



# St. John's Episcopal Church

Ashfield, Massachusetts  
Corner of Main and South Streets



May 2015

## Resurrection Stories

In his first letter to the Corinthians, Paul says that preaching a crucified Christ is a stumbling block to some and foolishness to others. But for some of us, the stumbling block is actually the Easter story. How can we believe the story of Jesus' resurrection when it is so incredible, so fantastic, so un-believable?

How it happened is a mystery. But Gospel accounts tell us that in the days following the discovery of the empty tomb, Jesus' friends and followers experienced him with them. The Gospels say that people saw him, touched him, ate with him, heard him speak to them. They felt him near, though they did not understand how it could be so. And instead of being isolated by an experience they could not explain, they talked about it. And they talked about Jesus. And their stories formed them into a community.

In the Gospel of John, we find Mary weeping and a man, she does not recognize and whom she supposes is the gardener, asks her, "Who are you looking for?" Then he says her name, "Mary."

We are seeking. We are also being found.

This Easter season, we will be looking for the resurrection in our lives and in the world around us. We will practice being curious about how Christ may be evident, be present with us here and now. We will look for signs of new life entering places that have gone dead, and try to find the words to express what we have seen, heard, and touched.

On most Sundays we'll get our coffee or tea and then gather at the front of the church for 20 minutes or so and talk about our "findings," our resurrection stories.

Leading this activity is an expression of what I've found at St. John's, why I've joined the parish and am happy to serve as an assisting priest. This community is a hardy band of "inquiring and discerning hearts." I am grateful to have been found.

I hope all will feel welcome to join in our resurrection story-telling.

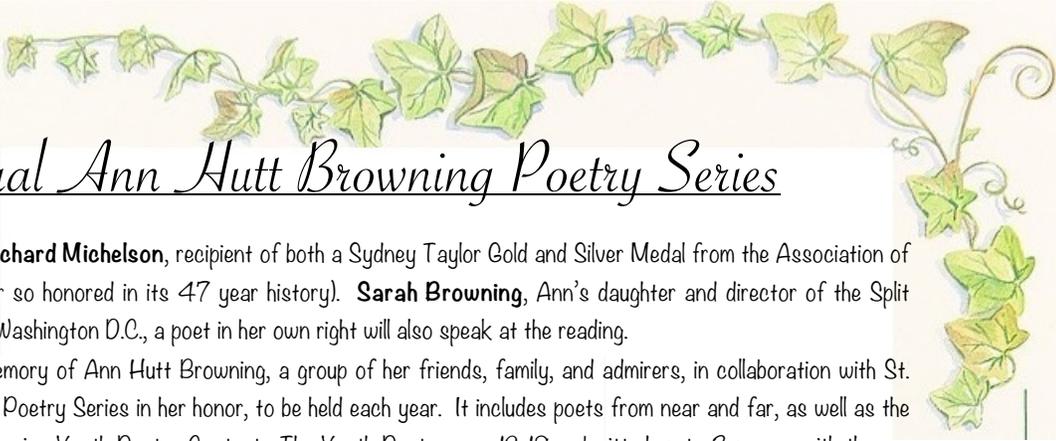
*Jennifer*

## United Thank Offering Ingathering May 17<sup>th</sup>

Now is the time to get your blue UTO box, found at the back of the church, and fill it with your donation.



United Thank Offering (UTO) is a ministry of the Episcopal Church that tries to nurture the habit of giving daily thanks. These prayers of thanksgiving start when we recognize and name our many daily blessings. United Thank Offering is entrusted to distribute monies to support mission and ministry throughout the Episcopal Church and in invited Provinces of the Anglican Communion in the developing world.



## 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Ann Hutt Browning Poetry Series

Readers for this occasion: **Richard Michelson**, recipient of both a Sydney Taylor Gold and Silver Medal from the Association of Jewish Librarians (only author so honored in its 47 year history). **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.



To honor the life and memory of Ann Hutt Browning, a group of her friends, family, and admirers, in collaboration with St. John's Church, has initiated a Poetry Series in her honor, to be held each year. It includes poets from near and far, as well as the winners of the Ann Hutt Browning Youth Poetry Contest. The Youth Poets, ages 12-18, submitted up to 3 poems with themes of social justice, the natural world, art and architecture, travel, adventure, family, and community.

The genesis of this idea 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 series. 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.

### FREE CLOTHING EXCHANGE!

Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup> from 9 am - 1 pm  
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH ASHFIELD on Main Street  
Donate those unwanted or outgrown clothes!

Ashfield Needles and Threads is hosting a Free Clothing Exchange - a community hand-me-around to facilitate **Recycling, Reusing, Sharing & Happiness** on Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup> from 9 am - 1 pm at the Congregational Church on Main Street. Come see what's available.

You are invited to drop off clothes, shoes, bedding and towels in excellent condition in the entryway of St. John's Church between Sunday afternoon, May 31<sup>st</sup> and Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup>.

Then on June 6 everyone is encouraged to bring family and friends and reusable shopping bags. Remember, folks can come pick out some clothes whether they brought any to share or not. Stock up! Leftover items will be redistributed through Share the Warmth, Hilltown Families and the Salvation Army.



*Loving God,*

*we thank you for the love of the mothers you have given us,  
whose love is so precious that it can never be measured,  
whose patience seems to have no end.*

*May we see your loving hand behind them and guiding them.  
We pray for those mothers who fear they will run out of love  
or time, or patience.*

*We ask you to bless them with your own special love.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus, our brother.*

*Amen.*



# John Calvin

-from *Holy Women, Holy Men Celebrating the Saints*



John Calvin was the premier theologian and leader of the Reformed wing of the Protestant Reformation. Calvin was born in France in 1509 and reared in a devout Roman Catholic family. He excelled at his studies and by the age of 19 he had earned a master's degree. His father wanted him to study law, which he did for a time, but Calvin's own passions were theology, languages, rhetoric and the literary sciences. Around 1534, he underwent a major conversion experience, left the Roman Church, and devoted the rest of his life to the evangelical cause of the Protestant Reformation.

Calvin's greatest work is *The Institutes of the Christian Religion*, first published in 1536, but repeatedly updated and revised until its final edition in 1559. Unlike Luther and Zwingli, whose theological writings were "situational" in the sense of addressing particular conflicts, Calvin's *Institutes* were a more systematic treatment of the whole of Reformed evangelical theology. By taking up his reforming agenda fifteen years after Luther and Zwingli, Calvin was able to write in a more reflective and considered mode, beyond the crossfire and immediacy of the early years of the Reformation. Standard themes in Reformed theology—the sovereignty of God, election and predestination, the true nature of the Christian life, and the proper understanding of the authority of Scripture—even now bear strong Calvinist qualities. *The Institutes* continue to be an accessible window into the Reformed theology of the sixteenth century.

Calvin was also interested in theological principles controlling the civil state by imposing moral discipline on the people. His efforts in Geneva to establish such a theocratic moral code enjoyed periods of modest success but were met with resistance as well. Positively, Calvin's theocratic principles of public life led to the creation of hospitals, care for the poor, orphans, widows and the infirm, provisions for better sanitation, and the creation of new industries to employ the people. Calvin's Geneva was also a safe haven for John Knox and other Protestants of the Reformed tradition during times of unrest and exile.

*Sovereign and holy God, you brought John Calvin from a study of legal systems to understand the godliness of your divine laws as revealed in Scripture: Fill us with a like zeal to teach and preach your word, that the whole world may come to know your Son Jesus Christ, the true word and wisdom; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, ever one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.*

*Holy Women, Holy Men, 2009*

## Episcopal Church Presiding Bishop: Climate Deniers Are 'Driven by Greed and Self-Centered Political Interests.'

EcoWatch Transforming Green  
<http://ecowatch.com/2015/03/28/katharine-jefferts-schori/>

Pope Francis has become something of a climate hero, as he's continued to use his pulpit in the Vatican to decry abuse of the planet. This week in Los Angeles, the leader of another Christian group added her voice to the discussion.

Katharine Jefferts Schori, the presiding bishop of the U.S. Episcopal Church, delivered the keynote address at a church-sponsored forum called *Climate Change Crisis*. The event kicked off 30 Days of Action on climate change in the 2.5 million-member denomination, a branch of the UK-based Anglican Church. During the 30 Days of Action, which runs through Earth Day April 22, the church is inviting members and others to sign up for a daily email to help them "learn, advocate, act, proclaim, eat, play and pray."

Concern for the climate comes naturally to Jefferts Schori. Prior to being ordained and then elected to head the church in 2006, she earned her undergraduate degree in biology at Stanford, followed by

her masters and PhD in oceanography from the University of Oregon and she worked as a marine biologist.

In her keynote speech, she spoke out strongly against what she called the "wanton abuse of the planet."

"Episcopalians have a prayer that names 'this fragile earth, our island home,'" she said. "We profess that God has planted us in a garden to care for it and for all its inhabitants, yet we have failed to love what God has given us. We continue to squander the resources of this earth, and we are damaging its ability to nourish the garden's diverse web of life. Jesus insists that those who will enjoy abundant life are those who care for all neighbors, especially 'the least of these'—the hungry and thirsty, the imprisoned and sick—and that must include all the species God has nurtured on this planet."

"Even those who cannot understand the duty to care for birds and sea creatures must recognize that the life of human beings depends on the health of the whole planet," she continued. "The poorest human

beings are soonest and most deeply affected by climatic changes, and least able to respond. Ultimately human beings with the most resource-intensive lifestyles are causing the hunger and thirst, displacement, illness and impoverishment of climate refugees and those without resources to adapt. There is no escape from that death and destruction, for our fate is tied to the fate of all our neighbors—the salvation of each depends on the salvation of all.”

“There are a few very loud voices who insist this is only ‘natural variation,’ but the data do not lie,” she said, calling out climate deniers. “Those voices are often driven by greed and self-centered political interests, and sometimes by willful blindness. The Judeo-Christian tradition has always called those motivations sinful. It is decidedly wrong to use resources that have been given into our collective care in ways that diminish the ability of others to share in abundant life. It is equally wrong to fail to use resources of memory, reason and skill to discern what is going on in the world around us. That has traditionally been called a sin of omission. We are making war on the integrity of this planet. The result is wholesale death as species become extinct at unprecedented rates, and human beings die from disease, starvation, and the violence of war unleashed by environmental chaos and greed.”



continue to be a flourishing place,” she told *The Guardian*. “It is certainly a moral issue in terms of the impacts on the poorest and most vulnerable around the world already. I really hope to motivate average Episcopalians to see the severity of this issue, the morality of this issue. Turning the ship in another direction requires the consolidated efforts of many people who are moving in the same direction. It’s hard work when you have a climate denier who will not see the reality of scientific truth.”

“I think it is a very blind position,” she added. “I think it is a refusal to use the best of human knowledge, which is ultimately a gift of God.”

Some smaller denominations such as the Boston-based Unitarian-Universalist Association and the Cleveland-based United Church of Christ have voted to divest from fossil fuels. But Jefferts Schori told *The Guardian* that the Episcopal Church would not be going in that direction. “If you divest you lose any direct ability to influence the course of a corporation’s behavior,” she said.

Episcopalians are largely liberal, but Jefferts Schori had some good words for evangelical Christians who are paying more attention to climate issues.

“One of the significant changes in particular has been the growing awareness and activism among the evangelical community who at least somewhat in the more distant past refused to encounter this issue, refused to deal with it,” said Jefferts Schori. “The major evangelical groups in this country have been much more forward in addressing this issue because they understand that it impacts the poor.”

In addition to her address, Jefferts Schori did an interview with *The Guardian* of London to call attention to the Episcopal Church’s climate activism. She again emphasized the moral dimension of caring for the Earth and called out the deniers.

“It is much like the civil rights movement in this country where we are attending to the rights of all people and the rights of the earth to

## Franklin County Diaper Drive

- Lisa Goding, Family Services Director

Did you know that: 1 out of 3 families struggle to afford diapers which can cost on average \$100/month per child? SNAP and WIC benefits cannot be used to purchase diapers. Without transportation, families in the Hilltowns who buy diapers at convenience stores often pay double to triple the cost than at a large discount store.



Please join us in closing the diaper gap.

It Takes a Village has joined the Diaper Task Force for their annual Franklin County Diaper Drive. From Mother's Day to Father's Day (Sunday, May 10th through Sunday, June 21st), we will be collecting diapers, of all sizes and kinds, and wipes for our hilltown families.

Do you have leftover diapers that your child grew out of? There will be diaper donation sites in Ashfield, Cummington, and Huntington. Don't have extra diapers but still want to help? Mail us a check in any amount and we will purchase diapers with your tax deductible donation. Please make checks out to Community Action, write "Diaper Drive" in memo line and send to: It Takes a Village, P.O. Box 484, Williamsburg, MA 01096-0484. All diapers will go directly to Hilltown families.

For more information, call our Family Services Director, Lisa, at 413-455-5008. The Diaper Drive is sponsored by the Franklin County Diaper Task Force and the United Way of Franklin County



## 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>
May 3	5- Sunday of Easter	Eliot Moss	Eliot Moss	Sue Craft	Sue Craft	Addison Hall
May 10	6- Sunday of Easter	Eliot Moss	Eliot Moss	Jim Wagener	Sue Craft	Marilyn Berthelette
May 17	Sunday after Ascension	Eliot Moss	Eliot Moss	David Bruffee	Sue Craft	Bambi Phillips
May 24 	Pentecost	Eliot Moss	Eliot Moss	Arianna Burch	Sue Craft	Burch/Monds Family
May 31 	Trinity Sunday	Eliot Moss	Eliot Moss	Kristen Wickline	Sue Craft	Marilyn Berthelette
June 7	2- Sun. after Pentecost	Eliot Moss	Eliot Moss	Mary Snow	Marilyn Berthelette	Sue Craft
June 14	3- Sun. after Pentecost	Eliot Moss	Eliot Moss	Susan Todd	Marilyn Berthelette	Clarence West
June 21	Community Interfaith Service			Marilyn Berthelette	Marilyn Berthelette	Lynette Seivert
June 28	5- Sun. after Pentecost	Eliot Moss	Eliot Moss	Clarence West	Marilyn Berthelette	David Bruffee

## St. John's Vestry Minutes March 1, 2015

**Present:** David Bruffee, Jennifer Walters, Eliot Moss, Mary Snow, Susan Todd, Jane Wagener

**Opening Meditation:** Susan Todd

**Absent:** Bryan Dufrense

**Covenant:** Read by all. Discussed revisions.

**Minutes:** MSP to accept as amended.

**Check in:** All

**Treasurer's Report:** No discussion. There will be an audit meeting in April. Date to be announced.

**Calendar:** Holy Week: Maundy Thursday we will set up the table at the altar. Jennifer will give the homily.

Good Friday and Palm Sunday: Discussion on how to do the Passion readings. It was decided that readers would read sections of the reading and we would not do the dramatic version involving the entire congregation.

We will not do an Easter Vigil this year.

The Liturgy Team will meet to work out the details for the week.

Eliot will not be here on March 22. Jennifer will lead the service.

Jennifer will lead Lenten discussions during coffee hour to talk about the lessons.

Defining Jennifer's role as assistant priest is still a work in progress. Susan put Jennifer's name on the Parochial Report as adult ed. leader and as assisting priest.

**Pastoral Care:** The team hasn't met in a couple of months. Susan wants to have a discussion with Ashfield's chief of police to understand the needs of the town.

**Vestry Retreat:** We will continue the process of defining "Goal Opportunities and Challenges." We will be sending out a survey on Constant Contact (as well as mailing to those without email).

**Old Business:**

Shultz Grant allocation: tabled for further discussion.

Redecoration of the Corner House Parlor: team will meet in the next week.

**New Business:**

CDI grant: discussion re: support for Motherwoman, the compost bin.  
There was discussion on thinking of other ways to request funds to help the Parish. There is a grant available from the ECUSA for rural churches. How could we take advantage of this opportunity?

We have endorsed a grant for It Takes a Village to be fiscally responsible, passing through their grant money (not part of our income) while they are working on getting their own federal ID number.

The Parochial Report is ready to be submitted.

Discussion about the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ashfield. We are in discussion with First Congregational Church about having a joint service to celebrate the dual ministry between First Church and St. John's begun in 1945 and lasting many years. Susan Todd is working with members of First Church towards this end.

Audit Goals in Annual Report: We need a safe Church Policy. Eliot will get a model of this for us to work on. We also need a procedure for our financial team.

**Vicar's Report:** We need to approve Arriana Burch as a Eucharistic minister. MSP to approve.

**Round Robin:** All

**Next Vestry Meeting:** April 12

**Respectfully submitted:**

Jane Wagener, Clerk

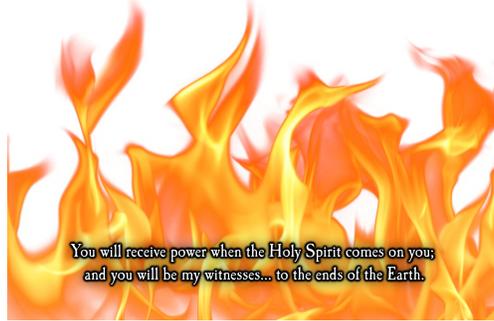


May Calendar

3	10:00 am	Eucharist & Healing Service – 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	
10		HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!!	
	10:00 am	Eucharist Service – 6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	
	12:00 pm	Vestry Meeting	St. John's Corner
12	10:30 am	Senior Center Outreach	St. John's Corner
	2:30 pm	Hilltown Churches Food Pantry – Volunteers	
		First Congregational Church, Ashfield	
	3:00 – 6:00 pm	Hilltown Churches Food Pantry – Distribution	
		First Congregational Church, Ashfield	
17	10:00 am	Eucharist Service – 7 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter: The Sunday after the Ascension	
24	10:00 am	Eucharist Service – The Day of Pentecost	
		Newsletter Deadline	
25		MEMORIAL DAY	
26	2:30 pm	Hilltown Churches Food Pantry – Volunteers	
		First Congregational Church, Ashfield	
	3:00 – 6:00 pm	Hilltown Churches Food Pantry – Distribution	
		First Congregational Church, Ashfield	
31	10:00 am	Eucharist Service – Trinity Sunday	
	<u>Sundays:</u>	Eucharist – 10:00 am	St. John's Church
	<u>Mondays:</u>	MotherWoman – 11:00 am	St. John's Corner
		Al Anon – 7:30 pm	St. John's Corner
	<u>Wednesdays:</u>	Centering Prayer – 5:30 pm	St. John's Corner
	<u>Thursdays</u>	Osteoporosis Class – 9:30 am	St. John's Corner

## Community Interfaith Service

The Town of Ashfield was incorporated on June 21, 1765 and this year celebrates it's 250<sup>th</sup> birthday. In celebration of this anniversary, there will be a Community Interfaith Service at 10:00 am under the tent on town common – sponsored by Ashfield Congregational Church and St. John's Church. People of all faith traditions are invited to join in the service. We are hoping that a number of different faiths will participate. If you are interested in helping plan the service you can contact Bruce Bennett (628-4523) or Susan Todd (628-3998).



### THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS ‘CELEBRATING GOD’S ABUNDANCE’

## *Diocesan Prayer Cycle – May 2015*

<b>Diocesan Ministries</b>	<b>Wider Mission</b>		
1. The Rt Rev. Douglas and Betsy Fisher	1. The Most Rev. Dr. Katharine Jefferts Schori, Presiding Bishop	16. Spouses of deceased clergy	16. Episcopal Peace Fellowship
2. Christ Church Cathedral, Springfield - The Very Rev. James Munroe, Canon Tom Callard, The Rev. Bill Dwyer	2. Gay Clark Jennings, President, House of Deputies	17. St. Andrew's Chapel, North Adams	17. Episcopal Media Services
3. Cozette Haggerty, Bishop's Exec. Asst.	3. The Episcopal Ministry in Higher Education	18. Karen Warren, Diocesan Support Staff	18. Third Order of Franciscans
4. Diocesan Council	4. Associated Parishes for Liturgy and Mission	19. Grace Church, Dalton	19. Episcopal Women's Caucus
5. All Saints' Church of the Berkshires, North Adams -	5. The National Assoc. of Episcopal Schools, Inc.	20. For repose of the soul of The Rt. Rev. Robert Denig - VII Bishop of Western Massachusetts	20. Education for Ministry - Joan Gilchrist, Coordinator
6. The Human Resources Committee	6. Bible Reading Fellowship	21. Episcopal Church Women - Susan Howland	21. Evangelical Education Society
7. St. Mark's, Worcester - Rev. Donald Chamberlain	7. Office of Government Relations	22. East & South Worcester Deanery - The Rev. William Murray, Dean	22. Faith Alive
8. Franklin-Hampshire Deanery - The Rev. Tanya Wallace, Dean	8. Church Periodical Club	23. Ministry to Veterans	23. National Episcopal Health Ministries
9. St. John's, Northampton - Rev. Catherine Munz and Dcn. Eric Elley	9. St. Paul's, Otis – summer chapel	24. St. Andrew's, North Grafton - Rev. Laura Goodwin, Rev. Richard Clarke	24. Historical Society of the Episcopal Church
10. Trinity, Shelburne Falls— Rev. Marguerite Sheehan	10. Episcopal Camps & Conference Centers, Inc. (ECCC)	25. Bement-Waterfield College Scholarship Committee	25. Spiritual Formation and Leadership Development
11. Repose for the soul of The Rt. Rev. Alexander Hamilton Vinton, I Bishop of Western Mass.	11. Social Justice	26. Church of the Nativity, Northborough - Rev Len Cowan and Rev. Michael Cheney	26. National Cathedral Association
12. Education for Ministry, Ms. Joan E. Gilchrist, Diocesan Coordinator	12. CREDO	27. The Rt. Rev. Gordon P. Scruton, VIII Bishop of Western Massachusetts	27. Friendship Covenant with Diocese of Kumasi, Ghana
13. St. Andrew's Church, Turners Falls - Rev. Marnie Keator	13. The Episcopal Church Foundation	28. St. Stephen's, Westborough, The Rev. Jesse Abell	28. Chinese Ministry, Boston
14. Trinity Church, Ware—Rev. Dr. Randall Wilburn	14. Episcopal Church Missionary Community	29. Lawrence House Service Corps	29. Church Publishing, Inc.
15. Berkshire Deanery - The Rev. Annie Ryder, Dean	15. Ecumenical Relations	30. The Rev. Jenny Gregg, Missioner for Servant Leadership	30. Girls' Friendly Society
		31. Daughters of the King - Ms. Phyllis Larson, Mariana Bauman,	31. Fellowship of the Way of the Cross

Contact Information

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459 Main St.

Church Web Page:  
www.stjohnsashfield.org

Secretary: Eleanor Dodson

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

Vicar: The Reverend Eliot Moss  
(413) 253-9242 (home)  
(413) 695-4226 (cell)  
moss@cs.umass.edu

Assisting Priest:  
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(413)585-2797 (cell)  
jwalters@smith.edu

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

Senior Warden: Susan Todd  
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*St. John's Episcopal Church*  
**P. O. Box 253**  
**Ashfield, MA 01330-0253**

God could not be everywhere and therefore he made mothers.

- Jewish proverb