



ST. JOHN'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Parish Weekly

Week Ending July 9, 2023

Summer 2023 Note from Ted

June 28, 2023

Dear St. John's Community,

Blessings this summer season as we come to the end of June and beginning of July! I have a few things to share with you and a note seemed the best way to communicate them. Here we go!

Happy Health Update - I have been testing negative for COVID since last Thursday and thankfully was not that sick when positive, so I feel good and am happy to be back on the job! Dorie is also testing negative and doing much better.

2023 Amendment to our Letter of Agreement - The vestry and I have entered into an Amendment to our Letter of Agreement for the current calendar year in which my time will be reduced from three-quarters to two-thirds, with my pay likewise reduced. I suggested this change late in 2022 as it was becoming clear we are facing significant financial challenges. This reduction in pay provides the parish some breathing room in a tight budget year. After negotiating how my work week and responsibilities would shift, the vestry formally approved the Amendment at our June meeting.

I will be in the office two days a week (Tuesday and Wednesday) instead of three, and I am handing off the weekly production of the bulletin and email to Dorie, Liz and Cynthia. I will keep up with pastoral care of the congregation, with preaching and worship leadership, and with administrative and formation commitments.

The Amendment ends December 31, 2023, and if the parish has taken a good financial turn, our original letter of agreement at three-quarters time will go back into effect. If we continue to face financial challenges, then the vestry and I will make an appropriate plan for 2024.

Please know that my first commitment as your rector is your spiritual well-being and I will always have time to meet and be of help and support to you. Do not hesitate to contact me when in need! And we have the tremendous blessing of two additional clergy on staff, Dorie and Cynthia, who are also here to serve. We have positive energy and momentum

as we head into the 2023-2024 program year and I feel excited for what is to come! I hope you feel the same and together we will see where God is leading us next!

Visioning Together Update - Across three sessions (two rescheduled from when I was COVID positive), fifteen members of the parish have joined in "Visioning Together" a vibrant future for our space and community. Let's get that number to thirty! Look for a special email next week with options for an additional in person "Visioning Together" session this month and make sure to add your voice to our vision! And remember, our partners the Open Theater Project have an Open House tomorrow, June 29, about their next phase which you can read about and RSVP for below.

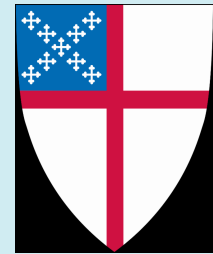
Music Director Search - We have posted our Music Director Job description in various settings and are ready to receive applications. We invite your prayers for our efforts and for our Search Committee of myself, Deb Whitman, Rachel Veto, John Travers and Ellen Davis.

Summer Preaching Rota - Down in this newsletter, please find our Summer Preaching Rota, including notes of when each of the clergy will be away. I will be on vacation from July 5-11, and then from July 31 to August 28.

Blessings,
Ted

Parish and Community News

"Inclusion, protection and celebration of all": A statement from the bishops



"This week in 2015, in its landmark Obergefell ruling, the Supreme Court established fundamental marriage equality for LGBTQ persons throughout the nation. We greeted that decision with joy, recognizing as it did that equal treatment under the law is not only a democratic principle, but also one that recognizes the inherent, God-given goodness of every human being, and supports societal structures which enshrine our communal recognition of that goodness."

[Read the full statement on the MA Diocese site.](#)



Let's Vision Together for St. John's Future!

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.

Take the Doodle poll using the button below to help us find the best time for our last session. *Please indicate all the times that work for you so we can select the time that is best for the most people.* Our goal is fifteen more participants, and we need to hear from you! Once the poll is complete, you will receive a follow up email with the meeting details. Thank you!

[Take the Doodle Poll to help us find the best date](#)

Pray Without Ceasing -

A Weekly Prayer Circle for the People of St. John's Jamaica Plain and Those They Love

**Mondays at 7:00pm
St. John's Sanctuary**

Our weekly prayer circle has started, facilitated by our intrepid deacon Rev. Cynthia, and you are most welcome to join us! We meet on Monday evenings 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, please find at the button below our approved minutes from our May 2023 meeting.

[View the May 2023 Approved Vestry Minutes](#)

Summer 2023 Preaching Rota

July 2 - Ted

July 9 - Dorie (Ted away)

July 16 - Cynthia (Dorie away)

July 23 - Ted

July 30 - Cynthia (Ted away)

August 6 - Dorie (Ted away)

August 13 - Dorie (Ted away)

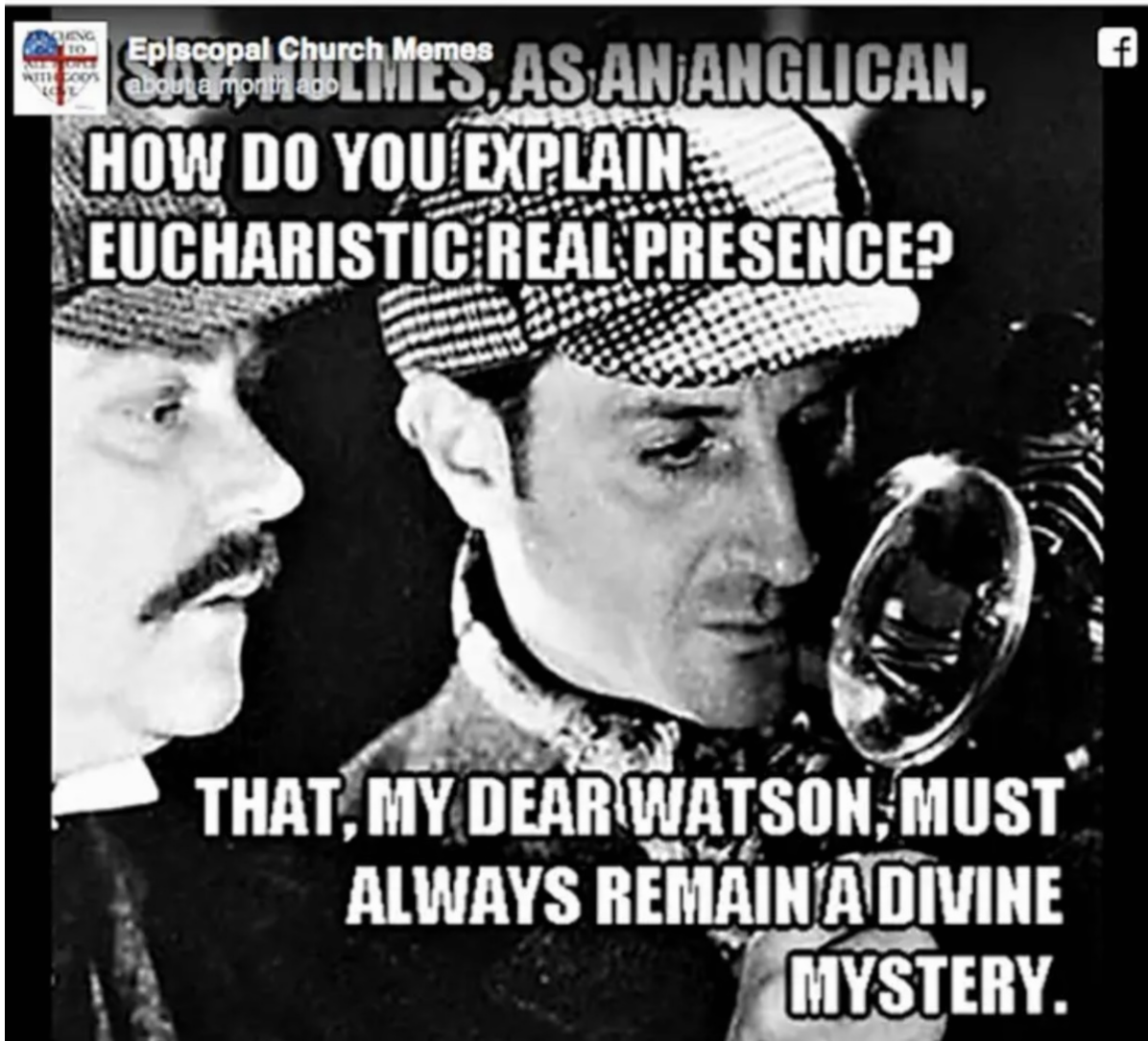
August 20 - Dorie (Ted away)

August 27 - Cynthia (Ted away)

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



Episcopal Church Memes
about a month ago



Nurturing Faith

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

Some recent posts include the songs Wonder by Nigerian Gospel musician Marizu, Just Give Me Jesus by American band Unspoken, Your Grace in Enough by Chris Tomlin and a recap of the year's Reparations Initiative meditations.



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

Acts 8:20. But Peter said to [Simon], "May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain God's gift with money!"

Money cannot buy everything. Sadly, COVID-19 taught us a lot about that lesson. Despite having access to resources and the best medical attention, many wealthy people died because of the virus. Money doesn't buy happiness or love or health. Peter makes this clear when Simon, a magician, attempts to purchase the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

FORWARD
DAY *by* DAY

Jesus offers himself as a sacrifice to save all humankind without charging one cent. It is an act of infinite love, and the only way to pay this gift back is through love, by treating our neighbor with holiness and justice. As Christian clergy and laity, we must reject greed and privilege and seek instead to be righteous and kind before God, thus deserving every good thing the Lord offers to us.

MOVING FORWARD: List three things that have no monetary value, yet they always make you happy. Say a prayer of thanksgiving!

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



DEVOTIONS

Read: Romans 6:1b-11.

Just before this reading, Paul writes: “where sin increased, grace abounded all the

more” (Romans 5:20b). Paul responds to this

statement in Romans 6:1b with an understandable question, “Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound?” Then he answers, “By no means!” (v. 2a). Paul is emphatic that seeking a life of sin is out of the question. He describes this conviction by using the language of baptism. We are joined with Christ through baptism. In baptism, we die with Christ and are raised with Christ “so we too might walk in newness of life” (v. 4b). We are joined to Christ’s life. His story of death and resurrection is now our story. We die to a way of living and thinking that finds pleasure in sin and separation from God. The power of sin over our lives dies with Christ through baptism. Our lives are then freed from the power of sin and death to live a new life filled with love and grace for our neighbor and world.

Discuss: What questions do you have about baptism?

Pray: God of abundant love, we thank you for the gift of baptism

[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

Claire Laton-Taylor

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.

**Bookmark our YouTube Page for
Worship**

Church Office

Our Rector, Ted is on vacation this week.

Our Parish Administrator, Liz is in the office on Wednesday and Thursday mornings 8:30-11:30 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-

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