



## **St John's Episcopal Church** [www.sjchurchsandwich.org](http://www.sjchurchsandwich.org)

**Our Mission:** St. John's is a community called by Christ to grow spiritually and to make known God's love through word and deed in our congregation and the broader world.

**Our Vision:** We do this through:

**Worship:** We give thanks and praise to God, who is known to us in Word and Sacrament.

**Formation:** We are a community committed to lifelong Christian development, offering opportunities for formation and fellowship for persons of all ages.

**Service:** We care for one another in this congregation, and commit to outreach to the broader community.

*Adopted by Vestry, June 2017.*

### **Small Group Ministries 2019-2020**

For 2019-2020, we are committing to live into our call for Formation with renewed planning and intentionality. Our ministry groups focused on Formation, and are certainly not all of our opportunities for ministry or service: we have our altar guild, choir, worship assistants, partnership with Cape Kids Meals, among other opportunities.

Many of you are already actively involved in our ministry groups: we could not do what we do without the passionate, faithful, and engaged participation of our members. We are grateful and blessed by the time and talent offered by our members in support of our ministries. We are asking everyone at St. John's in the coming year to think about where God might be calling them to be part of one or more of this groups in the 2019-2020 program year as part of our call to lifelong formation.

Bereavement Group: Grief visits all of us at one time or another in our lives. If you are grieving anyone or anything you are invited to join others for conversation and fellowship. This group meets monthly and is coordinated by the Rev. Barbara Peterson, our priest associate.

Bible Study: Our fall Bible Study will be held October 30 and November 6, 13, and 20. The topic will be "The Four Strangest Stories in the Bible." Please join us for any of these sessions, each are designed and intended to be stand-alone. This group is facilitated by the Rector.

How To Talk about Difficult Things: At times it can seem our society is unable to have a civil, reasonable discussion about anything. How do we engage with others who may think differently, and how do we remain in dialogue even when we disagree? This five-week group will be held beginning in February 2019, using a program developed by the Episcopal Church's Office of Government Relations. This group will be facilitated by Coleen Sari and Steve Tom.

Parenting In an Online World: It can be difficult as a parent to navigate how to raise children in a

world where people interact more and more online. How do we draw appropriate boundaries and keep our kids safe, while at the same time allowing for the rich interactions that are possible in an online world? This group will start meeting in October 2019 and be facilitated by Christine Hudson, our Director of Christian Education. The first two sessions will feature Jannell Hoffman author of the book, iRules: What Every Tech-Healthy Family Needs to Know About Selfies, Sexting, Gaming and Growing Up.

Lenten Series: We will hold our Lenten Series March 5, 12, 19, 26 at one of our local restaurants here in Sandwich for food, fellowship, and learning. Our topic this year is still to be determined: let us know what you would like to discuss! This will be facilitated by the Rector.

Prayer Group: There are as many and varied ways we come to God in prayer as there are Christians. While we gather weekly in Sunday community worship, how do we pray to God the other six days of the week? This Prayer Group will meet monthly and explore different models and prayer practices.

God's Hands in the World: Outreach: We are called to be God's hands at work in the world. Our Outreach Group helps discern needs in our local community and support the ongoing work of our current outreach efforts. A particular emphasis this year is working on strengthening relationships with our partners, in particular the work of the Cape Cod Council of Church and Cape Kids Meals. The Outreach Group meets monthly and is facilitated by Meredith Randall.

Women's Group: The Women's Group normally meets the first Thursday of the month at a bring-your-dinner for food, fellowship, and conversation. This group is facilitated by Jan Greene.

Men's Group: The Men's Group meets the first Saturday of each month for breakfast and conversation. The Men's Group also coordinates our annual Fourth of July Pancake Breakfast. This group is facilitated by Robbi Laak.

Prayer Shawls: Prayer Shawls are one of the many ways that a congregation helps share the healing presence of God. Shawls are given to those who could benefit by a physical reminder of God's love. This group meets on Mondays at the same time as the quilters in the Parish Hall.

Hugs From Home: Our dedicated team of quilters makes lap size quilts for our retired Veterans, the McCarthy House, and full size quilts for deployed service members. This group meets on Mondays at 2 PM and Wednesday evenings at 5 PM. You do not have to know how to sew or quilt!

Faith Communities Environmental Network (FCEN): St. John's is a founding member of the Faith Communities Environmental Network, which is part of the Cape Cod Climate Change Collaborative. Building on our biblical call to be stewards of God's creation, the FCEN looks at issues of care for creation and environmental sustainability. The FCEN brings together faith communities to talk about best practices for environmental stewardship and hosts gatherings of leaders from science, government, and faith communities to discuss issues of concern for us in this particularly fragile ecosystem called Cape Cod.

If you are interested in any of these, contact information for the facilitators is available from the church office, or please be in touch directly with the Rev. Thomas Ferguson, the Rector, at [revtcferguson@gmail.com](mailto:revtcferguson@gmail.com) or 508.888.2828.