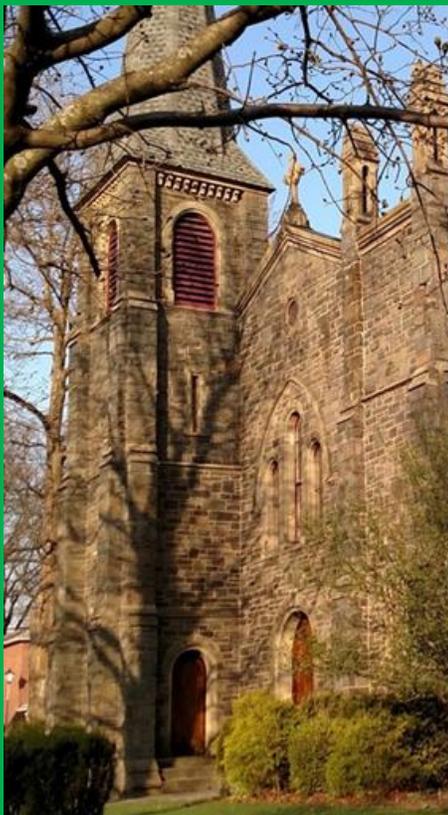
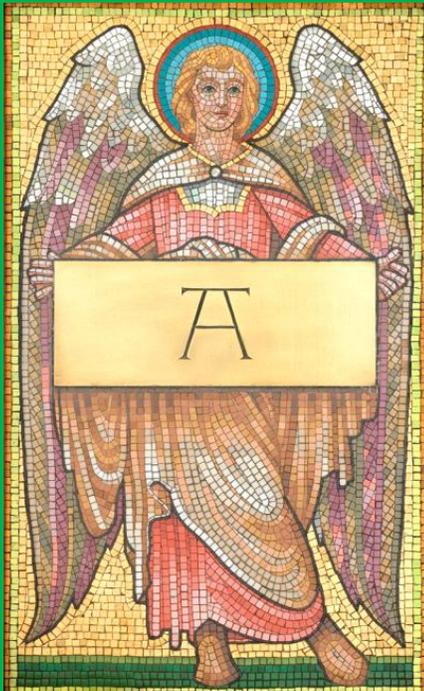


# St. John's Episcopal Church Kingston, NY

September 2018

## *The Good News of St. John's*



### Spiritual Lessons from the Big Book

I had a pile of books set aside to read this summer but I've found myself drawn to the Big Book lately, which is the nickname given to the book for Alcoholics Anonymous. The book was printed for the first time in 1935 and it remains a seminal spiritual text. The reason is that because while there are some biological reasons for substance addiction, the lessons of recovery work are deeply spiritual and their wisdom speaks to all of us.

What wisdom? Seeking God's help. It's that simple. But it's harder than we think, most of the time. It can be so easy in our society to get hooked on the idea of "having it all together" or "being able to have it all." But that thinking can be a trap because we end up believing that if we don't have it all together, either we are at fault or someone else is at fault. It can make us feel deep shame and resentment. But for the most part, we're all doing the best that we can.

We begin by identifying those times we need to ask for God's help. When we find ourselves frustrated or anxious we put aside our idea of what should be happening, and we ask, "God, please help me do what you would have me do." When we find ourselves lonely, we stop and ask, "God, who would you have me reach out to?" When we find ourselves with a lack of resources, we ask, "God, what do I really need?"

What this ultimately means is that we learn to forgive – forgive ourselves for not living up to our own expectations, forgive other people for not living up to the expectations we have for them, and forgive God for not giving us the life that we think we deserve. This is what it means to live a life of Grace.

And in that state of Grace, we have the opportunity to become more attuned to the gifts already present – our own worthiness and beauty, the amazing people who share our lives, and the abundance that God has already given us in all that surrounds us. And when we forget, we forgive ourselves and ask God to lead us back to Grace.

That doesn't mean suffering isn't real because it is. But in learning how to rely on God's Will instead of our own, we will be able to offer more compassion for those who suffer, opening our hearts and inspiring us to find ways we might help alleviate that suffering in the world.

*Thy Will be done on earth as it is in heaven.*

I pray that you all find yourselves experiencing God's Grace more and more.

In God's love,  
Rev. Michelle

## Back to School Smart Starts

Once again, thanks to the efforts of Elaine Lawrence, St. John's is partnering with People's Place and its Back To School Smart Starts program. We are collecting **new backpacks** appropriate for students ages 10 and up. All donations, including cash donations, are to be turned in no later than Wednesday, August 22nd.

If you would like to be part of the St. John's team and hand out school supplies and backpacks, please speak to Deacon Sue or Rev. Michelle or simply sign up on the bulletin board in the hallway. Volunteers will be needed from August 27 - 31. We will meet at 9:15 am at People's Place at 17 St. James Street, Kingston and distribution will be between 10 - 1.

If you would like to be part of this fun event and need transportation, simply contact Deacon Sue at 331-5575. We'll be happy to arrange rides.

And don't forget to wear your St. John's t-shirt!



# St. John's

E P I S C O P A L C H U R C H

## First Wednesdays

Every first Wednesday from 10am to 1pm

coffee & conversation  
interesting lectures & activities  
lunch and worship

### September 5: Prayer Beads

Prayer beads are used in every spiritual tradition to help people move more deeply into prayer. And, as we use them more and more, they can become a source of comfort and a reminder of God's ever-present Love.

Rev. Michelle will offer a lesson on prayer beads and how to pray the Anglican Rosary.

Upcoming dates! October 3, November 7, December 5

**Bring friends!**

**Help us to plan food—RSVP by Monday.**

**Need a ride? Let us know when you RSVP.**

**phone 845-331-2252 or email [stjohnskingston@aol.com](mailto:stjohnskingston@aol.com)**

St. John's Episcopal Church 207 Albany Ave., Kingston

# St. John's

E P I S C O P A L C H U R C H

Blessing  
of the  
Backpacks!



Come and celebrate with us!

St. John's Episcopal Church

207 Albany Ave. Kingston NY [www.stjohnskingston.org](http://www.stjohnskingston.org) 845-331-2252

We're inviting *all* students to bring  
their *backpacks* to our  
10am worship service on  
**Sunday, September 9** for  
*The Blessing of the Backpacks*

Every year we bless backpacks and the  
people who wear them as they begin  
a new academic year.

Young kids, teens, college students...  
anyone taking classes this year!

We will be signing kids up for this year's  
*Sunday School* class too.

Be sure to hang out with us after  
worship for the

**St. John's Homecoming Brunch**

as we celebrate our return to the  
Sanctuary and the beginning of our  
program year.

**Fall Service Schedule Is Back!**

**September 9, 2018**

**8:00 am Holy Eucharist—Rite I**

**9:15 am Choir Warm-up**

**9:45 am Sunday School**

**10:00 am Choral Holy Eucharist**

## Monthly Financial Report

At the Annual Meeting in January, Rev. Michelle announced that the Vestry is committing to more transparency in our financial reporting. Thanks to our diligent and resourceful Treasurer Jeanne Ruddy, here is the new monthly financial report. Please note the report is revised to show Money from Endowment at the bottom to more clearly illustrate it is money taken from our endowment principal to balance the budget."

Questions or concerns? Please contact Jeanne directly.

<b>St. Johns Episcopal Church</b>				
<b>Monthly Income &amp; Expense Report</b>				
<b>January - July 2018</b>				
	<b>Jan-July 2018</b>	<b>2018 Budget</b>	<b>% of Yearly Budget</b>	
<b>Income</b>				
<b>Giving</b>	44,526	89,850	50%	
<b>Other Income</b>	36,179	52,905	68%	
<b>Total Income</b>	80,705	142,755	57%	
<b>Expense</b>				
<b>Mission/Outreach</b>	14,552	30,440	48%	
<b>Staff</b>	75,422	132,108	57%	
<b>Operations</b>	2,147	4,736	45%	
<b>Facilities</b>	26,272	44,725	59%	
<b>Taxes &amp; Fees</b>	192	150	128%	
<b>Total Expense</b>	118,585	212,159	56%	
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>(37,880)</b>	<b>(69,404)</b>		
<b>Taken from Endowment</b>	25,000	69,404	36%	

#### Brief Explanation of Report:

- GIVING includes pledge and non-pledge giving, as well as plate offerings , special gifts and holiday giving.
- OTHER INCOME is hall usage, fundraising income and dividends and interest from our investments. Currently we take 5% of the rolling 3-year average on our investments - we intend to bring that down to 4% to extend the life of each investment.
- MISSION/OUTREACH includes funds for Youth Programs, Welcoming and Hospitality, Music, Adult Education, Sunday School, the Rector's and Deacon's Discretionary Accounts, Social Concerns, the Arts Program, and our Diocesan Assessment as well as our outreach efforts.
- STAFF includes the Rector's salary, pension and medical insurance, as well as salary and related expenses for the Organist/Choir Director and Administrative Assistant. It also includes money for Supply Priests and Organists and Nursery/Childcare.
- OPERATIONS includes office supplies, payroll services, telephone/internet and website maintenance.
- FACILITIES include repair and maintenance, organ and piano tuning and maintenance, cleaning s service, snow removal, electric for the church and rectory, and gas for the rectory. Also included is property/liability insurance.
- TAXES & FEES include the library tax and any miscellaneous fees we are charged.
- TAKEN FROM ENDOWMENT is money from our endowment principal that we take to balance the budget- this is what we aim to stop doing.

Jeanne Ruddy, treasurer.

## News From The Page Turners

The Page Turners last met in Juneto discuss *Rules of Civility*, by Amor Towles.

**We have not met over the summer, and hope everyone has enjoyed their summer reading!  
At our June meeting we chose the following books to begin the fall:**

**Sept. 4<sup>th</sup>:** *Claude and Camille*, by Stephanie Cowell. This is an historical novel about Claude Monet. It is written by a woman who Cathe Decker has met. The author may come to a future book club meeting after we read this novel. The novel has gotten good reviews.

**Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>:** *Less*, by Andrew Sean Greer. This is a current novel that looks to be a fun read, and part travel book.

**Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>:** *Sing, Unburied, Sing*, by Jesmyn Ward. This novel, set in the Mississippi Delta, won the 2017 National Book Award.

This fall we will continue our plans for a field trip to Hildene, in Manchester, Vermont, the summer home of Robert Todd Lincoln.

Our book club is fun! The book club meets on the first Tuesday of each month in the homes of some of our members and our format is informal and relaxed. If you enjoy reading and discussing books, join us! Speak to Lynn Dennison, Deacon Sue or Barbara Johnston for more information.

Lynn Dennison

## Centering Prayer

every Wednesday at 5:45 pm

St. John's Episcopal Church

207 Albany Ave. in Kingston

Arising from the practices of ancient Christians, Centering Prayer is a form of silent meditation focusing on the heart, where God dwells within each of us. Contemplatives across the ages have practiced Centering Prayer as a path of surrender, healing, and love.

Come to St. John's on Wednesdays and sit for a while in silence with God.

## Choir Update

There will be a choir rehearsal on Sunday, September 9th after the 10:00 am service. Beginning in October and through the remainder of the year there will be a rehearsal the first Sunday of the month after the 10:00 am service. Any questions please speak to Terry Earles.



## Save the Date!

*Mid-Hudson Regional Council Meeting*  
*Saturday, Sept. 29, 2018*  
*9:30am-3pm at St. James Hyde Park*



After our business meeting, we will engage with the topic of  
**CLIMATE CHANGE**  
 and our role in caring for God's creation.

Featuring keynote speaker, **the Rev. Jeff Gollither** and **Hudson River Playback Theatre**, a group that fosters change through storytelling, music and interactive performance.

**The Rt. Rev. Andrew Dietsche** will preach and preside at Holy Eucharist.

**To register please contact Cindy in the Parish Office.**

## PARISH EVENTS

Follow the links at [www.stjohnskingston.org](http://www.stjohnskingston.org)

**August 27-31: Volunteering at People's Place to distribute backpacks** Join the St. John's team as we distribute backpacks and school supplies at People's Place. Sign up is on the bulletin board or talk with Deacon Sue to see when volunteers are needed.

**September 5: First Wednesday from 10-1 in the Parish Hall** Coffee, conversation, learning, lunch, and worship. Prayer beads are used in every spiritual tradition to help people move more deeply into prayer. And, as we use them more and more, they can become a source of comfort and a reminder of God's ever-present Love. Rev. Michelle will offer a lesson on prayer beads and how to pray the Anglican Rosary. Call Cindy in the office if you need a ride or can give a ride.

**September 6: Kingston Interfaith Council meets at St. John's, 8:30-10:30 in Parish Hall** Let Rev. Michelle know if you would like to help provide breakfast for this group of faith leaders. Then, stay and join us as we discuss issues that concern our common life in Kingston.

**September 9: Homecoming Celebration!** Invite the students you know to come to our 10am worship service and bring their backpacks for the Blessing of the Backpacks. We'll bless them for the coming school year. Kids (and their parents) will be able to sign up for Sunday School for the year. Then, after worship, be sure to stay for the **St. John's Homecoming Brunch** as we celebrate our return to the Sanctuary and the beginning of our program year.

**September 12: Just Mercy book discussion 6:15 Parish Hall** St. John's will livestream a public conversation at Episcopal Divinity School in NYC on the book *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* by Bryan Stevenson. Conversation hosts: **Dean Kelly Brown Douglas** and **Michelle Alexander**, Visiting Professor of Social Justice at Union Seminary and author of the *New Jim Crow*. Stevenson's *Just Mercy* lets us know that mercy and justice are not incompatible as he tells the stories of people who have become trapped in a merciless criminal justice system, namely people of color—especially children. Through these stories, Stevenson indicts not only a broken criminal justice system but also a broken society and nation, and by implication a far too silent church. Come early for Centering Prayer at 5:45. Light snacks will be served. Rev. Michelle has a few copies of the book if you need one.

**September 22: Safe Church Training from 8-1 at St. Paul's in Poughkeepsie** This training teaches participants to recognize the signs of sexual abuse and the behavior of sexual perpetrators, how to respond to those signs and behaviors when they are observed, and provides screening information to help stop abuse before it happens. All leaders are required to complete training. And all parish members are encouraged to attend to learn more. Carpooling from St. John's is already being planned – talk to Rev. Michelle for more info. Cost for attending will be covered by St. John's.

Register here: <https://www.dioceseny.org/ednyevent/safe-church-training-mid-hudson-2018/>

**September 28-29: Undoing Racism Workshop** in Parish Hall, 9:00-5:00 both days. We invite you to take part in advancing institutional change for racial equity. Workshop participants will engage in a comprehensive exploration of how racism shapes American institutions, often without our conscious understanding that it is doing so. Offered by the **People's Institute for Survival and Beyond**. Now in its 39th year, the Institute has provided training, consultation, and leadership development to more than 1,000,000 people in organizations nationally and internationally. URWs are offered. Learn more at [www.pisab.org](http://www.pisab.org). Lunch is included and continental breakfast is served from 8:00-8:45. Cost is \$350, \$175 for students. Scholarships are available for members of St. John's (see Rev. Michelle). Register here: <http://antiracistalliance.com/ARA-training.html>

**September 29: Mid-Hudson Regional Council Meeting, 9:30-3 at St. James in Hyde Park**

Join our Episcopal brothers and sisters in the Mid-Hudson valley for our yearly meeting and educational event.

**Climate Change: Our Role in Caring for God's Creation** featuring keynote speaker, the Rev. Jeff Gollhofer and Hudson River Playback Theatre (storytelling, music and interactive performance). The Rt. Rev. Andrew Dietsche will preach and preside at Holy Eucharist. Call Cindy in the St. John's office to register by Sept 20. The cost to attend will be covered by St. John's adult education fund.

**October 6:** Labyrinth of Light in the evening More details coming soon!

**October 7: Blessing of the Animals** After the 10am service, we'll meet along the side of the church in the Memorial Garden where St. Francis stands to remind us of our connection to all of life. Bring your pet or pets (or your favorite stuffed animal!) and we'll bless them. This event helps families of all kinds honor their important non-human family members and consider how we can be better stewards of God's creation.

**October 14 and 21: Regional Vestry Workshop from 2-5:30 in Parish Hall** All Vestry members are invited to attend. Contact Val Stelcen for more information at [vstelcen@diocesenyny.org](mailto:vstelcen@diocesenyny.org) or 845-338-1086.

**October 20: Pastoral Care workshop from 10-12:30 in Parish Hall** For all those who are interested in learning more about the practice of pastoral care and the ministry of healing. Those who currently serve in St. John's Healing Ministry are asked to attend to refresh skills.

**October 20: Movies with Spirit in the Sanctuary – The Big Sick (R)**

Pakistan-born comedian Kumail Nanjiani and grad student Emily Gardner fall in love but struggle as their cultures clash. When Emily contracts a mysterious illness, Kumail finds himself forced to face her feisty parents, his family's expectations, and his true feelings. Come watch in the St. John's Sanctuary for a fun night out!

**October 27: Costume Gala Fundraiser** More details coming soon! Want to help with this fun event? Talk to Barbara Johnston.

**November 3: Labyrinth of Light in the evening** More details coming soon!

**November 4: All Saints Day** A celebration of all the saints – past, present, and future at 10am. No 8am worship.

**November 7: First Wednesday from 10-1 in the Parish Hall** Coffee, conversation, learning, lunch, and worship. Topic TBA. Call Cindy in the office if you need a ride or can give a ride.

**November 9-10: Diocesan Convention** in White Plains. Interesting in being a delegate and learning more about the ministry and mission of the Diocese of New York? Speak with Rev. Michelle.

**November 13: Kingston Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, Congregation Emanuel** This is a beautiful annual event. Details coming soon but please plan on coming out to worship with our neighbors.

**November 17: Workshop: Planning for the Future, 9-2 in the Parish Hall.** Rev. Michelle will lead a workshop to discuss funeral/burial arrangements, legacy giving, and care planning. Lunch will be served. No fee but donations will be accepted to help defray the cost of lunch.

**December 2: Advent Wreath-making** After the 10am worship we invite you to participate in a fun craft day in the Parish Hall – making an Advent Wreath for your home. Lighting the candles on your Advent Wreath is a way to mark the time of anticipation during the season before Christmas. You'll also receive a set of prayers to say for this seasonal ritual. All ages are welcome to join in the fun!

**December 4: First Wednesday from 10-1 in the Parish Hall** Coffee, conversation, learning, lunch, and worship. In December, the community will create holiday cards for the Angel Food East clients. Call Cindy in the office if you need a ride or can give a ride.

**December 14: Vigil against gun violence** On the anniversary of the Sandy Hook Massacre, St. John's hosts a vigil to remember the victims of gun violence followed by a meeting to learn more about how we can act to put an end to this crisis.

**December 24: Family Worship with Christmas Pageant**

Last year we had a blast at our new 5pm family and children's service on Christmas Eve. We'll have our Christmas Pageant at this service and all children who come are invited to have a part in telling one of our most sacred stories – the birth of Christ. If a young person would like to have a speaking part, please be sure to attend the rehearsal ahead of time (time and date TBA). All are invited – neighbors, family, friends.

**December 24: Choral Christmas Eve Eucharist by Candlelight** at 8pm

**Ongoing Ministry Meetings**

Vestry: 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays (except June and July)

Choir rehearsals: First Sundays after the 10am worship (except July and August)

Hospitality: Last Sunday every other month (Aug, Oct, Dec...)

Pastoral Care: Quarterly on 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday (January, April, July, Oct)

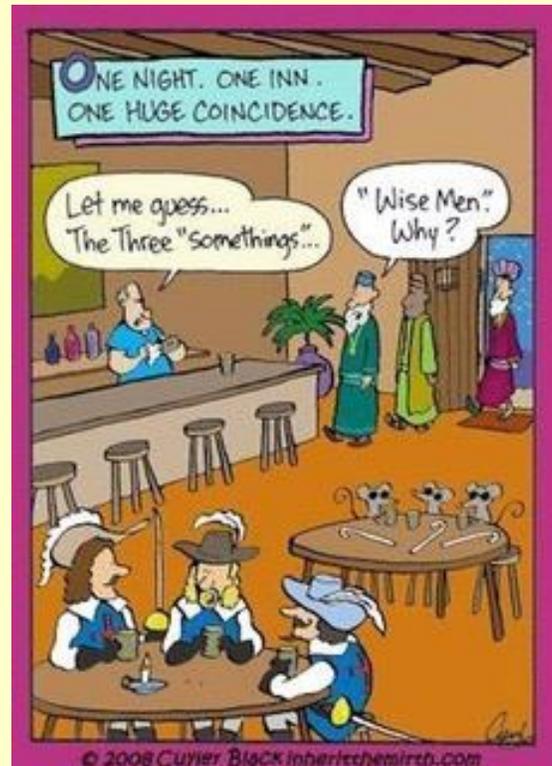
Page Turners: First Tuesdays at 7:30pm

Check announcements for meeting dates of the Social Concerns and Outreach Committees.

## The Joke Corner

Give me a sense of humor, Lord. Give me the grace to see a joke, to get some humor out of life, and pass it on to other folk!

Wife: Do you drink beer?  
 Husband: Yes  
 Wife: How many beers a day?  
 Husband: Usually about three  
 Wife: How much do you pay per beer?  
 Husband: \$5.00 which includes a tip  
 Wife: And how long have you been drinking?  
 Husband: About 20 years, I suppose  
 Wife: So a beer costs \$5 and you have three beers a day which puts your spending each month at \$450. In one year, it would be approximately \$5400 correct?  
 Husband: Correct  
 Wife: If in 1 year you spend \$5400, not accounting for inflation, the past 20 years puts your spending at \$108,000 correct?  
 Husband: Correct  
 Wife: Do you know that if you didn't drink beer, that money could have been put in a step-up interest savings account and after accounting for compound interest for the past 20 years, you could have now bought an airplane?  
 Husband: Do you drink beer?  
 Wife: No.  
 Husband: Where's your airplane?



A man was telling his neighbor, 'I just bought a new hearing aid. It cost me four thousand dollars, but it's state of the art. It's perfect.' 'Really,' answered the neighbor. 'What kind is it?' 'Twelve thirty.'

The Lord's Prayer has always been easy for kids to misinterpret, either through poor enunciators or from mumbling congregations. One little boy, always a classic joke, said "Harold be Thy name." Two other lesser known prayers though are a little girl saying: "Give us this day our jelly bread." Or the little New York boy who petitioned God to "Lead us not into Penn Station.

Jack is out of work and, would you believe, goes to a nearby building site to see if there are any jobs available. He goes up to the foreman and says, "Do you have any jobs?"

The foreman replies, "What do you do?"

"I'm a handyman," says Jack.

"Can you do bricklaying?" "No."

"Can you do plumbing?" "No."

"Can you do carpentry?" "No."

"So why are you calling yourself a handyman, then?" says the foreman.

Jack says, "Because I just live around the corner."

My friends suggested we all go camping. I said sure, let me make a list of what I need.

1. Get new friends.

Ate salad for dinner. Mostly croutons & tomatoes. Really just one big round crouton covered with tomato sauce. And cheese..... FINE, it was a pizza. I ate a pizza.