

St. John's Episcopal Church

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



Blessing of the Backpacks

Back to school time is upon us. This Sunday we will be doing a Blessing of the Backpacks, so bring your backpack to receive your blessing and start your school year off right. All age students, preschool through grad students, are invited to participate.

Rector's Essay

All are Welcome to Encounter God in Jesus Christ (Growth part 2)

Since before I can remember the motto of our national church has been, "The Episcopal Church Welcomes You!" Somewhere along the way the church seemed to forget why we extend such a generous welcome. The full welcome - at least as far as I am concerned - should be "The Episcopal Church welcomes you to encounter God in Jesus Christ."

A combination of encroaching theological liberalism and panic over declining attendance, caused our church to forget the aim of welcome and to offer substitutes instead. In addition, we have enshrined a culture of aloof skepticism about faith that prioritizes doubt over discipleship, i.e. the practices of a spiritual student seeking saving wisdom from our higher power. The cost of this forgetfulness has been more decline, and a disconnect from our true mission.

Scroll down to continue reading.



A Farewell Celebration in honor of Josh

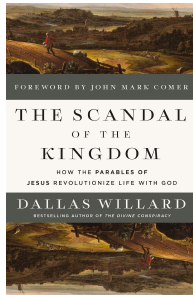
After 8 amazing years of gorgeously played organ music, Josh will be playing his last service for St. John's THIS Sunday, August 30th. Following that service, we plan to send Josh off with a party in the Undercroft.

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."

Morning Prayer is BACK!

Following a restful summer hiatus, the Morning Prayer team is back. You can find them on Facebook Monday - Friday and in person in the Chapel Tuesday - Friday at 9:00am. They hope you can join them in this peaceful

prayer service to help get your day started right.



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.

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!

***Join Us for Sunday Worship
at 10:00am
Starting September 13th
And
at 8:00am & 10:00am
Starting September 27th***

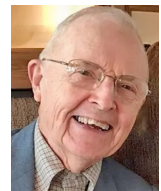


Rally Sunday!

Get the program year started with fun and fellowship after the 10:00am service on September 13th. 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.

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.



CAT Conversation and Ice Cream Cones.

Join the exciting conversation about our Church Assessment Tool (CAT) results after the 10:00am service on September 20th 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.



Contemplative Evensong
September 20th 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.

Contemplative
Evensong

A serene and reflective service of simple songs, silence, scripture, and prayer. Come and refresh your soul in God's loving presence. Following ancient Christian traditions of contemplation and unitive prayer this worship is open to all who seek God, singers, so so singers, and non-singers alike.

SEPT. 20 - 5PM

225 French Street, Bangor

In the small chapel across the lawn.



Stjohnsbangor.org

ALPHA

Begin Again with God

A space & time to ask every question and explore a relationship with God in a group of fellow seekers.

- Does God exist?
- Does God care about me?
- What is God's will for me?
- How do I pray?

Is this right for me? Try it out at the first, introductory session!

When: Sundays 2 pm
Sept. 27 to Nov. 15 - 8 Sessions

Where: 225 French St.

Who: All WELCOME!
FREE of CHARGE

For more information or to register:

alpha@stjohnsbangor.org



Great Wednesday Returns

Mark your calendar because Great Wednesday returns on Wednesday September 30th. We'll start with a 5:30pm Eucharist and then learn about The Parable of Jesus at 6:00pm while we eat a simple supper. We hope that you'll join us.

Manna

For 35 years, Manna has provided home cooked dinners for our neighbors, five days a week. At its current location on Center Street, Manna also provides a warming shelter in the winter. Unfortunately, a septic leak in the building resulted in the loss of the kitchen and bathroom. Right now, volunteers and restaurants are bringing in food five days a week to continue this important mission and feed 40 people. But donations are needed to rebuild the kitchen and bathroom. Bill Rae asks for prayers and donations, which can be sent to Manna, PO Box 2763, Bangor ME 04402-2763.



Email scam alert

We've had several people receive emails from Jim B. titled "Honoring a Life Well Lived". Please note that this email is not from him. We have spoken to Jim, who assures us that he, Claudia and their family are fine. Do not open the email.

Rector's Essay

All are Welcome to Encounter God in Jesus Christ - Continued from above

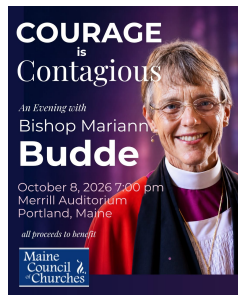
I strongly believe that our best gift to offer seekers is the Gospel and that we are called to grow as a congregation by offering that gift. Our mission statement calls each of us to know and share the love of Jesus. With each newcomer we have that opportunity.

Encounter with God leads to different journeys for different people who enter our doors - member and newcomer alike. For some, the freely bestowed love of God will help that person feel accepted as a person for the first time in their life. Shame will drop away and joy will arrive in its place. For others, God's love will come as forgiveness and mercy, a relief from burdensome guilt. Some will experience spiritual healing in body, mind and spirit through God's love. Others will receive God's love and accept the invitation to surrender, admitting powerlessness over substance abuse or other compulsions. Some will experience God's love and feel a call to repent from behavior that rejects God's love.

One example I use to help folks understand the generous words, "The Episcopal Church Welcomes you (to encounter God in Jesus Christ)," may appear somewhat shocking at first. If an active member of the KKK or a neo-Nazi group came to St. John's, would they be welcomed? My answer is, yes. Now, stick with me, would they feel comfortable here? Would they feel like the Gospel proclaimed and preached in this place supports their white-supremacy, anti-semitism, and devotion to violence? Absolutely not, if we are preaching the Gospel correctly. For these active members of hateful organizations, the encounter with Jesus Christ can only lead to repentance and amendment - indeed overthrow - of their lives.

The love of God is freely offered by God, it is more powerful than all that opposes it, and Divine love is a force to be reckoned with. We all will be transformed by it. For all of us who know this path and are grateful for it, our call is to offer it to others.

-Jarrett



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-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.

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 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.

Serving on Sunday September 6th at 9:00am:

Lectors – Brandon, M., Katherine F., and TBD

Acolytes - Eric G., Obi O. and Ruth G.

Chalice Bearers - Nancy D. and Richard 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**

[Jeremiah
15:15-21](#)

[Romans 12:9-
21](#)

[Matthew
16:21-28](#)

**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
live on [Zoom](#)

What's Happening This Week

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.

Thursday, September 3rd, 5:30pm: Choir Kickoff and Potluck

Thursday, September 3rd, 6:30pm: Invitation to Love Retreat on [Zoom](#).

Sunday, September 6th, 9:00am*: Rite II Eucharist, in-person and on [YouTube](#), followed by Lemonade on the Lawn. *FINAL 9:00am SERVICE OF THE SUMMER*

Sunday, September 6th, 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.

*****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.

In Thanksgiving for the marriages of Claire & Kaleb and of Isabella & Alan.

For the Sick, Injured, or Distressed, and for those who have requested prayer: Kent C., Ann C., and Mannone. **Continued prayers for** – Patrick, R & L., Loretta, David B., Jane P., Henry L., Kelly M., D., M., L., Robin S., 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., and Mikenzy

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: Odi O. and Anthea B.

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

The altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in honor of eight years of faithful service by Joshua Singer



St. John's Episcopal Church

225 French Street, Bangor, Maine 04401

207-947-0156

<http://www.stjohnsbangor.org>





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