

FROM THE RECTOR

Coming Home

Dear Friends,

So, where do you stand on returning to the fall routine? Are you already feeling wistful for those lazy summer days? Are you trying to squeeze in every last drop of sunshine at Nantasket before the inevitable chill in the air moves in? Or maybe you're all done and can't *wait* for that bright yellow school bus to pull up in front of the house? Perhaps a return to order and a tight schedule can't come soon enough?

Most of us stand somewhere in the middle, of course. There's a hint of regret even as we welcome new opportunities and a more organized lifestyle. I know I feel the pull of days where I can take my kayak out on Hingham Harbor even as I'm energized to dive back into the excitement and fullness of our ministry together at St. John's.

Homecoming Sunday is always one of my favorite days of the year. Partly because it's fun to see people I haven't seen in awhile; partly because the full choir returns in all its musical splendor; partly because of all the bright faces of our Sunday School children; partly because of the energy of a full church.

But mostly because I love that St. John's feels like "home" for so many of us. Wherever our travels have taken us, wherever we have been, this is our spiritual home. And we return to a place where we can fully be ourselves, without judgment. A place where Jesus welcomes us with open arms whether we haven't been here in awhile or whether we've never left.

There is a warmth in coming home; a feeling of comfort and hope and acceptance. But this is a special sort of

home – not one where you simply put your feet up and expect to be waited upon. Because, while this home invites us to relax and be nurtured and renewed, it is also a home that sends us back out into the world full of inspiration and aspiration.

Spending time in God's house empowers us to go out and do good in Jesus' name. Jesus himself often enjoyed the hospitality of others but he always went back out into the world to do the work he was called to do – to share the Good News of God's love for a broken and sinful world. And so, we who are called to come home are also moved to go out.

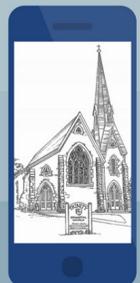
But first, come home. Come and soak in the comforts and joys of the familiar. Be steeped in liturgy and love and the joys of community. It's time. And we look forward to sharing this exciting, if full of longing, time of the year with all of you.

In Christ,

Social Media Sunday
#SMS17

Share, and be, the Church online
September 24, 2017

What will you share this year?



FROM THE ASSISTANT RECTOR

Peace

By Henry Vaughan

My Soul, there is a country
Afar beyond the stars,
Where stands a winged sentry
All skillful in the wars;
There, above noise and danger
Sweet Peace sits, crown'd with smiles,
And One born in a manger
Commands the beauteous files.
He is thy gracious friend
And (O my Soul awake!)
Did in pure love descend,
To die here for thy sake.
If thou canst get but thither,
There grows the flow'r of peace,
The rose that cannot wither,
Thy fortress, and thy ease.
Leave then thy foolish ranges,
For none can thee secure,
But One, who never changes,
Thy God, thy life, thy cure.

Late last spring I rediscovered some of the poetry of 17th century Welsh poet Henry Vaughan. Vaughan wrote this poem during an extended period of civil war in England; a time of political, social and religious division and discord. Sound familiar?

I like this poem (and adore the famous musical setting of it by Hubert Parry) because it beautifully reminds us that peace, true peace, peace which passes all understanding, peace that the world cannot give, is not to be found in the people and events of this tumultuous world ("Leave then thy foolish ranges, / For non can thee secure), but in the unchangeable power of Jesus Christ (the "One, who never changes, Thy God, thy life, thy cure."). I find this a helpful reminder whenever things feel decidedly *un*-peaceful in my life and in the world.

The one major condition to unleashing that kind of peace in our lives, though, is whether or not we can find it ("If thou canst get but thither..."). That's where we can help. This kind of peace is one of the things the Church still has to offer this world, and something we at St. John's work hard to foster.

The beauty of the liturgy on Sunday morning is one access point, where Word, music and sacrament combine to bring us to the gates of Heaven, so I look forward to welcoming you all back to Sunday mornings with us. But this fall we also have some other opportunities to help you dwell in this peaceful country "afar beyond the stars."

We will continue to have our monthly healing prayers on the last Sunday of the month as well as our weekly **prayer groups** which meet at 11am on Thursdays and 7am on Fridays. These are an oasis of peace and quiet to which all are welcome as often as they are able.

We also have an exciting Adult Education series, *Toward a Beloved Community: Understanding and Embracing Difference*, that aims to help us talk about how we deal with the concept of "difference" which leads us to many places of division. Our hope is that by addressing this topic, we can, with God's help, be more at peace with ourselves and our neighbors.

And finally we have our new **Foyer Dinner Groups** which seek to bring people together over food to build up the goodwill and fellowship that are the cornerstones of any healthy, peaceful community. More information about these and many of our other ministries can be found in the pages which follow.

Do take a look, for at least one of them, I pray, will help you find your way to that place, "above noise and danger [where] Sweet Peace sits, crowned with smiles."

Peace be with you,
Fr. Noah Van Niel

Youth Ministry at St. John's

The plans are set for another great year of Youth Ministry at St. John's. The year kicks off with the always awesome **Youth Back to Church BBQ on Saturday, September 9 from 5-7 pm**. You can RSVP to Fr. Noah (frnoah@stjohns-hingham.org). Read on to see what else is in store this year!

Middle School Youth Group

Building on a very successful year last year, our Middle Schoolers will continue learning about their faith in fun, interactive class sessions led by Fr. Noah and talented parental volunteers. This year, in addition to learning about the Bible and the Episcopal Church, we'll learn about other religions and denominations of Christianity, and have class sessions on Race and Privilege, Hunger, and Helping Others. We'll also have some fun doing art projects, volunteering and going on some awesome excursions. Middle School Youth Group meets every Sunday (almost) from **11:30 am to 12:30 pm** in the Youth Room off of Lower Weld Hall and is open to anyone grades 6-8. Can't wait to get started!

Confirmation Class

This year we have a big, exciting confirmation class shaping up! At St. John's the rite of Confirmation is offered to all 9th graders and other high school students who have yet to be confirmed.

The goal of the class is to help our children make the transition to a more mature faith through a spiritual journey of questioning and ongoing relationship with God and with others. We have a number of young people in this age group and our class this year promises to be an engaging and substantive exploration of the Christian faith. We will learn, pray and have fun together as we prepare for the rite of Confirmation next June.

This year I am especially excited to welcome Tom and Helen Daley to co-lead this class with me. Many of you already know the Daleys as they are much-beloved members of St. John's and I think our confirmands will learn a lot from their passion, knowledge, deep faith and love for the Episcopal Church.

This year, our class sessions will meet *every other Sunday* more or less throughout the entire program year with a break around Christmas. Our meetings will take place at **4 pm** in Lower Weld Hall. Our first meeting will be Sunday September 17. If you have a child who is interested in learning more about confirmation, please be in touch with Fr. Noah (frnoah@stjohns-hingham.org) for more details.

Senior High Youth Group

This year, I will be working with our Senior High Youth Group (all high schoolers who have been through Confirmation Class) to develop a plan for our year together. We will meet for a *very important planning meeting on Sunday September 24 at 3pm* to discuss what we want to do this year and how we're going to make it happen. You don't want to miss that meeting so circle it on your calendar now and I'll see you there!

We have several fall events planned, including Homecoming Sunday, the Blessing of the Stuffed Animals (Feast of Saint Francis), and our popular Advent Wreath making workshop.

Please note that Sunday School will be open at 9:00 am on Homecoming Sunday for anyone who would like to take a look around and get acquainted with the classrooms and teachers. Sunday School will begin at 9:45 am.

Please take a moment to register your children for Sunday School on our website (www.stjohns-hingham.org) if you have not already done so. We look forward to seeing you! For more information on St. John's Sunday School please contact our coordinator, Alexis MacElhiney at: www.amacelhiney@stjohns-hingham.org.

Music Ministry Notes



Calling All Third Through Eighth Graders!
September is the best time to join the **St. John's Choristers**. Rehearsals begin on Wednesday, September 13 at 4:00. This group of third through eighth grade children meets every Wednesday for an hour to practice singing, learn music reading skills, prepare to lead worship, and have **lots** of fun. The Choristers sing for the 10 am service about once a month. Don't let your child miss this opportunity to

exercise his or her heart, mind, and voice! No prior musical experience is required. Contact Organist/Choirmaster Buffy Gray to enroll your child or for more information: egray@stjohns-hingham.org.



*Join the Adult Choir Now-
Beat the Christmas Rush!*

St. John's Choir welcomes new members at any time of year, but September is the best time to join. If you are one of those people who likes to sing but you are reluctant to make a commitment, come for a few weeks to try it out, and then decide. Rehearsals are on Thursday evenings at 7:30 pm, beginning September 7. Contact Organist/Choirmaster Buffy Gray at egray@stjohns-hingham.org to sign up or for more information.

Prayer Groups

Our weekly prayer groups will resume on Thursday/Friday, September 21/22. These groups are open to anyone and everyone who is seeking some guidance on how to pray, looking to deepen their connection to God, or simply needs a quiet time in their busy days. Groups meet for 45 minutes at either 11:00 am on Thursdays or 7:00 am on Fridays. Join us and feel the power of prayer to transform your life!

Busy Summer for Buildings & Grounds

The St. John's Buildings & Grounds Team had a very full and productive summer. Here is a list of the projects tackled by Deb Dougherty and her team.

- *Replacement of Sunday School Door.* The Sunday School has a new, freshly painted front door just in time for Homecoming Sunday!
- *Exterior Painting and Carpentry Repairs – Rectory.* Charlie Hayes and Vcevy Strekalovsky selected colors from the historic palette (India Trade) and submitted them to the Hingham Historic Commission. Charlie supervised repairs and painting.
- *Lawn Repairs – Church.* Thanks to the watering efforts of many volunteers, we were able to fill in many bare areas on the front lawn in time for the Fourth of July celebration.
- *Remodeling – 13 Water St.* To make our rental property more marketable, we undertook extensive work including floor refinishing, plumbing fixture upgrades, painting, electrical upgrades, new kitchen appliances sink and counters, and driveway replacement. The unit went on the market in early August.
- *Oil to Gas Conversion – Church.* Under the supervision of Chad Grimshaw, the new gas line from Water Street was laid by National Grid in early May. Gas line in building now installed and awaiting inspection by town. Oil tank removal to be done in September.

The B & G Team is always looking for new members to help maintain our historic church and grounds. It's a labor of love! For more information contact Deb Dougherty at ddougherty9534@verizon.net.

Deacon Intern at St. John's



This fall we will welcome Natalie Finstad as a Deacon Intern at St. John's. Natalie is in the diocesan deacon formation process training as a vocational deacon and will be among us from September through May.

To clarify, Natalie is pursuing a call to the vocational, or permanent, diaconate. This gets confusing as Fr. Noah also served as a deacon for six months – as a “transitional” deacon before being ordained to the priesthood. The vocational diaconate is the order of ministry in which our former deacon, Geof Smith served. He maintained a secular job but served as a deacon on Sundays.

Vocational deacons serve at the pleasure of the bishop and have a special focus on outreach ministries and pastoral care. Liturgically they set the altar, read the Gospel, and offer the dismissal – sending us out into the world to live out our faith.

So who is Natalie and how has she found herself pursuing a call to ordained ministry? Natalie grew up in Houston, Texas. At twenty-three, she accepted a position as a community organizing fellow with Life Together, a program for young adults in the Episcopal Church.

Here Natalie experienced how community organizing simultaneously seeks collective justice and develops an individual awareness of our agency. This inspired Natalie to lead community movements in Boston, New Zealand and Nairobi, Kenya. In Kenya, Natalie served as an Episcopal

Missionary and worked with young adults to found Tatua, an organization that mentors local leaders to organize movements for sustainable and just approaches to poverty.

Natalie has also worked extensively as a trainer, teacher, consultant and/or congregational development specialist with organizations such as: The Harvard Kennedy School, St. Paul’s Richmond, Ohio Federation of Teachers, the Diocese of New York, Planned Parenthood Global, and the Global Episcopal Missionary Network. Natalie was a featured speaker at TEDx Beacon Street in November of 2014.

Natalie was awarded an Episcopal Church Fellowship in 2012 to launch Praxis, a national community of faith-rooted leaders who are taking collective action to embody love, justice, and reconciliation. She will continue this work through her current position as the Director for Leadership and Engagement at Episcopal City Mission. Natalie enjoys traveling, staying active, hosting dinner parties, and reading memoirs.

Please join us in welcoming Natalie to the St. John’s community on Homecoming Sunday!

St. John’s New Parent Group

The St. John’s New Parents group will resume on Friday, October 6 at 9:00 am. Childcare is provided. If you are a parent of young children and wish to meet regularly with other parents to talk about finding God in the joys and challenges of parenting join us! We meet the first Friday of the month at 9 am and childcare is provided. Email Jen Murphy (jencmurphy@me.com) to be added to our email list.

Outreach Ministry

After the recently completed and very successful Backpack Drive in collaboration with Quincy Family Resource Center, next on the Outreach Committee’s agenda is our regular meeting. That meeting will be held Sunday, September 17 at 9 am in Upper Weld Hall. All interested parishioners are invited to attend. Among topics to discuss will be beginning to plan for the annual Christmas season Angel Tree project. As in years gone by, this project’s goal is provide various gifts for our external not-for-profit partners who take the gifts we gather and distribute to their family clients. Even though summer is not officially over, planning is required well in advance to meet the target deadlines of our partners. You don’t have to be an Outreach member to participate in this event and all are welcome to join in. Contact Outreach Chair Mark Banion (mbanion@mac.com) if you have questions or suggestions.

Do You Know About Wellspring?

Wellspring Multi-Service Center in Hull began serving residents of the South Shore in 1985 led by the Rev. Diane Edson with the help of members of Saint John’s.

Wellspring provides support and skills to South Shore residents in need of assistance with finances, education and counseling. The goal is to offer “a hand up, not a hand out” to those in need to attain independence and self-sufficiency.

Wellspring offers educational programs for a high school diploma, community outreach, job skills, transportation, career services and legal advocacy. Other programs include assistance with applications for food stamps, fuel assistance, housing and Mass Health.

Wellspring also supplies guidance through counseling and elder services offerings. There are great bargains in clothing, household items, books and furniture at the thrift shop. Aunt Dot's Kitchen (food pantry) offers basic supplies to Hull residents. A van provides transportation to the food pantry, classes and job training.

Wellspring is located at 814 Nantasket Avenue in Hull and is open Monday thru Friday, 9 am to 4 pm. The Thrift Shop is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 am to 4 pm, Thursday 10 am to 8 pm and Saturday 10 am to 1 pm. You can call or email Wellspring at 781-925-3211 or www.wellspringhull.org.

Fr. Robert Edson

Father Tim's Sabbatical

As many of you know, I'll be taking a four-month sabbatical in 2018. As the time draws closer, I'll be sharing specific details about what this time will look like for me, for all of you, and for the parish leadership. In the meantime, I wanted to highlight the main focus of this time.

First, I found out in August and am thrilled to announce that I received a coveted Lily Clergy Renewal Grant to fund my time away. While I was going to take the March through June sabbatical either way, receiving this grant will allow me and my family to do things we could never have imagined. The total grant award is \$35,000.

In putting the proposal together, in consultation with the wardens, Lily encourages clergy to continually ask the question, "What makes your heart sing?"

They view this as an important time for renewal, not merely as an extended vacation and that is how I approached it.

My theme revolves around Faith, Family, and (not surprisingly) Coffee. I plan to finish a book I've been working on, tentatively titled *Holy Grounds: The Surprising Intersection of Coffee and Faith*.

This will be a mixture of coffee history (discovered by 9th century Ethiopian Muslims!) and personal narrative.

In support of this, I will be traveling to a coffee farm in El Salvador during harvest season, spending time soaking in coffee culture in Seattle, and visiting an Orthodox monastery in Pennsylvania where the monks roast and sell their own coffee.

The family portion is important to me as this often gets sacrificed in parish ministry. I will be spending some time with both my boys individually, with just Bryna, and we will be taking a 10-day trip to Europe next June to Amsterdam and Rome (pursuing Schenck family history and then drinking more coffee).

For all of these mini-trips, I will be spending the majority of my time here in Hingham writing, reflecting, playing, and (obviously) drinking coffee. After all, Zak is still at home and Bryna works full time so it's not as if I could "go away" for four straight months. Again, sabbatical details will be forthcoming, including ways that people at St. John's can participate in this journey.

I'm convinced the parish will be in good hands with Father Noah taking the lead liturgically and pastorally and the wardens being in charge of things administratively. I was eligible to take sabbatical, per diocesan guidelines, after five years but I didn't think the timing was right.

Now I do and I am incredibly grateful for this opportunity — for me, my family, and for us as a parish community. Stay tuned!

St. John's Book Club

Here is the schedule for the Book Club until the end of the year. They meet on Mondays in the Thayer Room at 7 pm. Contact Wayne Eckerson for more information: weckerson@gmail.com.

- Oct. 2 - *Benedict Option: A Strategy for Christians in a Post-Christian Nation*
Rod Dreher
- Nov. 6 - *Strangers in Their Own Land*
Arlie Russell Hochschild
- Dec. 11 - *The Book of Joy - Lasting Happiness in a Changing World*
Dalai Lama and Desmond Tutu

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Needlepoint Guild

The Needlepoint Guild would like to Invite anyone interested in Needlepointing, Knitting or Conversation to join them at their Monthly Meetings. They are held on second Tuesday of the month at a member's home or at church at 10:00 am. The first meeting is Tuesday September 12 at the home of Alison Marshall, 45 S. Pleasant St. in Hingham. Please Contact Wendy Ellison (wce317@gmail.com) with any questions.

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*In celebration
of the birth of
Arthur Robert
Van Niel*

Special Needs Sunday School Class

Do you know a child at St. John's or in the community who might benefit from a non-traditional Sunday School class? We are pleased to offer a monthly Special Needs Class taught by longtime parishioner and licensed special education teacher Carrie Moores.

The class meets on the second Sunday of the month (except the September class which will meet on Sunday the 17th) and



includes a Bible story with follow-up questions or an activity; art and/or a craft; and pictures are used to supplement verbal communication

with the children.

We are fortunate that Carrie - who also oversees the toddler room on the other Sundays of the month - exercises this loving, caring ministry. You may not know that Carrie has been teaching for over 20 years, has taught children on the Autism Spectrum and those with learning disabilities and other special needs from preschool through 8th grade, has a B.S. of Communication Disorders from the University of New Hampshire, and has a Masters of Education from Eastern Nazarene College.

For more information about our Special Needs Class, please contact our Sunday School Director Alexis MacElhiney at amacelhiney@stjohns-hingham.org.

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SEPTEMBER 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 Pentecost 12 8:00 AM Eucharist Rite I 9:45 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Eucharist Rite II	28	29 7:00 PM ACoA (Thayer Rm)	30	31	1	2 7:00 PM AA (UWH)
3 Pentecost 13 8:00 AM Eucharist Rite I 9:45 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Eucharist Rite II	4 Labor Day Parish Offices closed	5 7:00 PM ACoA (Thayer Rm)	6 9:00 AM Sherwoods' Reh (Ron J.) 10:00 AM Eucharist Rite II 2:00 PM Allerton House Eucharist	7 11:00 AM Prayer Group (Church) 7:30 PM St. John's Choir (UWH)	8 7:00 AM Prayer Group (Church) 9:00 AM Sherwoods' Reh (Ron J.) 10:00 AM Redeye with Rector (Redeye Roasters) 2:00 PM Sherwoods' Reh (Ron J.)	9 5:00 PM Youth Group BBQ 7:00 PM AA (UWH)
10 Homecoming Sunday Pentecost 14 8:00 AM Eucharist Rite I 9:45 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Eucharist Rite II 11:30 AM Parish Plonic 5:00 PM Concert (Mem Gdn)	11	12 4:00 PM St. John's Choristers 7:00 PM ACoA (Thayer Rm) 7:00 PM Vestry Meeting	13 10:00 AM Eucharist Rite II	14 11:00 AM Prayer Group (Church) 7:30 PM St. John's Choir (UWH)	15 7:00 AM Prayer Group (Church) 10:00 AM Redeye with Rector (Redeye Roasters)	16 7:00 PM AA (UWH)
17 Pentecost 15 8:00 AM Eucharist Rite I 9:00 AM Outreach Meeting (UWH) 9:45 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Eucharist Rite II 11:30 AM Ministry Spotlights 5:00 PM SWS	18	19 4:00 PM St. John's Choristers 7:00 PM ACoA (Thayer Rm)	20 10:00 AM Eucharist Rite II	21 11:00 AM Prayer Group (Church) 7:30 PM St. John's Choir (UWH)	22 7:00 AM Prayer Group (Church) 10:00 AM Redeye with Rector (Redeye Roasters)	23 4:00 PM Recital (Gallagher-UWH) 7:00 PM AA (UWH)
24 Pentecost 16 8:00 AM Eucharist Rite I 9:45 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Eucharist Rite II 11:30 AM Ministry Spotlights 5:00 PM SWS	25	26 4:00 PM St. John's Choristers 7:00 PM ACoA (Thayer Rm)	27 10:00 AM Eucharist Rite II	28 11:00 AM Prayer Group (Church) 7:30 PM St. John's Choir (UWH)	29 7:00 AM Prayer Group (Church) 10:00 AM Redeye with Rector (Redeye Roasters) 7:00 PM Newcomers Fall Event (Hess)	30 7:00 PM AA (UWH)

