

The

Lampstand



The Newsletter of Saint John's Episcopal Church

"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."

Summer No.

July

2019

St. John's Annual Parish Picnic

Come and celebrate with all your friends and fellow parishioners at Saint John's Annual Parish Picnic this coming Sunday, June 30th. The festivities begin immediately following the 10:00 am Celebration of Holy Eucharist.



THERE WILL BE TWO SERVICES THIS SUNDAY AT 8 AND 10 AM IN THE CHURCH. Once again, Rogers Field will be the site of our 'end of year' gathering. Picnic-goers are encouraged to bring a dish or dessert to share: St. John's will provide the hamburgers, franks, and Italian sausage with all the 'fixin's' as well as soft drinks and bottled water. Tables will be set up under tents in case of a shower. **Please bring a comfortable lawn chair or picnic blanket and your favorite summer lawn game.** Parishioners wishing to bring their own beverages are asked to use discretion.



Youth Sunday Celebrated on Pentecost

The Feast of Pentecost was celebrated in conjunction with St. John's Annual Youth Sunday, marking the end of the "Program Year" and weekly Church School activities. Our parish children and young people served in a wide variety of capacities during the 10:00 liturgy. It was a great celebration of the gift of children and young people, and the important role they all play in the life of the parish.



Vacation Bible School: Aug. 5 - 9



“ATHENS” is V.B.S. Theme

Registration for St. John’s Vacation Bible School is OPEN.

Registration Forms are available in the Parish Office.



Volunteer Sign-Up for VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL is posted in the Slype. PLEASE consider giving up one morning or more to make this a great experience for our VBS kids. We are also looking for one person to be “Program Coordinator” while we search for a new Dir. of Youth and Ed. Min.

Canon Jack W. Spaeth, III

Jack W. Spaeth, III, retired Canon for Stewardship and Administration for the Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut, died on April 15, 2019 after a long illness. Jack began his full-time service to the Diocese in 1980 at the invitation of the Rt. Rev’d Arthur Walmsley, 12th Diocesan Bishop and would continue to serve under four Bishops of Connecticut; Walmsley, Bishop Clarence Coleridge, Bishop Andrew Smith and Bishop Douglas, the 15th Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut. Jack was a ‘pillar’ of the Diocese of Connecticut who is remembered for his faithfulness, commitment, good humor and leadership. There was a time in the diocese when *“everyone knew Jack”*. He was the nearly indispensable connection for hundreds of rectors and other clergy for “all things financial” and so much more. About the only thing Jack never did very well was to keep track of his eyeglasses, which he found again and again, perched on the top of his big bald head. Jack’s office in the old Diocesan House on Asylum Street in Hartford was the first door on the left, and Jack was always a welcoming presence. On most days, visitors would have to crane their necks to make eye contact with Jack, perched there behind an assortment of stacks and stacks of files, papers and reports- *and he knew where every thing was!* Jack may not have been indispensable, but he was and continues to be irreplaceable.



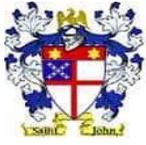
“Rest eternal grant unto him O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him.” + .

A Memorial Holy Eucharist will be celebrated in Christ Church Cathedral, Hartford, this Saturday morning, June 29th, the Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul at 10:30 a.m. All are welcome to attend.



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Saint John's Summer Carnival Fun



July 19, 20, 21

St. John's Summer Carnival is just around the corner! The fun begins Friday, July 19th and runs through Sunday afternoon, July 21st on St. John's Green. Along with being a time of great family fun, our Summer Carnival is also one of our

prime FUNDRAISERS.



< Co-Chairs Annette and Dick Hall are hard at work recruiting PARISHIONER VOLUNTEERS for the three-day event. "Volunteer Sign-Up Rosters" are posted in the Slype (outside the Parish Office). Again this summer, we're counting on a high level of participation from everyone able to contribute time and effort to make this another great success. Carnival Posters are available to be posted around the wider community to publicize the carnival. Please take a poster or two and put them up around in store windows and



other places where they'll be seen (with the property owner's permission)

Please remember to keep your stewardship pledge up to date during the summer.



St. John's financial responsibilities don't take a vacation.



Search Continues For a New Dir. of Youth and Ed. Ministries



Saint John's said "Goodbye and God's Speed" to DYEM Amanda Murray and her family on Pentecost/Youth Sunday. A Special Reception was celebrated in the Parish House following the 10:00 am Holy Eucharist that Sunday. Amanda, Ian and their children were honored that day for the all-too short time they were so much a part of St. John's. They were presented with a series of framed family photos/portraits and a gift 'purse' of \$2,000.00 Amanda's ministry was a blessing to us all and with the inspiration of the Holy Spirit St. John's will continue this ministry with a new Director of Youth and Education Ministries of St. John's Parish when we complete our Search.

Summer Worship Schedule Begins July 7th

Each Sunday, beginning on the 4th Sunday after Pentecost, July 7, 2019, St. John's will offer **ONE SUNDAY EUCHARIST at 9:00 am**. This schedule will continue to run through and include Sunday, Sept. 1st. **One Monthly Healing Eucharist** will be celebrated on Wednesday, July 17th and Wednesday, August 17th at 11:00 a.m. Each Sunday we'll share "Lemonade on the Lawn" after the service. Please consider volunteering to prepare and set up these light refreshments for one Summer Sunday. Please speak to Laura Stefanski, Asst. to the Rector or Sr. Warden Pam Graham for more information about what's involved to provide this simple act of hospitality.

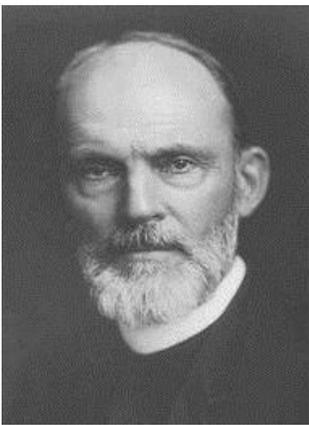


The McCook Family and Saint John's Episcopal Church

The Rev'd Dr. John James McCook +

1843- 1927

John James McCook, pastor, professor and theologian, was born in New Lisbon, Ohio Feb. 4, 1843. He was the last surviving member of the famous "**Fighting McCooks**", a family of Ohioans made up of brothers Daniel and John McCook and their 13 sons who contributed 15 members of the McCook family to the Union army during the Civil War. Six McCook's attained the rank of brigadier general or higher. Father McCook was a chaplain in the Union Army during the American Civil War with the rank of lieutenant. He graduated from Trinity College, Hartford, CT in 1863. He was ordained a Priest of the Episcopal Church and served as Rector in Episcopal parishes in Detroit, Michigan and East Hartford, Connecticut. He served in the Eastern Theater of the War as a chaplain with the rank of lieutenant in the 1st West Virginia Infantry. He was a professor at his alma mater, Trinity College, Hartford, Connecticut for 30 years. His former home, the Butler-McCook House is Hartford's oldest standing home and is open for tours given by the historical society there.

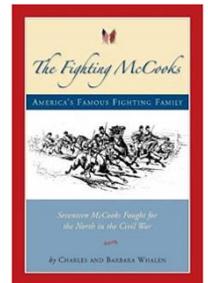


In 1869, four years after the end of the Civil War, in which he was wounded, **Father McCook** started summering with his family in a large "cottage" they build on a bluff overlooking Niantic Bay.



In 1872 McCook began holding Sunday Episcopal worship services, initially for family and summer house guests in the home's parlor. St. John's Mission was born. Eventually, as many as 80 Anglicans/Episcopalians would attend. In 1891 the New London Archdeaconry of the Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut assigned the Rev'd Theodore Peck to the Mission

and a Fund was established by Fr. McCook, accepting offerings and hoping to someday build a chapel. Winter services were held in the old Millstone Point Schoolhouse, Waterford or the home of a Mrs. Warren on Main St. in Niantic. By 1899, after eight years of raising funds and with the help of the Diocesan Archdeaconry and Miss Celeste Bush, St. John's Chapel was built in the fall of 1899



for a total cost of \$1172.00 on the present site of Saint John's Green on Main St. The structure came to be known as "The Little Green Church". A Parish Hall was built in 1938, the same year that the Great Hurricane of '38 swept through Connecticut and most of New England. and the Northeast.



Saint John's Mission, now **St. John's Episcopal Church**, was declared a Parish by the Bishop and the Diocese on March

31, 1965. On June 14, 1970, a new Church was dedicated on the corner of McCook Place and Main St., across from the original Chapel where the present building stands today. Today, the Niantic Community enjoys the waterfront vistas at McCook Point, located on the site of the family's former summer home, overlooking Niantic Bay.

