



St. George's Episcopal Church

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stgeorgesanford@gmail.com • www.stgeorgesanford.org

CROSSROADS

Fall 2023



Fall has arrived with haste after a rather rainy summer. Oh, how we wish we could have one more beach day! But there's a lot that we are looking forward to. Apple crisps, cozy nights by the fire and other seasonal favorites with loved ones will be just as great!

This summer brought us a lot to celebrate— we

have seen more newcomers and returning members at St. George's. We welcome all who find themselves learning about the faith, looking to reconnect with the church or simply stopping by.

We have a lot coming up in the next few months and not all can be covered here. We are still putting together plans around Christmas and other holiday festivities. Please keep your eyes peeled for announcements on our website, social media channels and in the weekly order of service for updates about those events.

In the meantime, please enjoy this latest version of *Crossroads*.

Inside this *Crossroads*

Message From Fr. Steve • Summer Community Events
Search Committee • Things to Look Forward to

Stay up to date!

Events come up and details may change from time to time. We want to make sure you know about it! Sign up for emails on our website, which is stgeorgesanford.org. There you can see the updates on our website site too. While you're at it, give us a follow on Facebook (St. George's Episcopal Church - Sanford, Maine), Instagram (@stgeorgesanford) and YouTube (@stgeorgesanford). We look forward to e-connecting with you!



From the desk of Fr. Steve

"Now let us praise famous men and women. And our fathers and mothers in their generations. The Lord apportioned to them great glory."

Ecclesiasticus 44:1-2

I love the month of October with its crisp mornings and warm afternoons.

The daylight is diminishing and that is a bit sad, but the foliage explodes in brilliant color. The reds, oranges, and yellows of our New England maple trees lift the spirits. There is the promise of a first frost before the month ends. At times we even see a snow flurry or two in October!

With autumn in full swing, I must give up my delusion that summer is still hanging on.

At the end of October, we usher in November with the celebration of All Saints'. All Saints' Day is November 1. The Book of Common Prayer allows the observance of All Saints to be transferred to the Sunday following November **and that is when we will celebrate this feast here at St. George's**. We will honor and remember all the Christian saints known and unknown.

All Saints' is one of the seven principal feast days in the Episcopal calendar. It is an ancient observance. Early Christians wanted to honor and remember their ancestors, who were persecuted and died for their faith in the risen Lord.

St. Ephrem Syrus, whose writings date to the mid 300's, makes reference to such a feast. A bit later, St. Chrysostom relates that the first Sunday after Pentecost had been assigned as the date for the observance of All Saints'. The current date of November 1" seems to come from the time of Pope Gregory III in the 700's.

Details for our observance of All Saints' will be included in the Sunday bulletins during the month of October. Keep watch!



Blessings and cheers,
Fr. Steve

Fr. Steve with Deacon Jean during a service this summer. We have really enjoyed his time with us— from the football references to lessons from his family. St. George's is grateful for Fr. Steve coming to serve our church as we continue to look for a permanent rector.



Summer Time Festivities

St. George's Goes to 'Godspell'

August 5th marked what I hope is the church's first annual trip to Hackmatack Playhouse, our local summer theater, located just south of Sanford in rural Berwick.

Encouraged by a group discount deal, 14 of us enjoyed an afternoon performance of the musical *Godspell*. The weather was lovely and the cast talented— all that an amateur theater group should be. Stay tuned for next year's encore! -Kathleen Whalin



Beautification of the Church in the Works

The garden in front of the church is a work in progress! Many parish members have helped with transplants, weeding, and ongoing plans. Lester also recently painted the ramp to a lovely orange color. Big thanks to all who continue to contribute! -Vicky Lynn

Parish Picnic Serves up Connections Among Congregation

On July 30th, right after the service, we had a little parish picnic. This year, the vestry brought all the food for everyone to enjoy. Fortunately for us, we have quite the grilling experts among us!



JUMBLE Sale Another Big Success with New Format

The annual Jumble/Yard Sale was held on August 12th with many items that were donated by parish members and friends of the church. A new format was used for pricing and set up, which was make a donation of what you feel the item is worth and place in one of the many donation jars on the tables. Most of the items were inside the Parish Hall on tables of like items. There were larger items outside in the parking lot and on tables. It was a beautiful sunny and warm day with many people stopping by to make a purchase. We collected about \$1500 which will be used towards heating oil this winter. Thank you everyone for your donations and help for this annual event. -Sara Gauthier



Fall 50 Cent Clothing Sale Brings in a Whole Lot of Change

The fall sale was held on September 30th from 9 to 2 p.m. There was more than enough clothing for everyone that came to shop and we saw many pieces go out the door into the community. All clothing that was left was boxed and taken to North Parish Church for their clothing closet. Thank you to all who donated clothing and helped set up on Friday and work on Saturday. As always, everything came together perfect. I would also like to give a huge thank you to Jacob and Lester who set up all the racks on Friday and took them down on Saturday as well as carrying ALL THE BOXES AND BAGS down from storage upstairs! We look forward to our next sale, which will be in April 2024. Start saving up your change now! -Sara Gauthier



A Lovely Night out at Goodall Park

A group of church members had fellowship and fun at a Sanford Mainer's baseball game on June 29th. I believe I can speak for everyone in our small group and say that we had a wonderful time. Unfortunately, our cheering wasn't enough to help them win the game. Oh well— next time! -Sara Gauthier

The Mayaya Family Continues to Flourish

Earlier this summer, a group of about 100 people seeking asylum in the U.S. suddenly arrived in the area, including the Mayaya Family. They are a family of five, which includes a newborn. St. George's stepped up to "adopt" them. Since then, the family has been thriving. Jules, the father, is pursuing a job in the healthcare field. Julio, one of the kids, is enjoying school. The family is becoming part of the Sanford community. We have extended a welcome should they want to join us at the church some time in the future. -Rachel Driscoll

Road for Hope Stays Here

A group with Saint Anselm College in New Hampshire did a pilgrimage in the late summer. Students walk the whole way down from Lewiston to the college as a fundraiser for charity. They reached out to us, hoping to stay in the church for the night, which we were able to accommodate.



Clothing Giveaway Helps Asylum Seekers & Community Members

On August 26th, St. George's sponsored a clothing giveaway for those in need in the Sanford area. Many area churches and individuals donated clothing for this event. Over a hundred people were able to find much-needed clothing, including many of our newly-arrived citizens. Thanks as always for those who chipped in by ensuring the event ran smoothly! –Rachel Driscoll



Baby Blessings Experiences Baby Boom

The Baby Blessings ministry was started about five years ago by our beloved Marie Bean. Marie saw a need for mothers with young children at the end of the month when funds were tight to have a place to go to get the essentials for their children, diapers, wipes, occasionally formula or baby food. We started off slowly maybe two or three moms a month that grew to five or six. Donations from the parishioners sustains us each year.

It's been a year of great growth with the arrival of the New Mainers in Sanford. Our numbers have jumped from eight a month to 32 a month now. We lost Marie in April of 2021, but Baby Blessings lives on in her memory. She would be sooo happy to see what her little idea has done.

With help from outside our church community, we have met the rise in numbers. We welcome donations of cash or product. –Maria Lantagne

Things to look forward to

Book Study Starting Soon

Deacon Jean is starting up another book club and we are very excited for it! Join her on Sundays after service starting on October 22nd. This will run for several weeks. The book she has selected is 'Ladder to the Light: An Indigenous Elder's Meditations on Hope and Courage'. Published by Broadleaf Books, it is available in print and digital formats (\$13-18) from a variety of sources. Jean also has some free copies available— please just ask!

In the book, Bishop Charleston, a Choctaw elder known by many Episcopalians for his daily meditations on social media, explores spiritual resilience and practices in accessible, practical reflections.

In the same voice that has comforted and challenged countless readers through his daily social media posts, Choctaw elder and Episcopal priest Steven Charleston offers words of hard-won hope, rooted in daily conversations with the Spirit and steeped in Indigenous wisdom. Every day Charleston spends time in prayer. Every day he writes down what he hears from the Spirit. In Ladder to the Light he shares what he has heard with the rest of us and adds thoughtful reflection to help guide us to the light.

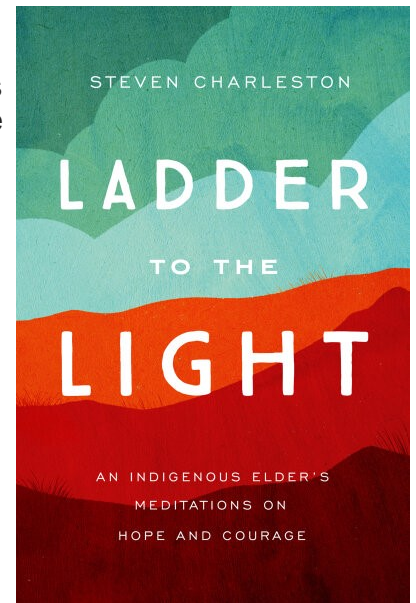
Native America knows something about cultivating resilience and resisting darkness. For all who yearn for hope, Ladder to the Light is a book of comfort, truth, and challenge in a time of anguish and fear.

New Nametags Still in the Works

Mal has been working on new nametags. He has completed them, however there was a slight hiccup! The sleeves for the nametags are in the sanctuary, which we can't currently use or go through. Once those are cleaned thoroughly or replaced, he will have those completed!

Spend Some of Your Saturday Morning at the Men's Breakfast

Every month, a group of men from the church gather at the Hen House in Lebanon for breakfast. Richard organizes and leads those who attend in casual conversation. The date occasionally changes, but is generally held early in the month. From time to time, it may be held in conjunction with the Lion's Club breakfast in Acton. Questions? Contact Richard at jones@psouth.net.



OCTOBER 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 18th Sunday after Pentecost Service at 9 am Coffee Hour after	2 NA- 1 to 3:30 pm AA- 6:30 pm	3 AA- noon MAP- 5 to 7 pm	4 AA- 6:30 pm	5 NAMI- 6:30 pm	6 AI-Anon-10:30 am NA-6 to 8:30 pm	7 Blessing of the animals- 11 am in the church parking lot
8 19th Sunday after Pentecost Service at 9 am Coffee Hour after	9 NA- 1 to 3:30 pm AA- 6:30 pm	10 AA-noon Lions Club-7 pm	11 AA- 6:30 pm	12	13 AI-Anon-10:30 am NA-6 to 8:30 pm	14 Men's Breakfast- 8 a.m. at the Hen House Café in Lebanon
15 20th Sunday after Pentecost Service at 9 am Coffee Hour after	16 NA- 1 to 3:30 pm AA- 6:30 pm	17 AA- noon	18 AA- 6:30 pm Vestry- 6:20 pm in church office	19 NAMI- 6:30 pm	20 AI-Anon-10:30 am NA-6 to 8:30 pm	21
22 21st Sunday after Pentecost Service- 9 am Coffee & book club after	23 NA- 1 to 3:30 pm AA- 6:30 pm	24 AA-noon Lions Club-7 pm	25 AA- 6:30 pm	26	27 AI-Anon-10:30 am NA-6 to 8:30 pm	28 Baby Blessings- 10 am to noon
29 22nd Sunday after Pentecost Service- 9 am Coffee & book club after	30 NA- 1 to 3:30 pm AA- 6:30 pm	 St. George's Episcopal Church 3 Emerson Street, Sanford, Maine 04073 207-344-8119 • stgeorges Sanford@gmail.com www.stgeorges Sanford.org facebook.com/stgeorges Sanford 				

Calendar Copies Available

Mal is switching things up a little with this edition of *Crossroads*. While there is no copy of the next few calendars included this time, there are printed versions available at the church. More information about other community group meetings (like AA or NA) can be found on our website.

The calendar is also regularly updated as changes arise on our website and in the weekly e-newsletter. Contact stgeorges Sanford@gmail.com if you would like us to send you one directly.

Other Recent Church Business

Vestry Report on Latest Happenings

Meetings were held over the summer but the group took August off. For those who have not heard, unfortunately, mold was found in the sanctuary. It has been very humid and damp for long periods of time this summer and other places are experiencing this problem.

We are taking steps to address the root of the issue and take care of the space so it can continue to be enjoyed in the future. For now, we will not use that area of the church. There will be more to share on that soon. We appreciate your understanding.

Also, we will be reaching out to see if anyone is interested in serving on the vestry for the coming year soon. For now, please pray about the opportunity to serve. -Keren Gilpatrick



St. George's Church is actively searching for a new priest

Things are moving along with our search for a permanent rector. This summer, a seven-member search committee was given a blessing from Fr. Steve. The group includes: Conrad Grenier, Chairperson; Linda Samia, scribe or secretary; Maria Lantagne, treasurer; Sara Gauthier, Junior Warden on the vestry; Kevin Driscoll; Robert Oelschlager; and Keren Gilpatrick, Senior Warden on the vestry.

Part of the search committee's duties is to answer 12 questions sent to us by the Diocese. We began the process with the questions answered by the vestry.

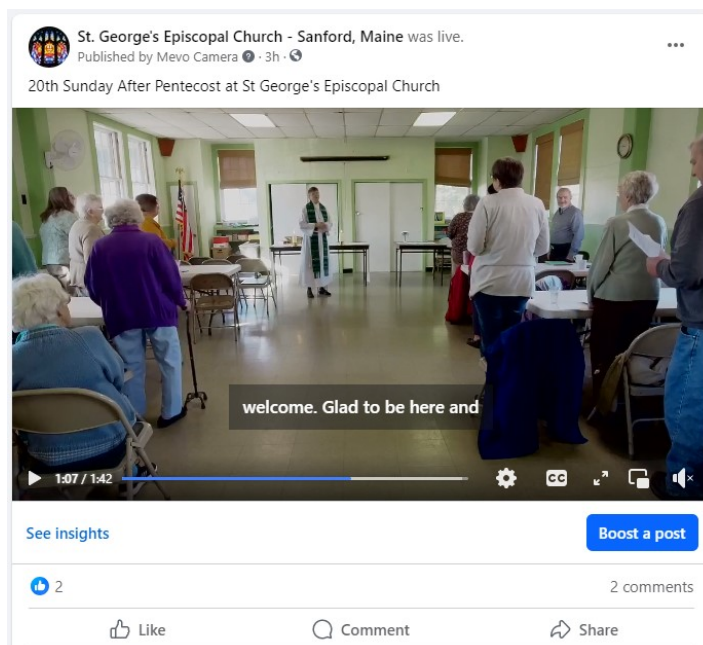
The next step was to involve the entire parish family. We spent two Sundays at the coffee hour getting ideas from the parish. This was then handed over to a group of three to consolidate. It was then brought back to the committee to finalize and send off to the Diocesan Canon to review. She had some suggestions for us.

This work continues and the group will be sure to keep the rest of the congregation regularly informed on where this stands. –Conrad Grenier

Where to Watch When You Can't Make it to Church on Sunday

Each week, we stream our services live on Facebook in an effort to reach those who may be sick, unable to travel to us or just curious to see what we're all about. While we only get a handful of views, we know that this service is very valuable to those who do use it. This will continue on even post-pandemic.

Another ask— Mal has been uploading previous services to YouTube in an effort to reach more people. If you use YouTube, please be sure to 'subscribe'. If we get about a dozen more followers, we will be able to livestream there too! Just search for St. George's Episcopal Church in Sanford, Maine.



The 2022 Vestry

The Vestry has been elected to serve you and is always available to listen and to act.

Keren Gilpatrick, Senior Warden (2022-2025)

Sara Gauthier, Junior Warden (2021-2024)

Maria Lantagne, Treasurer

Rachel Driscoll, Clerk (2021-2024)

Donna Hansen (2021-2024)

Gary Samia (2022-2025)

Cathy Larson (2022-2025)

Vicky Lynn (2023-2026)

Rev. Jean Cavanaugh, Deacon



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Who We Are

St. George's is a welcoming, loving community that strives to live into what it means to be the church in the world. In the heart of Sanford, we seek to be of service and support to the community around us. Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, you are welcome here! All walks of life, all identities, all abilities, ALL are welcome here, no exceptions.

We recognize the Abenaki tribe of the Wabanaki Confederacy (People of the Dawnland), the indigenous peoples in whose territory our church home was built. As Episcopalians, we repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery, repent of our colonizing history which resulted in generations of harm to the native people of this land, and seek to learn and understand how we may take part in the ongoing work of healing.

More information about this can be found on our website and in the church. We encourage others to take part in this journey with us.

Our Mission Statement:

We are a welcoming, accepting Christian Community that worships God through Jesus Christ fostering love, learning, and spiritual growth which enables us to reach out in service to others.

Fr. Steve Fales, Interim Priest

Rev. Jean Cavanaugh, Deacon

Dr. Morton Gold, Organist

Jacob Zwain, Sexton

Mal Meyer, Office Administrator

For pastoral care, please contact the office at (207) 324-8119 or email the church for a quicker response

We have just one service at 9 a.m. each Sunday with coffee hour to follow



All are welcome— no exceptions!

