

**Blessings of the Animals
October 6!**



On October 6th, we will celebrate St. Francis day, remembering ourselves to be part of God’s Creation, and giving thanks for all the creatures that provide us food, oxygen, shelter, and also companionship.



Please bring your creatures to be blessed—pets, critters, plants—whichever of God’s created beings give you joy and life. Just make sure that they are adequately trained and/or restrained!

St. Mark’s Church



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Office Hours and Contact Info

The regular church office hours (when Missy is in the office) are Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10-2 and Friday from 10-12. Pastor Lise is usually in the office Tuesdays through Thursdays. Email her at chsrev@gmail.com or call 774-301-0460 anytime for a pastoral emergency.

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Parish Updates

Gratitude in the Wilderness: Pledge campaign starting October 20th. We live in “wilderness” times. The church is in the middle of transition, local and national leaders are in crisis, the climate emergency is escalating, many families are struggling with illness, addictions, financial challenges. How can we find joy and God’s presence in the midst of this? How can we act out of gratitude? Stay tuned!!

Did you know? There is a new bus to Newport and Providence. The Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA) has begun an express bus from Newport to Providence that has stops in Tiverton, Fall River, and Somerset, M-F, mornings and late afternoons/evenings.

The Thrift Shop needs your help! Winter is coming and people will need warm clothing, sheets, blankets, towels, and handcloths. Any new or gently used goods are welcome. The Thrift Shop is now open Tuesday and Saturday from 9-12.

New bell on the backdoor. When you are coming in the kitchen entrance, there is now a bell to ring for entrance.

Search and History, cont.

There were many events that churches were known for such as being involved in city celebrations and parades, teen retreats, fashion shows, dinner shows and plays. All that belonged to the former churches and those only involved with CHS talked about Worship. Some said that their worship was unique from week to week or that their Christmas Eve services were very beautiful. Special services such as our Blue Christmas, Pet Blessing, and our commemoration of Mary are a few more favorites.

For CHS having a Thrift Shop, Soup Kitchen and many different groups who meet here have made us unique. For all, the merger, joining these wonderful parishes together into what we are today, the Church of the Holy Spirit was a significant event.

We will be planning more exercises involving the parish to help with completing other portions of our important Parish Profile.
—The CHS Search Team

October
2019

The Messenger

THE SORT-OF MONTHLY LETTER OF THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

"COME, DISCOVER AND SHARE CHRIST'S JOY!"

Dates to Note!

October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, Tuesdays, 5 pm, Search team meeting, S. Almond Street

October 6, Sunday, 9:30 am, Blessing of the Animals

October 10, Thursday, 6:30 pm, 5 pm, S. Almond Street

October 20, Sunday, Start of pledge campaign

October 25-27, Friday-Sunday, Multi-parish retreat, Barbara Harris Camp

October 27, Sunday, 8 and 9:30 am, the Rev. Laurie Rofinot, preaching and celebrating

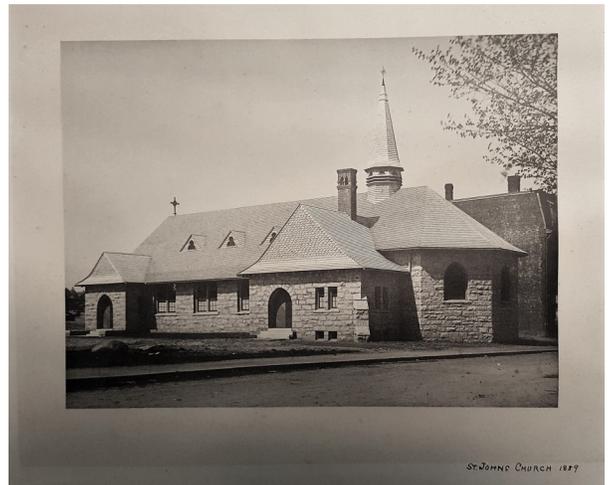
Search Team: History Summary

The search team is currently working on the "history" portion of our Parish Profile. Last Sunday during our normal Sermon time we divided ourselves by what parish in the city we previously belong to, if any, before the merger. We also had feedback from those who only have belonged to CHS and from those at our early service. The answers to the questions ask turned out to be very similar in all the groups.

What people liked about their former parishes the most was a family atmosphere whether it was because people had actual generations of their family attending or because they felt like family. People loved that they quickly felt included and people were so friendly.

The music was also a popular answer and very important to a lot of people. Some talked about big choirs that included both young and old. The children of each of the parishes with big Sunday schools and children and teen activities was another thing that many had fond memories of. Children were allowed to be children and participated in the services. Parish meals of all different kinds were a big part of every parish. There were also some beloved parish priests along the way that imparted wisdom that was remembered and made a part of people's lives.

When asked what people would change about their former parishes most thought a little and then said... nothing.



St John's Episcopal Church

Some talked about not liking times of conflict or when unwanted change happened. Others talked about having to make tough decisions like contemplating mergers at different times in their histories—how these decisions sometimes divided people who either felt that they needed to stay as they were or felt that it was time to do something different.

The questions of what your parish was known for/what made it unique and what were some significant events in your former church tended to overlap some. St. James had park events and the doll house parade. St. Marks had the Flying Lion Café and many meals including the Potato Pie Suppers. St. Stevens and then the Partnership had the Holly Berry Bizarre and the first female Priest in Fall River. Church of the Ascension was considered the "mother" church in the city and had a visit from Elenore Roosevelt!

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