



The Lampstand

A Periodic Newsletter of

Saint John's Episcopal Church - Niantic

"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the LAMPSTAND, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."

Parish Office: 860-739-2324 Website: stjohnsniantic.org Email: admin@stjohnsniantic.org

Season after Epiphany

Mid-January, 2020

St. John's Episcopal Church

Rector + Editor

The Rev'd Anthony C. Dinoto

Asst. to the Rector

Laura J. Stefanski

Officers

Pamela Graham	Sr Warden
Chip Flanagan	Jr. Warden
Dave Rutherford	Treasurer
Barbara Johnson Low	Clerk

Destry

Kirsten Babb
Larry Basso
Jan Nykyforchyn
Chester Fairlie
Elizabeth Kimble
Dick Miller
Carol Kensel
Gina Lincoln
Lesley Sollima

St. John's Annual Children's Nativity Pageant





THANK YOU ALL

Saint John's Giving Tree was a wonderful expression of the generosity of the Parishioners of St. John's Parish. Bundles and Bundles of winter hats, mittens, gloves, scarfs, socks and more have been delivered to several community agencies for distribution to their neediest clients.

Pastoral Care Committee Meeting – Wednesday, Jan 29 – 7:00 pm



St. John's Lay Pastoral Care Ministry is one of the most important ways parishioners can participate in the ministry of the Parish. Members of this vital ministry participate in reaching out to our homebound, hospitalized, and rehab parishioners with love and care by visitations and prayer. Some of our members will be licensed to carry the Blessed Sacrament to those unable to worship with. The critical work of keeping the 'connections strong and communications open' in collaboration with Father Tony is so important. Please consider coming to the meeting on the 29th and learn how you might become part of this wonderful and rewarding lay ministry.

CANCELLATION PROTOCOLS DURING WINTER STORMS

CANCELLATION ANNOUNCEMENT WILL BE ON THESE **TWO T.V. CHANNELS**

W. F. S. B ~ 3



St. John's Website



www.stjohnsniantic.org

W. V. I. T. – 4



EVENT BEING CANCELLED

- Sunday Holy Eucharist
- A.A & other 12-Step Mtgs.
- Wednesday Healing Eucharist
- ALL EVENING PARISH EVENTS

CANCELLATION POSTED BY:

- 6:00 am or earlier
- 12:00 noon or earlier
- 6:00 am or earlier
- 12:00 noon or earlier

**THEY IS NO PARKING ON ST. JOHN'S PROPERTY DURING SNOW STORMS
PLEASE ALLOW OUR CONTRACTOR TO DO THEIR JOB.**



A Stewardship Prayer



O God, in whose every creation
we discover a gift free given:
help us to understand
that all we have comes from
the outpouring of your generosity,
inspire in our hearts a
deep sense of gratitude,
and move us to share what we have
received with the same immensity
of spirit with which it was given.
May our gifts of substance and
service be an example of
Christ's enduring presence and
outreach to this community and
all beings.

Amen.

Sustaining the Church to

**GATHER
& GROW**

In Christ

2020 Stewardship Appeal Update

St. John's 2020 Stewardship Appeal returns are very encouraging. A huge "THANK YOU" to each and every 'household' that made a financial pledge of support for the work of our Parish Ministry!! To date, we have received Stewardship Pledges from 93 'households' representing \$281,179.00. Both figures represent a very modest increase over 2019. Stewardship Chairman Chip Flanagan will be reaching out to parishioners who have pledged in the past to encourage them to get their pledge cards in. Every pledge is important. The breakdown of those 93 Pledges for 2020 are as follows:

- 33 ++** 2019 Pledge Units were INCREASED over their level for 2020
 + Increases to 2020 Pledges = + \$11,403.00
- 32 +** 2019 Pledge Units were MAINTAINED at the same level for 2020
- 13 +++** NEW Pledge Units for 2020
 ~New Pledges for 2020 = ++ \$ 17,800.00
- 15 -** 2019 Pledge Units reduced for 2020
 ~ Decreases to 2020 Pledges = -- \$ 7,631.00
 ~ JUST 2 of the 15 decreased pledges
 represent 56% of the total amt.
- 9*** ● 2019 Pledges have NOT YET pledged for 2020 \$ 12,700.00
 ~ Estimate of late pledges likely to be received \$ 8,500.00
- 3** ☩ Pledged in 2019; deceased

Saint John's Outreach Grants in 2019

Toward the end of 2019, the Vestry voted to make three significant 'grants' from our Annual Outreach Budget.

\$2,000.00-New Life Ministry of S.E. CT, Old Lyme, CT is a not for profit corporation serving women being discharge from prison in the *greater* New London area for over 20 years. In her 'thank you letter', **Pres. Ann Perrot** writes: *"St. John's donation will help to continue to support our women so they can move on to an independent life. Again, thank you for your generous donation."*



\$2,000.00-Safe Futures, New London (formerly *the Women's Center of S.E. CT*) is a non-profit organization that, each year, serves over 7,000 women, children and men who are victims and survivors of **domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and trafficking**. Safe Futures Executive **Katherine Verano** expressed thanks this way: *"Your generous donation is extremely appreciated. We are so inspired by your generosity...you have become part of a survivor's healing process towards a life without abuse. You have saved their life, you have restored their hope in themselves, and you have changed their future."*



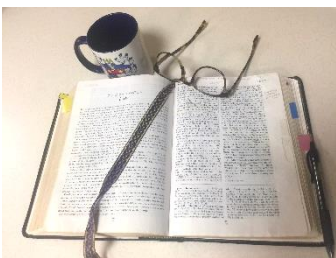
“Outreach Grants cont’d...”

\$2,000.00-Kateri Medical Services, Nigeria is a non-profit organization and ministry founded by Father Tom Furrer of the Diocese of Connecticut that provides critical medical care to **thousands** people in rural regions of the back country in this impoverished nation. **Kateri M.S.** now operate several clinics and have developed a close working relationship with the Anglican Dioceses of Kaduna, Gusau and Kafanchan to build and run clinics and collaborate with **FaithCare**, a faith-based non-profit organization based in Hartford, CT. Together they conduct intensive medical missions every summer. Since 2003 they have provided more than **200,000** people with medical care. **In 2018 alone, through their year-round clinics, Kateri Medical Services served a total of 16,745 people.**

In addition, St. John’s has contributed funds to the **Haiti Outreach Project** at St. John’s, led by Helen McDonald and Pricilla Wysocki and their team of volunteer dress makers, providing young children much needed clothing. They have delivered hundreds of beautiful garments to Haiti to date.

New

**“Saturday Morning Coffee with
MATTHEW, MARK, LUKE AND JOHN”**



Each Saturday morning at 9:00 a.m., we gather to explore and discuss Holy Scripture, issues of faith, spirituality and discipleship as Episcopalians. Our meetings are informal, welcoming and open to all. Right now we’re meeting in the Rector’s Study from 9:00 am ‘til about 10-10:30 depending on people’s schedules and availability.

Saint John’s Annual Parish Meeting is February 2nd

The Vestry, at it’s regular monthly meeting on Monday, January 13th, voted to schedule **St. John’s Annual Parish Meeting** on Sunday, February 2nd, the **Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord Jesus Christ**, following the 10:00 am Holy Eucharist. The meeting will be convened **in the church sanctuary. Refreshments will be located at the rear of the “Nave”** (where the congregation sits) **just inside the Narthex** (front entrance . At the meeting, the Vestry voted to approve the proposed Annual Parish Operating Budget for 2020. At this Annual Parish Meeting *Proposed NEW Parish By-Laws* will be voted on. Copies of the Annual Report, the proposed new Parish By-Laws AND the approved Parish Operating Budget will be distributed by email as an “attachment” to this newsletter in advance of the meeting for review. The Nominating Committee will present candidates for: Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Treasurer, Clerk, each for a one-year term, and three candidates to serve on the Vestry, each for a three-year term and two delegates to Diocesan Convention. Everyone is invited to attend this important Parish Meeting.



Who’s a “member’ and who has the right to vote?

What’s a “Communicant in Good Standing”?

Although it’s not like joining a health club or the Lions Club, the Episcopal Church does have membership standards defined by Canon Law: Title I, Canon 114 and Title 1, Canon

17.. They are **not** used to define who is “in” or who is “out”. All parishioners who are certified as **“Communicants-in-Good Standing”** are entitled to voice and vote at the Annual Parish Meeting, per the Constitutions and Canons of the Episcopal Church. ‘Communicants in Good Standing’ are: **“All communicants of this Church who for the previous year have been faithful in corporate worship, unless for good cause prevented, and have been faithful in working, praying and giving (financially) for the spread of the Kingdom of God, and have received the Sacrament of Holy Communion in this Church at least three times during the preceding 12 months are to be considered communicants in good standing, AS DETERMINED BY THE RECTOR”.** *(In doubt, talk to Fr. Tony +)*



Adults and youth who have received the **Sacrament of Confirmation** in another ‘catholic’ church, (e.g., Roman Catholic, Lutheran, Orthodox) and wish to make a commitment to the Episcopal Church are “received” by the Bishop at Confirmation. Speak to the Rector about preparing to be Confirmed or Received in the future.



An Expression of Our Posthumous Gratitude



In 2019, St. John’s bid farewell and commended to God those of us who died. Thanks be to God, that



two of those faithful parishioners we lost last year, **Peg O’Brien** (l) and **Judy Kaan**, (r) included the Parish of St. John’s Episcopal Church in their ‘estate’ planning. Because of their generosity and forethought, St. John’s was the beneficiary of their thoughtfulness. We are deeply grateful to them for their exemplary acts of stewardship and kindness.



“Almighty God, with whom still live the spirits of those who die in the Lord, and with whom the souls of the faithful are in joy and felicity: We give you heartfelt thanks for the good examples of all your servants, who, having finished their course in faith, now find rest and refreshment. May we, with all who have died in the true faith of your holy Name, have perfect fulfillment and bliss in your eternal and everlasting glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”

From the Book of Common Prayer (p 445)

*“The Minister of the Congregation is directed to instruct the people, from time to time, about the duty of Christian parents to make prudent provision for the well-being of their families, and of all persons to **make wills**, while they are in health, arranging for the disposal of their temporal goods, not neglecting, if they are able, to leave **bequests for religious and charitable uses.**”*

St. John’s Annual Christmas Bazaar and Basket Drawing

St. John’s Annual Christmas Bazaar was another success. Chairman Michael Cairns reports that we **netted \$ 8,119.66-** combining the revenue from all aspects of the event, another record.

“Division”

Bake Shoppe
Attic Treasures
Drawing Ticket Sales
Silent Auction
Luncheon



Net Income

609.80
729.06
3,538.00
2,560.00
682.00

Thank You to Everyone Who Helped Make This a Success
**Canon Boombotz Answers Recent Newcomers Questions
About Adult Reception into the Episcopal Church**



Have you recently (*in the past several years*) become part of the worship community here at St. John's Episcopal Church? Are wondering **how to become an official "member"**? Well, the Editorial Board of *The Lampstand* has reached out to **The Rev. Canon Dr. Vincent J. Boombotz**, an occasional contributing editor of this publication to address these commonly asked questions.

First, a word from the Editorial Board regarding Canon Boombotz. The venerable Canon is known for his unorthodox pedagogical method and blustering demeanor, lacking any semblance of humility. Nonetheless, the Good Canon is an encyclopedic treasure chest of ecclesiastical, philosophical and theological knowledge. In plain language, *the guy's a unparalleled reservoir of luminosity and pomposity*. Later this month, The Rev'd Cannon Vincent J. Boombotz, B.S., M.A., M.Div., D.Phil., J.D., Th.D., D.D., WMD, DMV, STP, AFL-CIO will be the principle speaker at this year's annual *Fugettaboudit Lecture Series* addressing the topic: **"WHAT THE BLAZES HAPPENED TO SEXAGESIMA SUNDAY?"** Tickets are \$300.

Q. "Dear Canon Boombotz, I came to St. John's after leaving the Roman Catholic Church where I was baptized as an infant and then Confirmed as a teenager. Must I be 're-baptized and re-confirmed' to be an Anglican in the Episcopal Church?"
signed: "Wondering in Waterford"

A. Dear "Wondering", just like you, I too was raised in the Roman Catholic Church. I was baptized, confirmed and even joined a Religious Order as a young man, the *Lackadaisical Fathers of Perpetual Apprehension*. Christians like yourself, having been baptized and confirmed in the Roman Catholic Church, or other 'sacramental' churches; the Lutheran Church or Orthodox churches, who make a conscious decision to become an Episcopalian are **NOT** re-baptized or re-confirmed. *"The Service of Confirmation"* with forms for *Reception* can be found in *The Book of Common Prayer* (p 413). "Reception" into the Anglican Communion is provided for adults wishing to make a public affirmation of their faith and commitment to the responsibilities of the Baptism in the presence of the Bishop. By the sacramental 'laying on of hands' by the bishop the 'candidate' welcomed as the Bishop prays: ***"WE RECOGNIZE YOU AS A MEMBER OF THE ONE HOLY CATHOLIC AND APOSTOLIC CHURCH AND WE RECEIVE YOU INTO THE FELLOWSHIP OF THIS (ANGLICAN) COMMUNION. GOD THE FATHER, SON AND HOLY SPIRIT, BLESS, PRESERVE, AND KEEP YOU. AMEN."***

Q. Dear "Boomer", our family just recently began worshipping at St. John's Episcopal Church, Niantic. This really is our *first church as a family*. My husband grew up with little or no experience with religion or church. He always said they were "some kind of Protestant", but they never went to church. I was raised Roman Catholic, but stopped attending church in college. Our two children haven't been baptized. We feel very welcomed here, we like the fact that the parish does lots of outreach, and the mass, or as they say, the Holy Eucharist, is pretty close to Catholic. Is it Catholic or Protestant?

signed: "Re-inspired"

A. Dear "Re-Inspired", Right out of the "shoot", to address your question: **"Is it Catholic or Protestant?"**, the answer is **"YES"!** **Anglicans consider themselves both Catholic and Reformed or "Protestant".** **CATHOLIC** in that we retained the liturgical and sacramental theology and ethos of the early church; protestant or **REFORMED** in the sense of being a church always open to reformation and renewal. You see, the Anglican Communion, and all the Anglican and Episcopal churches trace their history back to when the Catholic Church in England broke away from the Roman Catholic Church following the **English Reformation**. **Episcopalians/Anglicans** maintain the belief that bishops are successors to the apostles and that episcopal authority is derived from the apostles by unbroken succession. The Apostolic Succession is continued in the bishops of the Episcopal Church, who seek to "carry on the apostolic work

of leading, supervising, and uniting the Church” (BCP, p. 510) Other denominations don’t get to tell us who we are.

Shoreline Soup Kitchens and Pantries Create a New Opportunity for Supporting the Fight Against Food Insecurity

St. John’s Episcopal Church is the HOST SITE for Shoreline Soup Kitchens and Pantries (SSKP) . Every Thursday from 5-6 pm food is distributed to every guest who comes through the doors of St. John’s. Our ‘client’ numbers have been increasing, but our budgets haven’t kept pace. We depend mostly on volunteer staff made up of parishioners of St. John’s, members of other faith communities and volunteers from the wider community of Niantic-East Lyme. We always welcome new volunteers during the day on Thursday. Volunteers of all abilities and skills are welcome.

The New Initiative: “FOOD OF THE MONTH” Appeal

This is a new opportunity for parishioners to participate in augmenting SSKP food supplies, as partners.

EACH MONTH WE WILL IDENTIFY and POST A SPECIFIC NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEM.

BEGINNING IN FEBRUARY THE FOOD OF THE MONTH WILL BE

CEREAL

Sunday Feb. 2

we will provide COLLECTION BINS in the Narthex and in the Slype.

Each month, on the FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH we will collect that month’s Food of the Month which will be

SOUP

to be collected on

Sunday March 2.

THE MONTHLY LIST OF FIRST SUNDAYS AND THE “FOOD OF THE MONTH” WILL BE POSTED.



On The Lighter Side



“We seem to be getting away from the separation of church and state.”

