

THE PORTAL

February 2017
Issue



Annual Meeting ~ Mid Winter Edition

Saint John's
The Episcopal Church
in Pine Meadow, CT



EPISCOPAL CHURCH
IN CONNECTICUT

FROM THE BISHOPS –

**The Rt. Rev. Ian Douglas &
The Rt. Rev. Laura J. Ahrens**

Dear Companions in Christ in the Episcopal Church in Connecticut:

Last Friday, January 27, 2017 President Donald Trump signed the Executive Order entitled: "Protecting the Nation From Foreign Terrorist Entry Into the United States". This far-reaching and sweeping Executive Order includes, but is not limited to: suspending our country's refugee resettlement program for 120 days, suspending the resettlement of Syrian refugees for an indefinite time, reducing the number of refugees to be admitted to the United States in this fiscal year from 110,000 to 50,000, and prohibiting entry into the United States of citizens from Iraq, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen for a period of 90 days.

This Executive Order contravenes our American values of welcoming immigrants and refugees to our shores and makes a mockery of the words on the Statue of Liberty: "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free...."

As Christians, welcoming the alien and stranger is a fundamental feature of our faith. Hebrew Scripture over and over underscores the importance of treating the alien with hospitality and justice. "You shall not wrong or oppress a resident alien, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt." (Exodus 22:21) "Cursed be anyone who deprives the alien, the orphan, and the widow of justice." (Deuteronomy 27:19) We recall that our Lord and Savior was a refugee, fleeing with his mother and father into Egypt to escape persecution and death. (Matthew 2:13-15) And Jesus reminds us that in welcoming the stranger, we are welcoming Christ himself into our midst. (Matthew: 25:31-46)

For over 35 years the Episcopal Church in Connecticut has worked to welcome refugees to Connecticut, first through Episcopal Social Services and currently in cooperation with Integrated Refugee and Immigration Services - IRIS <http://www.irisct.org>. Our last three diocesan Annual Conventions articulated our support of IRIS and refugees. In 2014 we entered into a covenanted relationship with IRIS promising to work together closely in settling refugees. Read resolution here. In response to the growing refugee crisis in Syria, we committed ourselves in 2015 to co-sponsoring the resettlement of a minimum 30 refugee families in 2016. Read resolution here. And at our last Annual Convention in November we reiterated our support for IRIS and asked parishes and individuals to give to IRIS and consider sponsoring a refugee family. Read resolution here.

We cannot be idle as this Executive Order threatens to undermine the values that we stand for as Americans, as Chris-

tians, as Episcopalians in Connecticut. We, your bishops, urge the parishes and people of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut to take action in one or more of the following ways:

Pray: Pray for all who are adversely affected by this Executive Order and whose lives are threatened by these actions. Pray also that our President and his administration will have an amendment of heart and reconsider this order. We particularly invite you to add the prayer For Social Justice found on page 823 of the Book of Common Prayer to your personal prayers and Sunday Prayers of the People:

Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart, and especially the hearts of the people of this land, that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Speak Out: Use your voice to share your concerns about the Executive Order. Write an editorial to your local paper; use social media to connect; participate in vigils, gatherings, and witness opportunities; and sign onto petitions. Along with other faith leaders, we your bishops have recently signed the Interfaith Immigration Coalition Letter to President Trump. See letter here.

Advocate: Write, call, email, and text your local Congressperson and Senators Blumenthal and Murphy sharing your position on the Executive Order and encouraging their efforts to work against the Executive Order.

Attend: Participate in the annual ECCT Companions in Mission Ministry Network conference: "Refugees and Immigrants: Across the Street and Around the World" to be held at St. John's Episcopal Church in West Hartford on March 4, 2017. Registration can be found at [here](#).

Collaborate: Work with your parish, other parishes in your area, ecumenical and interfaith partners, and community organizations to welcome refugees into your neighborhood through IRIS and other refugee resettlement agencies.

Give: Donate generously to IRIS and other refugee resettlement agencies such as Episcopal Migration Ministries so that they can continue their work resettling immigrants and refugees.

Additional ideas for how you can help are found on the Episcopal Migration Ministries website [here](#).

Thank you for your attention to the plight of refugees and immigrants in the world, and especially in the United States at this time. May we see Christ in those who are different from us, welcoming strangers and aliens with open arms of hospitality, love, and generosity. God's mission of restoration and reconciliation compels us to continue to settle immigrants and refugees in our country.

Faithfully,
The Rt. Rev. Ian Douglas
Bishop Diocesan

The Rt. Rev. Laura Ahrens
Bishop Suffragan

UPCOMING DATES TO NOTE:

- **St. John's Knitting Group** – February 5th following the 10am Eucharist.
- **Rhythms of Grace Confirmation Class** – February 5th 1pm in the sanctuary.
- **Confirm Not Conform Confirmation Class** - February 12th 11:30am in the education building.
- **Camp Washington Winter Wonderland Weekend** for Children ages 7-12, Feb. 17-19.
- **Open Door Soup Kitchen** – February 18th at St. James Winsted
- **Vestry Conversation with Bishop Ahrens** – February 12th or 19th. (tentative dates)
- **Vestry Training with Amy Welin+** – February 23rd @7pm
- **Gospel Sunday** – February 26
- **Pretzel Sunday** – February 26th
- **Northwest Region 7 Mardi Gras Jazz Bands Concert** – February 28th at St. John's
- **Ash Wednesday** – March 1st
- **God's Mission: Across the Street & Around the World** – March 4th @ St. John's in West Hartford
- **Camp Washington Happening Weekend** (high school sophomores, juniors, seniors) March 24-26.
- **Spring Training & Gathering** – April 1st 9am-4pm at Lincoln Middle School in Meriden, CT
- **Camp Washington Middle School Youth Weekend** – April 28-30
- **Around God's Table – A Liturgical Festival** – May 6&7 at Camp Washington and Christ Church Cathedral – Ages 8 – 11
- **Holy Week – Palm Sunday through Easter Sunday** – April 9-16

CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

During Epiphany our Godly Play class will be exploring several of our parable stories. A special calendar is available on our children's website: reddoorschildren.weebly.com. As we end February (26th) we will have our traditional Pretzel Sunday with our children creating pretzels for coffee hour. We will also have Lenten resources for adults, families, and children available to take home in the parish hall. On Ash Wednesday we will Burn the Palms for use in our services. Join us as we cut, and pray over the palms, then participate in a short service to receive those ashes

Linda Snyder
Christian Formation



Bell Ringers – Volunteers Needed. With the new year comes a new rota to sign up to toll the tower bell for worship.

Coffee Hour Volunteers – Each Sunday we gather after worship for conversation and light refreshments, hosted by members of the congregation. The only requirements are setting up the coffee (directions are provided) and bringing along a small carton of creamer and something sweet or savory to share, and straightening up the hall and kitchen before departing. Co-hosting with another person or family is strongly encouraged. Please join us in this important ministry of hospitality.

Open Door Soup Kitchen – Volunteers are needed to join our team for February 18th at St. James in Winsted. (9:00am–1:00pm) Please join us.

February Collection for The Open Door – We are in need of socks and underwear. Please place your donations in the bins in the narthex.

Operation Overflow Homeless Shelter in Torrington has a great need for twin sized sheets.



Special thanks to **Ron Caine**, **Tom Chappell**, **Bruce Wearne**, **Betty Castonguay**, **Bob Osborne** and **Jeff Linton** for cleaning the church.

Thanks to **Ron Caine** for assisting in the plumbing work. Thank you to **Anne Hall** for providing the weekly Prayer List. Thanks to our **Soup Kitchen Crew** for their hard work. Thanks to **Pat Sepples** for snow removal and sanding the walks.

Many thanks to **Beth Coates** for coordinating the Jesse Tree. Thanks to all the **elves** for helping sort and/or deliver gifts. Thanks also to **everyone** who donated gifts, money and food, for Christmas Meals. The collection was a wonderful success due to your generosity.

Thanks to **Cynthia Welch** and the **Altar Guild** for their loving care of our sanctuary and polishing the silver, putting wreaths on the door and decorating the church with Christmas Flowers. Thanks to everyone who contributed to the Christmas Flowers. Thank you to **Barbara Hinman** for folding all the newsletters throughout the year.

Thanks to **Blake Hall** for his hard work throughout the year working on the weekly reports and statements.

Special thanks to **Halyna & The Choir** for their hard work preparing music for Lessons & Carols and for the Christmas Services.

Special thanks to **Diane Hayes** and **Linda Snyder** for all their hard work with the Epiphany Pageant and thank you also to the volunteers

Thank you to **Ginny Hoffmann**, **Winnie Pratt**, **Joanne Ritchie**, **Betty Castonguay** and **Nancy Gibson & Howie Martin** our office volunteers.

Thanks to **everyone** who helps with the mission and ministry of St. John's.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES - 2016



EPIPHANY PAGEANT



DWELLING IN THE WORD CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST



IMPROMPTU WATER BOTTLE CHALLENGE



CHARLOTTE DUFOUR AWARD RECIPIENTS



MEET OUR MEMBER



I am – Margaret Joan Budny Peggy Jo (Mom was told I had to have a Christian name and couldn't be named Peggy Jo)

At St. John's I – Try to help where I can. Currently on vestry until January. Help with church school.

How long – Eeks 60 years.

Do all day- Work my business Peggy's Personalized Promos, selling promotional products, train and play with my dog, Samson, Chief Petty Pawcifer, walk with my friend Peggy and spend way too much time on Facebook.

Mentors – Mom, Hazel Warren, Jerry Coutu

Favorite memory – so many – birth of children, mom bathing me in the kitchen sink as a baby, meeting John

Biggest challenge – not worrying about whether or not everyone likes me.

Change 1 thing – the orthodontia work I had as a kid. I'd do it again the right way. Might go to college.

Friends describe me – You'd have to ask them. Smart, funny, sarcastic, still needing affirmation that people like me? LOL I'll add indecisive; I like choices and can't usually decide on one thing unless it's vanilla ice cream.

My life says – Time is short. Go on vacations, make memories, have fun, be kind, honest, faithful, fair and ethical.

Favorite movie – To Kill A Mockingbird / Shawshank Redemption / Green Mile (here's that indecisiveness again)

Skiing or rafting or – music, art, learning, word games and puzzles

Pray about – PEACE in the world, Health and Healing, Happiness! Working on the first one, the second is an ongoing endeavor, the third, I have profound happiness and gratitude most days.

Greatest joy – Finding faith and knowing I will one day see my family and friends and get my great reward. (I would get in trouble if I said Samson)

PARISH REGISTER – Contact Information, Birthdays & Anniversaries Needed Please email Michelle, our Parish Administrator at the Parish Office at office@RedDoors.com with updates of your email and phone contact information. Also, we love to honor folks on their birthdays and anniversaries. Please let us know the month and day, so that we can celebrate with you!



HEALING EUCHARIST WITH READINGS FROM HOLY WOMEN, HOLY MEN – Thursday evenings at 6:30pm.



St. John's Community shares our prayer requests via our weekly email. Please contact Anne Hall at annehall@att.net or the Parish Office to be added to the list.

PASTORAL VISITS AND HOME COMMUNIONS

Please email the office at office@RedDoors.com if you would like a visit or to receive Holy Communion. Please also contact Mother Cosman if you enter the hospital.



FROM THE TREASURER

	Dec. 2016	Dec. 2015
Operating Income:	\$36,329	\$30,386
Operating Expenses:	\$15,265	\$14,512

YEAR TO DATE

	2016	2015
Operating Income:	\$186,741	\$186,887
Operating Expenses:	\$191,805	\$189,745

Larry Espinet, Treasurer

Thank you, Larry for your devoted work as St. John's Treasurer. We are grateful for your service!



February 2017

St. John's Church—Calendar of Events

Anniversaries in Italics



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 12:00 PM AA 8:00 PM AA	2 Bible Study— 10:00AM 11:00 AM Volun- teers 6:30 PM Holy Eucharist	3 10:00AM AI-Anon 8:30 PM AA	4
5 Holy Eucharist 8:00 & 10:00 AM Knitting Class— 11:00AM Rhythms of Grace—1:00PM	6	7	8 12:00 PM AA 8:00 PM AA	9 Bible Study— 10:00AM 11:00 AM Volun- teers 6:30 PM Holy Eucharist	10 10:00AM AI-Anon 8:30 PM AA	11
12 Holy Eucharist 8 & 10 AM Confirmation Class—11:30am Vestry Conversa- tion with Bishop Ahrens John & Beth Dee	13	14	15 12:00 PM AA 8:00 PM AA	16 Bible Study— 10:00AM 11:00 AM Volun- teers 6:30 PM Holy Eucharist	17 10:00AM AI-Anon 8:30 PM AA	18 Open Door
19 Holy Eucharist 8 & 10 AM	20 Presidents Day— Office Closed	21	22 12:00 PM AA 8:00 PM AA	23 Bible Study— 10:00AM 11:00 AM Volun- teers 6:30 PM Holy Eucharist Vestry Training With Amy Welin At 7:00PM	24 10:00AM AI-Anon 8:30 PM AA <i>Peter & Barbara Freigant</i>	25
26 Holy Eucharist 8 & 10 AM Gospel Sunday Pretzel Sunday	27	28 Mardi Gras Jazz Concert 7:00PM				

February Birthdays

4 Feb Peter Ficalora
8-Feb Cynthia Welch
9-Feb Jessica Hinman
14-Feb Billie Jo Martocchio
15-Feb Russell Dougan

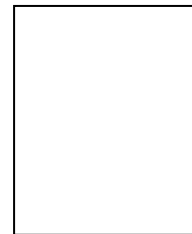
15-Feb Amelia Ficalora
16-Feb Anne Hall
19-Feb Skip Misorski
20-Feb Christian Johnson
20-Feb Jackie Espinet

26-Feb Jennifer Hester
26-Feb Marie Keefe
26-Feb Thomas Colavecchio
28-Feb Ashley Jakubowski

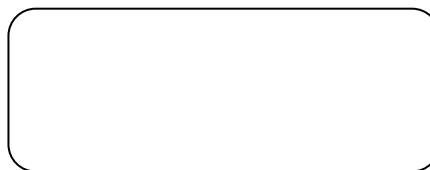


Saint. John's The Episcopal Church in Pine Meadow

51 Church Street – P.O. Box 27
Pine Meadow, Connecticut 06061
RedDoors.com



*Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my
prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. Phil. 1*



CONTACTS YOU SHOULD KNOW

Saint John's

The Episcopal Church in Pine Meadow

51 Church Street – P.O. Box 27
Pine Meadow, CT 06061
Ph: 860-379-3062

Office Hours:

Mon.-Thurs., 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

After Hours Emergency Only:

Priest in Charge 860-227-6991

Priest in Charge:

The Rev. Sandra Lee Cosman, M.Div.
E-Mail: Sandra.Cosman@gmail.com

Secretary:

Michelle Piekos
E-Mail: Office@RedDoors.com

Music Director:

Halyna Petronchak
E-mail: Halyna191@gmail.com

Christian Education Specialist:

Linda L. Snyder
Email: llsnyders4@charter.net

Web sites:

St. John's: www.RedDoors.com
facebook.com/stjohnspineadow/
ECCT: EpiscopalCT.org

Saint John's 2017 Vestry

Sr. Warden:

Stanley Moraski Stanleymoraskijr@comcast.com

Jr. Warden:

John Gargiulo gargiulos@att.net

Treasurer:

Diane Hayes hayesd@snet.net

Clerk of the Vestry:

Beth Coates b.coates@charter.net

Members:

Jill Healey (2018) houseofhealey@sbcglobal.net
Nancy Gibson (2018) nangibson1@hotmail.com
Sally O'Neill(2019) smonee@earthlink.net
Kevin Case (2019) kcase@cantonschools.org
Ryan Patch (2020) neonrt46@yahoo.com
Virginia Hoffmann(2020) 3mccabe8@gmail.com

ECCT Delegates:

Robert Osborne rkosborne_98@yahoo.com
Anne Hall annehall81@yahoo.com

Outreach Ministries:

Laura & Bruce Wearne moseyworks@gmail.com
Lucie Martocchio luciemart63@aol.com

Altar Guild:

Cynthia Welch welchcbma@sbcglobal.net

Intercessory Prayer List Requests:

Anne Hall annehall81@yahoo.com

2017 PORTAL DEADLINES

Publication Month	Deadline: Noon, Friday
February	January 30
March	February 27
April	March 27
May	April 24
June/July	May 29
August	July 24
Sept/October	September 4
November	October 23
December/January	November 27
Please enter these dates on your calendar NOW.	

Deadline for the March Portal is noon, February 27th
Word limit is 250.
Send information to office@RedDoors.com