

St. John's Episcopal Church

"Our mission is to know and to share the love of Jesus Christ"





Celebration of New Ministry

By the Grace of God
the Right Reverend Thomas J. Brown
Tenth Bishop of Maine
will celebrate the new ministry of

The Reverend Jarrett Kerbel

as Rector of
St. John's Episcopal Church
225 French Street
Bangor, Maine

on
Sunday, the nineteenth day of April
at four o'clock in the afternoon

Your prayers and presence are requested.

Clergy are asked to wear white stoles.

The service will be also livestreamed on
St. John's YouTube page.

Rector's Essay - Being There

A long lingering morning in a coffee shop with a good book and a mug of black coffee was a highlight of my week in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Even on vacation, I am a morning person. Up and at 'em, I leave the house before anyone else is stirring, walk a few blocks and find a good seat at Betterday Coffee on Alameda Avenue in Santa Fe. Nondescript and nestled with minimal signage in a strip mall that has seen better days, the cafe is bustling with a cast of local Santa Fe hipsters and eccentrics.

With my head down in my book and my handy pencil underlining chunks of text, I did not see the man approach me before he said, "That is one serious looking book. What are you reading?"

Vestry Report 4-14-26

We are a congregation and a community. We have been given a challenge. How do we effectively assist the unhoused in Bangor? The Rev. Kerbel has led us in attempting to meet this challenge. We seek the grace of the Holy Spirit to guide us in how best to accomplish this. Due to the Reverend's extreme devotion to the gospel, he acted when he saw those around us uncared for. The encampment was not planned. We did not investigate the city ordinances or the codes.

The Director of Code Enforcement has been instructed to close the encampment down. He held off making a police raid on the encampment. We should be thankful for his understanding and compassion. The City Codes are clear and we are in violation. After face-to-face negotiations with the Director of Code Enforcement, we have agreed that the deadline for closure of the encampment will be Thursday, 4-16-26, at 10:00 am.

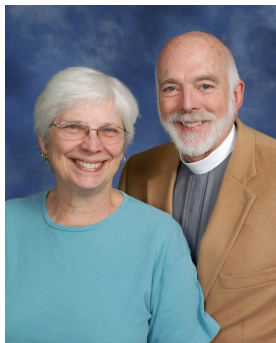
Mr. Bruce Hews, the Director of Homeless Services, has visited the encampment and is committed to working with the inhabitants to find an alternative to our encampment. He is committed to working with all houses of worship and seeks assistance wherever he can find it.

The Rev. Kerbel and I met Jim and Laura Winters on 4-14-26. We listened to their concerns and thanked them for their work and promised to find ways for them to continue their ministry. Hilary Graebert and David Conaway are deeply committed to service those in need that are unhoused.

We need to turn our adversaries to allies and we are in the process of accomplishing this. John Bapst and St. John's have reconciled, and we have agreed to work collaboratively together.

I see this as an opportunity for growth of the whole congregation. The Rev. Nutter saved the soul of St. John's, The Rev. Kerbel will lead us to fulfill our Christian mission. Let's support our rector, let's serve the community. We are a church in service to others.

Christopher Morin, MD, MBA, FACS
Senior Warden, St. John's Episcopal Church



A Prayer Request

The service for Lev Sherman+ will be at 5:00 pm on Saturday, April 18, 2026 at the Chapel of St. Francis, Kanuga Conference Center in Henderson North Carolina.

This is an outdoor venue. Lev's ashes will be interred on the same hillside as both of his parents'. The Reverend Joel Haeffer, former rector of St. James Episcopal Church in Hendersonville, and a family friend, will conduct the service.

Please hold Ann and their family in your prayers as they travel and gather with other family and close friends for this occasion.

Easter is Baptism Season!

Adults, Teenagers, Children, Babies; Easter Season is a great time to be Baptized into the Risen Life of our Lord Jesus Christ. Please contact the Rector to set a date. Easter Season stretches from Easter to Pentecost Sunday which is May 24 this year. Of course we can also do baptisms all Summer.

Great Wednesday

We are taking a temporary pause on Great Wednesday to give everyone who makes it possible a break, a chance to rest before we start up again. I will offer either a Bible Study or Book Study on Wednesdays in May in a modified format that will most likely include Eucharist and pizza. - Jarrett

Fresh Start

Thank you from Fresh Start for all St. John's does for them! They are currently in need of gently used or new bed linens and towels/washcloths. They have mainly full-size beds, but there is a need for twin and queen linens as well. Please either drop donations in the bin at the back of the church labeled "Fresh Start", or take them to the office during office open hours. Thank you!

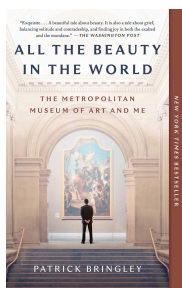
Kairos Prison Ministry

“...I was in prison and you came to visit me.” (Matthew 25:36)

Kairos Prison Ministry International, Inc. (Kairos) is a lay-led, interdenominational Christian ministry in which men and women volunteers bring Christ's love and forgiveness to prisoners and their families. The Kairos programs take the participants on a journey that demonstrates the love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ. Kairos Prison Ministry is Christian in nature, although no religious affiliation is necessary to be a participant.

The programs involve a structured model that includes the weekend experience, followed by guests or participants gathering regularly for accountability, support, and prayer.

Come to coffee hour on April 26 for a brief presentation on how Kairos operates locally! The point of contact at St. John's is Alison Barkley.



St. John's Book Group

St. John's Episcopal Church book group next meets next on April 21st, 2:00pm with [Zoom](#). April's book is: *ALL THE BEAUTY IN THE WORLD: the Metropolitan Museum of Art and me*. The author is Patrick Brinkley, a 10 year guard at the museum.

Interested readers may contact the church office for more information. New members are always welcome.

Third Annual New England REEL Recovery Film Festival

Please come to part or all of the Third Annual New England REEL Recovery Film Festival, taking place on Saturday, May 2nd 10am - 6pm at the Gracie Theatre at Husson University in Bangor, and support our friends at Fresh Start.

The festival brings together community members, service providers, advocates, and organizations who share a commitment to creating compassionate, informed responses to substance use disorder in Maine and beyond. Through carefully selected films and meaningful conversation, REEL Recovery creates space for awareness, connection, and hope.

This year, the goal is to raise \$50,000 for the Maine Association of Recovery Residences (MARR) Bed Sponsorship Fund (BSF), a critical program that helps remove financial barriers to recovery housing. The BSF provides low-barrier access to participating MARR-certified recovery residences for individuals

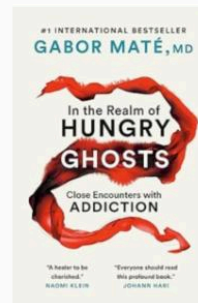
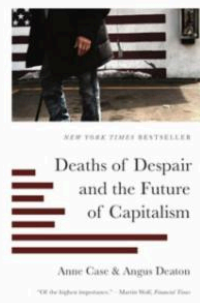
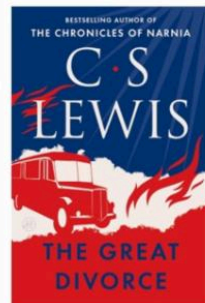
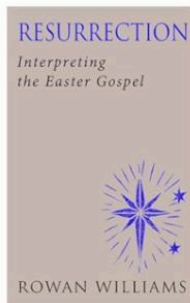


ready to take the next step in their recovery journey but without the financial means to do so.

Your presence helps amplify recovery stories and directly supports pathways to safe, stable recovery housing for those who need it most!

Contacts at St. John's: William Somes, Alison Barkley

Book recommendations from Fr. Kerbel for your Easter Reading



Resurrection by Rowan Williams - The best book on the Resurrection I know by the wisest theologian Anglicanism has produced in a long time.

The Great Divorce by CS Lewis: I read this slim volume overnight from Maundy Thursday into Good Friday and was deeply convicted by it. Lewis, in his masterful fashion, gives us a fantasy journey into the afterlife featuring a bus, some very crabby characters, lions (of course), unicorns, angels, etc. The book is a series of dialogues - sometimes hilarious and sometimes painful but always revealing - between departed souls and heavenly intermediaries who are attempting to help the souls find their way. Like many writings by Lewis it contains some retrograde attitudes here and there and some axes he loves to grind. If you can overlook the faults there is a lot to be gained.

In the Realm of Hungry Ghosts by Gabor Mate, MD - Hands down the best book I can recommend on addiction and street homelessness. Written in an engaging first-person style, the good Doctor relates his experience of treating people with addiction in the skid row section of Vancouver. If you want to understand the challenges facing our neighbors who are homeless and the people who give care to them, this is your book!

Deaths of Despair and the Future of Capitalism by Angus Deaton and Anne Case - Why do so many Americans die of addiction and suicide, especially white people in economically distressed regions? Deaton and Case - married Sociologists at Princeton University - researched this question and came up with some surprising results. Why would I recommend this in the Happy Resurrection Season of Easter? Because, the GRACE, HOPE, and COMMUNITY that comes from the Risen Jesus are the cures for the torment of despair! We followers of Jesus know the cure and we need to get much better at sharing it to save lives and souls!

For Parents and Grandparents and Children: **The Narnia Books** by CS Lewis! Read **The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe** out loud to your children and grandchildren or give it as a gift for them to read on their own. Watch the movie - after reading the book - and wonder out loud to the children, "I wonder who Aslan really is?". After a few minutes, blow their minds by telling them that Aslan is Jesus!

Announcements and Prayer Requests

Please be sure to submit all announcements and prayer requests to [the office](#) by noon on Thursday for them to be included in the weekly announcements and bulletins. Please submit photos / posters as a JPEG, and announcements in Word (not in a PDF).

Rector's Essay - Being There - Continued

Somewhat bashfully, I replied by showing him the cover of my book: [The Beauty of the Infinite: The Aesthetics of Christian Truth](#) by David Bentley Hart. My gut went tight anticipating the ridicule that comes with a lifetime of theological nerdiness. Instead, the stranger said cheerfully, "I love that author! Have you read his book [The Atheist Delusion](#)?" Yes, I answer, and we are off and running.

Turns out this gentleman is an Episcopalian who spends his summers in Southwest Harbor! We gabbed about theology for a while and then another man approached.

The second man asked to see my book and I shared it with him. To my utter astonishment, he also knew the author and the book and he too was an Episcopalian. This man was an Episcopalian from Austin, Texas, who is moving to Santa Fe, New Mexico. After another theological gabfest, I recommended that he and his wife try out St. Bede's "In the Weeds" Episcopal Church on St. Michael's Drive.

After we parted ways, I texted my wife, "I am exactly where I need to be today!" Somehow God had providentially arranged the most unexpected and delightful day of encouraging connections with fellow travelers in the faith. Thanks be to God. Expect to find me nose down in a local coffee shop near you!

-Jarrett

Serving on Sunday April 19th at 8:00am:

Lectors – TBD

Chalice Bearer – Cindy L.

Serving on Sunday April 19th at 10:00am:

Lectors – Zach W., Evan T., and Chris M.

Acolytes – Eric G., Ruth G., and Edmund H.

Chalice Bearers – Richard W. and Nancy D.

Ushers – Andy H. and Patty H.

Counters – Ken H. and Don L.

Serving on Sunday April 19th at 4:00pm:

Lectors – Eric G., Eilon Z. and Michele V.

Acolytes – Dakota M., Eric G. and Scott B.

Ushers – Jim B. and Mary W.

Serving on Sunday April 26th at 8:00am:

Lectors – TBD

Chalice Bearer – Patricia S.

Serving on Sunday April 26th at 10:00am:

Lectors – Ben O., Alan B. and Nancy D.

Acolytes – Dakota M., Obi O. and Gavin F.

Chalice Bearers – David C. and Robert F.

Ushers – Ken H. and John H.

Counters – Marsha C. and Roger G.

Thank you to all who volunteer as Lectors, Acolytes, Chalice Bearers and Ushers. If you would like to serve in one of these positions, please let the [office](#) know.

**Sunday's
Readings**

[Acts 2:14a,
36-41](#)

[1 Peter 1:17-
23](#)

[Luke 24:13-
35](#)

**Sunday
Worship:**
[Sunday
Morning
Worship
Bulletin](#)

[Celebration
of New
Ministry
Bulletin](#)

[YouTube](#)

**Morning
Prayer
Monday -
Friday:**
9:00am
Morning
Prayer
[Zoom](#)
[Facebook](#)

**Tuesday-
Friday:**
in person in
the Bethlehem
Chapel

**Evening
Prayer
Monday -
Friday:**
5:15pm
live on [Zoom](#)

What's Happening This Week

Sunday, April 19th, 8:00am: Rite II Eucharist spoken service, in person, followed by Coffee Hour in the Undercroft.

Sunday, April 19th, 10:00am: Rite II Eucharist with Choir, in-person and on [YouTube](#), followed by Coffee Hour in the Undercroft. Nursery and Sunday School are available during the service.

Sunday, April 19th, 11:30am: Vestry Meeting

Sunday, April 19th, 4:00pm: Celebration of New Ministry, The Rt. Rev. Thomas J. Brown, Tenth Bishop of Maine presiding with a joy filled reception following in the Undercroft.

Sunday, April 19th, 7:00pm: [AA](#) meeting in the Bethlehem Chapel.

Tuesday, April 21st, 2:00pm: St. John's Book Group on [Zoom](#).

Wednesday, April 22nd, 5:30pm: Choir rehearsal

Sunday, April 26th, 8:00am: Rite II Eucharist spoken service, in person, followed by Coffee Hour in the Undercroft.

Sunday, April 26th, 10:00am: Rite II Eucharist with Choir, in-person and on [YouTube](#), followed by Coffee Hour in the Undercroft. Nursery and Sunday School are available during the service.

Sunday, April 26th, during Coffee Hour: Come learn more about Kairos Ministry.

Sunday, April 26th, 7:00pm: [AA](#) meeting in the Undercroft.

For more information about these and future events, as well as ways to get involved, check out www.stjohnsbangor.org.

Nursery Care and Children's Chapel

Children should arrive between 9:45 and 10:00 am in the Undercroft on Sunday mornings for Nursery care, ages 0-3, and for Children's Chapel, ages 4-10.

In **Children's Chapel**, we celebrate the boundless curiosity and wonder of our young ones as we delve into the stories and lessons of the Bible. We aim to cultivate a nurturing and engaging environment that teaches our youngest members the stories of their faith and promotes spiritual growth and a strong sense of community. For inquiries or to register, please contact Mary-Frances Beesorchard at children@stjohnsbangor.org.

Opportunities to pray together:

Sunday Morning Eucharist

8:00am in person and at 10:00am in person and on [YouTube](#)

Morning Prayer

Mon-Fri, 9:00am on Facebook and on [Zoom](#)
and in person Tuesday - Friday in the Bethlehem Chapel

Evening Prayer

Mon-Fri, 5:15pm on [Zoom](#)

Volunteering is a wonderful way to give. Looking for the right Ministry Opportunity for you? Just click the link below for more information.

Parish Prayer List:

If you would like to add or reinstate a name or concern for our parish prayer list, please contact the church office or prayers@stjohnsbangor.org.

For the Sick, Injured, or Distressed, and for those who have requested prayer: Henry L., Ralph W., Anna-Claire, Ann H., The Rev. Victoria Sirota, and Our friends at Fresh Start **Continued prayers for** – Robert H., Brian M., Fred K., Marcia & Richard, Russell M., Kyra H., Donald K., Jane Z., Judy H., Finley G., Janet M., Susan J., Elena B., Jay B., Susan S., Loretta, David B., Jane P., Kelly M., D., M., L., Katie B., Ross M., MarLynne M., Kent C., Ann C., and Esther R.

For our Homebound Members: Lilly P., Earlene B., and Eileen H.

For the World: for Peace and Goodwill among Nations and for peoples in places of violence or oppression, and for the many places in our world where there is danger and desperation. We continue to pray for the people in Ukraine and for the innocent people in Gaza, Sudan and Iran. For those suffering in other countries in the Middle East. For an end to war and all forms of violence. For all who suffer for conscience's sake. For our enemies and those who wish us harm. For all suffering effects of climate change and of natural disasters. For refugees, immigrants, and those who are displaced.

For our Nation: For the healing of divisions and the celebration of diversity; for the recognition that no single viewpoint on any issue, no matter how important, is without human error; and for all who struggle to change our world and its systems of oppression and exploitation.

For the Leaders of our Country, State and Community: Donald J. Trump, President; Members of Congress, especially, Susan Collins, Angus King, Chellie Pingree, Jared Golden of Maine; Janet Mills our Governor; and Susan Hawes our Mayor; for those who administer justice in the courts of this land, that they all may serve our nation and the world with wisdom, civility, and compassion.

For our Military Personnel, especially those of this Parish: Sarah M., Dillan L., and Joshua M. For all members of our military currently in harm's way. We pray for peace. We also give Thanksgiving for all veterans and their willingness to lay down their lives for our country.

With Thanksgiving for the lives of those celebrating birthdays during the coming week including: Charlene B., Edmund H. and Susanna P.

For the Departed: for our service members killed in the current conflict.



St. John's Episcopal Church

225 French Street, Bangor, Maine 04401

207-947-0156

<http://www.stjohnsbangor.org>





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