

The Episcopal Parish of
SAINT JOHN THE EVANGELIST
Hingham, Massachusetts
781-749-1535 / www.stjohns-hingham.org

THE EVANGEL

We seek to share the Good News of the Gospel through engaging worship, faithful service, and life-long Christian formation while joyfully living out our faith in this community and the world.



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Homecoming Sunday! *September 8*

**Holy Eucharist at
8:00 & 10:00 am and S.W.5 at 5 pm**



- Homecoming Lunch at 11:30 am!
- Bounce House for Kids!
- Sunday School Kick-Off!
- Adult Choir Returns!
- S.W.5 Resumes!

If you are interested in helping,
sign up online at <https://signup.com/go/sjcPpQo>
We need volunteers to bring a side dish or dessert and to help clean up.
Contact Barbie Dwyer: barbiedwyer39@gmail.com.

FROM THE RECTOR

Home Again

I still vividly recall my very first Homecoming Sunday at St. John's a decade ago. I had been here a few weeks, having started at the end of August. As many people are away in August, the congregation had been fairly small those first Sundays. But people kept coming up to me and saying, "Just you wait."

And sure enough, as I stood at the altar waiting to celebrate communion, I'll never forget just looking at the hordes of children entering from Sunday School. It seemed like a clown car as they just kept coming! Finally, Tom Daley leaned over and reminded me I had some things to do.

It is just this palpable excitement and energy that I look forward to every September. It's a joy to reconnect with parishioners who have been away and to watch others reengage with friends and make new acquaintances.

And while I've never been quite sure about the term "Homecoming Sunday" (it does seem to lend credence to the old joke about Episcopalians being the only ones God trusts enough to take the summer off), it somehow fits. For home is indeed what St. John's feels like to so many of us. It is our spiritual home and anchor in the midst of the swirling changes and uncertainties of life. St. John's is the home where God's heart resides. And that is a beautiful thing.

In the coming days we'll be seeking feedback on some proposals for our **2020 Cornerstone Campaign**. On Sunday, September 15, following all three services, I will present the proposed masterplan for St. John's. There will be an opportunity to see some renderings and ask questions. We will then solicit comments as part of a

feasibility study this fall as we decide which projects to move forward with.

You can think about what's being presented as a proposal for maximizing our ministry in the years ahead. Our Building Committee has worked hard to pull together comments from our Discernment Phase, information from the Capital Reserve Study, and data gleaned from meetings with staff and key ministry leaders. We may well not be able to fund everything all at once but even with a couple of phases, we have what I believe is a solid plan for reconfiguring our physical plant to meet our current and future ministry needs.

I'm excited about both the St. John's of the present *and* the St. John's of the future. This truly is a special place to call "home."

Peace,

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*"You are members of the household of God,
built upon the foundation of the apostles and
prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the
cornerstone." (Ephesians 2:19)*

FROM THE ASSOCIATE RECTOR

Youth Ministry at St. John's

Youth Ministry Registration: This year, we are asking parents to register their youth for our youth programs. You can do so on the Youth Ministry page of our website. This will assist us with planning, communications, meeting allergy needs, and more.

Back-to-School BBQ! On Sunday, September 8, starting after S.W.5 (Sunday Worship at 5 pm), we invite all youth, 6th through 12th graders, to join us in the playground area behind the church for a casual cookout. We will provide the burgers (and veggie burgers), hot dogs, drinks, and lawn games. If you can, please bring a side dish or dessert to share. No need to RSVP, just come on by. We'll be there from approximately 6 pm - 7:30 pm.

Service Opportunity: Common Cathedral On Sunday, September 29, youth in 6th through 12th grades are invited to serve with Common Cathedral, the outdoor church that meets on Boston Common. It's an important community for people experiencing homelessness in Boston. You are welcome to join us for the lunch-making at St. John's, the trip into Boston, or both. We can bring a maximum of 20 people into Boston. Parents, please note that some middle school students may not be ready for the experience of interacting with people experiencing homelessness, so please use your discretion. Even if your youth is not ready for the trip into Boston, remember that you are welcome to join us for the lunch making! You can sign up by emailing Jack.

Here's the approximate schedule:

10 am: Prepare sack lunches at St. John's
11 am: Drive into Boston

12 pm: Set up for lunch

12:30 pm: Serve and share lunch

1 pm: Worship with Common Cathedral

1:45 pm: Short debrief with staff

2 pm: Drive back to Hingham, returning around 3 pm

Middle School Youth Group: All 6th through 8th graders are invited to join us for Middle School Youth Group, which meets most Sundays. Snacks will be available in Lower Weld Hall immediately following the 10 am service, and our meeting will run until 12:30 pm. Our first meeting of the year will be on Sunday, September 15.

High School Youth Group: Our first gathering as the High School Youth Group will be a trip to Tree Top Adventures on Sunday, October 6. We will meet at the church at 12:30 pm, and we will return around 5/5:30 pm. Please RSVP ASAP by emailing Jack.

Appalachia Service Project (ASP): We also invite you to consider joining St. John's youth and adults in the 2020 Appalachia Service Project (ASP) through Cohasset ASP. During this week-long trip at the beginning of July, participants work to make the homes of Appalachia residents warmer, safer, and drier. It is a very powerful experience. We will be talking about our 2019 trip during the sermon on Sunday, September 15. You can also learn more at an information session at Second Congregational Church in Cohasset on Sunday, September 22 at 7pm and or at www.cohassetasp.org.

Confirmation: Youth who are beginning their freshman year will be eligible for confirmation at the end of their sophomore year. We invite freshmen interested in Confirmation to attend an initial meeting on Sunday, October 20 at

3:30pm. We will do some ice breakers and team-building exercises, then talk about the meaning of confirmation, the preparation process, and our expectations. Later this fall, I will meet individually with potential confirmands, and in the spring, each freshmen will be matched with an adult mentor. Biweekly confirmation classes will begin in the fall of sophomore year. If you would like to participate in the program, please sign up by emailing Jack.

Email: jclark@stjohns-hingham.org.

Jack+

Sunday School News

Hello Sunday School Families!

Welcome back to Sunday School! We are looking forward to a great year with your children. We are excited to announce the roll out of our new curriculum, Love First. It is a program that is all about Love! Love Yourself, Love your Neighbor, and Love God. This is a great fit with the mission at St. John's, where we teach kindness, inclusiveness, and acceptance. Please see my newsletter for more details. A big thank you goes out to our wonderful volunteer teachers who make this program possible.

To support our new curriculum for the fall, we have put together a book drive! Please see the wish list on Amazon: www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/ADC1VH8H5NCZ?ref_=wl_share. *Thank you for supporting the Sunday School!*

In addition to our regular classes, there are several fall events planned, including the Blessing of the Stuffed Animals (Feast of Saint Francis), a clergy-led Baptism class, a children's service, and pageants! More

information will follow as we approach the dates.

If you have not already done so this year, take a moment to **Register your children for Sunday School** on our website (www.stjohns-hingham.org). We require a new registration every year. Please note that Sunday School will be open at 9:00 am on September 8 for anyone who would like to take a look around and get acquainted with the classrooms and teachers. Sunday School classes will begin at 9:45 am. We look forward to seeing you. For more information on St. John's Sunday School please contact Sunday School Coordinator, Alexis MacElhiney at: amacelhiney@stjohns-hingham.org.

Music Ministry Notes

St. John's Choristers – for KIDS



September is the best time to join **St. John's Choristers**. Rehearsals begin on Tuesday, September 10 at 4:00 pm. This group of third through eighth grade children meets every Tuesday 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.

*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. Adult men and women and high school singers are welcome. Rehearsals are on Thursday evenings at 7:30, beginning September 5.

Contact Organist/Choirmaster Buffy Gray at egray@stjohns-hingham.org to sign up *for either choir* and for more information.

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Outreach Ministry



MLK workday.

We have many opportunities at St. John's to fulfill our Outreach mission to "help our fellow children of God, near and far, through compassionate service and thoughtful financial support". Join our Committee or volunteer for any of the events that interest you. See our Outreach page on the church website or contact Chrissy Roberts at cjrob47@hotmail.com or call her at 617-290-8863 for more information. *Coming up:* Join us at monthly events by helping out at local laundromats with Laundry Love, serving meals to students at Epiphany School or donating food to local food pantries. Looking ahead: help out at our Not-So-Spooky Haunted House and Holiday Boutique, both of

which help benefit Outreach. Further out: donate items to our Christmas angel tree and save the date for our third annual MLK meal packing event on 1/20/20.

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Laundry Love

The national Laundry Love program was initiated in California after a simple conversation between a homeless person and another man, engaged in a moment of fellowship between two people. When the homeless person was asked "how can we come alongside your life in a way that would matter?" The homeless person's response to this simple, but important question was "If I had clean clothes I think people would treat me like a human being." Over the past 12 years Laundry Love projects throughout the nation have assisted in cleaning and drying 600,000+ loads of laundry for over 450,000 people.

The St. John's monthly program kicked off in January 2017. This program is only one of five in the Commonwealth and since its inception, our version of this Laundry Love program has served nearly 300 clients, paying for the cleaning of more than 500 loads of laundry.

Our program has grown to two days per month at two locations, from 4 to 6:30 pm. The 4th Monday of each month is at the **SuperWash Laundromat in Hull**. The 2nd Tuesday of the month is at the **SuperWash on Rt. 18 in Weymouth**. Each site requires only 3-4 volunteers to welcome our clients, provide the cleaning materials and assist in payment at the washers and dryers. For more information please contact Liz Donohue (Hull location) at donohue38@comcast.net and Mariclaire Buckley (Weymouth location) at mariclairebuckley@gmail.com.

Sacred Ground: An Invitation

Sacred Ground A Race Dialogue Series

Last month, as a nation, we marked the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the first slave ship on American soil. This single shameful moment has produced ripples of racism that continue to impact our brothers and sisters of color, in this community and beyond, on a daily basis. Many remain terrified for their own safety and the safety of their loved ones; they experience overt and subtle acts of racism every day, often from friends unaware of the hurt they unwittingly inflict.

This year, parishioners at St. John's are invited to participate in a journey over the sacred ground of racial introspection and reconciliation. It won't be an easy walk, but it will be a transformative one. We hope you will give serious consideration to participating in *Sacred Ground*, a film and readings-based dialogue series on race.

We will walk through the chapters of America's history of race and racism, while weaving in threads of family story, socio-economic status, and political and regional identity.

This 10-part series, put together by the Episcopal Church and co-facilitated by parishioners Holly Carter and Caitlin Slodden, is built around a powerful online curriculum of documentary films and readings that focus on Indigenous, Black, Latino, and Asian/Pacific American histories.

This program offers an opportunity to examine hard, often minimized truths about race and culture in a world so desperately in need of racial healing and understanding. Participants can expect to examine the impact of white privilege; learn how and why racial inequalities are perpetuated in contemporary American society; gain a deeper appreciation for other cultures and experiences; foster greater awareness of and deeper empathy towards others; increase self-awareness; engage with issues of racial identity and difference; and develop tools to better navigate the world as faithful Christians.

We won't leave with all the answers and perhaps it will only raise more questions. But when we view such an educational opportunity as a first step towards greater reconciliation, God is praised and our potential to serve as agents of healing is realized.

We hope you will join us for a **Sacred Ground Information Session** following the 10:00 am service on Sunday, September 29. Recognizing that schedules are complicated, we are asking participants to attempt to attend all 10 sessions, which will be spread throughout the fall and into the spring. We will likely run two sections of this course, Sundays from 11 am to 1:30 pm and Wednesdays from 7 to 8:30 pm. Look for registration information soon.

Sacred Ground will serve as our parish's spiritual and educational focus for the entire program year. For those who cannot participate in the full series, the Adult Education Ministry will sponsor several stand-alone movie/discussion sessions throughout the program year to encourage wider congregational participation in this important program.

For additional information about the *Sacred Ground* curriculum, contact Holly Carter at hmcwbc@gmail.com or Caitlin Slodden at cslodden@brandeis.edu or log onto episcopalchurch.org/sacredground.

Parents Groups

Parenting young children can be incredibly rewarding and incredibly exhausting. And trying to do so with any sort of spiritual life—both for you and your family—can be a real challenge. If you have young (or young-ish) children, consider joining our gathering of parents. We meet the second Friday of the month at 9:00 am starting Friday, September 13. Childcare is provided to allow us to have a full conversation around the highs and lows of parenting and where God fits in to all of this. We'd love to have you with us. Please contact Allie Christopher (allison_usa@yahoo.com) with questions and to be added to this group's distribution list.

New this year: Parents of Middle Schoolers. Beginning on Friday, September 6, parents of middle-school age children will be invited to join other parents for coffee and conversation. This group will follow a similar format to the Parents of Young Children Group in that topics will be fluid based on what is top of mind for parents that day. This group will meet on the first Friday of the month at 9:00 am in Upper Weld Hall. Please contact Jen Murphy (jencmurphy@me.com) with questions and to be added to this group's distribution list.

Blessing of the Animals



Clergy dogs Delilah and Flo

On Sunday, September 29, all creatures great and small are invited to a Community Pet Blessing, hosted by St. John's. This brief service will take place at 5:00 pm. In addition to live animals, children are welcome to bring their favorite stuffed animals to be blessed. This year we're again partnering with the South Shore Pet Food Pantry and you're encouraged to bring donations of dog and cat food, pet toys, kitty litter, and leashes.

Needlepoint Guild



Anyone in the parish interested in the fine art of needlepointing is invited to join the St. John's Needlepoint Guild. They are a faithful group that meets the second

Tuesday of the month usually at a member's house. The major project of the Guild is the kneelers in the church. Take a look in church especially towards the front half. You'll see some amazing works done by our very talented group. For more information please contact Wendy Ellison at wce317@gmail.com.



S.W.5 Returns September 8

Our Sunday evening service, known as S.W.5 (Sunday Worship at 5 pm), returns on Sunday, September 8 aka Homecoming Sunday. We're delighted to welcome back Jeremiah Cossa as our musician for his fifth year among us.

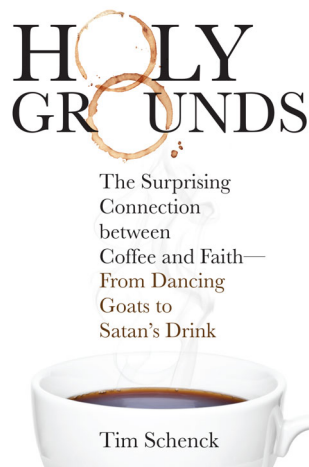
This informal service takes place in Upper Weld Hall, lasts about 35 minutes, and includes music, a homily, and Communion. People who attend regularly (or occasionally) say they enjoy the intimate feeling and slightly more contemporary music of S.W.5. This intergenerational service is perfect for those who can't make it on Sunday morning, for whatever reason. This fall, we'll be using a Eucharistic Prayer from the Iona Community, the same one we've used at the 10:00 am service throughout August. This inclusive, ecumenical monastic community of men and women is located on the island of Iona, off the coast of Scotland. In addition to a regular life of worship, Iona serves as a place of religious pilgrimage and liturgical

innovation rooted in the Celtic tradition. This particular Eucharistic prayer is beautiful in its simplicity and notable for its inclusion of both women and men (Sarah, Moses, Mary, and Jesus) in the recounting of our salvation history.

We will also occasionally be singing hymns out of a new (to us) hymnal called *Wonder, Love, and Praise*. This hymnal is a supplement to the *Hymnal 1982* and offers some wonderful, singable selections in the spirit of S.W.5. We hope you'll join us for another year of Sunday evening worship at St. John's!

Hingham Library Lecture

On Thursday, September 19 at 7:00 pm Father Tim will present a talk titled "Holy Grounds: The Surprising Connection Between Coffee and Faith."



From the coffee bean's discovery by 9th century Ethiopian Muslims to being condemned as "Satan's drink" by medieval Christians to becoming an integral part of Passover in America, coffee

has fueled prayer and shaped religious culture for generations. Hingham resident and Episcopal priest, Tim Schenck, will explore the fascinating - and controversial - history of the world's favorite beverage with reflections based on his new book *Holy Grounds: The Surprising Spiritual Connection Between Coffee and Faith -- From Dancing Goats to Satan's Brew* (Fortress Press).

Vocational Discernment at St. John's

In the Episcopal Church, an individual doesn't simply *decide* to become a priest or deacon. Ordained ministry is recognized as something felt by the individual, but affirmed – or not – by the worshipping community. The ultimate authority remains with the bishop, but each diocese has a Commission on Ministry (COM), made up of clergy and lay people, to assist priests, congregations, and those discerning calls to ordained ministry.



Egan Millard

This past spring and into the summer, we worked with two parishioners discerning calls to ordained ministry. Following diocesan guidelines, we formed a Parish Discernment Committee to help Egan Millard test a call to the priesthood. A committed group of four people met with Egan eight times to help, challenge, and listen during this time of vocational discernment. In addition, Jack and I both met with Egan several times throughout the course of the year to offer guidance, support, and feedback.

In the end, in an 11-page report, the Discernment Committee unanimously recommended that the Vestry approve Egan's nomination to move forward into the formal diocesan discernment process.

The Vestry acted positively on this at the July meeting. I am incredibly grateful to Ruth Davis, Skip Jenkins, Phyllis Kidder, and Cathy Torrey for serving in this capacity. My hope was that this journey with Egan would deepen their own relationships with God and one another, and I am pleased to report that it did just that.

I would also like to thank Kenzie Blackwell, Debbie Callahan, David Clinton, Janet Walsmith, and Christine Waring for their enthusiastic and generous participation in the discernment process for parishioner Katie Sutton, who also felt a tug toward service as a deacon during the same period. Although Katie's discernment ultimately led her in a different direction, I know that she and her committee found the process deeply gratifying and spiritually rewarding.

What's next for Egan? We have handed his application off to the diocese and the Commission on Ministry. If approved, he would be invited to the Ministry Discernment Conference in November to test his call over a weekend. The COM would then either decide to recommend him for postulancy and the bishop would approve him to attend seminary, or they could tell him they do not sense a call. Seminary itself is at least a three-year process before ordination.

I am proud of the way our two parish committees and Vestry handled what was for most an introduction to the rather complex ordination process. I encourage you to keep Egan in your prayers in the days ahead. By all means, reach out to him with any questions about the process or his continuing journey of faith. And if you yourself are feeling the need to explore a call to ordained ministry, please don't hesitate to be in touch with me.

From the Rector Emeritus

No Problem?

May be it's a generational thing. When I say, "Thank you" to someone, instead of "you're welcome," the response is often: *No problem*. All I can think of is that if I thought it would be a problem, I wouldn't have asked. An expression of gratitude is not that I think I have caused a problem, but that I am grateful for little favors as I am for a selfless sacrifice.

I wonder. What if the liturgy contained such phrases?

The Lord be with you.

People No problem

The Word of the Lord.

People No problem

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People No problem

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People No problem

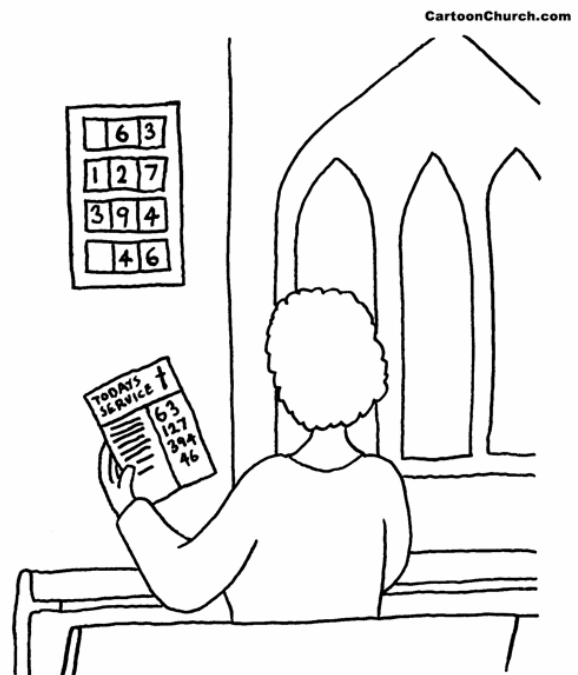
Robert Edson+

Holy Cross Day with the Sisters

Each year the Sisters of St. Margaret observe the anniversary of their founding in the USA on September 14. In commemoration of this event there will be a celebration of the Eucharist at 2:00 pm on Sunday September 14 at St. Margaret's Convent, 50 Harden Hill Road, Duxbury. The preacher for this occasion will be the Rev. Robert B. Edson, priest associate of the Society of St. Margaret and Rector Emeritus, St. John's, Hingham. An ice cream social follows the service. All are welcome. Please RSVP to the convent at 781-934-9477 x 701 or to sisters@ssmbos.org.



Long-time parishioner Mary Ellen Hatfield gives Father Tim's new scooter a try, following a recent pastoral visit.



SHE COULD HARDLY BELIEVE SHE HAD WON ON HER FIRST VISIT TO CHURCH

September 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Pentecost 12 8:00 AM Eucharist Rite I 9:45 AM Nursery 10:00 AM Eucharist Rite II	2 <i>Parish Offices closed</i> <i>(Labor Day)</i>	3	4 10:00 AM HE II/Bible Study 6:30 PM AA (Thayer Rm)	5 7:30 PM St. John's Choir	6 9:00 AM Middle Schl Parents (UWH)	7 7:00 PM AA (UWH)
8 <i>Homecoming Sunday</i> Pentecost 13 8:00 AM Eucharist Rite I 9:45 AM Sunday School/Nursery 10:00 AM Eucharist Rite II 11:30 AM <i>Parish Picnic</i> 5:00 PM SW5 (UWH) 6:00 PM Middle Schl Youth BBQ	9	10 4:00 PM Laundry Love (Weymouth) 4:00 PM St. John's Choristers (UWH)	11 10:00 AM HE II/Bible Study 6:30 PM AA (Thayer Rm)	12 7:30 PM St. John's Choir (UWH)	13 9:00 AM Young Parents Group (UWH)	14 7:00 PM AA (UWH)
15 Pentecost 14 8:00 AM Eucharist Rite I 9:00 AM Outreach Meeting (UWH) 9:45 AM Sunday School/Nursery 10:00 AM Eucharist Rite II 11:30 AM Middle Schl (LWH) 5:00 PM SW5 (UWH)	16	17 10:00 AM Needlepoint Guild (member's house) 4:00 PM St. John's Choristers (UWH) 7:00 PM Vestry Meeting	18 10:00 AM HE II/Bible Study 6:30 PM AA (Thayer Rm)	19 7:30 PM St. John's Choir (UWH)	20	21 7:00 PM AA (UWH)
22 Pentecost 15 8:00 AM Eucharist Rite I 9:45 AM Sunday School/Nursery 10:00 AM Eucharist Rite II 11:30 AM Middle Schl (LWH) 5:00 PM SW5 (UWH)	23 4:00 PM Laundry Love (Hull)	24 4:00 PM St. John's Choristers (UWH) 7:15 PM Finance Committee	25 10:00 AM HE II/Bible Study 6:30 PM AA (Thayer Rm)	26 7:30 PM St. John's Choir (UWH)	27	28 3:00 PM Event (UWH) 7:00 PM AA (UWH)
29 Pentecost 16 8:00 AM Eucharist Rite I 9:45 AM Sunday School/Nursery 10:00 AM Eucharist Rite II 10:00 AM Middle Schl (Common Cathedral) 5:00 PM Blessing of Animals	30	1 4:00 PM St. John's Choristers (UWH)	2 10:00 AM HE II/Bible Study 6:30 PM AA (Thayer Rm)	3 4:00 PM Holy Happy Hour w the Priests (Boston) 7:30 PM St. John's Choir (UWH)	4 9:00 AM Middle Schl Parents (UWH)	5 7:00 PM AA (UWH)

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

September/Homecoming