

Early in 2016 when I was working on one of my essays for my ordination exam, a fan I had gotten from an intern as gift suddenly caught my eye. Was it the Holy Spirit beckoning me? I felt certain that was indeed so. On that day I chose this image to represent my diaconal ministry. When I thought about it I realized fans are not completely flat when opened, but have more than one dimension. Diaconal ministry is multi-faceted. When opened, a fan forms an arc, a half circle; it is far reaching, but leaves plenty of room for the ministry of all the baptized. But a fan can also be used to start and grow a fire. As a deacon I am called to fan the flames of love, to encourage and engage the church in transformational ministry, as all of us in the Jesus Movement help to bring reconciliation and healing to a broken and fragile Earth.

As we move forward together in ministry, I invite you to explore the unique gifts the St. John's community possesses, rooted in faith, that can help transform our communities in and outside of church walls, that can help heal this "fragile earth our island home." Together it is my hope and prayer that we can fan the flames that kindle hearts and makes known that Love is unstoppable, that in the Kingdom of Heaven all people and all of creation is included in the Beloved Community.

In the coming weeks I look forward to spending some quality time during the Second Hour and/or one of our monthly potlucks listening to your stories, hearing what areas of need "break your heart," and hearing from others in the **Connecticut River Valley** already doing mission work amongst the vulnerable and migrants in our midst.

Johanna

A Prayer for Our Time and for the Earth

Dear God, Creator of the earth, this sacred home we share;

Give us new eyes to see the beauty all around and to protect the wonders of creation.

Give us new arms to embrace the strangers among us and to know them as family.

Give us new ears to hear and understand those who live off the land and to hear and understand those who extract its resources.

Give us new hearts to recognize the brokenness in our communities and to heal the wounds we have inflicted.

Give us new hands to serve the earth and its people and to shape beloved community.

For you are the One who seeks the lost, binds our wounds and sets us free, and it is in the name of Jesus the Christ we pray.
Amen.

From the House of Bishops after their visit to indigenous peoples in Alaska

Vestry Highlights

The Vestry met on Wednesday, September 21. In addition to approving the minutes from the August meeting, as well as the Treasurer's report for August, the Vestry also:

- Appointed Dan Scott to the vacant term which expires in January 2019. Welcome back to the Vestry, Dan!
- Accepted with deep gratitude the resignation of Patti Sparks as our cleaning person. Patti made our building sparkle with dedication. She treated her work as a true ministry, not just a task to perform. The Vestry is working on securing a replacement.
- Asked Dan Scott to put together a list of future building repairs and maintenance, based on the recommendations of the engineer who inspected the building, especially the north wall in the Parish Hall and roof. The Vestry will put together a plan for a Capital Improvements Campaign for 2018.

For more information about any Vestry matter, please speak to any of the members of the Vestry (names elsewhere in the newsletter). the Vestry meets on the third Wednesday of each month, at 5:30, in the Parish Hall. Next meeting is October 18, 2017.

ST JOHN'S AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Art After School is off to a great start. Twenty-four children are registered for the Wednesday program. Our October project is to make Picasso style faces for scarecrows as we participate in the annual village scarecrow exhibit. Any child who is in first grade or older is welcome to attend. Registration forms are on the website: www.walpoleartafterschool.org.

Narnia After School meets on Friday afternoons, 3:15 - 5 p.m. Nine children enjoy and English-style tea, practice their table manners, discuss the current book in the Chronicles of Narnia, watch a short video of the book, and make a companion project. We finished *Prince Caspian* and are enjoying the exciting *Voyage of the Dawn Treader*. Any child in third grade or older is encouraged to join in the fun! Reading is a requirement.

ST JOHN'S COOKS & NON-COOKS

We need your assistance in gathering recipes:
favorites, old standbys, new, used
family heirlooms, internet sourced
simple, complicated, elegant, everyday
child appreciated, adult appreciated, guest
appreciated
any times, breakfast, lunch, dinner
appetizers, sides, mains, desserts
comfort foods, delicious temptations
any number of ingredients

You can transmit in your method of choice:
Human--bring to church or other handoff
Snail Mail
Email-- pic, text, link
Message to phone via photo or text
Any other means you can think of that is easy for
you.

All are welcome to help. Current interested members of
the team include Kelli Wilson, Mary Schoppmeyer,
Racheal Scott, and Marilyn Wilking.

The goal is to have the cookbook ready for sale at the 2018 Christmas Fair.

Need more information? Please contact Marilyn: 713-410-7372 or mnwilking@gmail.com) or 52 Stevens Lane, Walpole, NH 03608

BISHOP HIRSCHFELD'S UPCOMING VISIT

Bishop Rob Hirschfeld will be visiting St John's on Sunday, November 12. He will be receiving and confirming anyone interested in those sacraments. If you are interested in being received or confirmed, please speak to the Rector as soon as possible.

Mark you calendars and plan on being present for the Bishop's Visit.

VESTRY

Andrew Wilking, Warden (2019)
Wayne Wagenbach, Warden (2018)
Mary Schoppmeyer, Treasurer (2019)
Jack Pratt, Clerk (2019)
Al Sparks (2018)
Dan Scott (2019)
Joanne King (2020)



St John's Episcopal Church

26 Elm Street • PO Box 179 • Walpole, NH 03608
Church office: 603-756-4533

Rev. Susan de Puy Kershaw, Rector
603-756-2962 or rector@stjohnswalpole.org

www.stjohnswalpole.org