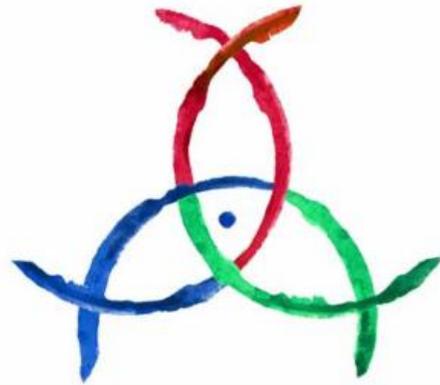


St. John's Episcopal Church  
*"Make God's Love Known"*



## September 2022 Newsletter



*To the Glory of God and for the Common Good, we make God's love known now and for generations to come through worship and service to all.*

-- Mission Statement  
adopted June 2010

**Some email programs will show this message shortened;  
please click on the link at the end to make sure you don't miss anything!**

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### Thoughts from the Transition Priest

In these late August, early September days, we experience a number of seasonal changes, as we transition from summer to fall, and from vacation or camp, back to school or work and everyday routines.

On Sunday mornings, we change from a simpler summer liturgy at 9 am to a full choral liturgy at 10 am (starting September 11!). All week long, we come back together for programs of formation, opportunities to serve, and chances to connect in community. And this year, things feel a bit different as we begin the last few months of our ministry partnership.

As I look toward this fall, the theme is "connection." You'll see it throughout this newsletter. It seems especially timely, as we continue to recover from the disconnections of the pandemic. It also seems timely--and essential!--as the church looks toward changes in your physical plant (moving the church offices at 234 French into the church building at 225) and clergy leadership. Connections with God and between people make a community more resilient through change and uncertainty.

In the Worship section below, note how the Season of Creation invites us to connect more deeply with our Creator and our fellow creatures (and not just human ones!). Also in that section, we repeat one last time the invitation we've been making all summer: To connect with God and your fellow worshipers by sharing in one or more worship assistant roles.

In the Community section, we celebrate the comeback of coffee hour as Community Time in the Undercroft (basement) after Sunday worship. The new name emphasizes the real purpose of

heading downstairs after the postlude: To connect with each other and grow in community. (Yes, there will be coffee and sometimes refreshments. Yes, you can still call it Coffee Hour! Read more below about how you can help it happen.)

All the opportunities listed under Formation and Service are also chances to connect with God, fellow Jesus-followers, and the wider community as we practice Jesus' Way of Love, especially by "learning" and "going."

In the letter to the Colossians, there's a verse that I hold onto during all kinds of change and uncertainty, when things seem like they are falling apart: "In Christ, all things hold together" (Colossians 1:17). We experience that good news all over again, every time we connect. And as we approach the end of this transition journey together at the end of November, we can celebrate our permanent connection in and with Christ!

*Rev. Rebecca Liberty*

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## *September at a Glance*

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**Sunday, September 4th, 9:00 am:** Worship, in-person and on [YouTube](#), "A Celebration of Camp". Last 9:00am service for the summer.

**Tuesday, September 6th, 7:00pm:** Planning Board of the City of Bangor meeting in the Third Floor Council Chambers of Bangor City Hall. An email update went out earlier this week about the sale of 234 French. If you didn't receive it and would like to, please contact the [church office](#).

**Saturday, September 10th, 9:00am - noon:** The Red Truck will be parked in front of the church to collect items for Hope House.

**Saturday, September 10th, 12:00pm:** [Second Saturday lunch](#) in the Undercroft. Contact [Anne-Marie](#) for more information.

**Saturday, September 10th, 1:00pm-4:00pm:** Choir Picnic for returning and prospective members.

**Sunday, September 11th, 10:00am:** Worship with choir and a Back-To-School blessing for all ages, in-person and on [YouTube](#). Services move to 10:00am.

**Sunday, September 11th, 5:00pm:** The Tea Time group meets on [Zoom](#). Never attended? no problem, newcomers are always welcomed.

**Tuesday, September 13th, 7:00am:** The Men's Breakfast group joins for food and fellowship at the Coach House Restaurant in Brewer.

**Wednesday, September 14th, 6:00pm:** Weekly Choir rehearsals start for the 2022-2023 program year.

**Sunday, September 18th, 10:00am:** Worship with choir, in-person and on [YouTube](#).

**Tuesday, September 20th, 2:00pm:** Women's Book Group meets. For more information or for the Zoom link please contact [Jane Z](#) or [Marisue P.](#)

**Sunday, September 25th, 10:00am:** Outdoor worship, in-person and on [YouTube](#).

**Sunday, September 25th, 1:00pm:** A Journey Through Acts: 50 Day Bible Challenge on [Zoom](#).

**Tuesday, September 27th, 9:00am - 12:30pm:** [Salvation Army Lunch](#), contact [Jim](#) for more information.

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# Opportunities to Pray Together

## Morning Prayer:

Monday - Friday, 9:00 am on [Zoom](#) & [Facebook](#).

## Evening Prayer:

Monday - Friday, 5:30 pm live on [Zoom](#).

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# WORSHIP

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## The Season of Creation & Other Special Occasions

by The Rev. Rebecca Liberty

Together with churches of many denominations around the world and here in the Episcopal Diocese of Maine, St. John's will be observing the Season of Creation this fall. It begins September 1, the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, and ends October 4, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of ecology. Creation care will be our theme in worship for those five Sundays, and it will include these days of special focus:

- September 4, A Celebration of Camp
- September 25, Outdoor Worship in the churchyard (weather permitting)
- October 1-2, Celebration of St. Francis, including (tentatively) some gardening work in the churchyard as well as a Pet Blessing in the churchyard

If you can help with setup for outdoor worship, gardening plans, or planning for the pet blessing, please contact Rev. Liberty at [transitionpriest@stjohnsbangor.org](mailto:transitionpriest@stjohnsbangor.org).

To learn more about Creation Care in the Diocese of Maine, as well as the opportunity to become an Earthkeeper in our parish, go to the [diocesan website](#).

Mark your calendars for more special occasions this fall:

- September 11, Back-to-School Blessing for all ages
  - October 2, Commissioning of Lay Ministers in worship and the 186th anniversary of St. John's Episcopal Church
  - October 23, Evensong (4 pm)
  - November 6, Baptisms
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## Commissioning Worship Assistants

by The Rev. Rebecca Liberty

On October 2, we will officially commission all our worship leaders. This 186th anniversary of St. John's is a wonderful opportunity to give thanks for and bless all the parishioners who offer their time and talents to help worship happen. It's not too late to join them! You too may find that assisting with worship is a blessing to your own spiritual life, as well as to the community of faith.

We are still looking for:

- Acolytes (not just for youth!)
- Altar Guild (setting up for communion, caring for linens and furnishings, etc.)
- Choir (beginning September 14th)
- Eucharistic Visitors (bringing communion to members who cannot attend worship in person)
- Eucharistic Ministers (Assisting with the distribution of wine at the altar rail)
- Lectors (reading the lessons)
- Prayer Leaders (either Prayers of the People or presiding over Morning Prayer)
- Tech Team (run the live-stream from the rear of the church)
- Ushers (help with hospitality and safety during worship)

Still thinking about it? Now is the time to contact Rev. Liberty so you can be included in the

commissioning ([transitionpriest@stjohnsbangor.org](mailto:transitionpriest@stjohnsbangor.org)). Training and support will be provided, and your schedule accommodated. Need inspiration? On June 19, six members of St. John's shared how their participation in worship leadership is meaningful to them--in hopes that it might inspire more people to join them! (You can watch the sermon [here](#).)

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## Some Musical Notes

by Josh Singer

Hello everyone at St. John's, hoping everyone has enjoyed some rest and relaxation this summer thus far.

My hope this fall is to rekindle the fire that is St. John's choral program. However, for this to truly take hold, we need voices and many of them. I'm hoping choristers (past and present) will participate beginning on our first formal rehearsal September 14th at 6pm. Also I urge anyone interested in joining the choir be in touch with me at: [jbachsing@gmail.com](mailto:jbachsing@gmail.com).

On Saturday, September 10th, from 1 to 4pm, Eric and Shirley Boberg will be hosting a wonderful BBQ (great food and drink!) for all choir members and their families and, particularly, for prospective new individuals who may be interested in singing with the choir. Anyone interested please contact me via email (shown above) for more details (where, what to bring, etc.). Anyone thinking they are getting a free meal/drink will be required to participate in a short, informal rehearsal in preparation for Sunday, the 11th (our first choral Eucharist beginning at 10am). If that goes well, no one goes home hungry or thirsty...

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## An Update on Communion Practices

by The Rev. Rebecca Liberty

**On September 11, we will return to using the communion rail and offering wine along with the host (wafers) for communion.**

Wine will be offered in the common cup, and you may choose to drink from it or not. We will NOT be practicing intinction, where the bread is dipped into the wine. Contrary to some perceptions, multiple hands dipping into the wine actually spreads more germs than drinking from the cup (and wiping the edge between people). So your two choices will be drinking, or simply receiving the words, "The blood of Christ, the cup of salvation." Please be assured that communion "in one kind" (bread only) still conveys all the spiritual benefits of both kinds!

We will once again gather at the communion rail. You may choose to wear a mask and consume the host after returning to your seat. Or, if the stairs or closeness to people is a challenge, you may request that communion be brought to your seat, and an usher will let the priest know.

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## Convention Virtual Choir

### An invitation from the Episcopal Diocese of Maine

The Convention Virtual Choir is returning for 2022! To lend your voice, [sign up here!](#)

The two hymns we will sing haven't yet been selected, but we can tell you that they will be familiar, well-loved tunes with fresh, new lyrics, and the arrangements will allow for melody singing as well as part singing and a descant. The Diocesan Convention is on Saturday October 22nd.

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# FORMATION

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**What's Happening for Kids this Fall?**

Young people are welcome at St. John's, even though we will not be having weekly programming for children and youth. The children's corner in the rear of the church is still available for kids who need a bit more space while in worship. And thanks to the St. John's Tea Time group, the worship bags ("busy bags") are still available to kids, full of supplies and ready to be borrowed every Sunday. The nursery will not be staffed, but the nursery space is still available to any families who would like to use it.

In addition, once a month this fall, children and families are invited to join in these special times:

- September 11, 10 am worship: Back-to-School Blessing--we'll bless students along with anyone who teaches or works in any level of education; bring your backpack or briefcase to bless, if you'd like!
- October 2, time TBD: Tentative plans for a Pet Blessing (stuffed animals welcome along with live ones!)
- November 6, 10 am worship: Celebration of Baptism

If you have any questions, or if you would like to help make sure St. John's is welcoming children, youth, and families, please contact Rev. Liberty at [transitionpriest@stjohnsbangor.org](mailto:transitionpriest@stjohnsbangor.org).

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## Adult Formation

by Patricia Sprague

The Adult Education & Formation 2022-23 program year is about to begin! Below are listed a variety of proposed offerings and the season in which they'll take place. Specific dates, times, and place will be determined later. In addition to these, there will be other opportunities and support for things like Bible study and spiritual disciplines, depending on interest.

### ***A Journey Through Acts: 50-Day Bible Challenge (Sundays, September 25-November 20 on Zoom at 1:00pm)***

Our annual fall 50-day Bible Challenge returns, this time with the *Acts of the Apostles* which tells the story of the birth of the Christian church. Follow in the footsteps of the apostles Peter and Paul and many others, all bearing witness to Jesus's saving grace. Each of the fifty days of readings are accompanied by reflections and prayers by spiritual leaders from around the world. Please contact **Pat** if you need assistance in purchasing a book.

### ***The Ignatian Adventure: Experiencing the Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius of Loyola in Daily Life, by Fr. Kevin O'Brien. (Beginning in October)***

Would you like to make meaningful prayer a habit in your daily life? Are you intrigued by the possibility that prayer could become a highlight of your day? In *The Ignatian Adventure*, Kevin O'Brien, SJ, offers a unique way of making that a reality using St Ignatius' Spiritual Exercises as a guide. For over 500 years many people have come to believe that there is no better guide than St. Ignatius Loyola if you desire to discover how faith and everyday life can thrive together. The first part of O'Brien's book provides helpful background information, including a brief history of St. Ignatius, an explanation of the Spiritual Exercises and their purpose, and a description of different ways to make the Exercises. The book's core offers 32 weeks (not a typo!) of prayer and meditations to draw participants into a deeper encounter with God.

[Read more on our website about the rest of the year.](#)

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## **EARTH KEEPER: A New Ministry Opportunity at St. John's**

As an important step toward the goal of taking **action at the parish level on climate change**, at the last Diocesan Convention it was decided that each parish would name an **Earth Keeper** to work cooperatively with the Diocesan Climate Justice Council. The Earth Keeper's role may include such things as:

- encouraging sustainable practices at St. John's;
- organizing environmental projects, such as the creation of a pollination garden;
- informing both the parish and the Diocese of creation care actions in the local community;

- suggesting educational opportunities on climate change;
- and local, state and federal advocacy for systemic change.

Earth keepers may be appointed by parishes as individuals or as a small group. If you are interested in volunteering for this ministry, please contact [Patricia Sprague](#) or [The Rev. Liberty](#).

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## Spiritual Exercises in Everyday Life

The [Ignatian Spirituality Partnership of Maine](#) invites you to practice the Spiritual Exercises in Everyday Life with a retreat beginning in early October 2022 and running through June 2023. It's for people who live in or near Maine, and there are options that would permit someone to be fully remote.

In this retreat, pray imaginatively with scripture and explore spiritual resources for decision making, growing closer in authentic friendship with Jesus and finding a greater awareness of God working in your life. Meetings will take place from 6:30 - 8:30 pm on the first Wednesday of every month online, and they also offer individual or group spiritual direction monthly (online or in person). It requires you to set aside 3/4 hour for prayer and reflection each day, which is the crux of the retreat.

Find out more and apply at [IgnatianME.org](#) or contact [Jane Hartwell](#) or the [Rev. Holly Hoffmann](#). Space often fills up, so apply soon.

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# COMMUNITY

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## Coffee Hour is coming back--with a new name!

By The Rev. Rebecca Liberty

Starting on September 11, after the 10 am worship service, coffee will again be served in the Undercroft after worship each week. Please plan on staying afterward to connect with newcomers and your fellow parishioners!

To underline how this informal time strengthens community, the new name is Community Time. We learned during the pandemic how much we miss, when people don't get a chance to talk to each other on Sundays. It turns out, the important thing about "coffee hour" is not actually the coffee, but the community built around it.

If you're not a fan of small talk, or if you're just out of practice after the pandemic, no problem! We're doing an informal experiment where conversation topics will be offered at a table or two. (Got a topic? Talk to Pat Sprague or Rev. Liberty.) So no one has to worry about finding someone to talk to, or something to talk about!

Here's how you can help:

- Encourage fellow worshipers to join you downstairs after worship each Sunday!
- Sign up to bring refreshments on a Sunday. Anything is welcome! Simple or elaborate, store-bought or home-made, savory or sweet, even a light lunch. Surprise us! Paper products are provided; all you have to do is set out the food by 11. (If you need any guidance, contact [Vanessa](#) in the office.)
- If you can take a turn making coffee, please let [Vanessa](#) or [The Rev. Liberty](#) know. (St. John's no longer has a Sunday sexton who takes care of that.)

With a smaller congregation and fewer leaders than two years ago, there may be some Sundays when there's no food, but Community Time can still happen! And IF there's another COVID surge where masks are required and sharing food becomes problematic, we can still gather for Community Time.

So, please come and connect. Strengthening community will help your church immensely, and we

hope that a good time will be had by all too.

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## Tea Time Group

Tea Time Group would love for you to join them and share stories, drop in (via [Zoom](#)) to the next Tea Time on the Second Sunday at 5:00pm. Never attended? No problem, Newcomers are welcomed. Have questions? Check in with [Claudia](#). **NEXT DATE: September 11th at 5:00 pm on [Zoom](#).**

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## The Women's Book Group

Women's Book Group will be discussing "Life Between the Tides" by Adam Nicholson (HB 2022, 384 pages) on Tuesday September 20th at 2:00pm. Available in HB, PB, Kindle, Audio, and at libraries. "To immerse yourself in Nicolson's beautiful book among the crab and shrimp, the sand hoppers and winkles that float, eat, reproduce, survive, thrive and die in his rock pools is an exhilarating experience. Fear, protection, tenderness and love all float through this watery world as you are also drawn through Nicolson's luminous prose into the minds and words of poets, scientist, botanists, novelists, thinkers. I was emotionally tethered to every page, as only the best books invite you to do." For more information or for the Zoom link please contact [Jane Z](#) or [Marisue P.](#)

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## The Undercroft Piano is in need of a new home.



There is a studio upright piano in the undercroft that is looking for a home. The piano make is DAYTRON and has a "modern" design (no frills, unadorned woodwork). The instrument needs some mechanical repair (broken hammer shaft resulting in a "dead key"), some cosmetic key covers, etc.). In addition to fixing the above, and at least two tunings to bring pitch to a stable 440, it would cost between \$400 and \$500. Anyone interested should call or [email](#) the church office by the end of September, when it will be disposed of. Piano is free but anyone interested party. Also, the metal wheel dolly is not included. The piano has a light, sweet sound and can certainly be resurrected and with a little love, could be a worthwhile investment.

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## A Remembrance – Effie Morrissey

by Marsha Connors

St Johns Episcopal Church is in its 186th year as a worship community. Looking back and remembering those who once worshiped and worked in this space can be an inspiration as we look toward the future. This month we remember Effie Morrissey who married at St Johns in 1946! [Effie](#) died in 2008.

In her 80s, she accompanied the choir from Saint John's on a trip to England. Effie loved her church and her church community, and their support over the last years of her life was extremely important to her. Effie was a very giving woman and helped many, many people during her lifetime. Even in her 80s, Effie was taking care of "older" friends by providing transportation to doctors' appointments and church. A lifelong gardener and dedicated putterer, Effie enjoyed caring for her

yard and the beautiful plants and flowers which always surrounded her. Effie had a sharp sense of humor and was a great storyteller, and having lived through most of the 20th century, she had lots of stories to tell. She enjoyed relating the tale of the Brady gang and was very interested in the recent reenactment of the shootout with the gang on Central Street. Effie had just picked up her Bangor Daily and coffee at Swett's Market, Main Street and was walking to work at Merchants Bank on the morning the shooting occurred.

The vestry and congregation of St John's were blessed with a gift in memory of Effie and her husband Cecil - a Scholarship fund which is to be awarded by the vestry once each year to a student pursuing higher education. Stay tuned for more information from the Vestry Scholarship Committee.

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## Sacred Ground circles beginning in September

Are you interested in joining others from around the Episcopal dioceses of Northern New England in discussing race and racism in our nation?

Sacred Ground dialogue circles will start in fall 2022. The intro meeting will be held in early September. You can watch a Sacred Ground informational video [here](#) and learn more [here](#).

Email [Franci Farnsworth](#) if you are interested in joining in these Zoom conversations. Representatives from each diocese are: Franci Farnsworth of Vermont, Betty Lane of New Hampshire, Rev. Katie Holicky of Maine.

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## Information for Maine Homeowners 65 and older

Did you know that the state of Maine offers qualifiable senior citizens a program that lets individuals stabilize, or even freeze, their property tax prices?  
As long as you qualify and file a timely application each year, the tax billed to you for your homestead will be frozen at the amount you were billed in the prior tax year. Deadline to file is December 1st.

Check to see if you or a loved one qualify [here](#)

Click [here](#) to read more about the Property Tax Stabilization Program or to apply.

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# SERVICE

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## THE RED TRUCK IS BACK.

Saturday, September 10th, from 9 to 12 the Red Truck will be parked in front of the church (on 2nd Saturday lunch day) to collect items for Hope House. They would love to have towels, shampoo, and disposable razors. There will be one more fall Red Truck drive in October for items for the homeless shelter (info to be announced in October newsletter). Thank you for your support.



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## Second Saturday Lunch

Second Saturday is a FREE meal offered monthly in the Undercroft from noon – 1:30 pm for any in need of food and fellowship. Volunteers are always welcome and needed. Please contact [Anne-](#)

## Salvation Army

St. Johns has made a commitment to cook a meal at the Dorothy Day Soup Kitchen for approximately 40 years on the fourth Tuesday of each month. Due to COVID people are not allowed to sit inside in the dining room. Our crew cooks American chop suey for 100+. It is assembled with buttered bread, granola bar, and fruit in take-out containers and served at a take-out window. We will be practicing social distancing and masks are optional. We look forward to seeing you on the 4th Tuesday between 9 am and 12:30 pm at the Salvation Army at 65 S Park Street in Bangor. New volunteers are always welcome.

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## Weekly Donations to BAHS

Donating food and hygiene products to the Bangor Area Homeless Shelter: We collect food donations in the baskets in the back of the church each week. If you'd like to make a food donation but are not yet attending in-person services, donations can be brought to the office Wednesday-Friday between 10 am and noon. Donations collected will be donated to the Bangor Homeless Shelter. Thank you in advance for your continued support of those less fortunate in our community.

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### Faith Linking in Action

#### Learn:

- How one person's voice can make a difference
- Ways to help address the root causes of poverty through legislation
- Ways to advocate for faith-based legislative action

**SEPTEMBER 18, 2022**

**1:30 PM TO 3:00 PM**

**Zoom**

**PRE-REGISTRATION:**

<https://tinyurl.com/FLIACon2022SignUp>

## ADVOCACY IN ACTION!

### Our Speakers:

**ANNA KELLAR**

Executive Director  
League of Women Voters of Maine

**MARY ANN PERRY**

Faith-Based Advocate

# LEADERSHIP

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## Vestry Update

by Eric Boberg, Clerk

### Progress of 234 French Street Sale

The vestry has been communicating news about the sale in parish-wide emails. (Please contact the church office if you have not received them and would like to.) Here is an excerpt from a letter from Senior Warden Jeff Perry and Transition Priest Rev. Rebecca Liberty, dated August 24, sharing the news that Fresh Start had withdrawn from the purchase of 234 French:

*St. John's continues to seek the best possible re-use of this building including residential use. To that end, the church is going forward with its request to remove the prohibition of overnight accommodations under the GISD zoning designation and will go before the Planning Board on September 6 as planned. Neighbors and church members are welcome to participate in that municipal process by attending that meeting at 7 pm on Tuesday, September 6, 2022 on the third floor of City Hall at 73 Harlow Street.*

A meeting with the parish was held on Sunday, August 7 to learn about Fresh Start and its owner Scott Parady, the purchaser. Andy Hamilton explained the zoning changes and timeline. You can read about Fresh Start here <https://www.freshstartrecovery-maine.org/> An informational meeting with the church's closest French St. neighbors was held on Tuesday, August 9, including a Q&A with Scott Parady and other members of Fresh Start. Andy Hamilton moderated the meeting.

### Inventory of 234 French

Pat Sprague and Ross Moczo continue to inventory the parish house in an effort to understand what needs to be kept, what needs to go, how to organize, and where to put what we keep.

### Use of space at 225 French

A group is assessing the best use of our church space, understanding there will need to be a short term, and longer term, plan. The group includes Jeff Perry, Jim Blanchette, Robert Ford, and Eric Boberg, with input from Rev. Rebecca Liberty and Vanessa Young.

### Rector search

The search committee is being finalized. Once the committee is formed, they will be engaging with Rev. Canon Michael Ambler from the Diocese with the goal of fast tracking the search process.

### Financial audit

The vestry has secured auditing firm The CPA Solution in downtown Bangor. They are collecting the necessary information for our audit, which is expected to wrap up by the end of September.

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The next newsletter will come out in late September. Please watch the Sunday announcements and the weekly email (This Week at St. John's) for updates. If you have anything to include, please send it to [office@stjohnsbangor.org](mailto:office@stjohnsbangor.org) by September 12th.

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### St. John's Episcopal Church

*"To the Glory of God and for the Common Good, we make God's love known now and for generations to come through worship and service to all..."*

234 French Street  
Bangor, Maine 04401

[www.stjohnsbangor.org](http://www.stjohnsbangor.org)

