



ST. JOHN'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Parish Weekly

Week Ending July 16, 2023

Parish and Community News



Let's Vision Together for St. John's Future! Last Session Thursday, July 23 from 6:30-8:30 PM

Take part in our final Appreciative Inquiry session about our space and next steps in our ongoing renewal

We've had three great sessions in our visioning process for St. John's future. Thank you to the fifteen people who have participated so far! Now it's your turn to come together with fellow parishioners and our user groups to share your best experiences of our space, what you most love and value about it and imagine a vibrant future for us in this place. Ted will be our point person using Appreciative Inquiry to bring us together and work towards a shared vision for our ongoing work of renewing our space. If you have not signed up already email or call/text Ted to reserve your place - ted@stjohns-jp.org or 617-942-0611.

Pray Without Ceasing - A Weekly Prayer Circle for the People of St. John's Jamaica Plain and Those They Love Takes a Break this Monday, returning Monday July 31 at 7:00 PM

Our weekly prayer circle, facilitated by our intrepid deacon Rev. Cynthia, takes a pause this week, but you are most welcome to join us next Monday, July 31 when we gather at 7PM in the St. John's Sanctuary. We are using [Praying for Friends and Enemies](#) as a source to guide our prayer. If you need a copy of the material, please be in touch with Rev. Cynthia at cynthia@stjohns-jp.org. Feel free to join in!



Share where your summer travels will take you

in the Parish Hall

For many of us, summer is a time of traveling away from Boston for vacations and family visits. Share where you are going on our Summer Travels display in the Parish Hall, and remember, when you are away from St. John's, you can keep up with our worship live or on demand on YouTube!



Theo sharing the Cole Family Summer Travels

The Vestry Corner



Each week, we will share updates from the vestry, short bios of vestry members, links to our approved minutes and more.

This week, our Clerk Ginnie Smith, shares some of her story and why St. John's means so much to her:

Hello, this is Virginia (Ginnie) Smith, Clerk of St. John's.

I came to St. John's in 1997, after fifteen years in New York City, where I worshiped at St. Luke-in-the-Fields in Greenwich Village, the only place where I felt safe as an LGBTQ person. This was at a time that HIV/AIDS was decimating our community and homophobia was accelerating at my gay-friendly (or rather, not gay-unfriendly) book publisher after Rupert Murdoch bought it to create one of the five largest in the world. After I had been there for five years, a new, clearly homophobic man became my boss. I was then four months pregnant. He stared me in the stomach, never the eye then, when I was eight months pregnant, fired me. He went on to publish New Gingrich, paying him the second-highest advance ever received by a politician, and found a right-wing imprint. Fearing that I might be fired again for being gay, I never returned to mainstream book publishing.

LGBTQ rights have always been front and center for me.

On April 6th of this year, I was on a panel at Harvard Business School on the topic of "50 Years of Gay Pride at HBS." When I was a student there 40 years ago, it was too dangerous to be "out," but despite that, I took some actions to support gay rights in my classroom, with outcomes that still leave me chilled...

[Click here to read the rest of Ginnie's Story](#)

Summer 2023 Preaching Rota

July 2 - Ted

July 9 - Dorie (Ted away)

July 16 - Cynthia (Dorie away)

July 23 - Ted

July 30 - Dorie (Cynthia and Ted away)

August 6 - Cynthia (Ted away)

August 13 - Dorie (Ted away)

August 20 - Dorie (Ted away)

August 27 - Cynthia (Ted away)

September 3 - Ted - Blessings Symbols of Our Labor (Cynthia and Dorie away)

SJC Laughs

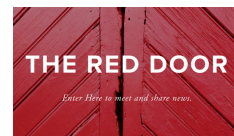


“There are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal... Next to the Blessed Sacrament itself, your neighbour is the holiest object presented to your senses.”

~ C. S. Lewis

Nurturing Faith

Our blog, The Red Door, offers regular posts to engage with including music, social justice reflections and more.



[Check out The Red Door's Latest Content](#)

Mark 2:17. When Jesus heard this, he said to them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick; I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.”

I was chatting with some colleagues. One of them said something rude, got up, and left. Another colleague, who is a Christian, looked at me and said, dismissively: “Oh well—she is worldly, and you know what those people are like.”

FORWARD
DAY *by* DAY

A third colleague intervened: “Why do you say that? I too am what you call ‘worldly.’ I am also ‘one of those people.’ If that’s what ‘your people’ are like, I don’t want to be around you or ‘your people’ who judge others.”

I felt the third colleague was right. We Christians do not live in a shimmering bubble. We live in the world; we are part of it. If God looked on us with love when we were lost, then we should also look with the same love on those who do not know God. We should not turn our backs on them or look down on them. Even when I refrain myself from putting rude words in my mouth, the truth is that they are often still in my heart. Am I any better?

MOVING FORWARD: Have there been times when church members made you feel judged? How did you resolve those feelings?

[Find Forward Day by Day Meditations Here](#)



DEVOTIONS

Read: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43.

Matthew’s Gospel addresses divisions in the church. Who has the right message? Who is being faithful? What actions do not fit the kingdom of God?

Matthew’s message is clearly a word we need to hear. Today people who claim the Christian faith are much divided over morality and doctrine. Matthew has the strongest note of judgment against false witnesses, but that judgment is tempered. Through the parable of the weeds, it is understood that we are called to be witnesses, not judges. To think we can uproot and expel certain groups of people is dangerous. To believe we have the ability to judge rightly will end up destroying the good and loving work of the church, the body of Christ. We are not the judge. God is the judge. Until Judgment Day comes, we are witnesses to the truth that Jesus teaches and lives. It is enough to point to Jesus and his reign of undeserved kindness and peace.

Discuss: When have you judged others? In what ways can you show undeserved kindness and love to others?

Pray: Almighty God, give us humility to trust in you more than our own judgments so we may love and serve our neighbor through Christ Jesus, the one who judges the living and the dead. Amen.

[Download this week's TFH Flyer](#)

Parish Prayer List

To add a loved one to our Parish Prayer List, please email Liz: parish.admin@stjohns-jp.org.

Concerns

Delva Bent

Winnie Lyons and Richard Pettengill

The Lewis and Minick Families

Rev. Dr. Jim Speer
Laurie Speer
Mary Ellen Cahill
Andy and Sally Thomas
Johnny Collins
Kathryn O'Leary
Megan D.
The family and friends of Sofia Puigserver
Jim Grant
Carolyn Whitman
Jerry and Ariella Katz
Sherry Goehring
Lori Reed

Memorials

Ira Katz
Sofia Puigserver
Elberta Stone
Geraldine (Gerri) Romanos
Maria Minick
Jean Marden Cole
Jean O'Leary
Joy Aliss Cochran
Kate Brodeur

Worship With Us

Join us for worship
IN PERSON or ONLINE

Meet us at the junction of reverence and free spirit.

Worship This Week in Person or Online



NOTE: This week we will start using a Seasonal Worship Booklet supplemented with a weekly bulletin and reading insert. For online worship, we will not be providing the music in the worship booklet.

We welcome you to join us for our worship service of Holy Communion at St. John's.

For those worshipping in person, please see our COVID Guidelines.

You will be able to [download the bulletin](#) on our website starting Friday. Then you can view the bulletin digitally on a tablet or computer, or you can print it out for use during the service, whichever makes most sense for you. We also encourage folks who prefer to use a device in the church to do so as a limited number of paper copies will be available.

Church Office

Our Rector, Ted is in the Church Office Tuesdays and Wednesdays, and available by appointment. Email him at ted@stjohns-jp.org or call/text at 617-942-0611. Ted keeps Monday as a sabbath day and is unavailable. Ted will be on vacation starting Sunday July 30, returning Tuesday, August 29.

Our Parish Administrator, Liz is in the office on Wednesday and Thursday next week from 8:30-11:30am and by appointment Tuesday - Thursday.

Our Curate, Dorie takes Monday as a Sabbath day and is unavailable during that time. You can send her emails to meet via appointment at dorie@stjohns-jp.org, or call at 617-237-0567.

Our Deacon, Cynthia is available via appointment and can be reached at cynthia@stjohns-jp.org.

St. Johns Episcopal Church | PO Box 300230, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

[Unsubscribe \[ted@stjohns-jp.org\]\(mailto:ted@stjohns-jp.org\)](#)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data
Notice](#)

Sent by dorie@stjohns-jp.org powered by



Try email marketing for free today!