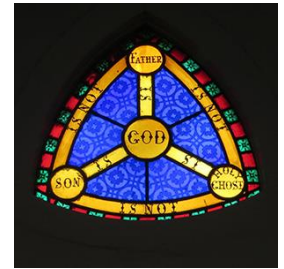




St. John's Episcopal Church

Ashfield, Massachusetts
Corner of Main and South Streets



Easter Choir

All are welcome to be a part of our Easter choir. Rehearsals will take place after the church service on Sunday, March 23, April 6, and April 13.

We Welcome

The Rev. Jennifer L. Walters



On Sunday, March 2nd, St. John's welcomed The Rev. Jennifer L. Walters to serve as Acting-Vicar during the sabbatical of The Rev. Eliot Moss. The Rev. Moss will be on sabbatical from March 1st through June 1st.

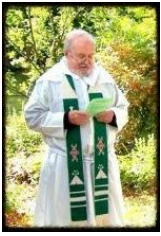
The Rev. Walters is Dean of Religious Life, co-director of the Women's Narrative Project at Smith College, and interim co-director of the Center for Community Collaboration. She is also involved in campus and Five College initiatives promoting wellness, dialogue across differences in social identity, conflict resolution, and integrative learning.

Please join the vestry in making Jennifer feel welcome during her time at St. John's Ashfield.

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- Palm Sunday, April 13 - 10:00 am*
- Maundy Thursday, April 17 - 7:00 pm*
- Good Friday, April 18 - 7:00 pm*
- Easter Vigil, April 19 - 7:00 pm*
- Easter Day, April 20 - 10:00 am*





Memorial Service for The Rev. Judd Blain

A memorial service for The Rev. Judd Blain will be held at Trinity Church, Shelburne Falls, on Saturday, April 12th at 2 p.m. The Rev. Tom Synan from Grace, Amherst, will be celebrant. A reception will be held at Greenfield Community College following the service.

April Calendar

2	5:30-6:30 pm	Centering Prayer St. John's Corner	17	9:30-10:30 am	Osteoporosis Class St. John's Corner
6	10:00 am	Eucharist Service Choir Rehearsal		7:00 pm	Maundy Thursday Service
7	11:00 am	Mother Woman St. John's Corner	18	7:00 pm	Good Friday Service
	7:30 pm	Al Anon St. John's Corner	20	10:00 am	EASTER!! Eucharist Service
8	9:30 am	Play Group St. John's Corner	21	11:00 am	Mother Woman St. John's Corner
	2:30 pm	Food Pantry Congregational Church	22	7:30 pm	Al Anon St. John's Corner
9	5:30 pm	Centering Prayer St. John's Corner		9:30 am	Play Group St. John's Corner
10	9:30 am	Osteoporosis Class St. John's Corner	23	2:30 pm	Food Pantry Congregational Church
12	9:00 am	Spring Clean-up Day	24	5:30 am	Centering Prayer St. John's Corner
13	10:00 am	Palm Sunday, Eucharist Choir Rehearsal	27	9:30 am	Osteoporosis Class St. John's Corner
14	11:00 am	Mother Woman St. John's Corner	28	10:00 am	Eucharist Service
	7:30 pm	Al Anon St. John's Corner	28	11:00 am	Mother Woman St. John's Corner
15	9:30 am	Play Group St. John's Corner		7:30 pm	Al Anon St. John's Corner
16	5:30 am	Centering Prayer St. John's Corner	29	9:30 am	Play Group St. John's Corner
			30	5:30 am	Centering Prayer St. John's Corner
			31	9:30 am	Osteoporosis Class St. John's Corner

Caregivers' Tea on May 4th.

2:00 - 4:00 pm

-Special Guest: Nell Lake,
author of *The Caregivers*



-She will be reading from her book. -Copies of
her book will be available for purchase.



Diocesan Grant

St John's received word from the diocese's
Congregational Development Team that we
have been awarded \$1,920 toward our
Mother Woman mission and our compost bin

Recognizing Saints in the Episcopal Church

As a cradle Episcopalian (one raised in the Episcopal Church), I could never understand why my Roman Catholic relatives prayed to saints instead of directly to God. My grandmother, a devout first generation Polish Catholic, prayed to different saints for intercession; her particular need dictated which saint received her prayer. This practice of asking the saints for intercession confused me. I always felt that if I had a particular petition it is more efficient to go directly to the source, cutting out the cosmic middle-man. I was later surprised to discover that the Episcopal Church also recognizes saints but with a slight difference. In the Roman Catholic Church a saint is a person formally recognized by the church as one who has received special favor from God. Being recognized as a saint is a long, formal process that ends with formal recognition by the Pope. In contrast to the Roman Catholic tradition the Episcopal Church sees any baptized Christian who has the potential to be an example of faith to others as a saint of God. In the Episcopal Church saints are not officially canonized and a wide selection of people are considered "saints" including those carried over from our Roman Catholic past, those recognized by the Church of England and newer "saints" recognized only by the ECUSA. Some of the feast days for saints can be found in the BCP, in *Lesser Feasts and Fasts, 2006* and in *Holy Men and Holy Women*. I thought it would be fun to look at some of the saints recognized by the ECUSA.

The Dragon Slaying Saint

All but six days in April are set aside for the recognition of at least one saint including; April 4 for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., April 9 for Dietrich Bonhoeffer and April 25 for Saint Mark the Evangelist. I have always had a fascination with St. George, recognized on April 23rd. There are no known details of his life and it is quite possible (even likely) he never existed. It is popularly assumed he was a soldier in Palestine who was martyred for the faith.

George first becomes popular with soldiers during the First Crusade. It appears there was a vision of George (sources differ on this point, some say it was a mass vision and others claim it was a personal vision shared with the troops) before a successful battle. The legend grew, and when Richard the Lion-Hearted went to fight in the Holy Land he placed his armies under the protection of St. George. Crusaders are often depicted carrying the symbol of St. George, a white flag with a red cross on it. It did not take long for George to become the patron saint not only of soldiers and farmers but also of England.

In 1483 a book called the *Golden Legend* was translated into English. The text depicts George's defeat of a dragon that was terrorizing the populace. He leads the dragon back to the king and promises to

kill the dragon if the citizens would only believe in Christ and be baptized.

St. George is held up as an example of Christian chivalry. The feast day of St. George is recognized in many countries as a lesser feast but in England he is still revered. Real or imagined St. George stands as an example of Christian fidelity.



Almighty God, you commissioned your holy martyr George to bear before the rulers of this world the banner of the cross: Strengthen us in our battles against the great serpent of sin and evil, that we too may attain the crown of eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

This commemoration adopted provisionally at General Convention 2009

Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori Lent Message 2014



The reality is that the season of Lent, which Christians have practiced for so many centuries, is about the same kind of yearning for greater light in the world, whether you live in the Northern Hemisphere or the Southern Hemisphere.

The word "Lent" means "lengthen" and it's about the days getting longer. The early Church began to practice a season of preparation for those who would be baptized at Easter, and before too long other members of the Christian community joined those candidates for baptism as an act of solidarity.

It was a season during which Christians and future Christians learned about the disciplines of the faith - prayer and study and fasting and giving alms, sharing what they have.

But the reality is that, particularly in the Northern Hemisphere, the lengthening days were often times of famine and hunger, when people had used up their

winter food stores and the spring had not yet produced more food to feed people. Acting in solidarity with those who go hungry is a piece of what it means to be a Christian. To be a follower of Jesus is to seek the healing of the whole world.

And Lent is a time when we practice those disciplines as acts of solidarity with the broken and hungry and ill and despised parts of the world.

I would invite you this Lent to think about your Lenten practice as an exercise in solidarity with all that is - with other human beings and with all of creation. That is most fundamentally what Jesus is about. He is about healing and restoring that broken world.

So as you enter Lent, consider how you will live in solidarity with those who are hungry, or broken, or ill in one way or another.

May you have a blessed Lent this year, and may it yield greater light in the world.

**The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori
Presiding Bishop and Primate
The Episcopal Church**

winner/s will receive a cash award and be invited to read at the May 28 event. Entries of 2-3 poems may be submitted to the Ann Hutt Browning Poetry Contest for Young People, St. John's Church, Box 253, South and Main Streets, Ashfield, MA 01330, postmarked by May 12. Application information is available at the church website, www.stjohnsashfield.org and many area schools and libraries. For further information please contact Susan Todd at 628-3998.

Marilyn Nelson is one of America's most celebrated poets. She is a three-time finalist for the National Book Award, winner of the Newbery and Coretta Scott King awards, among others. She is the author or translator of fifteen poetry books for adults and children, five chapbooks, and in 2013 she published a memoir entitled, *led How I Discovered Poetry*—a series of 50 poems about growing up in the 1950's in a military family. Two of her widely honored books are *Carver: A Life in Poems* and *A Wreath for Emmett Till*.

Image Journal writes, "American history as conceived by Marilyn Nelson is the inside-out, last-shall-be-first version. She inhabits the voices of the overlooked and disenfranchised and shines light into forgotten corners that reveal essential truths about the whole....But if she is a revisionist historian's poet, she is also a child's poet, a mother's poet, a housekeeper's poet, and scientist's poet....It's this breadth of perspective, from pole to pole, past to



Save the date!
April 12th
9:00 am to Noon
Come be part of the fun
making our church sparkle for Easter
and our Bishop.

*Announcing the Fourth Annual Ann Hutt
Browning Poetry Reading and
Youth Poetry Contest*

St. John's Church in Ashfield is pleased to announce that Marilyn Nelson will be the featured reader in the fourth of the Ann Hutt Browning Poetry series in honor of beloved parishioner Ann Hutt Browning who died in 2011. The reading will be held on Wednesday, May 28, 2014, at 7 p.m. at St. John's Church, Ashfield, along with the announcement of the youth poetry contest winners.

As a part of this series, young people ages 13 to 18 are invited to enter a youth poetry contest. The

present, from spheres domestic to atmospheric, that make her so remarkable. Nelson is also an openhanded citizen of the nation of writers."

Ms. Nelson also received a fellowship from the J.S. Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, and the Frost Medal—the Poetry Society of America's most prestigious award, for a "distinguished lifetime achievement in poetry." Nelson is a professor emerita of English at the University of Connecticut; was (2004-2010) founder/director and host of Soul Mountain Retreat, a small non-profit writers' colony; and held the office of Poet Laureate of the State of Connecticut from 2001-2006

Exultat

*Leap and spin, you powers of heaven.
Burst into explosive songs of joy,
all you companies of angels.
Let the throne of God be surrounded
with the praises of all that has life.*

*The earth glories in her Maker.
Now mountain and valley glow in
splendor;
the sea on the shore whispers the
praises of Jesus.*

*Rivers stream through thirsty soil,
bringing news of gladness –
the Redeemer is risen. His glory
fills the earth.*

*The trees thunder their praises,
and loudly clap their hands.*

*Sound a trumpet through all the earth.
Our Morning Star is alive!
Risen in splendor, He is among us;
the darkness is driven back.*

*We, His people, join in the dance of all
creation.*

-from Celtic Daily Prayer from the Northumbria Community

Sarah Browning, Ann's daughter and director of the Split This Rock Poetry Project in Washington, D.C., a poet in her own right, will also speak at the reading.

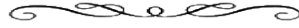
The genesis of the Ann Browning Poetry Series came from former Ashfield resident, Mark Zenick, now of Shropshire, England, who was so moved by Ann Browning's book of poetry, *Deep Landscape Turning*, published before her death, that he wanted to provide an enduring tribute for her in the form of this annual reading. The event is free and open to the public. Books will be available for signing, courtesy of Boswell's Books in Shelburne Falls. Refreshments will be served.

Confirmation Class

St. John's is holding a Confirmation Class this spring in anticipation of Bishop Fisher's visit to St. John's on June 22. We are using the Catechism Curriculum from Leader Resources, the organization led by our dear friend the Rev. Linda Grenz. Linda is now Canon to the Ordinary in The Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island. If anyone is interested in conformation please contact Eleanor at the parish office



Serving Schedule



<i>Date</i>	<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Celebrant</i>	<i>Preacher</i>	<i>Lector</i>	<i>Altar Guild</i>	<i>Coffee Hour</i>
April 6	5 th Sunday in Lent	Jennifer Walters	Jennifer Walters	Kristen Wickline	Sue Craft	Herb Libby
April 13	<i>Palm Sunday</i> 	Jennifer Walters	Jennifer Walters	Jim Wagener	Sue Craft	Addison Hall
April 17	Maundy Thursday	Jennifer Walters	Jennifer Walters	Susan Todd	Sue Craft	
April 18	Good Friday	Jennifer Walters	Jennifer Walters	Thom Simmons	Sue Craft	
April 19	Easter Vigil	Jennifer Walters	Jennifer Walters	Thom Simmons	Sue Craft	
April 20	Easter 	Jennifer Walters	Jennifer Walters	Arianna Burch	Sue Craft	Festive Coffee Hour: Bambi Philips
April 27	2 nd Sunday of Easter	Morning Prayer: David Bruffee		Lynnette Sievert	Sue Craft	Lou Ratte
May 4	3 rd Sunday of Easter	Jennifer Walters	Jennifer Walters	Marilyn Berthelette		Clarence West
May 11	4 th Sunday of Easter	Jennifer Walters	Jennifer Walters	Mary Snow		Lynnette Sievert
May 18	5 th Sunday of Easter	Jane Dunning	Jane Dunning	Lynnette Sievert		Sue Craft
May 25	6 th Sunday of Easter	Jane Dunning	Jane Dunning	Sue Craft		Susan Todd
June 1	7 th Sunday of Easter	Jennifer Walters	Jennifer Walters	Clarence West		Marilyn Berthelette
June 8	Pentecost	Eliot Moss	Eliot Moss	David Bruffee		Vestry
June 15	Trinity Sunday 	Eliot Moss	Eliot Moss	Jim Wagener		Jim & Jane Wagener
June 22 	2 nd Sunday of Pentecost	Bishop Fisher & Eliot Moss	Bishop Fisher	Marisel Kinsey		Vestry
June 29	3 rd Sunday of Pentecost	Eliot Moss	Eliot Moss	Beth Sperry		Burch- Monds Family



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS
"CELEBRATING GOD'S ABUNDANCE"

APRIL PRAYER CYCLE

Diocesan Ministries

1. St. Andrew's Church, Longmeadow – The Revs. Derrick Fetz, Francis Howard, Robert Price
2. St. Mary's, Thorndike
3. The Ministry of Altar Guilds
4. The Rev. Dr. Richard Simpson, Canon to the Ordinary
5. Good Shepherd, West Springfield - The Rev. John DeBonville
6. Church of the Epiphany, Wilbraham - The Rev. William Coyne
7. All Saints, South Hadley - The Rev. Tanya Wallace
8. Christ Church/Trinity Lutheran, Sheffield - The Rev. Anne Ryder
9. For the Mission of the Church
10. St. Paul's, Stockbridge - The Rev. Tom Damrosch
11. For the repose of the soul of The Rt. Rev. Alexander Doig Stewart, V Bishop of Western Massachusetts
12. Trinity, Whitinsville – The Rev. Dr. John Derek Stubbs
13. For the Spiritual Life of our people and churches
14. Clergy Living Beyond the Diocese
15. St. Paul's, Gardner - The Rev. William Hobbs
16. Diocesan Missioner for

Wider Mission

1. For Regional Ministry Strategy Development in the Diocese
2. Reconciliation Seminars
3. Anti-Racism Advancement
4. Safe Church Programs
5. Archbishop Daniel and Mary Sarfo, Diocese of Kumasi
6. The Alban Institute
7. Episcopal Migration Ministries
8. Episcopal Appalachian Ministries
9. Episcopal Booksellers Assn., Inc.
10. B.E.S.T. (Bishops' Executive Secretaries Together)
11. The Rev. Tanya Wallace, Safe Church Trainer
12. Brotherhood of St. Andrew, Inc.
13. The Prayer Shawl Ministry
14. Episcopal Healing Ministries
15. Episcopal Public Policy Network
16. Church Pension Group

Legacy Stewardship -

- | | |
|---|---|
| 17. Church Growth & Revitalization | 17. The Living Church Foundation, Inc. |
| 18. St. Mark's, Leominster – The Rev James Craig | 18. The Episcopal Church Foundation |
| 19. The Rev. Pamela Mott, Canon to the Ordinary | 19. Episcopal Church Missionary Community |
| 20. Church of the Atonement, Westfield - The Revs. Nancy Stroud and John Hooker | 20. Episcopal Communicators |
| 21. Diocesan Youth Ministry | 21. Episcopal Peace Fellowship |
| 22. The Rt. Rev. Andrew Wissemann, VI Bishop of Western Massachusetts | 22. Episcopal News Service (ENS) |
| 23. Assistant to the Bishop for Stewardship- Bruce Rockwell | 23. Episcopal Church & Visual Arts |
| 24. Church of the Reconciliation, Webster - The Rev. Janice Ford | 24. Episcopal Church Women (ECW) and United Thank Offering |
| 25. St. Luke's, Worcester - The Rev. Warren Hicks and Rev. Dcn. Jane Griesbach | 25. Alter Guild |
| 26. Christ Memorial, North Brookfield, The Rev. Dr. Paula Winsor Sage | 26. ELCA New England Synod |
| 27. St. Michael's-on-the-Heights, Worcester | 27. Faith Alive |
| 28. Holy Trinity, Southbridge | 28. Episcopal Relief & Development: Ms. Molly Robinson, Donna Sroka |
| 29. For stewardship in our churches and in our Diocese | 29. Jubilee Ministries |
| 30. Non-Parochial Priests & Deacons | 30. Historical Society of the Episcopal Church |

Contact Information

Phone: (413)628-4402

Mailing: PO Box 253
Ashfield, MA 01330

Email:
stjohnsashfield@verizon.net

Church Address: Corner of Main
and South Streets

St. John's Corner Address:
459 Main St.

Church Web Page:
www.stjohnsashfield.org

Vicar: The Reverend Eliot Moss
(On sabbatical 3/1/14 - 6/1/14)

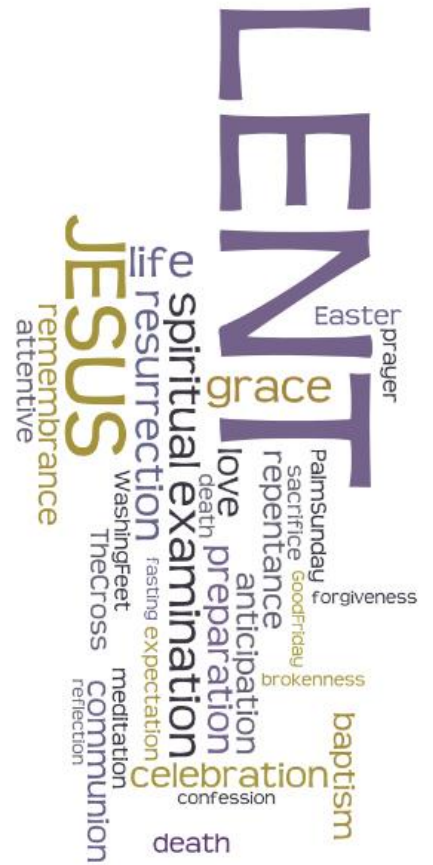
Acting Vicar: The Reverend
Jennifer L. Walters
(413) 527-0652 (home)
(413) 585-2797 (work)
jwalters@smith.edu

Secretary: Eleanor Dodson

Organist: Marilyn Berthelette
(413) 774-6748 (home)
myberthelette@gmail.com

Senior Warden: Sue Craft
(413) 628-0289 (home)

Parish Nurse: Jane Wagener
(413) 625-2111 (home)



*St. John's Episcopal Church
P. O. Box 253
Ashfield, MA 01330-0253*