
Dear Family of St. John's,

I hope that your summer was productive and, above all else, relaxing for everyone. Unlike most churches, St. John's, doesn't seem to have a big decline in attendance during the warmer months. This is a marker of both strength and health; it's something about which St. John's should be proud. As we look forward to autumn, there is a great deal happening; please let me bring everyone up to date.

We're trying something new this year called "First Intentional Communion." In the old days, you didn't take communion until confirmation. This changed over 40 years ago and throughout the Anglican Communion any baptized person may receive. Unfortunately, this left a significant educational gap and many never went on to confirmation.

"*First Intentional Communion*" is a fun and instructional program that addresses that "gap" with pre-teen kids. Its purpose is twofold: 1. Create awareness of what's happening at Eucharist; and, 2. Create interest in confirmation instruction later. A letter was sent out several weeks ago with a tear-off response. Please **do get these response forms to the office soon** or contact me directly, before the first session on October 1. I can't stress enough how **important** this is for the kids' formation. For more info, please feel free to call me.

Our community suppers begin again in September. Please sign up to participate; I'm planning to do one, myself and looking forward to doing it!

Over the summer, several of us have been reading *The Fourth Gospel: Tales of a Jewish Mystic*, by Bishop John Spong. We'll be meeting on two successive Monday evenings, Sept. 11 and 18 for pot luck and to discuss this rather controversial book!

Join us December 30 for a bus ride to New York to the Metropolitan Opera to see Lehar's *The Merry Widow*. Set in early 1900's Paris, it's hilarious with many well-known tunes that'll have you humming along. Best of all, it's in English and actually cheaper than a Broadway show. Afterwards, we'll pile back into the bus and head downtown to Katz's Deli for a hefty Kosher-style "nosh" before heading back home.

The total cost, not including dinner is \$65. Invite your friends; we need to fill the bus! If you'd rather pass on the show, we can get you into the city for the day and back for just \$30. The sign-up sheet is in the hallway outside the Guild Room and deadline is **October 1**... **DON'T MISS THIS CHANCE FOR FUN & FELLOWSHIP!**

On Sept. 28 at 6 pm, Bishop Laura will be on hand to preside at the *Celebration of New Ministry*, celebrating my acceptance of your call to be rector. The guest preacher will be my dear friend and mentor, The Rev Dr. William C. Thomas. Believe me, you want to hear Fr. Bill Thomas; he's dynamic.

In Love,
Fr. Bill +
The Rev. William Burt



SAINT JOHN'S JOURNAL

Coming Events

September 10th - Chapel-on-the-Green
September 7through 10th - North Haven Fair
September 9 & 10th - 2nd Annual Camp Washington Youth Festival
September 11th - Book Club
September 13th - Stevens Woods Potluck Supper and Bingo
September 15th thru'17th - Camp Washington Centennial Celebration
September 17th - Pancake Breakfast
September 18th - Book Club
September 28th - Celebration of Ministry of Father Bill as Rector
Thursday, October 5th - St. John's 15th Annual Golf Tournament (*save the date now*)

Look for more information to follow on these events...but save the dates now!

Worship is at the heart of all we do...

Thursday Evening (1st and 3rd evening of every month)

5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist (as the days get shorter 4:00 p.m.)

A brief, quiet celebration of the Lord's Supper, in traditional language and with homily.

Sunday Morning

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I

The traditional service (with homily) largely untouched since the Episcopal Church was formed.

9:15 a.m. Special Programs and Fellowship as announced

All sorts of activities and fellowship will take place at this time.

Seasonal and outreach projects will be announced in advance.

Call the church office 203-239-0156 with any questions.

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II

The main service of the week, designed for people of all ages, with organ music and hymn singing. Children of all grade levels will be invited to Church School during the sermon, and return at the peace to receive communion with their parents.

The church doors are open as often as possible. They are almost always open Tuesday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

With Special Thanks

To My St. John's Family

I am overwhelmed by your generosity...thank you so much.

I am so grateful to have been accepted by you as your Deacon in such a loving manner.

I can honestly say that my eight years with you have been enjoyable. You have certainly made me feel that I made the right decision when God called me as your "former" Deacon.

I am only a phone call away!

*God's Blessings to all,
Agnes*

PRAY...

Please pray for those who are ill in body, mind, or spirit: Gayle, Alberta, Joan H., Joan & Skip, Carol, Alyssa, Tom, Nancy E., Nancy G., Kate, Meg, Maribeth, Sue, Dick, Edna, Jack, Ann, Diane, Karl, Janice, Téa, Inez, Nicole, Angelo, Linda, Susan, Jeffrey, Ruth, Rick, Joseph, William, Frank, Jocelyn, Mary S., Erik, Pat, Joe, Cathy, Fran, Donna, Leslie, Clara, Cecile, Matthew, Emily, Cooper, Margaret, Chris, Pat, Mackenzie, Allyson, Linda, Justyna, Margaret, Thiago, Allison, Robert, Adam, Thomas, Tricia, Jackie, Ann & Anthony, Matthew, Agnes & George, David, Alexandra, Al, Sue, Alice, Art, Alene & Oyarma, John, Barbara, Conni, Stefan, Dorothy, Don, and Priscilla.

For those who have died: Lawrence Bailey, Shirley Turbert, William Smith, and Marge Barna

Did You Know?

- Did you know... That Columbus House is more than just one safe refuge for the homeless and needy in the area?
- Did you know... That the Wallingford Emergency Shelter is a very active part of the Columbus House network?
- Did you know... That the Wallingford Emergency Shelter houses up to 16 guests each evening?
- Did you know... That the Wallingford Emergency Shelter is always looking for volunteers to prepare and serve an evening meal for its residents on a regular basis?
- Did you know... That it would only take 3-4 people no more than 3-4 hours, perhaps once *every other* month, to make a difference in the lives of these, our brothers and sisters, by providing them with a nourishing meal?

Columbus House is looking for volunteers to help with this effort and St. John's has the perfect people to do it. With our sterling reputation here at St. John's for providing good food for just about any occasion, this should be a *snap!*

Let's *do* our mission; let's show them that St. John's can make a difference in the lives of the needy. Interested? Contact Fr. Bill for more info and to sign up.

Grocery Cards

Every week we put in the church bulletin the fact that we sell Stop and Shop and Big Y cards for face value, and that we get a commission from the two stores for doing this. This helps support the mission and ministry of the church.

We also add a plea at the bottom for you to buy some extra cards to throw in to the basket for father Bill to use to give to folks that come and ask for help.

Our supply of these cards is extremely low. Those knocks on the door for help are from people who don't have enough money to feed their family or themselves. Many people live paycheck to paycheck, some don't even have a pay check through lay offs or illness and an extra bill such as a car breaking down, or a home repair can wreak havoc on the household budget. Many of them have no place to turn and come to the church for help. Usually it is a one shot deal and it is amazing how they, in return, when things are better for them send in a check with a thank you. For some they are homeless and come a little more often. Not for much, just enough to help them get by for a little while.

Next time you buy your cards for grocery shopping can you buy an extra \$10 one to help build up our stock. It must be hard to knock on the door and ask for help!

The North Haven Food Pantry—running low

We are running low on all of the items in our Food Pantry and would appreciate any donations from St. John's. We are in need of the following items which fill the food boxes:

- Cereal, Muffin Mix, Canned Fruit, Cranberry Sauce
- Tuna, Soup, Macaroni & Cheese, Pasta Dish
- Mayonnaise, Sugar, Flour, Stuffing Mix, Sauces
- Peanut Butter & Jelly
- Rice, Packaged Potato Mix Canned Meat or Meat Dish
- Pasta, Pasta Sauce, Canned Tomatoes, Tomato Paste
- Canned Vegetables, Baked Beans, Kidney & other Beans
- Cake Mix / Brownie Mix, Jell-O, Pudding
- Coffee, Tea, Juice

Food insecurity is a year-round problem. Jesus tells us that whenever we feed a hungry person, we've touched him. Please take a look at the list above and continue your generous donations to the North Haven Food Bank housed at the North Haven Congregational Church. You may leave your donations in church and they will be taken across the green to the North Haven Congregational Church, or you may take them directly there on week day mornings.

Community Supper - Gearing Up for the Fall - Sign Up and Take a Turn

The Friday Night Community Suppers will be resuming September 15, 2017.

The suppers are open to the public and are for individuals and families who want companionship for an affordable, nutritious meal. They are held every Friday night from 6-7. We have been very fortunate to have some young ladies from the North Haven High School come and set up the tables and chairs and help anywhere else that is needed. We sincerely hope they will be back again this year. Mabel Lines is responsible for all our drinks,

Cook: Cooks prepare a soup or stew dish, sandwich makings and a delicious dessert for about 40—50 people. This is the most flexible of the jobs, because you can do it at any time that suits you and permits the food to still be fresh for Friday night. We have had cooking crews slicing and dicing on Wednesday or Thursday night, and safely storing the food in the refrigerator for the other crew members to heat and serve on Friday. Alternatively, cooks have made their suppers Friday afternoon, and had it hot and simmering just in time for dinner. Cooks are expected to provide all their ingredients (after checking the stocked stores already on hand), and to turn in their receipts for reimbursement by Community Supper. See the church office for guidelines on budget for the dinners.

Heat and Assemble: This crew comes in Friday afternoon to assemble the sandwiches (cooks who prepare the sandwich fixings on a Wednesday or Thursday don't want soggy sandwiches from too early assembly) and heat up the soup or stew if the cooks made it early and refrigerated it.

Serve: This crew begins at 6 to serve the dinners and dessert to the hungry diners.

Clean up: This crew washes dishes, wipes down tables, puts away salt and pepper shakers, and, if necessary, puts tables away. This job should be done by 7:30.

Are you thinking about where you can help?

Are you thinking about what you cook?

People are already signing up to cook the suppers, take a look and sign up for a date that is good for you. For more information about the community suppers, don't hesitate to call the church office 203-239-0156

Please Note:

The newsletter is now being sent out in email form. Hard copies will only be mailed to those that don't have email. If you wish to have a hard copy you can get one from the church office.

Do you have E-Mail?

In a never ending quest to update information, we are now making sure that we have your preferred e-mail address. We want to increase our ways of reinforcing parish communication.

If you are willing to share your e-mail address with us please fill it out in the space below and put it in the offering plate, hand it in to the church office, or e-mail it to jdavis@stjohns-northhaven.org

Name: _____

E-mail address: _____

Please cut out and place in the plate or hand in to the church office.

Youth News

by Michele Kearney, Director of Children's Ministries

Schedule

September 9th – 10th Camp Washington Youth Festival
September 17th Pancake Breakfast
September 24th First Day of Church School



Pancake Breakfast

Our Annual Pancake Breakfast, hosted by our Middle and High School Youth, will be a fun and delicious way to spend a Sunday morning either before or after

church, depending on which service you attend. You can count on a scrumptious meal of pancakes, bacon, toast, fruit and beverages prepared by St. John's youth. And you can't beat the price, \$2.00 per child, \$3.00 per adult, with a \$10.00 cap per family. Please plan to join us at 9:00 a.m. on September 17th.



Calling All Middle and High School Chefs

Come join St. John's Youth as they prepare our annual Pancake Breakfast, Sunday, September 17th at **7:00 a.m.** RSVP to Michele... you can reach her a number of ways Call or Text her cell @ 203-464-1519, call her home @ 203-288-7699. Call the church office at 203-239-0156 or, email @ mkearney@stjohns-northhaven.org.



Calling all kids!!!

Children's
Choir

St. John's needs a youth choir! If you have a child who likes to sing or wants to, contact Gary Tomasetti. Any child, whether a member

of St. John's or not, is invited to become a part of this effort. All they need is a desire to sing, to learn and to have fun! For more information, please get hold of Gary or see Fr. Bill.



Family Movie Night – TROLLS

Join us Saturday, September 30th, for a family movie night. We will be showing "Trolls." Please bring blankets and pillows to "camp" out on. We are asking for \$10 per family for the pizza. We will provide popcorn and juice. Sign up in the Great Hall or Narthex



Church School Registration

While everyone is getting ready for BACK TO SCHOOL, we are also getting ready for the Church School Year which will start September 24th. Enclosed is a Church School registration form that may be returned to the office or given to Michele Kearney at any time. We will have a "last chance" to register at the Pancake Breakfast on September 17th.



Camp Washington Youth Festival

WANTED: Young People (grades 8-12) and their friends who want to come together for an awesome weekend of fun, music, games, great food, worship, and friendship.

We're hosting the first ever Camp Washington YOUTH FESTIVAL at Our Place in Morris on September 9th- 10th.

What's Happening:

- Swimming
- Canoeing
- CORCLS
- Zip-lining & Rope Course
- Archery
- Arts & Crafts
- Hiking
- Food trucks- cost included
- Music, and more

Thanks to the wonderful generosity of The Bishops' Fund for Children, the cost of this weekend is only \$25. Register now to reserve your space and t-shirt! (scholarships available)

When: Saturday, September 9, 2017 at 10:00 AM - Sunday, September 10, 2017 at 1:00 PM

Where: Camp Washington - (860) 567-9623 190 Kenyon Rd, Lakeside, CT 06758



As St. Paul reminds us in 1st Corinthians:

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone.

1 Corinthians 12: 4-6

What he tells is this: ministry is the responsibility of every member of the Body of Christ, not just the ordained. This means that each and every one of us has a ministry to fulfill. Now that St. John's is without a deacon, we have a wonderful opportunity to discern what we might do going forward.

The answer to this may well be in Education for Ministry (EFM), which has taken off like wildfire in many areas of the church around the country. As rector, I feel that EFM is an important program, and one that enriches the faith and outreach of every community where it has been introduced.

Bishop Laura J. Ahrens will host an open meeting Thursday, Aug. 24 from 3-5 p.m. at The Commons in Meriden to talk about Education for Ministry (Efm) theological study for laity. The meeting is for those already familiar with Efm who want to share joys, challenges, and opportunities in ECCT as well as for those who want to learn more about being a participant, a mentor, or setting up an Efm group.

There is a web address below for more information on the ECCT website; I cannot overemphasize how important EFM is to the future of the Episcopal Church and I strongly urge as many members as possible to get involved.

https://www.episcopalct.org/efm/?utm_source=Weekly+eNews+August+15%2C+2017&utm_campaign=8%2F15%2F17&utm_medium=email

Quiet Period

The Mission Trip has come and gone. Vacation has come and gone. Now is the quiet period before the start up of church school, the choir's return, and all the hustle and bustle of the activities in the Fall. During this time I've been thinking about all of you wonderful parishioners who make this place tick: you who put together Martha Ministries, (and we have had quite a few this summer) you who help make the services run smoothly, acolytes, altar guild, lectors, liturgical assistants, and you who have been coming to church during the summer months and watch children pop up from what seems like nowhere to go to Gospel Time.

The quiet period gives time to reflect on gearing up for the Fall. Can I help with the Community Supper? Is this the year to teach Sunday School? Where am I most needed in my church? Maybe I'll host a coffee hour, go to Bible Study, find out more about the discernment process or help out with the kitchen at the Fair. The possibilities are endless!

St. John's truly is a great place to be. You, the parishioners of St. John's, help make it all tick and there is mission and ministry going on everywhere. As you read this newsletter you can see it all taking place.

How fortunate to have a quiet time to reflect on this. I eagerly look forward to the hustle and bustle of the Fall, with Sunday School resuming, Community Suppers starting up, the return of Sandwich Ladies, (although they have been coming in the third Wednesday of the month this summer).

We now have a new worship service at 5:00p.m. the first and third Thursday of every month. As the nights close in earlier the time will change to 4:00p.m. so that those who don't like driving in the dark will be able to attend.

All in all, it will be nice to have the hustle and bustle back and smell delicious meals being cooked on a Friday for Community Supper and if the staff is lucky the North Haven Transition Partnership young people will be back on Thursdays and the delicious smell of their cooking lunch (to which the staff is invited) will be back. Roll on Fall!

Jane

Phone: (203)239-0156 Fax: (203)239-3716

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Return Service Requested

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