



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.

Rector Ruminations
Pg 2, 9, 10

Associate Rector's
Reflections Pg 3

Curate's Courtyard Pg 4

Youth Calendar Pg 5

Music Notes Pg 6

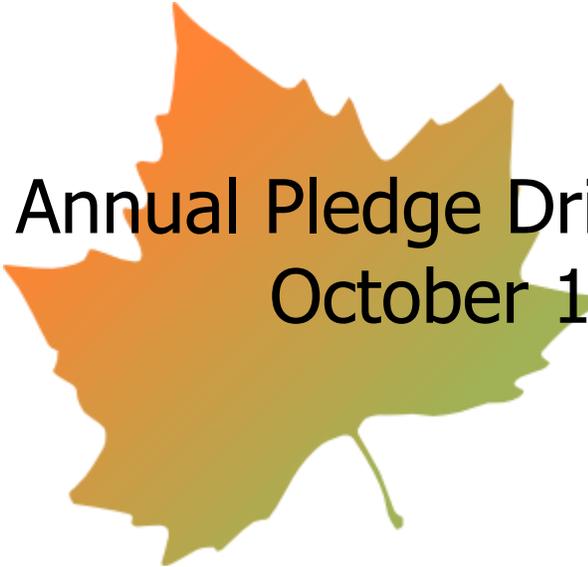
Concerts on the Hill
Pg 7

Developing Disciples
Pg 8

Calendar Pgs 12 & 13

Parish Life
Pgs 11,14 & 15

Staff & Vestry Pg 16



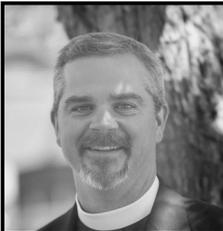
**Annual Pledge Drive Kick-Off
October 15th**

**Capital Campaign
Feasibility Study Report**

Leslie Pendleton of Episcopal Church Foundation

**October 15th
After 8am and 10am Services
in Thaxter Hall**

october 2017



Rob's Ruminations

Ordination Sermon, Nathan Bourne, Sept 9, 2017

The Reverend Robert E. Stevens, Jr., Rector

The following is the sermon preached by The Rev. Dr. Cathy George, Associate Dean and Director of Formation at Berkeley Divinity, at the Ordination of our curate Nathan Bourne on September 9, 2017. It is one the best sermons that I have had the good fortune to hear...and you will hear these themes in my sermons for many years to come! Enjoy!

Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "Rob".

I met Nathan in my favorite room in any home, the kitchen—the kitchen of the Berkeley Center where he lived as one of the house residents. The Berkeley Center is a brick mansion that houses the deanery, a chapel for worship, rooms for fellowship and rooms for 5 students. The back kitchen is the private domain of the house residents, one spot they don't have to share with a community of 80 people. So, I tried not to trespass—too often. But, Nathan's culinary interests tempted me every morning after chapel, and found me peeking around the corner to ask if I could say hello. I loved to see what he was cutting up into his huge, serving size breakfast bowl: chopped apples and bananas, nuts, and oats, dried fruit, blobs of yogurt, and peanut butter. Some days he would be preparing bread to be baked—or chopping cabbage he was pickling, stirring kombucha or sourdough he was storing. Nathan was the heart of hospitality in the home where fellow students, staff and faculty came to pray and eat together.

At the close of the sermon, Bishop Rob will lay hands on Nathan and invite others to come forward to join him. What goes on in that circle of energy? How do we understand the “apostolic succession” the laying on of hands from one generation to another? It has at times been misused as a secret clerical moment designed to exclude others. This not a role or office being passed on, but the very love of God, the courage of God, a surrender to God, from age to age. Apostle means one who is “sent,” and we are *sent* by one giant wave of unearned grace from the God of love and mercy. And you, Nathan are a wave crashing onto the sands of time, edged forward by the many waves behind you, that great cloud of witnesses, this great cloud of witnesses gathered here today.

And for what work? Yes, for your sacramental and pastoral life, for your programming and organizing, but perhaps most importantly your work might be construed best as the one who will be as BB Taylor says, “passing messages between 2 would be lovers who want to get together but don't know how. A courier serving an ancient courtship”.

The prophet Isaiah captures the fire, the danger, the power in the laying on of hands, in the ordination we are here to be part of today. There is, in the hands of the priest the power to heal and the power to hurt.

People approach Mt. Sinai and then cover their face, they want to get close to God and they turn away in fear at the same time. The living God beckons us close, and we step away and hold back and resist. There is the fear here today. Fear that we are not worthy to see God, which Isaiah shares, and there is fear as awe, coming before the uncontrollable awesome majesty we encounter, that invites our surrender to The I am what I am of God—the name that echoes down the centuries, the name of the sovereign security in God.

Isaiah comes forward and is touched by a seraph, an angel, who is a messenger of God, touched with a blistering hot coal on the mouth—but there is no report of pain or damage. Instead, that burning touch takes Isaiah's self-doubt and it is transformed into confidence. Enough for him to then say: “Here I am,” or as an-



Associate Rector's Reflections

Pilgrimage of Connection and Reconnection – Sabbatical 2018

The Reverend Anne C. Williamson, Associate Rector

Dear Friends,

At the beginning of October, I will begin my 15th year of ordained ministry. What a blessing these years have been in so many ways. In hospice and church in England, and at St. John's in Portsmouth since 2013, it has been a rich and varied ministry, and the St. John's Community have played a big part in making this so!

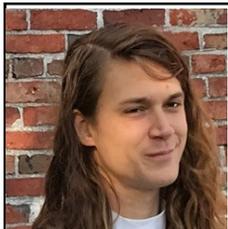
In discussion with Rob and the Vestry, I am grateful to have the opportunity to take a three month sabbatical at the beginning of 2018, which I am describing as 'a pilgrimage of connection and reconnection.' My time away will begin in London (where I lived from 1983 to 2013), and other parts of the United Kingdom, reconnecting with family and friends but also spending time on retreat as one of the key elements of this pilgrimage of connection and reconnection is time with God! The main focus of my travels will be continuing on to New Zealand, where there is a wonderful ecumenical endeavor, Spiritual Growth Ministries Aotearoa (sgm.org.nz), represented across New Zealand on both the North and South Islands.

The aim of SGM, founded 20 years ago, is 'to enable people to develop spiritual resources for their life and work by deepening their relationship with God in Jesus Christ through spiritual direction, formation of spiritual directors, retreats and other experiences of prayer.' Although their 2018 calendar is not yet available, I am hoping to attend some of their retreats and quiet days, and meet with SGM Workgroup members who represent a wide range of Christian denominations, including Anglican, Assemblies of God, Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic and Vineyard. One of the great gifts of SGM is publicizing the many offerings for spiritual growth throughout New Zealand. I know there are many offerings for spiritual growth on the Seacoast, in New Hampshire and in our corner of the Northeast; connecting people with the opportunities is one of my passions. I am hoping to learn from their good work and bring fresh ideas and opportunities home with me.

I would ask your prayers for the arrangements (many still to be made!) and for my family (My husband, Michael, will accompany me, and we will see our sons and daughter-in-law, and Michael's family in the UK) as this pilgrimage of connection and reconnection takes shape and unfolds.

In gratitude for many blessings,

Anne



Curate's Courtyard

Called in Community: Reflections on My Ordination

The Reverend Nathaniel F. Bourne, Curate

"How does it feel?", "What's it like being ordained?", "Do you feel any different?" I've heard all of these questions and more since my September 10th ordination to the priesthood. The short answer is "No, I don't really feel different." I still feel like the same person I was before. So what happened in the ordination? What came out of that circle of priests laying their hands on me while the Bishop prayed for the Holy Spirit to ordain me? Well, I did. I emerged from that cluster as myself.

I don't want to discredit what happened there. My becoming a priest is something new. From that moment forward (God willing), I'll never not be a priest. That is significant. That is a marked change in my life. But I didn't become holier, more beloved by God, or less likely to make mistakes. I, myself, stepped into a new role—in my life, in the church, in this community. I've been given the gift of living out my Baptismal ministry in the order of the priesthood.

What I do feel is a sense of relief and of culmination. The journey to the priesthood has been a long one. The other day someone asked me when I first felt called to the priesthood. That's a story I've told many times. I've articulated it to discernment committees and at Commission on Ministry retreats. I've rehearsed the story in seminary classes and over cups of coffee in parish halls. But it's only now, after my ordination, that I can see how the chapters of my ongoing story of discernment hold together—or at least how they got me to where I am today. That story has shaped and been shaped by who I am. It influences who I am in this community and how I understand my ministry as a priest.

In her sermon at my ordination Dean Cathy George had me look around the room and reminded me "You did not get here on your own. These are the people that gave you life and loved you right into this day. These are the people that believe in you and in the power of God to work through you. They stand with you today. Look at them and do not forget to call upon them." It was a sobering reminder of what my call has been from its earliest days—shaped and molded in community and relationships.

I first felt an inclination towards the priesthood as a high school student. For years I attended a Bible study led by the deacon of my church, Turner Guidry—whose ministry was to the the middle and high school boys of the community. In that large gathering and the smaller group of leaders who met regularly, Turner helped me look at my life in terms of what God was doing, to see all of my life in the light of Christ. He taught me how to pray. He asked questions and had me reflect on my own experiences. He helped me see myself as a beloved child of God and to believe that God could work through me.

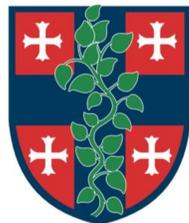
I felt something stir within me that would take on flesh and form over subsequent years. Through years of college and afterwards I had opportunities to explore a range of interests and to travel to unexpected places. I had great mentors on the way and found myself in a range of different communities. Each of those experiences helped give a clearer sense of myself—who I was and what I loved. They also helped me understand that the call I felt at 17 was still there. My ordination feels like a culmination of all those years, people, places and experiences. I carry them with me and they shape me. Their work is being realized in me here, in this community. And like vines twining together they have combined in the person who left that circle, a priest, and still Nathan.

MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH SCHEDULE

Except where noted, the **Middle School** Youth Group will meet in the Philbrick Room from **9:30-10:30** on Sunday Mornings

High School Youth group will meet **after church** from **11:30-12:30** in the Philbrick Room

Date	Time	Event
9/29-9/31		Middle School Retreat at Merrowvista
10/4	3:30-5:00pm	Cooking for Crossroads
10/8	NO YOUTH GROUP	
10/14-10/15	11:00am	High School Retreat at Church of the Woods
10/22	9:30-11:00am	Service Sunday
11/1	3:30-5:00pm	Cooking for Crossroads
11/3	6:00pm	Youth@Convention Retreat
11/19	9:30-11:00am	Service Sunday
11/26	NO YOUTH GROUP	
12/6	3:30-5:00pm	Cooking for Crossroads
12/17	9:30-11:00am	Service Sunday



Youth@ Convention Retreat

NOV.
3-4

6th-12th Grade

**BECOMING BELOVED
COMMUNITY**

St. Paul's, Concord
Fri. 11/3 6:00pm - Sat. 11/4 1:00pm

Youth in grades 6-12 are invited to share in food, fun, and fellowship alongside Diocesan Convention at this 4th Annual Youth@Convention Retreat. Dinner, program, worship, and games in the evening. Breakfast, worship with Convention, scavenger hunt on Main St., and lunch on Sat. No cost to attend. For more info email: curate@stpaulsconcord.org

FREE!



CONCERTS ON THE HILL



May 14: *An Afternoon with Matthew Sharp: Cellist, Baritone, Actor*

This concert will feature a dizzying array of music ranging from the performer's own arrangements of Cole Porter tunes to Benjamin Britten's *Cello Suite No. 1*. Sharp has been hailed as a "virtuoso of the arts" by *The Times* and "bold, eloquent, nuanced" by *The Guardian*.

June 25: *Died for Love - English and Irish Lute Song from the 16th and 17th Centuries*

Bedlam Early Music (Kayleen Sánchez, Soprano and Laudon Schuett, Lute) make their Seacoast debut in a concert of English and Irish love songs, including favorites like "Greensleeves" and "Lavender's Blue" and lesser known gems like "Died for Love."



August 20: *Festival Concert from the Newburyport Chamber Music Festival*

Featuring the Choir School at St. John's, the Greater Newburyport Children's Chorus, and the Newburyport Choral Society under the artistic direction of David Yang. Joined forces of string quartet, organ, and double choir will premiere a new Seacoast-themed work from composer Kile Smith.

September 17: *You've Been Warned!*

Duo recital featuring Andrew Sokol, Tenor and Ashley Wade, Mezzo-Soprano, centered on "Four Cautionary Tales and a Moral," a song cycle by Liza Lehman. The concert will also include excerpts from J.S. Bach's *Magnificat* and songs by Ivor Gurney and Henri Duparc.



October 1: *A Festival of Trumpets - 40 Years of the University of New Hampshire Trumpet Studio*

Featuring Dr. Robert Stibler, Trumpet and Dr. Margaret Harper, Organ and other guests playing fanfares, toccatas, and concertos with the instrument of kings and the king of instruments.

October 22: *Bach Brandenburg Bash*

Featuring Hannah Reitz, Violin and Heloise Degrugillier, Recorder and Traverso on Bach's Brandenburg Concertos 2 and 4, along with other delightful chamber music.

All concerts take place at 4:00 p.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church, 101 Chapel Street, Portsmouth, NH. Tickets are available at the door for a suggested donation of \$15/10. Children are welcome and encouraged to attend for free. More information can be found at www.stjohnsnh.org/COTH



Developing Disciples

Children's Ministries Updates

Ashley Wade, Director of Children's Music and Ministries

*Like the joy of the sea coming home to shore,
May the relief of laughter rinse through your soul.*

*As the wind loves to call things to dance,
May your gravity be lightened by grace.*

*Like the dignity of moonlight restoring the earth,
May your thoughts incline with reverence and respect.*

*As water takes whatever shape it is in,
So free may you be about who you become.*

*As silence smiles on the other side of what's said,
May your sense of irony bring perspective.*

*As time remains free of all that it frames,
May your mind stay clear of all its names.*

*May your prayer of listening deepen enough
to hear in the depths the laughter of God.*

“For Equilibrium, a Blessing,” by John O'Donohue

Anne shared this blessing with our staff the week before kickoff Sunday in early September. At that time, everything felt rushed and hectic – not enough time or space to do all the things that needed to be done. So, the quest for *Equilibrium* resonated with me. I think many of us feel that way a lot of the time, especially parents who are hustling between the responsibilities of family, work, home, school, church, and the list goes on... My hope for this year is two-fold and simple. I hope we, as a community of families with children, get to know each other better. And secondly, I hope that through that fellowship, we might build a program that truly supports the lives and livelihoods of our children and families. We are all searching for balance, and you're here – thank you! So, let's start by getting to know each other a little better...

Sunday, October 1st, we will have our first Family Night at the Rector's house (4:00-6:30PM). This is an exciting new idea that is so simple it hurts. Show up with your kids and hang out. Oh, and let's share some food together, too. Please go to the blog to sign up and get complete info. The vision is that we start at the Stevens' household and then, since it will be so great and easy, someone else will offer their home for Family Night, version two. Maybe it happens every month, or every other month, or once a season, or who knows... let's start here and see how it feels! www.sjcfamily.blog

There will be NO CHILDREN OR YOUTH PROGRAMS on Sunday, October 8th. (*The Sunday of Columbus Day Weekend.*) Please plan accordingly! This includes the nursery and all Sunday school classes.

For complete program information & updates, follow the blog! WWW.SJCFAMILY.BLOG

other translation says it: “Look, it’s me.” Nathan’s self-offering we honor today with the laying on of hands—dangerous, powerful and humbling. A self-offering into the hands of God who will take our self-doubt and transform it into confidence—confidence to say those words with Isaiah: Here I am.

Make no mistake. Those three words are not only Nathan’s. We don’t ride on the wings of Nathan as he stands before God today to offer himself. Offering ourselves—Here I am—those words belong to each one of us. They come from the stirred up waters of our baptism. Every time a child is brought or a person comes to the baptismal font we all renew our baptism. As Nathan offers himself for ordination we are all invited to renew our own “Here I Am.” We’re invited to feel with Nathan the fear in it, the surrender in it, and the loss of control in it, to step into being transformed more and more deeply into who we already are—to transform our self-doubt into confidence.

Baptism is the initiation rite into our life with God. That moment is what we all live into. Today Nathan lives out his baptism with a call to the priesthood, his work is to, as the Ephesians says, “build up the saints,” all of you, for your ministry in the world. It is a call a few are given to nurture, grow, and support fellow Christians as they follow Jesus in the world.

Not to put a damper on your call, Nathan, but if you think about it, being called to build up the saints, to fuel the laity for their work in the world on the front lines in business, education, health care, parenting, politics, plumbing, carpentry, grandparenting—shaping the church to support you is an exciting thrilling call, but being on the front lines, following Jesus in your daily walk in the world, as all of you called to do, is just as meaningful a walk with God. The priest at the altar is no holier or more significant to the heart of God than what you do. The voice of God ordains you in baptism to work as followers of Jesus at the state house, in the kitchen, the courtroom, boardroom and classrooms that fill your lives. A few of us are called to the altar where our work is to build a church that supports you, that fuels you for your public witness and private solace as Christians in the world.

Michael Curry, our Presiding Bishop reminds us that real prayer is contemplative and active. *“We work for a good and just, humane and loving society. We participate as followers of Jesus in the life of our government and society, caring for each other, and working for policies and laws that reflect the values and teachings of Jesus to “love your neighbor,” to “do unto others as you who have them do unto you,” to fashion a civic order that reflects the goodness, the justice, the compassion that we see in the face of Jesus, that we know to reflect the very heart and dream of God. Following the way of Jesus, we pray and protest at the same time. We pray for our leaders who are fighting for our civil rights, we pray for those with whom we disagreed, and we even pray for those who hate us. And we do so following Jesus, whose way is unselfish, sacrificial love.”*

There is a tradition in ordination sermons to offer a charge to the ordinand. A tradition I want to preface with a charge, first, to all of you who are gathered here today. Priests are not called to ordination by some singular lightning bolt from on high. They are called by their human experiences, they are called in communities, they are called by and in the midst of the people of God.

Nathan’s parents, his sister Kimberly, aunt and cousin, and any other members of his family that are here today would you please stand and remain standing.—Thank you for the seeds you planted in this young man from the womb, as a child, as a youth in the church and at home, the son of a faithful, devoted mother and father, and a brother to his sister.

Nathan’s friends and colleagues, his fiancé Nicole—if you met on the playground, or in a bar, or hiking or in classes, or as friends in the ordination process, Please stand and remain standing. Thank you for watering

PARISH LIFE

seeds in Nathan when you met him, thank you for your part in paving his way, in being there for him when he was confused, and needed support, for having fun together. Thank you for your part in helping him recognize his gifts and thank you for loving him. He will always need that, he will be a priest, but he will first always be a human being with a human heart that needs to be loved to thrive.

Fellow members of Nathan's churches, his home church, his internship church, his Bishop, his commission on ministry and standing committee members, and his discernment committee—Please stand. Thank you for listening to Nathan's questions and answering them with your faith, for holding up a mirror and helping him see who he is, what he can do, for revealing to him his weaknesses and his strengths. Your work, your prayer, and your love for God and the church have brought us to this moment with Nathan and we thank you.

And finally, those of you in the St. John's community who have called him here, would you please stand. Thank you for your resounding yes to what we all saw in Nathan, for your yes to his spiritual leadership, as teacher, preacher, priest and pastor, and as faithful companions and followers of Jesus.

Nathan, look at these people, this great cloud of witnesses that surround you. **You did not get here on your own. I don't care how smart you are, how tall and handsome you are, how fast you run, how kind your heart is, how beautiful your fiancée is, or how good your cooking tastes: You did not get here on your own.** These are the people that gave you life and loved you right into this day. These are the people that believe in you and in the power of God to work through you. They stand with you today. Look at them and do not forget to call upon them.

We need your voice in the church. Be a prophet. Help us see creation care at the heart of what we do. Lead us in it. Be bold. Call us out to do what needs to be done. Take your courage and confidence, and step out from what you have learned as a diligent and serious student, one of the very brightest, to offer yourself, your keen insights to a vision of a spiritual life that includes the creation around us, vulnerable and fragile and beautiful.

Don't try to be Jesus, Be Yourself. That is what we all love. Don't try to do it alone. People will rely on you to help them, and they want you to rely on them in return. Keep a sense of joy in your work, and when you stop having it, get some rest. Exercise your imagination given to you so generously by God. Tell the story of Jesus like it has never been told before, like the preacher from Nazareth, like the prophets and poets and preachers that followed him did.

Sunday Mornings from 9-9:45 – *Living Faithfully, Dying Well* October 1, 8, 22, 29 (Philbrick Room)

Each week we will be discussing one of the following important questions: What are the current challenges we face, or that are being faced by those we love and care for? How do we explore the spirituality of letting go into each new era, in body, mind and spirit? What are my 'Five Wishes' about my future care? How do we make wise decisions, for ourselves or for those we love and care for - wisdom from a long term care professional. What resources for community and connection do we want/need to live life faithfully and to die well? This is not a book discussion, but helpful books for the subject matter are *The Gift of Years* by Joan Chittister, *Being Mortal* by Atul Gawande and *When Breath Becomes Air* by Paul Kalanithi, Please contact Anne Williamson anne@stjohnsnh.org or 603-436-8283 ext 125 with questions or to sign up.

PARISH NEWS

Outside the Box



*“God’s love refuses to be kept in a box”,
Bishop Rob Hirschfield and the Presiding
Bishop’s vision of our “ being the Beloved
Community”.*

Please, join us for lunch on Sunday, October 22 at 11:30 in the Philbrick Room to hear the story of the Mama’s and their Anglican Parish in St. Andre’s Onjiva Southern Angola. In addition Elizabeth Rotch, a founding member of the Episcopal Diocese of New Hampshire’s Onjiva Committee and a communicant at the Church of Our Savior, Milford, will offer a ‘Moth’ story from Angola.

This work has been supported by a grant awarded by St. John’s in 2015

Sooky Lassen 631 241 2034 Carol Gruen
603 828 3165 Sandie Dika 603 426 9282.

LENT IS COMING

In returning and rest you shall find wholeness; quietness and trust shall be your strength.’ Isaiah 30:14-16

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, March 20-23, 2018. Our retreat begins Tuesday afternoon, arrival between 2pm and 5pm, at 3:00 pm and concludes after lunch on Friday.

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 \$395 per person for three nights and space is limited to 12 participants in single rooms (there is also one double room available). If finances are an issue, please speak to Rob Stevens, Anne Williamson or Nathan Bourne about assistance. Contact Nathan at your earliest convenience for more information or to reserve your place. Your place will be reserved by a non-refundable deposit of \$195. Nathan can be contacted at curate@stjohnsnh.org or 603-436-8283 x 119.

October

SUNDAY ADULT FORUM

October 1, 9:00am

Living Faithfully, Dying Well, Philbrick Room

October 8, 9:00am

Living Faithfully, Dying Well, Philbrick Room

October 15

Capital Campaign Presentation after 8am and 10am services in Thaxter Hall

October 22, 9:00am

Living Faithfully, Dying Well, Philbrick Room

October 29, 9:00am

Living Faithfully, Dying Well, Philbrick Room

SUNDAY	MONDAY
<p>1 8:00am Rite I 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 9:00am Nursery 9:00am Adult Forum 9:30am Kid's Church 10:00am Rite II 11:00am Coffee Hour 4:00pm Family Gathering at Steven's House 4:00pm Concerts on the Hill 5:00pm COTH Reception</p>	<p>2 7p - FA</p>
<p>8 8:00am Rite I 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 9:00am Nursery 9:00am Adult Forum 10:00am Rite II 11:00am Coffee Hour</p>	<p>9 7p - FA</p>
<p>15 8:00a m Rite I 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 9:00am Nursery 9:00am Capital Campaign Presentation 9:30am Kid's Church 10:00am Rite II 11:00am Coffee Hour 5:30pm Celtic Evening Prayer</p>	<p>16 7p - FA 7p - Choir School Board</p>
<p>22 8:00am Rite I 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 9:00am Nursery 9:00am Adult Forum 9:30am Kid's Church/Service Sunday 10:00am Rite II 11:00am Coffee Hour 11:30a - Outside the Box</p>	<p>23 7p - FA</p>
<p>29 8:00am Rite I 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 9:00am Nursery 9:00am Adult Forum 9:30am Kid's Church 10:00am Rite II</p>	<p>30 7p - FA</p>

TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT
3 10:00a - 2:00p ES Baking 3p - Choir School 4p - YOC Meeting 6pm - Youth AA 7pm - Vestry	4 7:30a - Men's Book Group 9a - Econ Shop 10:30a - Reading Between the Lines 12:00p - Staff Meeting 3:30p - Cooking CRH 3:30p - Cherub Choir 4:30p - Junior Choir 7:00p - Choir Rehearsal	5 9:30a - Healing Service 10:30a - Centering Prayer 10:30a - Econ Shop 12pm - Common Table 3:00p - Choir School 7p - NA	6	7 9:00a - Walking the Labyrinth 7:30 pm - AA
10 10:00a - 2:00p ES Baking 3p - Choir School 4p - YOC Meeting 6pm- Youth AA	11 9a - Econ Shop 10:30a - Reading Between the Lines 12:00p - Staff Meeting 1p - Knitting 3:30p - Cherub Choir 4:30p - Junior Choir	12 9:30a - Healing Service 10:30a - Centering Prayer 10:30a - Econ Shop 12pm - Common Table 3:00p - Choir School 6:15p - Book Group 7p - NA	13 3:30p - Salvation Army cooking	14 3:00p - YOC Faculty Recital 7:30pm - AA
17 10:00a - 2:00p ES Baking 3pm - Choir School 6pm - Youth AA	18 7:30a - Men's Book Group 9a - Econ Shop 10:30a - Reading Between the Lines 12:00p - Staff Meeting 3:30p - Cherub Choir 4:30p - Junior Choir	19 9:30am - Healing Service 10:30a - Centering Prayer 10:30a - Econ Shop 12p - Common Table 3p - Choir School 7p - NA	20	21 9:00 - Safe Church Training 7:30pm - AA
24 10:00a - 2:00p ES Baking 3p - Choir School 6p - Youth AA	25 9a - Econ Shop 10:30a - Reading Between the Lines 12:00p - Staff Meeting 1p - Knitting 3:30p - Cherub Choir 4:30p - Junior Choir	26 9:30a - Healing Service 10:30a - Centering Prayer 10:30a - Econ Shop 12p - Common Table 3p - Choir School 6:15p - Book Group 7p - NA	27	28 7:30pm - AA
31 10:00a - 2:00p ES Baking 10:30a - Bible WB 3pm - Choir School 6pm - Youth AA 6:30p - Choir School Board				

PARISH NEWS

Resources for the Spiritual Journey Wednesday Mornings 10:30 – 12:00,

Using a resource entitled *Reading Between the Lines*, we'll use one text from the Sunday lectionary and examine the story as found in the Bible. Next, we see how the story is happening in the world around us, and then look at how the story is an event in our own lives. We'll end our time together with Noonday Prayer.



"For both clergy and laity, Reading Between The Lines is, in my judgment, the single most important resource for engaging and internalizing the lectionary readings for each Sunday of the year. It is of great value for clergy preparing sermons and for adult study groups undertaking a serious and life-changing encounter with the Bible."

Marcus Borg - Author and Historical Jesus Scholar

Join us in the Philbrick Room on Wednesday Mornings. For more information, email Rev. Nathan Bourne, curate@stjohnsnh.org or Rev Anne Williamson, anne@stjohnsnh.org or call us at 603-436-8283

High School Retreat at Church of the Woods!



Nathan will be leading the high schoolers on an overnight retreat to Church of the Woods, an alternative worshipping community that meets in the woods near Canterbury, NH. We'll enjoy hiking on the trails, time for quiet reflection, and some trail crew and other service work. We'll end our time with the community that gathers to worship there every Sunday at 3:00pm. Check out the [Church of the Woods](http://sjcfamily.blog) page on sjcfamily.blog for more info!

Men's book group meeting, alternative Wednesdays mornings (next meeting Oct 4th at 7:30am, in the Philbrick Room). For more information contact Peter Tarlton, 603-828-1826 or aptarlton@comcast.net

PARISH LIFE



St. John's is hosting

Safe Church Training

October 21st in Thaxter Hall
Coffee and refreshments at 8:30am
Training is 9am to 12:30pm

All staff and vestry, and any volunteers working with children are required to complete the Safe Church training every 3 years.

If you fall into any of these categories, or are interested in participating in this training, please email the Joanne at administrator@stjohnsnh.org or call 436-8283.

**WALKING
IN THE ABUNDANCE
OF NATURE**

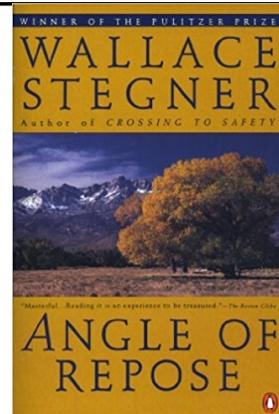
A FACILITATED INTRODUCTION
TO THE LABYRINTH

led by
Kim Salathé VTF
Veriditas Trained Facilitator
and
The Reverend Anne C. Williamson
Associate Rector, SJC

SATURDAY OCTOBER 7TH
9:00-11:30AM
THE PARISH HALL
SAINT JOHN'S PORTSMOUTH

HOPE YOU CAN JOIN US!

Women's Book Group



Thursday Night Book Group meets on alternate Thursdays in the Philbrick Room at 6:30pm. The group will begin Wallace Stegner's Pulitzer Prize winning book, "Angle of Repose", on Thursday, October 12th. All are welcome for a great discussion and a cup of tea. Please contact Conni White for more information at conni@senh.biz



St. John's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT 23
PORTSMOUTH, NH

100 Chapel Street | Portsmouth NH 03801 | 603-436-8283
Church Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 9:00 am until 3:00 pm
Website: www.stjohnsnh.org

Address Service Requested

STAFF

The Rev. Robert E. Stevens, Jr.
Rector, ext. 11
rector@stjohnsnh.org

Joanne Ferguson
Office Administrator
administrator@stjohnsnh.org

The Rev. Anne C. Williamson
Associate Rector, ext 125
anne@stjohnsnh.org

Michelle Karcher
Financial Administrator, ext 153
finance@stjohnsnh.org

The Rev. Nathan Bourne
Curate, ext 119
curate@stjohnsnh.org

Ramona Ramsdell
Events Coordinator
rental@stjohnsnh.org

Dr. Margaret Harper
Director of Music, ext 114
music@stjohnsnh.org

Priest Associates:
The Rev. G. Richard Siener
The Rev. Gail Avery

Ashley Wade
Director of Children's Music and Ministries, ext 116
youthmusic@stjohnsnh.org

St. John's Vestry Members

John Tabor, *Sr. Warden*
Kelly Boston, *Treasurer*
Gerry Simpkins, *Jr. Warden*
Marian Ellis, *Clerk*

Doug Greene
Carol Gruen
Meg Moran
Bob Nalewajik
Suzi Raeside
Maggie Skafidas
Chris Sieve
Joe Weir

Contact the Vestry at
vestry@stjohnsnh.org