



The Evangel

St John's Episcopal Church -- Walpole, New Hampshire

March 2017

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Which St John?

In New Testament times, the name John was a very common name. There was John the Apostle, one of the Twelve Apostles, who was the son of Zebedee and Salome and the brother of James, also one of the 12 Apostles. John and James were fishermen who were nicknamed the "sons of thunder." John the Apostle outlived the rest of the Apostles and died of natural causes at an old age (Judas Iscariot hanged himself; the rest of the Apostles were martyred).

There are also references in the New Testament to John the Evangelist, John of Patmos, John the Elder, and the Beloved Disciple. The early Church Fathers, a group of theologians and bishops from the late first century to the early fifth century CE, believed that all of these names described the same person. Modern scholars are not so sure about this and have raised the possibility that they may be different men, all named John.

Most Christian traditions believe that John the Apostle is the author of several books in the New Testament: the Gospel of John, the three Epistles (letters) of John, and the Book of Revelation. This is the reason that the title Evangelist has been used. Modern Greek scholars, comparing use of language and style of writing, do not always agree that all the books have a single author.

It seems very confusing! Perhaps we should assume our parish has as it's patron saint all of the characteristics of these men: apostle, evangelist, elder (as in leader), and beloved disciple. Following St John's example, we are called to

teach, to proclaim good news, to be spiritual leaders in our community, and to be faithful followers.

I have used the title of St John the Evangelist as the basis for the masthead of our parish newsletter. *Evangel* comes from the Greek *euangelion* which means 'good news,' or from *euangelos* which means 'bringing good news.' A third way of understanding the root of evangel is *eu* 'well' combined with *angelein* 'announce.'

This newsletter is all about announcing good news--and there's a lot of that--not just the news about the amazing vitality of this small parish, but also the news about how we show up and God keeps surprising us. *The Evangel* a work in progress, and will differ from the announcements found in the Sunday leaflet. There will be announcements, but also substance. I hope you will share your ideas with me for this form of communication.

By the way, St. John's feast day is December 27. What shall we do next December 27 to commemorate our patron saint?



Book Review--

Make Room: A Child's Guide to Lent and Easter

by Laura Alary (Paraclete Press, 2016)

Laura Alary offers a book that introduces Lent and Easter to children in a way that makes it possible for them to enter into the holy experience. It invites children and adults to make room for God during Lent. The author doesn't shy away from the dark part of Good Friday, but simply tells the story without explanation. It is simply that Jesus died. The alleluias of Easter morning quickly follow. This book is a good choice if you are looking for a book that will widen a child's experience of Lent as well as help prepare the whole family for Easter.

The Observance of Lent at St John's

Ash Wednesday, March 1: Imposition of Ashes, Noon and 6 p.m.

Sunday Second Hour Activities

March 5: Making Lenten Candles

March 12: Easter Gardens 1 & Easter Cards
(adults have a special program, Honoring Care Decisions; see the box below)

March 19: Easter Gardens 2 & Making Pretzels

March 26: Easter Garden 3 & Starting the Easter Banner
(part 2 of Honoring Care Decisions for interested adults)

Honoring Care Decisions: March 12

Potluck and Workshop

led by Jennifer McCalley Breismeister, MSW, ACHP-SW,
Program Coordinator for Honoring Care Decisions from Dartmouth-Hitchcock,

Jenn will guide participants in a system of care that engages all adults at every age and stage of health in advanced care planning (ACP). The program enables and facilitates quality conversations with individuals and their loved ones well in advance of any type of health crisis so that everyone supporting an individual or providing healthcare would know what to do, or not do, if a crisis ever came. Jennifer will help the group explore the key questions of ACP, answer questions and respond to concerns, as well as refer to additional resources as needed.

March 12, 11:30 a.m., following the worship service;
There will be one-on-one document help on **March 26, 11:30 a.m.** for those who would like assistance.

Vestry News

The Vestry, at the February 15, 2017, meeting:

- approved the minutes from the January meeting
- approved the report of the Treasurer
- approved the annual Parochial Report
- followed up on plans to repair the shower in the apartment
- approved a proposal to write a St John's cookbook to be used as a fundraiser
- changed the monthly meeting date to the third Wednesday of each month, beginning at 5:30 p.m.

The next meeting is March 15. If you have something you would like to have on the agenda, or a concern or suggestion, please contact either of the Wardens.

VESTRY

Andrew Wilking, Warden (2019)

Wayne Wagenbach, Warden (2018)

Mary Schoppmeyer, Treasurer (2019)

Jack Pratt, Clerk (2019)

Al Sparks (2018)

Katra Faust (2019)

Joanne King (2020)

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