



Crossroads Lent - Easter Time 2016

Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday, March 20th- Services at 8:00am and 10:00am

Maundy Thursday, March 24th - Service at 7:00pm

Good Friday, March 25th - Services at Noon and 7:00pm

Easter Sunday, March 27th - Services at 8:00am and 10:00am with an Easter Egg Hunt to follow

Other Dates

April 9th, Saturday at St. Paul's in Brunswick - Diocesan sponsored day of learning. More details to follow.

April 23rd- Saturday from 5:00pm-9:00pm - Newcomers and all, St. George's "Dragon Roasted" pizza party, game night, movie, music and fun for all

April 24th - Sunday, one service 9:00am - St. George's, 115 years strong - Brunch to follow

April 29th-30th - 50¢ Clothing Sale, set-up Thursday, April 28th

May 1st - Ladies Luncheon hosted by Rev. Susan (details to follow)

Your Vestry

The Vestry that has been elected to serve you is always available to listen and to act. Marie Bean Sr. Warden, Tammy Chadbourne, Jr. Warden, Kathleen Whalin Clerk, Maria Lantagne, Treasurer, Lee Perkins, Gary Samia, Donna Hansen, Jeremy Mitchell and Christine McFarland.

Health Ministry

Health Ministry has made available for all, prescription recording cards - one for your car and one for your home freezer. In case of an emergency, it is so helpful for the medical staff if you have your list ready. It saves a great deal of time and can save a life. Pick up yours today if you have prescriptions.



Bishopswood Wishing Well

The Vestry is committing \$4000 for the fundraiser to assist Bishopswood in their septic system project. The last time the system was updated was 1968 and now there is greater demand. We already donated \$1000 last summer to help the pumping through the later part of the season, when the system failed and the need was great. Every year St. George's sends campers to Bishopswood, several of them from our neighborhood. This year in addition to that need, we are being asked to step up and make camp happen. Rev. Susan is now the President of the Board of Trustees for Bishopswood and is appreciative of all that is being done on our part.

Spring Book Study

Jean Cavanaugh will hold a book study on "The Power of Now" by Eckhart Tolle. It will be held at St. George's on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday night of the month in the Parish Office: April 12th, 26th; May 10th, 24th; June 14th and 28th from 6:45 to 8:00 pm. "A word-of-mouth phenomenon since its first publication, "The Power of Now" is one of those rare books with the power to create an experience in readers - one that can radically change their lives for the better." Oprah said, "It can transform your thinking....The result? More Joy, right now!" A sign-up sheet will be placed on the Ministry Board. If you have any questions please contact Jean at Cavanaugh_Jean@yahoo.com

Women's Retreat

The women held their annual retreat February 12-14 with the theme "Keep me as the apple of your eye." Psalm 17:8. Opportunities for conversation, presentations by Rev. Susan, prayer, art, music and stories with plenty of laughter marked this annual event.



Rector's Report for 2015

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

(1 Corinthians 12:12-13) “For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body - Jews or Greeks, slaves or free - and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.” Paul reminds us that we are all connected and this year has been one of deep connection not only with our worshipping community, but with so many outside these sacred walls. So we gather this day, as is our custom, in the midst of Holy Scripture and Holy Communion to review and celebrate the past and look to our future. I will report on the 2015 year of our ministry together using the 5 practices of a Fruitful Congregation.



Radical Hospitality – Not only are we to welcome to worship all who enter this place, but we are also called to share as good stewards the buildings that former generations worked so hard to build for us. Along with the 8 AA meetings held each week, we hosted a new group of young people who were working on their recovery. Supported by skilled counselors from The Southern Maine Alternative to Residential Treatment, 7 young people ages 13-17 received 48 sessions of intensive group therapy to address their addictions. We made sure they had healthy snacks and juice so they could focus on the work before them. Did you know close to 25+ youth attend our monthly Nerf Night coordinated by our Youth Ministry Facilitator Matt Westerlund. We make sure they have safety glasses, good food, and some additional supplies for these games. Parents and youth take advantage of the Cooking Matters program that we support by giving them a space to meet. Supper Club Kids were welcomed through May and we are now looking to develop a more advanced program that involves community volunteering along with cooking for our renewed KIDS SUPPER CLUB. In late Spring we provided three celebratory dinners for students and their parents from three elementary schools as part of the Sanford Schools KIDS CLUB. A wonderful community concert was held in July featuring the Maranatha Youth Choir from Virginia, and we made sure they were well fed and given lodging for the night. Many local folks joined us for this event.

Passionate Worship - Every Sunday and on other special occasions, we gather as one to worship God. Helping to make our services to go well, with good order and enthusiasm is a group of Greeters, Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Choir members and a dedicated Altar Guild who prepare the altar. This year we got out of our comfort zone for 5 weeks and tried a different seating arrangement with chairs and more contemporary services. We were reminded by our Senior Warden, Marie Bean, that we are all connected and making changes that in some cases challenge us, please us and often help us to see other ways of praying together are all part of making worship alive and growing. Our “Sundaes” on Tuesday with an outdoor service and ice cream to follow grew each week while using a Celtic Eucharist that calls to mind our prayers for the whole of Creation and a God who created it and has left us as its stewards. Our Choir expands for major feast days and our youth bell choir always adds a celebratory sound on Christmas.

Intentional Faith Development - We plan activities and programs for all ages. During Lent we studied the book “Being Christian” by the former Archbishop of Canterbury Roman Williams and in the Fall we used the book “Crazy Christians” by our new Presiding Bishop Michael Curry. Over 20 women attended our Annual Retreat in January. Ann O’Sullivan, who was doing her formation for the diaconate, provided a Lenten Program on Sunday mornings addressing the needs of the hungry called “Love Your Neighbor, Feed the Hungry.” Christine McFarland prepared lessons each week for our younger children and this Fall handed this ministry that she has done for over 20 years, to Terri Marriott. We provide meditation books for daily prayer and keep a library table in the narthex so folks can browse and borrow spiritual reading books.

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Rector's Report for 2015 Continued

Risk Taking Mission and Ministry - We continue to find ways to serve the people outside our walls and this year many volunteers and donations made our CROP WALK for hunger and our Communities Care Day a great success. Supporting recovery programs for youth through SMART, Southern Maine Alternative for Residential Treatment and SIRP, Student Intervention and Re-integration program does make a difference, not only in the lives of these youth, but in the overall health of our communities. We continue to support the Corner Cupboard, the Sanford Food Pantry and make camp available to neighborhood youth by generous donations from St. Mary's Guild and parishioners. Weekly services are held at the Pre-Release Women's Center at the York County Jail and St. Mary's also picked up the cost of the books for a class entitled "Picking up the Pieces" facilitated by Rev. Susan with Ann O'Sullivan in the Winter and Spring and with Jean Cavanaugh in the Fall. Our hope to get the Teen Hospitality Center and Home up and running is still in its infancy and we plan on making greater headway in 2016.

Extravagant Generosity - This year was a banner year for our outreach and making a difference in our community. Through collections of donated food, clothing and supplies, depositing CLYNK bags, financial donations, St. Mary's Guild and a discretionary account that helped so many, we gave \$16, 938.48 in cash that not only gave a hand out but a hand up to so many. A complete list is available on the Ministry Board. This year we reached our goal for Stewardship and for the first time since the recession we have been able to cover all expenses without tapping into the Reserve. None of this would be possible without the generosity of so many all working together for the Common Good.

In 2015 we said goodbye and celebrated the lives of Jeanne Samoden, Marion Blackwell, Jacqueline Parent, Glenn Clarke, and Nancy Watson. We offered burial services for three other individuals, although not parishioners, who had connections with St. George's. We had one baptism and one marriage.

I am very grateful to Rev. Wanda Thompson our deacon who serves on the altar each Sunday and helps co-facilitate our Health Ministry with Mary Field, Dr. Morton Gold who makes sure we have music on Sunday that lifts our hearts and voices in song, Matt Westerlund who helps make our connections with the community through Strategies for a Stronger Sanford impacting youth in many facets of it coalition and for Mona Ouellette, Administrative Assistant who makes the office run smoothly and for Bill Ouellette who keeps the church buildings clean and ready for the over 225+ folk who use it each week in addition to our church services and events.

God has blessed us with generous people, gifted folk who share their talents and a church family that rises to every challenge set before them. As your priest it is a humbling experience for me to be surrounded with such a cloud of witnesses. St. Paul was right then and he is still right today, we are one in the Spirit, we are all called to serve and what we do here matters and keeps us connected. May our God who is loving and generous to us all, continue to walk with us as we meet the many challenges and needs of our neighbors.

God Bless you all, for you are a blessing to me and to so many. Susan+