine



To register: Call or email Joanne in the office at 603-436-8283 or administrator@stjohnsnh.org

Prayer Chain Announcements

To add a name to the prayer list, or to inquire about the Healing Prayer Service on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM, contact Susan Mennel at 603-430-2830 or susanmennel@gmail.com



PARISH LIFE



Every person is called to ministry. The Education for Ministry (EfM) program provides people with the education to carry out that ministry. During the Service of Confirmation we ask God to "Renew in these your servants the covenant you made with them at Baptism. Send them forth in the power of the Spirit to perform the service you set before them." EfM offers an opportunity to discover how to respond to the call to Christian service.

Lay persons face the difficult and often subtle task of interpreting the richness of the church's faith in a complex and confusing world. They need a theological education which supports their faith and also teaches them to express that faith in day-to-day events. As the emphasis on lay ministry has grown, EfM has come to play an important role by providing a program that develops an informed and knowledgeable laity.

All baptized Christians are called to be active participants in the church's total ministry. This TOTAL MINISTRY is nothing less than the exercise of the church's vocation to continue the ministry of Jesus. He reconciled the world to God. We are called to incarnate that reconciliation in our own time and in our own place through worship, service to others, and by proclamation of God's Word to all people.

Through study, prayer, and reflection, EfM groups move toward a new understanding of the fullness of God's kingdom. This process can be illustrated by a two-rail fence. One rail is the Christian tradition. The other is the collective experience of the group's members. The rails are linked by fence posts which represent the seminar sessions where life and study meet. The fence is grounded in the soil of regular worship which is vital to the life of the group.

If you are curious about EfM, think you'd like to join a group, or would like to talk with someone who has been in the program, send an e-mail to SeacoastEfM@hotmail.com and Kathi Hardy will get in touch with you.



St. John's
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