

St. John's Episcopal Church

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



The CAT is Coming!

No, not the CAT in the Hat, the Church Assessment Tool (CAT). The CAT is a parish survey tool that gathers data, benchmarks it against other churches of similar size, and presents the data in an easily understandable format. The survey will begin on May 3 and continue to May 17. All church members can access it online through a link we will include in our newsletter next week and each week during the survey period. The Vestry will use the data collected for strategic planning purposes so we need a high level of participation from the congregation! 100% participation by active members would be ideal! Help to shape the direction of your church by sharing your perspective and observations through this easy to use tool. If using a computer is an obstacle for you please contact Vanessa in the office or the Rector and I will sit down and help you out either during the week or on a Sunday. - Jarrett

Rector's Essay - Hitchhikers' Guide

Driving home last Friday, I picked up a young man hitchhiking on Route 1 outside of Ellsworth. He had his thumb out, so I pulled over. As an adult man this is relatively safe for me. My wife would not do it and I respect her reasons. At the same time, I really do not want to live in a world of indifference driven by fear.

After we established his destination, I introduced myself and he told me his name. For our purposes, "Harry."

Harry looked in the back seat of my rented truck, spied my Stihl 391 chainsaw and said, "Hey, there is a chainsaw in the back. What do you do for a living?"

"I am a priest," I said, suppressing a smile.

To continue reading this essay, scroll down.

Deep Gratitude from the Rector

How can I thank the congregation of St. John's enough for the beautiful Celebration of New Ministry and Reception we shared together on Sunday. My heart was filled with joy by the warm welcome you extended to me in worship and in fellowship afterwards. Special thanks to the St. Andrew's Guild for a delicious and gracious reception and to the choir and Nancy Dymond for wonderful music in praise of God at our worship. Colin and Josh did an amazing job as usual and I am grateful. As we go forward in our mission to know and share the love of God in Jesus, let us be reminded that this celebration lifted up our shared ministry, the ministry of the whole body of the faithful in this place!

Please join us on May 3rd at 4:00 pm for a serene and reflective service of music, scripture, and prayer. Rooted in centuries-old Anglican tradition, this offering features exquisite choral works, sung psalms and responses, and contemplative prayers that invite stillness and renewal at the close of the day. Whether you are seeking spiritual nourishment, a moment of quiet, or simply an appreciation for sacred music, Choral Evensong at St. John's offers a welcoming space for all. There is no cost to attend this service, but we would welcome donations of canned food items in support of the Bangor Area Homeless Shelter.



GREAT
WEDNESDAYS
Worship + Supper + Bible Study
5:30 pm - Worship, 6 pm Bible Study & Food
The Beatitudes in Matthew & Luke. May 6 to 27.
225 French Street, Bangor 
www.stjohnsbangor.org



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 24th this year. Of course we can also do baptisms all Summer.

Kairos Prison Ministry

Please join us at coffee hour this Sunday for a brief presentation by leaders of the local Kairos Ministry, rescheduled from February 1st. They will stick around after the presentation if you wish to follow up with



Camp Bishopswood

Camp Bishopswood is so excited to announce their summer camp schedules. Camp registration is filling up fast and the kids are ready to have the summer of their life. You can find brochures about the camp in the Undercroft during coffee hour today, or at www.bishopswood.org.

Great news - Fr. Kerbel has scholarship money available to help pay for campers to go to Camp Bishopswood. Please speak to him or send him an [email](mailto:) to apply for a scholarship.

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



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

“Oh,” Harry said, “I am not very religious but I carry a Bible in my pocket wherever I go.”

“That’s great,” I replied, “You don’t have to be religious to have faith.”

“Well, I am not sure if it is about faith,” remarked Harry, “It’s more like a good luck charm to protect me.” He went on to say, “You see, I am an alcoholic and the first time I opened up the Bible I landed on the verse that said something about Jesus coming for sinners, or something like that, and I thought, hey, that is me.”

“Good passage to land on,” I said. “I have lots of addicted people in my family and I can tell you that Jesus is the right guy to turn your will over to. You can trust him to pull you through.”

“Yup. I put all my faith in Him,” Harry said with conviction.

Harry was referring to the place in the Gospel where Jesus says, “I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance” (**Luke 5:32, Matthew 9:13, Mark 2:17**) Or, perhaps, “Those who are well have no need of a physician.” (Matthew 9:12, Mark 2:17, Luke 5:31)

Harry is on point that Jesus is the one to hand over my willpower to for the sake of my sanity, sobriety, and over-all well-being. I know that his will for me is health and salvation, that I can trust him, and that he is undying in his faithfulness. He will see me through from death to life over and over.

1 Peter encourages us to “Have an account of the faith that is in us,” that we are ready to share. God gave me that opportunity with Harry and I was greatly blessed by God’s providence in that moment. Let us all be ready to share our sincere and heartfelt account of faith when God opens up space and time for us to share.

-Jarrett

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.

Serving on Sunday May 3rd at 8:00am:

Lectors – TBD

Chalice Bearer – Patricia S.

Serving on Sunday May 3rd at 10:00am:

Lectors – David F., Richard W. and Chris M.

Acolytes – TBD

Chalice Bearers – Cindy L. and Cassy P.

Ushers – Jeff P. and Zach W.

Counters – Rex B. and Mary W.

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.

[Acts 2:42-](#)

[47](#)

[1 Peter 2:19-](#)

[25](#)

[John 10:1-10](#)

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

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.

Tuesday, April 28th, 9:30am: Dorothy Day Soup Kitchen, serving our community at the Salvation Army. For more information, contact [Claudia and Jim](#).

Thursday, April 30th, 5:30pm: Choir rehearsal

Sunday, May 3rd, 8:00am: Rite II Eucharist spoken service, in person, followed by Coffee Hour in the Undercroft.

Sunday, May 3rd, 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, May 3rd, 4:00pm: Choral Evensong

Sunday, May 3rd, 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 Beesorchar 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.

[OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY](#)

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. and Anna-Claire. **Continued prayers for** – MarLynne M., Kent C., Ann C., Esther R., The Rev. Sirota, Our friends at Fresh Start, 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., and Ross M.

For our Homebound Members: Bonnie A., Kathy C., Ginny F., Carolyn L., Evelyn L., Roberta D., Carolyn S., Esther R., Gary S., Deborah T., LeeW., Donna W., Lura W., 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: Kathy C., Joseph F., Kim M., Lucia W.Y., Laura W., Sara F., Michael P. and Sarah 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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