St. John's Episcopal Church

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

Rector's Essay
Stewardship of the Future

Who speaks up for future generations?

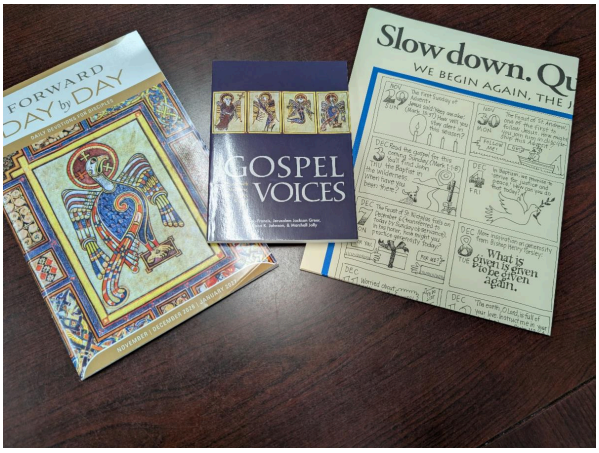
This question is the premise of an acclaimed science-fiction novel called **The Ministry of the Future** by Kim Stanley Robinson. In the future world depicted by this page-turner, a Ministry of the Future is established to look out for the interests of future generations. After all, the vast majority of humans who will ever exist will exist in the future. What do we owe them?

In my opinion, we owe them a healthy environment, the opportunity for meaningful vocations, adequate and accessible health care, excellent education available for all, and a functional democracy where voice and vote are meaningful for all people and human rights are protected. We also owe the future our humble admission that we do not have all the answers and solutions.

Scroll down to continue reading.

Sunday November 22nd - Ingathering Sunday

November 22nd is Christ the King Sunday and will serve as our Ingathering Sunday, when we come together and bring our 2027 pledge cards for dedication. This will also be the Sunday that our directories will become available. If you have any last minute changes to your directory listing, please contact Vanessa in the office by noon on Tuesday November 17th.



The Advent of Advent

We have some wonderful materials to help you and your family observe a spiritually rewarding Advent. They are available on a table in the back of the Church and in the Undercroft. We have a day by day devotional guide for Advent called "Gospel Voices: Advent with Matthew, Mark, Luke & John." We have an Advent calendar with daily prompts for prayer and reflection. And, as always, we have Forward Day by Day. Please make a donation as you are able to defray the cost of these excellent devotional aids.

Dawnland

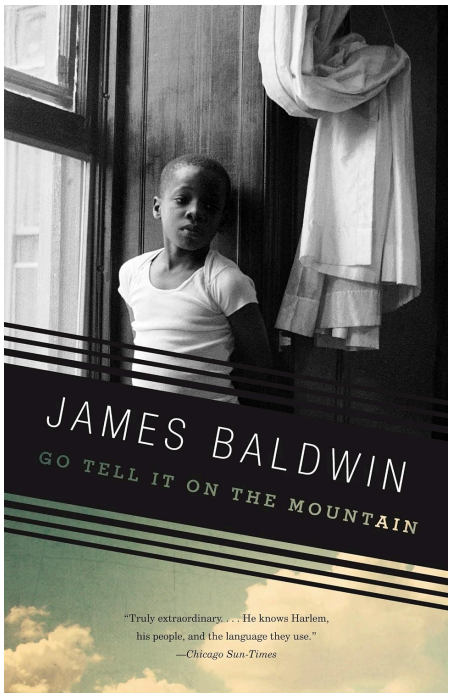
Join us as St. James', St. John's, St. Patrick's Episcopal Churches and The Wilson Center collaborate to present the award-winning documentary *Dawnland* on Sunday, November 15, at 1:30 pm. The Wilson Center is located at 67 College Avenue, Orono.

Dawnland documents key moments of the Maine Wabanaki-State Child Welfare Truth & Reconciliation Commission (TRC). Readers may recall that St. James' parishioner Matt Dunlap was one of the five people to serve on this historic commission. *Dawnland* goes behind-the-scenes as this historic body deals with difficult truths, questions the meaning of reconciliation, and charts a new course for state and tribal relations. The film won a national Emmy® Award for Outstanding Research in 2019 and made the American Library Association's list of 2020 Notable Videos for Adults.

St. John's is excited to be collaborating with St. James', St. Patrick's, and The Wilson Center for the second month in a row. We hope this collaboration will become a norm for our work educating the community about the Wabanaki and advocating with them for their inherent sovereignty.

The film will be followed by a response panel and an opportunity for attendees to ask questions of people who were directly involved in the TRC. Beverages will be served.





SJE Young Adult Book Group:

SJE's Young Adult Book Group meets twice per month. Meeting days and times are based on the availability of participants. Our modus operandi for this group is building spiritual community through free expression and authentic conversations on theological topics.

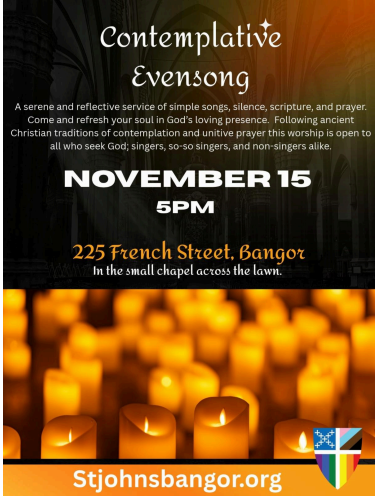
We recently finished *The Sparrow* by Mary Doria Russell, which richly explored themes of meaning-making, discernment, and the problems of evil and suffering in the world. We also laughed a lot … (not ALL conversations are entirely serious).

Thank you to the ***eight*** folks who submitted a response to our poll for the next book! This is a great size for having focused and open conversations. I'm happy to share that *Go Tell it on the Mountain* by James Baldwin was *unanimously* selected by the group to read next. You can purchase a copy online or **download the free e-book here**.

The reading assignment for the first session is to read through Part I by our next meeting on November 15th. If you would like more information, please email **William**.

Contemplative Evensong

Join us on November 15th at 5:00pm for 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.





Christmas Baskets

St. John's is organizing a special Christmas project to provide turkey dinners, groceries, and toys for needy families through Penquis Cap. This initiative is entirely funded by donations from St. John's parishioners, and we are reaching out for your support to help cover the costs of food and gifts.

This year, we aim to assist around 12 families, benefiting approximately 20 children in total. Each basket of food costs about $170, so helping these 12 families will cost $2,040. If you would like to contribute, please give a check to the church and include "Christmas Basket Project" in the memo line.

We are also welcoming donations to help needy families pay for heating oil. Please direct heating oil gifts to the Rector's Discretionary account. Now, more than ever, many families need assistance during the Christmas season. Thank you for making a positive impact on their lives.

Vestry and Delegate Nominations are Open

The Vestry is seeking nominees for four open Vestry positions for three year terms that begin in 2027. If you would like to nominate someone or self-nominate please submit names to the Rector, Wardens or any Vestry member. A Nominations Committee of the Vestry will receive all nominees and create a slate that will be presented to the Annual Meeting for a vote. We are also seeking four members to serve as delegates to our Annual Diocesan Convention. All nominees must be regular in attendance, Baptized Christians, and pledging members of the congregation.

Burial of Dorothy Irene Benedict (US Navy, Ret.) - Postponed

Due to the dogged work of a long-time member we now have the information we need to have Dorothy buried in the Veterans Administration Cemetery in Augusta. Once we have a new date for her committal we will let you know.

Choral Evensong

St. John's Episcopal is pleased to invite you to our first Choral Evensong of the 2026-2027 season on Sunday, November 22nd, at 5:00 pm. This will be a particularly special presentation, as this weekend hosts the commemorations of Thomas Tallis, John Merbecke, and William Byrd, three giants of English sacred music, as well as St. Cecilia, the patron saint of music, and the author C.S. Lewis. The music team at St. John's has crafted an Evensong service that has each of these venerable artists represented in our music and readings. Please join us for this celebration of English music and literature!







Make an Advent Wreath for Home

Lighting Advent Candles at the dinner table is a lovely Christian practice! The four candles help us countdown to Christmas and focus our prayer for the coming of the Light! On November 29th, the first Sunday of Advent we will host Advent Wreath Making during coffee hour. We will supply a variety of evergreen cuttings and the oasis ring-forms which come with candle holders. Please feel free to bring other adornments to share like pine cones, winter berries, ribbon etc. The ring-forms cost $25 each so please use this link to sign up and reserve one for your family https://forms.gle/9qj7aqMyoa62v3EH9. We will have 25 rings, so sign up soon.

A Second Salvation Army Meal Team

Our new team will serve on the second Monday of each month, gathering next on December 14, from 9:30am-1:00pm at 65 S Park Street in Bangor. As churches have gradually stepped back from volunteering at the Salvation Army, we'd like to help fill some of those gaps and ensure this important ministry continues. If you're interested in cooking, serving, or simply lending a hand, we'd love to have you join us! Please contact **Robert F** or **David C** or **Alison B.**

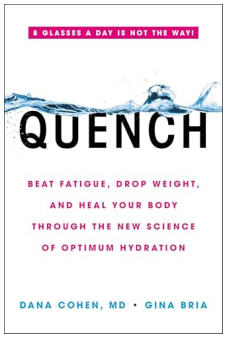
Fresh Start

Holiday Raffle

Fresh Start residents are eager to begin again, and sober living with others on the same journey is a critical key to their success. Most residents find employment quickly, but there is often a gap between move-in (often straight out of rehab) and income. Fresh Start does charge rent, but is flexible. All 30+ prizes have been donated by recovery-friendly businesses and individuals, and all proceeds will go directly to assist those residents struggling to make rent. Tickets are ten dollars. Please buy as many as you can from Alison Barkley aka Coffee Commandant or at the Fresh Start office - cash only, please. The more you purchase the better chance you have to win! You can purchase tickets any time up to November 27. There will be drawings every weekday in December, and Fresh Start will personally notify winners after each drawing.

Holiday Meals

Break bread with members of Fresh Start on November 26th (Thanksgiving Day) and December 25th (Christmas Day). Fresh Start residents and staff cook and gather for holiday meals each year at their large sober living residence at 89 Ohio Street in Bangor. They are grateful for St. John's ministry and invite us to join them! Meals will be served at 2:00pm. Please bring a friend, a spouse, a partner, or all of the above! The purpose of our attendance is fellowship and ministry of presence. Please contact Alison Barkley or William Somes with questions and to RSVP.



Women's Book Group

The Women's Book Group will meet next on November 17th from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. by **ZOOM**. Please note the time change for this month. We do read a variety of books, as you can see for the November book title.

Quench: Beat Fatigue, Drop Weight, and Heal Your Body Through the New Science of Optimum Hydration by Dana Cohen, 2021. If you are interested in joining the group in November, please call the parish office. (207-947-0156)

Rector's Essay continued

When I worked on an archaeological dig in the Galilee region of Israel, I learned an important lesson regarding future research. We dug three holes, three meters square and three meters deep, by hand. But we did not dig up the whole site and we did not use bulldozers or power tools. Our dig leaders advised us to show restraint so future archaeologists - who might have better skills, methods, and technology - could do their own excavations in hope of better results.

We owe future generations humility and restraint. We cannot use up the resources of our world guided by personal avarice, whether that be avarice for material gain or the accumulation of experiences. I say experiences, because we may need to consider less travel to protect the planet and I say that in full knowledge that such sacrifice may hit us hard in our entitled souls.

Which leads to the question, what are we willing to sacrifice for the well-being of future generations? Sacrifice is not a popular word in an age of excess and indulgence. Rather than show humility and restraint,

inventors such as Elon Musk want to entrance us with interplanetary colonization. The not so hidden premise is that we can burn up our planet and move on.

As a Christian, I have a few things to say about this: 1. God did not gift us with a good creation for us to burn it up and dispose of it. 2. Wherever humanity goes, we will bring the corruption and destruction that is endemic to the children of Adam. We call this sin. History teaches us that new frontiers are false utopias, no 'new innocence' is achieved by invading new spaces. Instead, we find another excuse for exploitation and a distraction from real spiritual conversion.

The stewardship of the future is also a concern of the church. Do we leave behind a church that fits our needs but is not responsive or adaptable for future generations? Do we practice planned giving to endow the church for future generations who may struggle financially? How are we including future generations in our prayers, in our evangelism, in our formation, in our decision making? What is our ministry of the future?

-Jarrett

Announcements during the Sunday Service

This fall, the announcements will be made after the Prelude and before the Processional Hymn. If you would like to make an announcement or have the Rector make an announcement for you please let him know by the Friday before Sunday. We are making this move so our worship can be one unbroken focus on God.

Printed 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 email weekly announcements and printed bulletins. Please submit photos / posters as a JPEG, and announcements in Word (not in a PDF).

Serving on Sunday November 15th:
Acolytes - Grant P, Isaac P. and Gavin F.
Chalice Bearers - Cassy P. and Robert F.
Counters – Marsha C. and Don L.
Lectors – Jacquie W., Brandon M. & Chris M.
Ushers – Ken H. and John H.

Serving on Sunday November 22nd at 10:00am:
Acolytes - Grant P., Isaac P. and Evelyn S.
Chalice Bearers - David C. and Grant P.
Counters – Hilary G. and Mary W.
Lectors – Hilary F., Katharine F. and Michele V.
Ushers – Katharine F. 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

Zephaniah 1:7,12-18

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Matthew 25:14-30

What's Happening This Week

Saturday, November 14th, 12:00pm: Second Saturday Community Meal in the Undercroft. FMI on getting involved, contact **David C**.

Saturday, November 14th, 5:30pm: Dinner and Auction

Sunday, November 15th, 10:00am: Rite II Eucharist with choir, in-person and on **YouTube**, followed by Coffee hour in the Undercroft. Sunday School is available during the service.

Sunday November 15th, 1:30pm: Dawnland at the Wilson Center

Sunday November 15th, 5:00pm: Contemplative Evensong

Sunday Worship:
Worship Bulletin

YouTube

Morning Prayer

Monday - Friday:
9:00am Morning Prayer
Zoom
Facebook

Tuesday-Thursday:
in person in the Bethlehem Chapel

Evening Prayer
Monday - Friday:
5:15pm live on **Zoom**

Sunday, November 15th, 7:00pm: AA meeting in the Undercroft.

Tuesday, November 17th, 11:00am: Women's Book Group on **Zoom**.

Thursday, November 19th, 5:30pm: Choir rehearsal

Sunday, November 22nd, 10:00am: Rite II Eucharist with choir, in-person and on **YouTube**, followed by Coffee hour in the Undercroft. Sunday School is available during the service.

Sunday November 22nd, 5:00pm: Choral Evensong

Sunday, November 22nd, 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.

Children's Chapel

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

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
10:00am in person and on YouTube
Morning Prayer
Mon-Fri, 9:00am on Facebook and on Zoom
and in person Tuesday - Thursday in the Bethlehem Chapel
Weekday Meditation
Tuesday - Thursday, 9:30am, 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 and Sallie, Bill and Ann, Charley L., Nancy M., and Sean C. **Continued prayers for** – Frank B., Kimberley M., Marsha, Veronica Y., Susan J., Laurel, Ann, Elena B., Jay B., Susan S., Loretta, David B., Debby, Kenny B., Jane P., Henry L., Kelly M., D., M., L., Donna W., Mark M., Amber, David, Bonny, Shawn, Robin S., Katie B., Ross M., MarLynne M., Russell M., Mary, Shirley G., Kent C., Ann C., Earlene B., Donald K., and Jane Z.

For our Homebound Members: Bonnie A., Kathy C., Ginny F., Carolyn L., Evelyn L., Roberta D., Carolyn S., 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 Daniel Carson 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: Spencer S., 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: Robert C., Joeseph C., Andrew K., Donald L. and Leith W.

For the Departed: Hugh Morrison, Patricia Brown, and for our service members killed in the current conflict.

The altar flowers are given to the Glory of God
and in loving memory of Bradford Wellman and Carolyn Leick
by Mary and George Wright

St. John's Episcopal Church
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