

St. John's Episcopal Church

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



The CAT is here!

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 begins on May 3, that's THIS SUNDAY, and continues to May 17. All church members can access it online, starting Sunday the 3rd, through [this link](#). 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 Domesticate the Bible

The bright young curate at my neighboring church in Philadelphia started a Bible Study. That blue-blazer church had very little history of Bible Study and he was excited to introduce the practice by discussing the Gospel of Luke. All was going swimmingly until the group arrived at the Beatitudes in Luke 6:20-26, more correctly called the "Blessings and Woes."

In verse 24, Jesus is recorded as saying, "Woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation." After reading this verse, the Bible Study ground to a halt. One member could not believe that Jesus said such a thing, and if he did say such a shocking thing, what did he mean by it? She had come to church every Sunday for 60 years and she could not recall hearing these words read in church or preached.

To continue reading this essay, scroll down.

Choral Evensong

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.



If you are unable to attend, but want to make a food donation to the Bangor Area Homeless Shelter, please bring your item to Sunday morning's service and leave the item(s) in the box labeled BAHS, located on the right side of the church behind the last pew.



Great Wednesday returns May 6th!

Join us for Worship + Supper + Bible Study. 5:30pm Eucharist, 6:00 pm Bible Study and Food. The Beatitudes in Matthew & Luke. May 6th-27th. (The Beatitudes are eight or nine blessings recounted by Jesus in Matthew 5:3-10 within the Sermon on the Mount in the Gospel of Matthew, and four in the Sermon on the Plain in the Gospel of Luke, followed by four woes which mirror the blessings.)

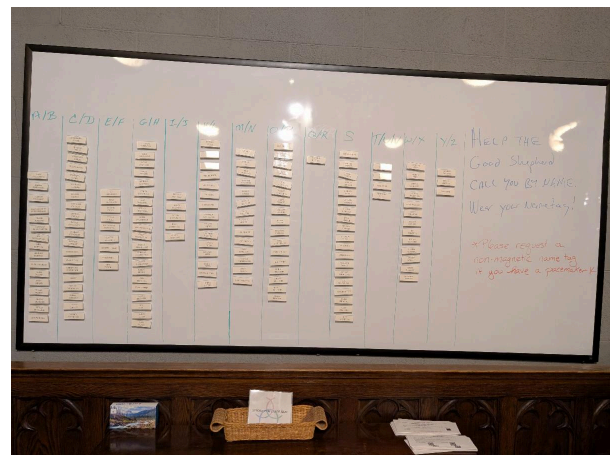
Ministry Opportunity Fair

On May 17 the many ministries of St. John's will be present at Coffee Hour to tell you about what they do and to see if you want to join their ministry. Each ministry will have a table featuring a delicious snack or beverage to entice you, an activity to engage you, and information about what they do. We will have a bingo card for each member. The person who visits all the tables gets a prize! The vital mission and ministry of St. John's totally depends on volunteers and our hope is that everyone will find an opportunity for joyful service here.

Name Tags

The new name tags are ready to be used. We hope you love them! If we missed you, we're sorry, please add your name to the sign up sheet and we'll get one made for you for next week.

If you have a pacemaker, please request an alternative name tag. The new ones have magnets and cannot be used by people with a pacemaker.



Encampment Update

Thanks to local service providers and follow up by our church members one guest at our encampment entered detox and on discharge will have housing. Another couple who stayed with us just found housing this week and were able to make rent with some minor assistance from the church. We are continuing to stay in touch

with our former guests, offering assistance where appropriate or just a listening ear and some kindness. If you would like to engage in street ministry, please let Jarrett know.

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.



Summer Music at St. John's

Hello parishioners of St. John's Church. It is hard for me to believe that summer is close upon us and thus, the conclusion of the 2025-2026 choir season is on May 31st.. This means that, while choir members are always encouraged to vest and join Josh and I, we will have openings for musical offerings during the Offertory portions of our summer services. Please let me (Colin - choirdirector@stjohnsbangor.org) or Josh (jbachsing@gmail.com) know if you would like to make a musical offering this summer!

Blessings, Colin Graebert, Choir Director

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](#) 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 - Domesticate the Bible - Continued

I relate this story because it is a very good example of how hard it is to domesticate the Gospel. Jesus was utterly shocking and even scandalous in his day, and he will continue to be until his Kingdom comes. Jesus consorted with all the wrong sort of people; people who were ritually unclean, the sinners, the dirty, the wretched of the earth, the outcasts, the despised and hated, and the foreigners. Jesus taught in a confrontational manner through argument and stories that shocked his listeners into a new awareness of God's radical love and the transformation that love offers. Most of all he shocked the world by dying the shameful death of a criminal and being raised from the dead by God.

When we approach Jesus with open and humble hearts, who he is and what he said may rub up against our pre-existing commitments, beliefs and loyalties.

Some people think they have me pegged as a liberal. Although I was raised by a strongly liberal mother, I was also raised by a conservative father and grandfather. As I grew into an adult I rejected these secular categories altogether in favor of the Biblical category of disciple. The authority in my life who I follow is Jesus. The values, direction and morals I receive from him are what guide my private and public choices.

A priest friend told me how a member accused him of preaching a 'left-wing' sermon. My friend Greg politely replied, "Left wing and right wing are secular terms that come from the French Revolution. In the revolutionary assembly one group sat on the right and the other on the left. Left and right denote a secular lens or mindset that cannot be found in the Bible. I was simply preaching from the teaching of Jesus. How that interacts with this secular lens is something you need to wrestle with."

I agree with Greg completely. We need to be conscious of the assumptions we bring to our interpretation of scripture and leave open the possibility that scripture may not support our assumptions. This is hard to do. We cannot rip up all the planks in our boat at once without fear of sinking. But, in a way, that is the Baptismal invitation of Jesus. Let go of all that steadies your life that is not from God, and plunge into the life-giving waters of the new creation that comes with life in me!

-Jarrett

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 – Eric G., Obi O. and Ruth G.

Chalice Bearers – Cindy L. and Cassy P.

Ushers – Jeff P. and Zach W.

Counters – Rex B. and Mary W.

Serving on Sunday, May 3rd at 4:00pm:

Lectors – Michele V. and Hilary G.

Acolytes – Eric G. Ruth G. and Robert F.

Ushers – Jim B. and Mary W.

Serving on Sunday May 10th at 8:00am:

Lectors – TBD

Serving on Sunday May 10th at 10:00am:

Lectors – Ruth G., Jacqueline C. and Evan T.

Acolytes – Grant P., Isaac P. and David C.

Chalice Bearers – Grant P. and David C.

Ushers – Andy H. and Patty H.

Counters – Jim B. and Hilary 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 7:55-60](#)

[1 Peter 2:2-10](#)

[John 14:1-14](#)

***Sunday
Worship:
Worship
Bulletin***

[Evensong
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***

What's Happening This Week

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.

Wednesday, May 6th, 5:30am: Great Wednesday returns. 5:30pm Eucharist in the church, 6:00pm Dinner and Bible Study in the Undercroft, class is also available on [Zoom](#).

Thursday, May 7th, 5:30pm: Choir rehearsal

Saturday, May 9th, 12:00pm: Second Saturday in the Undercroft. Come and help serve a warm meal available to all in our community. For more information, contact [David C.](#)

Sunday, May 10th, 8:00am: Rite II Eucharist spoken service, in person, followed by Coffee Hour in the Undercroft.

Sunday, May 10th, 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 10th, 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](#)

Wednesday Eucharist

5:30pm in person

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: Dustin, Lyla C., Hunt and Allison, Haley, and Mary W. **Continued prayers for** – Henry L., Anna-Claire, Kelly M., D., M., L., Katie B., Ross M., 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., and Jane P.

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: Mary-Frances B., Gail C., Joshua S., Gracie S. and Jane Z.

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



St. John's Episcopal Church
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