

St. John's Episcopal Church

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



A September to Remember!

September 3rd - First Choir rehearsal and Potluck at 5:30pm. Contact Colin Graebert for more information.

September 13th - Rally Sunday! Get the program year started with fun and fellowship after the 10:00am service. We will have a bouncy house, badminton, corn hole, a dunk tank for the Rector, and a food truck. Mary-Frances will have a special gift for families that day too.

September 20th - CAT Conversation and Ice Cream Cones. Join the exciting conversation about our Church Assessment Tool (CAT) results after the 10:00am service in the undercroft. The congregation did such a great job responding to the survey, now you get a chance to explore the results and give input that will lead to strategic planning. Activities for children in the chapel. Teenagers invited to participate in the CAT discussion.

September 20th - Alpha Begins with an Introductory Session at 2:00pm. Try it out to see if it is right for you!

September 20th - Contemplative Evensong at 5:00pm - Simple, centering music, silence, and prayers in the Chapel. A wonderful way to refresh your soul for the week ahead. Invite friends! For singers and non-singers alike.

September 30th - Great Wednesday Resumes! The Parable of Jesus. 5:30pm Eucharist. 6:00pm simple supper and study.

Rector's Essay To Grow

The CAT survey results were loud and clear. The first priority of St. John's is membership growth. The next question, asked by Vestry member Robert Ford at our last meeting, is; How do we grow the church?

During my vacation, Robert's excellent question caused me to think and pray. After 30 years of priesthood in growing churches, what have I learned and how do I communicate it? Well, let this essay be a start.

Scroll down to continue reading.

Adult Baptism and Confirmation class

Adult Baptism and Confirmation class begins this Sunday, August 23rd, in the Rector's office after worship. We will meet at 10:45 am following the 9:00am service. If you are attending please grab a Book of Common Prayer from the church and bring it with you.



FREE || **GOOD NEWS!** || **Free**

HUMAN DIGNITY IN THE AGE OF A.I.

Study & Discuss

Magnifica Humanitas

*On Safeguarding the Human Person in the time of Artificial
Intelligence.*

August 19 & 26, 6:30 pm
225 French Street

For more information:
jarrett.kerbel@gmail.com



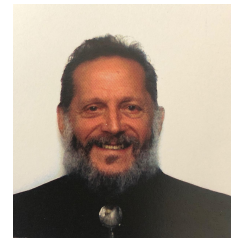
DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY FOR THOUGHTFUL ETHICAL CONVERSATION!

Brown Bag Encyclical Study

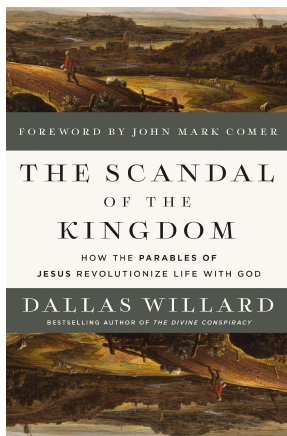
On August 26th at 6:30 pm the Rector will host a lively study of Magnifica Humanitas on [Zoom](#), the first encyclical of Pope Leo. The encyclical is a remarkable document that summarizes the best of Roman Catholic Social Teaching and applies it to the rising challenge of Artificial Intelligence to basic human dignity. Roman Catholic Social Teaching is an amazing resource for disciplined Christian moral reflection, the deliberate exploration of what it means to "Love God and neighbor and enemy" in our current moment. You can access the encyclical here: www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/encyclicals/documents/20260515-magnifica-humanitas.html. Please join the class by emailing the Rector at jarrett.kerbel@stjohnsbangor.org.

A Farewell Celebration in honor of Josh

After 8 amazing years of gorgeously played organ music, Josh will be playing his last service for St. John's on Sunday August 30th. Following that service, we plan to send Josh off with a party in the Undercroft. If you would like to help plan the going away party, please let Fr. Kerbel know.



To Celebrate Josh and thank him for his service at St. John's we will be collecting a 'purse' for him. A purse is a collection of monetary donations in thanksgiving for a staff member when they leave a church. Please send checks to the church office and be sure to write "PURSE" in the memo line. If you give cash, be sure to include a note or mark the envelope "PURSE."



One Book, One Church

Looking for your next book to read? The Reverend suggests ["The Scandal of the Kingdom: How the Parables of Jesus Revolutionized Life with God" by Dallas Willard.](#)

A major new work by Dallas Willard, the highly anticipated follow-up to his seminal work The Divine Conspiracy. In this groundbreaking book based on teachings he delivered to a church community, Willard delves into the transformative power of Jesus's parables, revealing how they show us how to live right now in the kingdom of God.

Drawing from his extensive teachings on spiritual formation, Willard illuminates the timeless wisdom contained within each parable, revealing their profound relevance to contemporary life. With clarity and depth, he guides readers through

the subversive messages embedded within these seemingly simple stories, urging us to break free from the grip of worldly values and embrace the radical teachings of Jesus.

The Scandal of the Kingdom is not just a book--it's a call to action. Willard challenges readers to move beyond passive acceptance of comfortable dogmas and instead to actively engage with the values of the kingdom of God. He reminds us that the kingdom is not some distant future destination but a present reality, beckoning us, as the parables of Jesus did, to live with a new purpose and intentionality in the here and now. Through insightful analysis and practical wisdom, Willard empowers readers to transform their lives and communities by embodying the radical love, compassion, and justice exemplified in Jesus's parables. This book is a beacon of hope for Christians seeking to deepen their faith and live more authentically in accordance with the teachings of Christ. Willard empowers us to:

Become more passionate about living the gospel in the full scope of Jesus's vision for us
Better share the faith of Jesus with those disillusioned with Christianity
Unlock the excitement of living in the upside-down kingdom of God
Share the gospel of Jesus in the way he did
A significant new resource for Christians worldwide, this book offers a road map for spiritual growth and renewal in an increasingly complex and challenging world. With its profound insights and transformative message, it is destined to leave a lasting impact on the hearts and minds of believers everywhere.

(Description of book taken from Thriftbooks.com)

Choir Season is about to begin

Hello folks!

Hard to believe that it is already August (more so for me, perhaps, as a teacher), and planning for the 2026-2027 Choir Ministry is well underway! I am very excited for this year's musical offerings, including our usual Sunday morning anthems and psalms, Contemplative and Choral Evensongs (stay tuned for more information), Advent Lessons and Carols, and much more!



We will have our Kick-Off Potluck and first rehearsal on Thursday, September 3rd from 5:30 to 8:00. Regular choir rehearsals will take place on Thursdays from 5:30 to 7:30

If you have ever thought about joining the St John's Choir, **now is the perfect time; bring a friend!** No audition necessary, just a quick meeting with me to go over some of the procedures and run a few scales.

For more information or to schedule a meeting, please email me at choirdirector@stjohnsbangor.org

-Colin



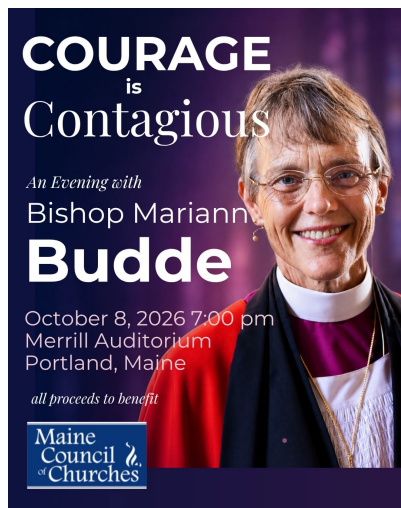
Eat Pizza and Help Fresh Start

On Thursday, September 3, [Pizzeria Uno](#), located at 725 Stillwater Ave in Bangor, will be donating 20 percent of all orders to [Fresh Start](#). IMPORTANT: You need to mention Fresh Start when you order. Please think about patronizing Pizzeria Uno on September 3, and tell friends and neighbors!

Memorial Service for Lewis "Lew" Phillips

A memorial service for Lew Phillips will be held at St. Alban's Episcopal Church in Cape Elizabeth on Saturday September 19th at 11:30am. Please see the obituary in the [Bangor Daily News](#) for more details.





Courage is Contagious - An Evening with Bishop Mariann Budde

Hosted by the Maine Council of Churches

October 8, 2026, 7:00 pm, at the Merrill Auditorium in Portland

Join the Maine Council of Churches for an inspiring evening with Bishop Mariann Budde (Episcopal Diocese of Washington DC). Known for her courage in speaking truth to power, she will reflect on what is required of us at such a time as this: to learn to be brave, stand for justice, and seek mercy for those in harm's way.

Tickets are \$56 (includes service fee) and can be purchased any time online:

[https://porttix.com/whats-on/maine-council-of-churches-bishop-](https://porttix.com/whats-on/maine-council-of-churches-bishop-mariann-budde/)

[mariann-budde/](https://porttix.com/whats-on/maine-council-of-churches-bishop-mariann-budde/)

or in person at the PortTix box office, 400 Congress Street, Portland, Monday-Friday, 11am - 3pm

Proceeds will benefit the Maine Council of Churches, a coalition of denominations that speaks with a prophetic voice calling people to help build a more just, compassionate, and peaceful world.

Senior Warden Note:

I am looking forward to the congregation wide review of our Church Assessment Tool. There are issues that were pointed out by some of our scores in that review. There are also my personal experiences as the Senior Warden. It has been a difficult journey for me. We as a congregation have dealt with divisive issues.

What concerns me is the amount of anger and dysfunctional communication in our parish culture. These are a constant danger to the healthy functioning of any congregation. We need clear guidelines and we need to develop mutually agreeable mechanisms for conflict resolution.



The Rector and I have an excellent one-on-one working relationship. This is critical to the proper functioning of the Mutual governance of our Congregation. We have not always agreed, we have never allowed our differences of opinion to get in the way of the respect we show each other. We have learned from each other, we have had excellent conversations.

If there are issues on which we disagree, we need to be able to discuss those issues devoid of anger and emotion. The Rector and Vestry work together as a team. Even when we disagree, when a decision is made we all support it for the good of our mission. We need first to be able to listen to each other and not react until everyone has had an opportunity to express their opinion.

Steps to disagreement resolution

Have the courage to speak directly to the person with whom you have a disagreement. The Rector will listen. Do not allow anger to direct the conversation. If the two primary individuals cannot resolve the issue, then it is appropriate to involve a third party. It is not appropriate to enlist that third party as a participant in the dispute. If that fails, then a larger body needs to discuss the issue. Mathew 18:15

At all times LOVE and Respect leads to a mutually satisfactory resolution. Let's prepare to discuss communication guidelines at our Congregation wide meeting on September 20th.

Rector's Essay - To Grow - Continued from above

Below, I will lay out what I believe to be the essentials of church growth. In this essay I will comment briefly on each item and then expand my thoughts as a series in upcoming newsletters.

- **Trust God:** God will direct us and God will provide for us. Our role is to be responsive to what God is already doing for us. We do this by listening and discerning together the will of God for our church community.
- **Petition God:** Are you praying for God to send us the next person, couple, or family who would benefit from and add to our ministry? Pray for that next person to find all the blessings of a with-God life in our community. What if the whole congregation committed to praying for growth?
- **Collaborate with the Holy Spirit:** Churches that grow are full of people who are growing in the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit. 1 Corinthians 12:4 - 11 and Galatians 5: 22 - 23. The active power of the Holy Spirit animates us with every gift we need for communion with God and each other. Nothing is more attractive than a church that is fully plugged into the Holy Spirit. Showing what we believe in our personal transformation is a great testimony to a faith that is more than words.
- **Pray for Clarity about your role in congregational growth:** How is God calling me to open the riches of the with-God life to newcomers and neighbors? How is God provisioning me for this mission? How is God calling me to grow personally to support the growth I want to see in my church? How will I open my heart and life to love the next neighbor God sends my way?
- **Love of neighbor means loving actual people:** Jesus gave us the great commandment to love God and neighbor. Love - as Jesus embodied it - is not abstract or aloof. Learning to love, growing in love, requires actually knowing our neighbors. Are you ready not just to offer a cursory welcome but to get to know new neighbors in the pews and to offer them your love and care?

Now, you may be surprised at my starting place for church growth. I could give you a list of techniques. I could give you a demographic or sociological analysis. Instead, I am offering you the spiritual foundation of growth, because, at the end of the day, people want to come to a church where a vital relationship with God is known and offered. We begin with God otherwise we mess up the logic of faith by putting our activity at the center rather than our living God.

We must grow from our integrity as followers of Jesus. Growth with integrity is my rallying cry! We could grow by pleasing people, or through gimmicks for sure. We could give away a free car to each newcomer, but there is no integrity in that, no honoring of who we are and whose we are.

Follow Up Essays:

The "Grace Rule of Welcome"

All Welcome means; "All Welcome to Meet God in Jesus."

Growth with Integrity

Trust God

Pray for the next Person, Make Room in your life for the Next Person

Spiritual Growth and Membership Growth

-Jarrett

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).

Serving on Sunday August 23rd at 9:00am:

Lectors – Zach W., Ann H. and Kelsi H.

Acolytes - Grant P., Isaac P., Cindy L. and Evelyn S.

Chalice Bearers - Cindy L. and Grant P.

Ushers – Katharine F. and Mary W.
Counters – Paul J. and Ken H.

Serving on Sunday August 30th at 9:00am:

Lectors – Richard W., Ben O. and Chris M.

Acolytes – Grant P., Isaac P. and Dakota M.

Chalice Bearers – Jacquie W. and Cassy P.

Ushers – Ken H. and John H.

Counters – Marsha C. 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.

***Sunday's
Readings***

[Isaiah 51:1-6](#)

[Romans 12:1-8](#)

[Matthew
16:13-20](#)

***Sunday
Worship:
[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

What's Happening This Week

Sunday, August 23rd, 9:00am: Rite II Eucharist, in-person and on [YouTube](#), followed by Lemonade on the Lawn.

Sunday, August 23rd, 10:45am: Adult Baptism and Confirmation Class

Sunday, August 23rd, 7:00pm: [AA](#) meeting in the Undercroft.

Tuesday, August 25th, 9:30am: Dorothy Day Soup Kitchen at the Salvation Army.

Wednesday, August 26th, 6:30pm: Human Dignity in the Age of AI on [Zoom](#).

Thursday, August 27th, 6:30pm: Invitation to Love Retreat on [Zoom](#).

Sunday, August 30th, 9:00am: Rite II Eucharist, in-person and on [YouTube](#), followed by a Farewell Party for Josh Singer.

Sunday, August 30th, 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.

*****Nursery Care and Children's Chapel are on Hiatus and will resume on September 13th*****

Opportunities to pray together:

Sunday Morning Eucharist

9:00am 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: Kent C., Ann C., Mannone, Patrick and R & L. **Continued prayers for** – Katie B., Ross M., MarLynne M., Esther R., Russell M., Jane M., Kurt K., Earlene B., Donald K., Jane Z., Sean C., Susan J., Elena B., Jay B., Susan S., Mikenzy, Laurel, Roy G., Loretta, David B., Jane P., Henry L., Kelly M., D., M., L., and Robin S.

For our Homebound Members: Bonnie A., Kathy C., Ginny F., Carolyn L., Evelyn L., Roberta D., Carolyn S., Esther R., Gary S., Deborah T., Lee W., 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 people in the Middle East and Sudan. 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.

With Thanksgiving for the lives of those celebrating birthdays during the coming week including: Jessica H., June P., Michael P., Ted P., Mark U. and Fran W.

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

The altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Lev Sherman+ by Ann Holland.



St. John's Episcopal Church

225 French Street, Bangor, Maine 04401

207-947-0156

<http://www.stjohnsbangor.org>



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