



Saint John's EPISCOPAL CHURCH

SEEKING TO BE AN EXPRESSION OF GOD AT WORK IN THE WORLD



*St. John's
Episcopal
Church*

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Parish Profile 2017

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St. John's Parish Profile

SEARCH FOR A NEW RECTOR

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We are Seeking a New Rector

This profile is provided for prospective candidates for Rector to learn about our parish and what we seek in a new half-time Rector.

Interested candidates may send a cover letter, resume, a link to their audio/video sermons and a completed OTM form to:

The Rev. Jean Baptiste Ntagengwa,
Director of Transition Ministry
in the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts at:
jbntagengwa@diomass.org

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL -- VISION STATEMENT

Our vision is to be an expression of God at work in the world. We are a place in which people of faith come to be together, to worship God and to support each other. We are a caring, warm, welcoming and committed family.

This vision is carried out through our many active ministries. Some include our Altar Guild, Church School, Nursery, Adult and Youth Choir, Ushers, Lectors, Lay Eucharistic Ministers, Acolytes, Vestry, and Prayer Line.

Also, we reach out to the community through our ministries with the Interfaith Council of Franklin, Franklin Food Pantry, Santa Foundation, Taunton Deanery, One Family program, Collaborative Council, Dio Mass Youth and the Episcopal Diocese of Mass.

Further, we give and receive support from our collaborative relationship with our sister churches: Trinity Episcopal in Wrentham and All Saints Episcopal in Attleboro.

We are a community in the best sense of the word. We are a family of Christians who gather to worship God. We endeavor to provide a spiritual space where people's faith grows and is strengthened.

Our philosophy and goals are currently being put to the test. But, we feel we have a strong base of members with the faith, enthusiasm, determination and creativity to continue our vision.

Currently the goals for our church include:

1. Seed the future by gathering funds to adapt and upgrade our church building.
2. Enhance leadership capacity by further funding for clergy.
3. Build the reserve fund.
4. Deepen our engagement outside of the church walls.

We launched a successful Capital Campaign in 2016. We are seeking a financial commitment from our members toward the future. The collection will continue for a 5-year period.

St. John's is also seeking committed leadership. We want a rector who is available half-time to start, can grow our church, and will become full-time once we have the financial resources to support it. We wish for someone who will work with us for our future.

We are hard at work to achieve these four goals. We aim to return to the thriving and viable church we have been.

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OUR HISTORY

St. John's has a long and rich history in the town of Franklin. Throughout the years, our mission has remained the same: to be a faithful community of Christians who gather to worship God as revealed and known to us through Jesus Christ; to form children and adults alike in faith and discipleship; and to live lives of service enlivened by the power of God's Holy Spirit.



We do that, first and foremost, through our liturgy. We are Anglican and understand that how we pray shapes what we believe. We are grounded in the Holy Scriptures and in the Sacraments of Baptism and Eucharist. We encourage questions about what it means to be Christian in the Episcopal tradition. And, we welcome thoughtful and prayerful reflection about being an expression of God at work in the world, which in 2015 became our official vision and mission statement.

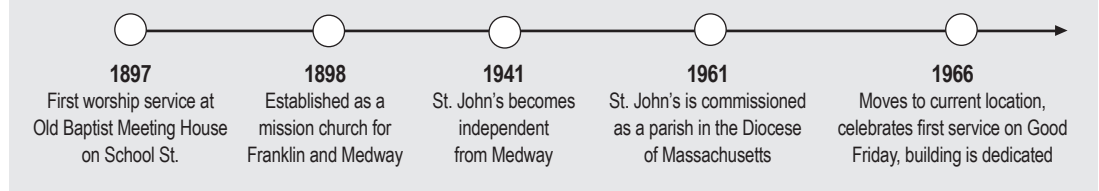
The parish entered into a period of significant transition in 2008, when the former rector and many parishioners parted ways with the Episcopal Church. The remaining members maintained their commitment to the parish and were instrumental in assuring its survival. Their dedication, support, and creativity enabled the parish to move beyond these crossroads to once again become an active and vibrant community through the next period of transition.

We enjoy being together. We have a vibrant Sunday School. Our children and youth participate actively in our worship services. We host several intergenerational events each year, encouraging worshipers of all ages to take leadership roles. We have an active junior youth group. We have had a formal collaboration with Trinity Church since 2011. It was originally based on shared clergy, but was affirmed by both parishes in 2015 as important to our faith and formation, even though the shared clergy arrangement ended in 2014.

Over the past few years we have had a number of children and teens take part in diocesan-wide events, including camp and leadership groups. These are just two examples of the ways in which we seek to grow deeper in our faith in connection with others as we prepare for new and exciting times in our history.

We invite you to take an active part in exploring the questions of who we are today and where God is calling us in the future.

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH TIMELINE



WORSHIP AT ST. JOHN'S

Each Sunday our services are held at 10 am. Sunday school begins at 9:45 for children in grades K-5. Sunday School lessons are lead by volunteer lay instructors from our church family.

Group lessons and discussions were conducted for youth, grades 9-12. Two years ago many youth graduated from high school and moved on to college. So our high school population is diminished temporarily. We hope to reinstate our youth lessons in the future. A Junior Youth Group was recently formed for students in grades 5-8.

We celebrate using Rite II from the Book of Common Prayer. We also use liturgies from Enriching Our Worship. We use Hymnal 1982. We share occasional liturgies with our collaborative parish, Trinity in Wrentham, and with the Franklin Interfaith Council.

Our choir leads us in both the service music and the hymns. Our music director draws from traditional and contemporary music.



We share and celebrate the Eucharist each week. Typically, children are in their classrooms and come to the Sanctuary during the sign of Peace. It's an ideal transition time. As members greet and offer the sign of Peace to each other, the children are reunited with their families so all can enjoy the blessing of the Eucharist.

All baptized Christians are welcome at the altar rail to receive the bread and wine, whether or not they have ever received before. Or, they can receive a blessing from the priest. Many times younger children simply receive a blessing from the priest.

We offer communion preparation education for our younger members. This year the program will include inter-generational participation for the adults.

One week each month we have a Family Service. Any of the leadership roles that can be done by children and youth are done so. We usually read the lesson and psalm in a more child-friendly way, though we use the NRSV to proclaim the Gospel. Often there are seasonally appropriate activities during this informal service, with the children gathered at the steps of the altar.

We have special services for Easter, Christmas and Advent. St. John's has an evening Ash Wednesday service and hosts evening services during Holy Week, alternating with Trinity Church in Wrentham, as well as the traditional Palm Sunday, Good Friday and a joyful Easter celebration followed by an Easter Egg Hunt on the front lawn for the children. During Advent, the children make Advent wreaths and at Christmas the youth perform a pageant. We also celebrate Scout Sunday in February, have a service in October for Blessing of the Animals, remember those we have lost on All Saints Day in November and offer appropriate recognition of our national holidays.

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Our Deacon Chris Beukman arrived at the beginning of Advent 2015 on a three-year non-stipendiary contract. The ministry of a Deacon is to “interpret to the church the needs, concerns and hopes of the world (BCP 543),” so that outreach is the focus of his ministry. He has challenged the youth group to a charity ride on behalf of those with Alzheimers, he has brought a musical group to the church as a way to invite the community to our parish and raise money. He is especially focused on welcoming our neighbors at Dean College to the Church, and his sermons once a month focus on diaconal concern for the world. Deacon Chris assists the Priest at the altar by proclaiming the Gospel, preparing the table and dismissing the people.

The Rev. Dee Woodward is serving as our interim minister. Most of her ordained ministry has been in the Diocese of Massachusetts, beginning as Deacon and Rector at Christ Church in Somerville in 1987. During that time, she also served as Interim Director of Field Education at The Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge. She was a Consulting Priest for the Diocese of Christ Church in New Zealand. She returned to Boston and was called as Rector at Trinity Church in Randolph.



THE RECTOR WHOM ST. JOHN'S SEEKS

St. John's has not had an official Rector since Father Jack Potter left at the end of 2007. Since that time we have had an interim priest (Rev. Robert Edson), and priests-in charge (Rev. Bob Edmunds and Rev. Paula Toland), and are now welcoming our new Interim Priest (Rev. Dee Woodward). While each and every one has blessed us with their love and many gifts and talents, we have also experienced a great amount of change over the years.

We are searching for someone who will provide long-term stability and growth, who shares our vision and is committed to this opportunity.

These are the things that we are expecting from our new Rector for St. John's:

1. Liturgy – Preaching and Sermons that are:
 - Positive
 - Simple
 - Relatable
 - Down-to-Earth
 - Tie back to the reading
2. Lead but Delegate
 - Increase participation of lay leadership
 - Enable lay leaders to run ministries and trust in their abilities
 - Foster church family growth
 - Expand our outreach capabilities
3. Communication
 - Efficiently and effectively reach out to parishioners
 - Active listener
 - Observant
 - Have “pulse” of parishioners
4. Strength of Character
 - Approachable
 - Trustworthy
 - Fair
 - Relatable
 - Down-To-Earth
 - Enjoys interacting with children
5. Spiritual Guidance
 - Pastoral guidance
 - Calls and visits
 - Be sensitive to the needs of the parishioners and prioritize time accordingly.

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WHAT A RECTOR CAN EXPECT FROM ST. JOHN'S

St. John's has a strong and proud reputation for being an inviting and giving community. We truly are filled with joy and welcoming to all. We are a small parish that has experienced difficult times and years of transition, but feel we are in a good place today. We are a community in the best sense of the word – a place in which people of faith come to be together, to worship God, to support each other as we seek to be an expression of God at work in the world.

We understand the challenges that face a part-time rector of a small parish. Spiritual leadership and pastoral care balanced with organizational leadership and administrative necessities are demanding responsibilities. St. John's has a part-time administrative assistant to support the rector, as well as the vestry and various volunteer groups.

We have a Rectory available for housing. We currently are leasing our Rectory to someone who is a tenant-at-will. This 3-bedroom home can be available, if our new Rector requires it.

St. John's is blessed with strong lay leadership and many families supporting ministries within our church and in our community. Our parish membership has a blend of long-tenured St. John's families, as well as newer members and families. We love the laughter and joyful spirit of our children and teens and want to ensure they have a healthy and thriving home where their faith will grow for many years to come.

Given the transition we have experienced over the last several years, we tend to have many of the same volunteers. We would welcome new volunteers to assist and would seek support from our rector to help guide our growth and provide stability.

We feel we have a very special family filled with the spirit of God, who seek to share this with others by growing our membership and sharing our many blessings with others.

Our rector can expect enthusiasm, support and a community filled with the Holy Spirit ready to embrace the future.



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MINISTRIES AT ST. JOHN'S

St. John's has a small group of lay people fueled with faith who are called to work together to support the ministries of the Church. In all ministries you will see familiar faces. These people have a strong knowledge of the overall functioning of St. John's through their service in numerous roles.

The Altar Guild lovingly prepares for Sunday services, baptisms, weddings and funerals. The Guild maintains the altar needs and supplies.

The Ushers and Greeters are dedicated to welcoming all people to our services. They provide a warm greeting, help with the lay of the land, keeping track of attendance and collecting the offering.

Lectors read the Old and New Testament lessons each Sunday. Lay Eucharistic Ministers serve on the Altar during services. Lay members participate in the administration of Communion as chalice bearers, and a small group has been trained and commissioned to take the sacrament to parishioners who are housebound or hospitalized. Lay Eucharistic Ministers also participate by sharing the Psalm and the Prayers of the People.

Within our walls, other parishioners serve the church through singing in the informal choir, counting of weekly offerings, supporting a Parish Prayer Line, and providing fellowship at coffee hour. Reviving an older ministry, our Bread Committee Ministry's main goal is to welcome visitors and to offer new parishioners information, fellowship and support as they become acquainted with St. John's parish.

Outreach is a core value for St. John's. Members serve on the Interfaith Council of Franklin, attend Taunton River Deanery meetings and work with other parishes to support the One Family: Mission of Unity, at All Saints' Church in Attleboro, which provides breakfast, non-food items, and warm hospitality to families in need. On a weekly basis, support is given to the Franklin Food Pantry by purchase of household items, food, or monetary donations. At Christmas time, the parish also supports families by buying gifts for needy families through the Santa Foundation.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AT ST. JOHN'S

Sunday School

Our Sunday School Program has always been, and continues to be, a very important part of our church. We invite all of the children within our parish, between Preschool and 5th grade to join us every Sunday at Sunday School; except for the first Sunday of the month when we have our Family Service Mass.

The current enrollment in our program is approximately 26 children which allows us to have a special relationship with each and every child because we have the time to get to know each of them individually.



We are currently using the program “Living Inside Out” which is a video series that provides lessons from the Old Testament along with the New Testament. Our Sunday School program runs for approximately 45 minutes and during that time we enjoy singing a variety of beautiful songs together. It then leads into our large group lesson and discussion, which is then concluded with an activity that relates to our large group lesson.



Youth Group

The Youth Group at St. John's has had a very strong presence for many years, not only within our parish but also within our local community and beyond. Some of the projects that the Youth Group have been involved in are:

Organizing and designing the “Haunted Woods” for October Nights; planning and running all of the activities for the children's room at the Christmas Fair; performing Spring/Fall yard clean-up for members of our parish who are in need of help; and they have converted our parish hall into “Little Italy” in which they hosted the annual family spaghetti dinner.

This group as also traveled into Boston to the Common Cathedral where they attended a worship service with the homeless. They also provided food to the homeless population and supplied each person with a new pair of socks, all possible through their fund-raising effort.

The Youth Group in the past has enjoyed Christmas Caroling around the holidays and ending their night at Church with a Yankee Gift Swap followed by a sleepover in our church. In addition to their annual ski trip to the white mountains of NH, they have also enjoyed a trip to Six Flags, hiking at Blue Hills and bike riding along the Cape Cod canal.



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Junior Youth Group

We are very excited about this new group that was formed this past September as a way to unite and engage the middle school students, who range in ages from 11 to 13. This wonderful group of adolescents meets every other month in our Parish Hall. Our meeting begins with a version of a Bible study which leads into a discussion and a small activity. As a group, we talk about and plan upcoming events and service projects that the group would like to participate in either within our own parish or outside of our church. We recently participated in The Crop Walk in Attleboro, MA as a team and were fortunate to be joined by Trinity Church's Youth Group.

Our hope for this group is to be able to form special relationships among our members, and keep them engaged and invested not only in St. John's parish but also to be an active part of the community. This enthusiastic group has an abundance of ideas on different ways to be involved in helping others along with a variety of local field trips.



PARISH LIFE AND PASTORAL CARE



St. John's has an active and vibrant parish life. Many of the terms which describe family can also describe parish life at St. John's.

The backbone of our parish life is coffee hour after church every Sunday which is always hosted by a family or ministry from the parish. God's children of all ages attend, enjoying snacks (usually homemade), drinks and coffee, while engaging in conversation and fellowship.

In addition, there are activities throughout the entire year where we come together as a "family" to enjoy each other's company. One Saturday evening in October we have October Nights which features a chili potluck supper, games, face-painting and Trunk-or-Treat (people decorate their cars and kids visit each car for candy). In December we host our annual Christmas Fair which is our largest fundraiser where we open our doors to the community and sell hand-made quilts, knitted winter gear, fresh baked cookies and desserts, gift baskets of all kinds, raffles, and a silent auction. This is truly an example of many parishioners' time, talents, and treasures hard at work.



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We have a large number of kids and young adults in our parish. Our Sunday morning nursery is available for infants to toddlers age 3, and Sunday morning church school for preschool through grade 5. We had a very active youth group for grades 8-12, most of whom graduated at the end of 2015. We recently started a Junior Youth Group for grades 6-8. At the beginning of Lent we host a pancake breakfast before church Sunday morning.



The First Sunday of the month is our Family Service where young adults participate in the service as acolytes, lectors, ushers, and Lay Eucharistic Ministers. We have two trained Lay Eucharistic Ministers available as needed. We have a children's choir, adult choir (small but committed), and a part-time music director who is very talented and enthusiastic. Twice a year we organize a Spring and Fall cleanup where people of all ages come together to clean up the property and grounds and then enjoy a cookout afterwards.



We participate in several Outreach programs including the Giving Tree at Christmas time and are members of the One Family Program. We periodically host a monthly breakfast. This is a great family outreach event that helps support less fortunate families in our wider community. We also collect donations in support of the local Franklin Food Pantry and are active members of the Interfaith Council.



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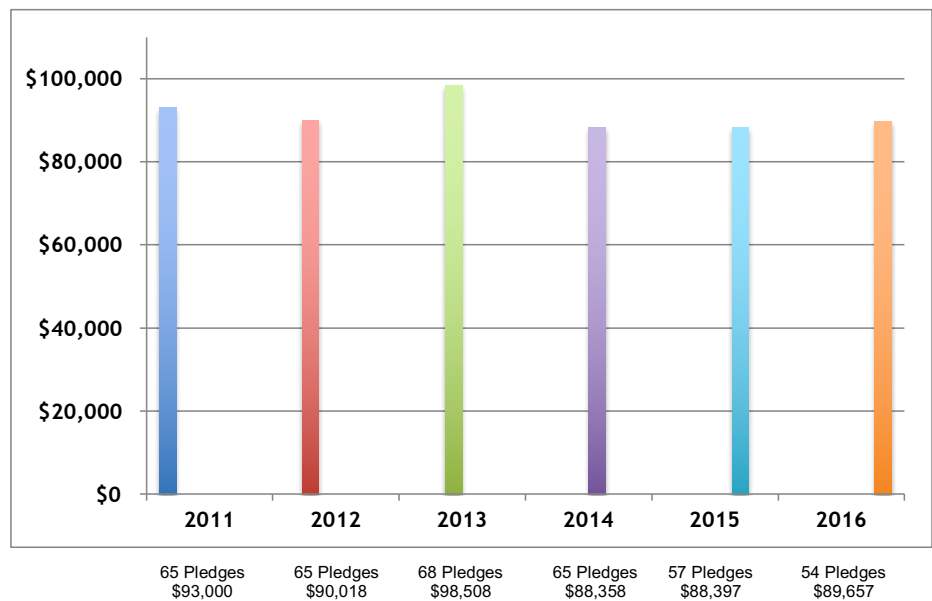


STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY

It is commonplace for us to give to the people we love, and the causes we believe in. A formal commitment to God through prayer and faith-filled stewardship that includes time, talent, and treasure helps to secure St. John's future. Throughout the year, we need to remind ourselves of a couple of truths. One is that everything we have is God's — what we keep, what we spend, what we give. Everything that comes into our possession is ours only in trust. Yes, we work to earn it. And, we have the choice as to how to use it.

Our parish relies on the faithful financial support of our parish families. St. John's income is solely supported by our pledges. The Episcopal Diocese does not subsidize us financially. Much like a household, St. John's household relies on our pledge income to support expenses such as church salaries, heating, electricity, Sunday School materials, upkeep to the building, and more. We understand that each pledge is a personal decision. We pray that the vibrancy of the St. John's community inspires our families to reflect on their thankfulness to God, the future of St. John's, and their place in that future.

Below is a six-year breakdown with the number of families that pledged and total dollars received:



STATISTICS FOR 2016'S CAMPAIGN RESULTS COMPARED TO 2015:

Increased Pledge Amount from Last Year	Decreased Pledge Amount from Last Year	Pledge Amount Remained the Same	New Pledges Received	2015 Pledges that haven't been renewed in 2016
31	4	4	3	5

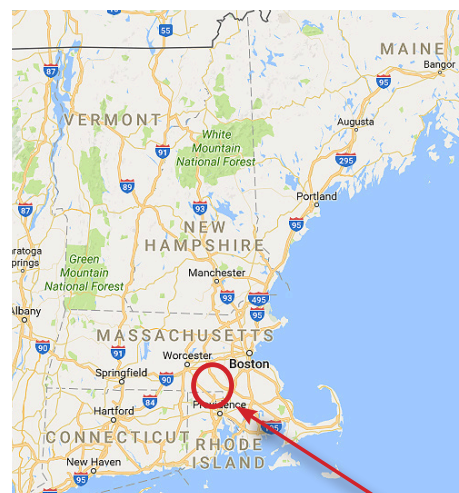
PROFILE AND HISTORY OF FRANKLIN

Franklin, Massachusetts is a suburban community nestled between the Charles and Blackstone Rivers and is 22 miles southwest of Boston. It is a thriving and active town in the region known as MetroWest. It is a bustling hub of restaurants and shops for its residents and visitors to enjoy.

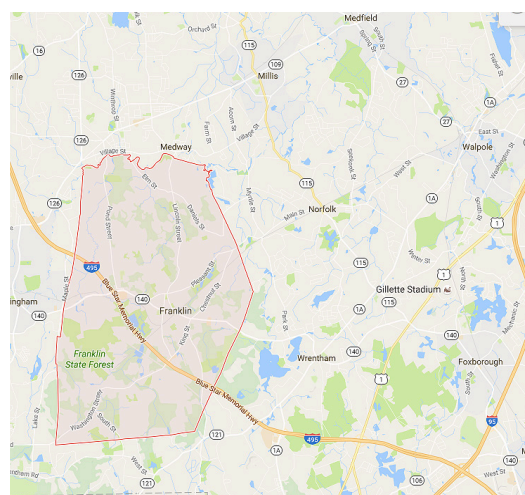
Franklin has easy access to major cities like Boston and Providence with its two exits along I-495 at Route 140 and King Street. Commuter rail service from Boston's South Station is provided by the MBTA with the Forge Park/495 and Dean College stops on its Franklin Line.

The town's population is approximately 35,000. Median household income is \$112,289. It is home to the largest Catholic parish in the Boston Archdiocese, St. Mary's Catholic Church, with some 15,000 members.

The town of Franklin came late in 1676. It renamed itself in 1778 to honor Benjamin Franklin. In return, Ambassador Franklin showed his appreciation by sending the town a library of 116 volumes thereby making Franklin the first town in history with a public library. Surviving books remain on display today.



Franklin



The town is also home to the birthplace of America's father of public education, Horace Mann. It is also home to what may be considered the nation's oldest continuously operational one-room schoolhouse: the Red Brick School was constructed in 1833, and was operational until 2008.

The Franklin Public School system consists of six elementary schools, three middle schools, and one high school. Franklin is also home to one regional vocational-technical high school and one Charter school (Grades K - 8).

More information about Franklin can be accessed on the town website at: www.franklinma.gov



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