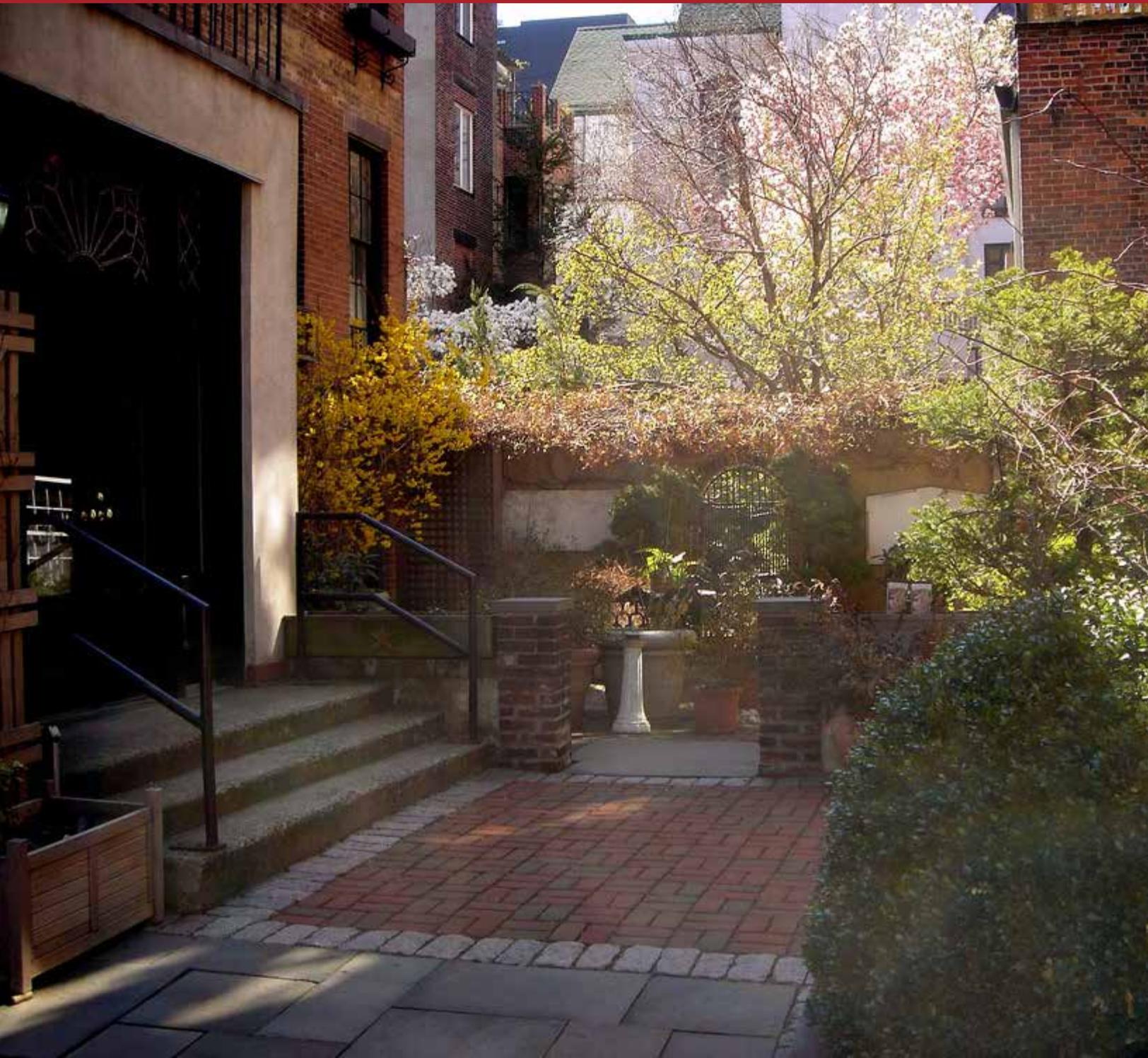


St. John's in the Village

Parish Profile
May, 2017



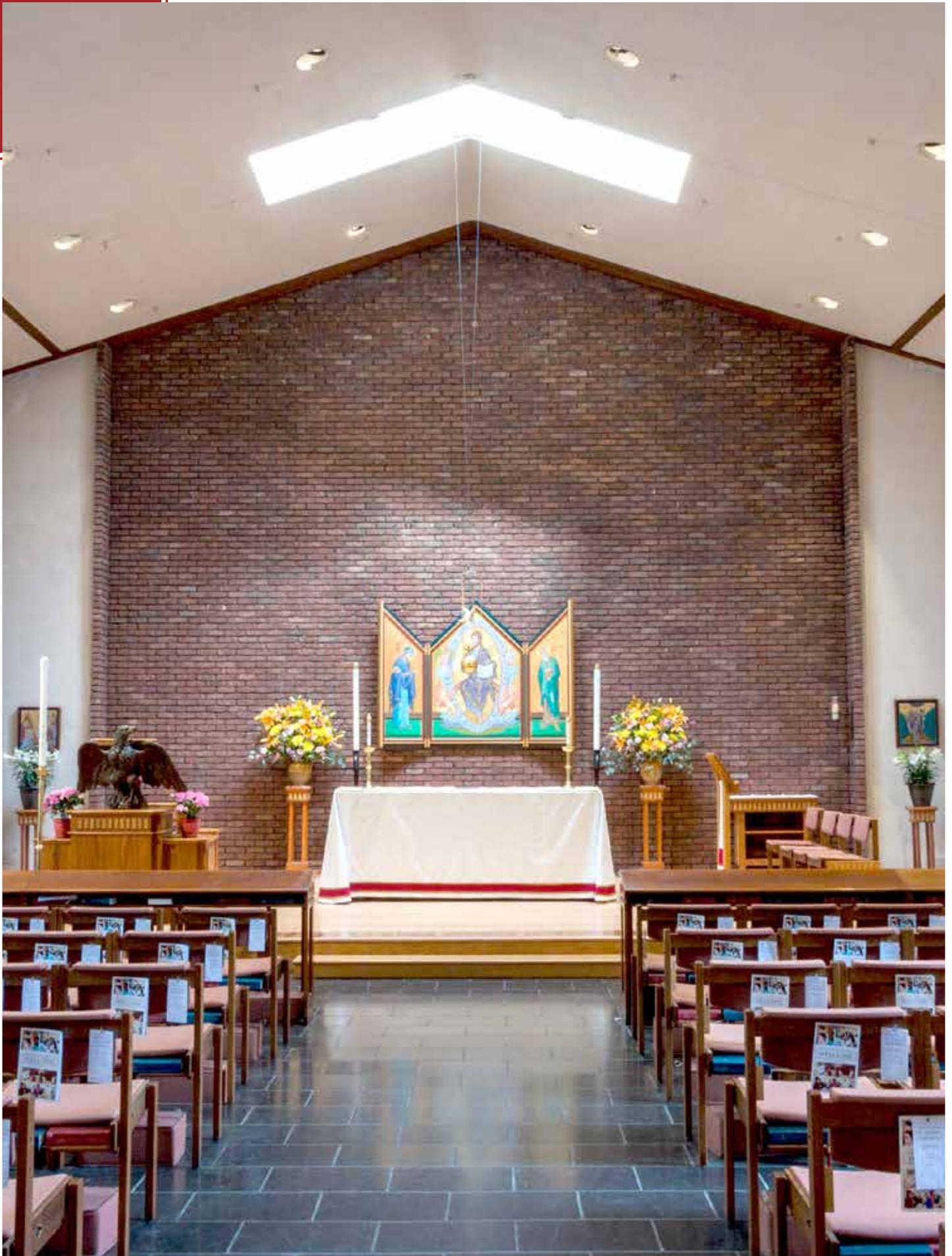


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WELCOME

*T*his profile, which provides a brief introduction to St. John's and our ministry in New York City's historic Greenwich Village neighborhood, was prepared by the Search Committee and is intended as a helpful resource for priests considering whether they may be called to serve as the twelfth rector of St. John's. We hope that the information in this profile will give everyone who reads it a greater understanding of our parish, its history in the community, its present state, and its hoped-for future.

Since 1856, St. John's has provided a spiritual oasis in this bustling neighborhood. As the first Episcopal church in the nation to adopt an open and affirming stance, our parish has played an important role in the life of the LGBT community, from the Stonewall era through the HIV/AIDS crisis to the celebration of marriage equality in both the church and the country. In 1987, we called the first openly gay rector in the diocese, and women have long served at St. John's as priests and deacons. Given the ongoing demographic changes in our neighborhood, we seek a rector who will help us to discern our mission for the future and to fulfill the role Christ is calling us to play in the neighborhood, the church, and the world.

If you believe that your priestly gifts and ministry align with those of St. John's and are prepared to shepherd us through the next phase of our parish history, we hope that you will enter the application process.

On behalf of the Vestry and Search Committee of St. John's in the Village, we thank you for your interest in our parish.

In Christ,

Carol A. Quatrone
Andrew P. Jones
Churchwardens

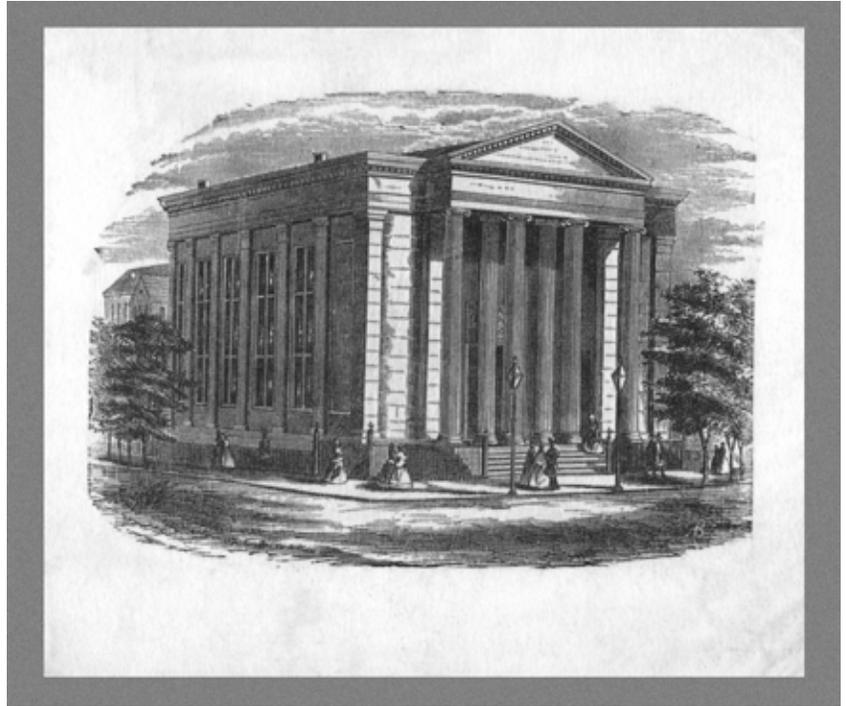
Margot Shields
Daniel P. Weick
Search Committee Co-Chairs



A BRIEF HISTORY OF OUR PARISH

Origins of the Parish.

St. John's in the Village traces its origins to a parish called St. Jude's Free Church located on Sixth Avenue near Amity Street (now the IFC Center on West Third Street and Sixth Avenue). In 1853, the parish moved out of this building and reorganized itself as the Church of St. John the Evangelist. The Reverend Edwin R.T. Cook was elected its first rector.



Following the death of the Right Reverend Jonathan Mayhew Wainwright in 1854, the Provisional Bishop of New York, a group of missionary-minded ladies decided to erect a memorial to him. They found a Baptist church for sale in a rapidly growing neighborhood. They purchased the church and property and donated it to the congregation of the Church of Saint John the Evangelist. This classical revival church would serve as a home for the parish until 1971. On May 26, 1856, the first services were held at the Bishop Wainwright Memorial Church of Saint John the Evangelist.

The Modern Era.

On November 15, 1942, the Reverend Charles Howard Graf became the ninth rector. Father Graf was responsible for St. John's evolution into a more Anglo-Catholic parish. The location of St. John's in Greenwich Village placed it within an area of New York City which had attracted artists, writers, and actors for many years. Father Graf recognized the opportunity for pastoral outreach to the gay community and sought to minister to them (albeit constrained by the parameters of the church teachings of his day). The parish served as a space for the gay community in the wake of the Stonewall riots and would go on to become the first Episcopal parish in the United States to adopt an open and affirming policy toward LGBT people.



On March 6, 1971, toward the end of Father Graf's rectorship, the historic Greek revival church building burned down. The congregation came together to fund the construction of a new building designed by Edgar Tafel, a student and colleague of Frank Lloyd Wright. Consecrated on October 6, 1976, it continues to serve as our parish's worship space.

On January 24, 1988 the Reverend Lloyd E. Prator was instituted the eleventh Rector of St John's in the Village. Father Prator was known as a gifted preacher and liturgist, to whom General Theological Seminary sent seminarians for field training, and who often directed the ceremonies for large diocesan liturgies. Our parish's social outreach continued under his leadership, and St. John's welcomed the ministry of female clergy, serving at the altar as both priests and deacons.

The AIDS crisis dominated the first half of Father Prator's cure. The parish sponsored the People With AIDS (PWA) Coalition, providing a desperately needed ministry to AIDS victims at a time when many churches succumbed to ignorance and fear and turned away those who needed them. St. John's, in partnership with Redden's Funeral Home, also provided dignified church services and burials for non-parishioners who had died from AIDS.

From 1998 until earlier this year, The Open Door provided outreach to those infected with HIV as well as those affected by the disease. Under the leadership of its founding chaplain, a trained facilitator and parochial counselor, the program offered a weekly support group for HIV+ men, assisting them to place their experience of living with HIV into the context of their individual spiritual journeys and their relationship with God. Until 2009, quarterly workshops, built around the church's four liturgical seasons, were also held; these were open not only to HIV+ people, but to their significant others, family members, and care partners.



As the only faith-based AIDS support program in the Tri-State area, for more than 19 years, the program has helped several hundred people through its mission of *Finding God in AIDS*. St. John's is proud to have faithfully continued its HIV ministry long after so many other organizations had given it up.

The parish and its clergy provided extensive spiritual support to the wider community following the September 11, 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center, including emergency responders and recovery workers, as well as ministering to the injured at nearby St. Vincent's Hospital.



Notable assisting clergy during Father Prator's tenure included Thomas E. Breidenthal (now the Bishop of Southern Ohio), J. Neil Alexander (the Ninth Bishop of Atlanta), Barbara Crafton, the gifted author and spiritual director, Dr. Richard Corney, Professor Emeritus of New Testament at General Theological Seminary, and more recently, Deacon Denise LaVetty, and Father Sam Cross (retiring to Tennessee). Bishop Paul Moore worshipped here at the end of his life, as did Father Charles Whipple. Assisting clergy included deacons-in-training as well as parochial deacons assigned by the Bishop.

Since Father Prator's retirement at the end of 2014, we have been blessed by the ministry of two Interim Pastors, the Reverend Canon Alan G. Dennis and, currently, the Reverend Gwyneth MacKenzie Murphy, both excellent preachers. Father Alan was responsible for replanting the Garden of Repose, beautifying the courtyard, and the addition of a traditional votive candle stand, a lasting memorial to a beloved parish lay leader. Pastor Gwyneth has instituted Celtic Morning Prayer with Meditation, and Saturday Yoga classes.

WORSHIP & MUSIC AT ST. JOHN'S



Reverent and traditional, with a high church flavor, divine worship constitutes the focal point of St. John's common life. Our worship cycle includes both Sunday and weekday services, as well as multiple special services throughout the church year. Music and iconography aid the congregation in giving praise to God through our liturgies.

Sundays.

The Sunday services represent our principal liturgies each week. Presently there are two services, one at 8:00 a.m. and one at 11:00 a.m., both celebrated according to Rite II of the Book of Common Prayer. The 8:00 a.m. service is a simple Eucharistic liturgy with readings, a homily, and no music. Our 11:00 a.m. sung liturgy involves a larger cast of lay acolytes, with incense, procession, hymns and anthems, preaching, and celebration of the Eucharist. Whenever there is a deacon available, a Solemn Eucharist is celebrated. Coffee Hour, a period of fellowship following each Sunday service, allows congregants and clergy to socialize and greet newcomers. Anointing is available following the 11:00 a.m. service. The parish also offers occasional adult education programs during the period between the Sunday services. In addition to our own congregation's services, we open our doors to Dignity, the Roman Catholic LGBT group, each Sunday evening for their worship.



Weekdays.

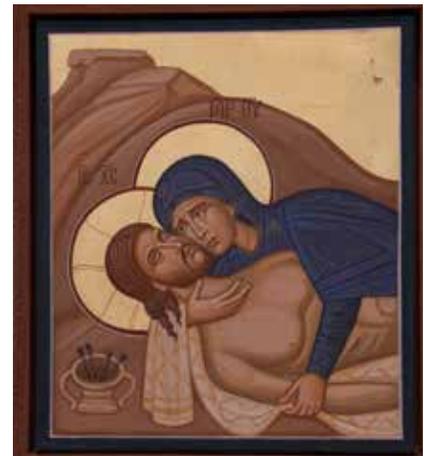
Our regular cycle of weekday worship includes both the Eucharist and the Divine Office. Every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday morning, a group of parishioners gathers to pray Morning Prayer, and a group comes together for Celtic Morning Prayer and Meditation every Tuesday and Thursday morning. Wednesday evenings we celebrate a Healing Eucharist with anointing. From time to time, the parish holds adult education programs following the Wednesday evening services.

Occasional Services.

St. John's observes several holy days throughout the year in addition to our regular worship schedule. Our Christmas worship involves a solemn evening liturgy on Christmas Eve, and we observe the full Easter Triduum with solemn liturgies for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil. In late Spring each year, we celebrate the Feast of Corpus Christi with a solemn (or sung) liturgy and Veneration of the Blessed Sacrament. This is followed by the popular parish cook-out. Each Advent and Lent, we hold Quiet Days that provide opportunities for contemplation and prayer over the course of a few hours on Saturday for those who cannot make a full retreat; these conclude with a said liturgy.

Iconography.

The icons that circle the church aid our worship and provide "windows into heaven" for all who enter. Many of them were painted by Christopher Kosmas, a former Greek Orthodox deacon who found a welcoming home at St. John's. The front triptych presents Christ, Mary, and our patron Saint John, reminding us that worship is a participation in the ultimate worship of Heaven, and incidental icons of the harrowing of Hell and parting of the Red Sea bring our focus to the freedom from sin and death promised by the Resurrection. The Stations of the Cross offer a distinctive melding of Eastern forms with a Western subject, and during Lent the parish gathers to pray the Stations collectively. Behind the Baptistry in the back of the church is John Walsted's beautiful triptych of baptismal icons illustrating the mystical connection between the waters of baptism and God's saving work in the world. A votive candle stand is next to the Sanctuary.



Music.

Music has pride of place in the life of St. John's. Our distinguished Music Director Gordon King leads the choir and congregation on our beautiful Rieger organ, which has an impressive 21 stops and 27 ranks of pipes. The St. John's Choir includes a mix of paid and volunteer singers who lead congregational hymns and sing anthems covering a wide range of the church music repertory from early fall to late spring each year, with summers off. Once a month during the program year, the adults are joined by the St. John's Choristers, comprised of neighborhood children. The chorister program provides free musical education for the children, who learn about the traditions of music and liturgy and are trained according to the Royal School of Church Music, an English musical education program for children. The children who take lessons with Mr. King then show what they have learned by singing at our services.

OUR NEIGHBORHOOD, BUILDINGS, AND GROUNDS

Greenwich Village.

St. John's stands on the corner of West Eleventh Street and Waverly Place in the historic Greenwich Village neighborhood. The neighborhood developed into a haven for artists, writers, and other creative people during the mid-twentieth century, and evolved into a home for New York City's gay community. The Stonewall Inn, where the gay rights movement was born in 1969, is just a few blocks away.

As with many neighborhoods in New York City, however, gentrification has radically reshaped the community. Emblematic of the changes, St. Vincent's Hospital, which provided medical care for much of lower Manhattan and had one of the country's earliest AIDS wards, closed down a few years ago, with luxury condominiums taking its place. The community around the parish now features upscale bars and restaurants, high-end shopping, eye-popping rents and real-estate prices, and a much different character from the time our last rector arrived in the late 1980s.



St. John's Buildings.

Our church has a modern and airy design with a skylighted altar and windows that look onto our inner courtyard garden, St. Benedict's Garden.

Adjacent to the church is the Common Room, where small meetings and receptions are held. This also looks onto the garden. Off the Common Room are the Sacristy, the Rector's office, Conference Room, Mailroom, and Parish Administrator's office. Through the Common Room is the Parish Hall and kitchen where coffee hours, large receptions, and parish meetings are held. Through the Parish Hall is access to the Choirmaster and Treasurer's Office.

Next door to the church is the four-story Wainwright House, which includes the recently refurbished rector's duplex apartment and three smaller apartments presently rented to the three priests who provide liturgical assistance at St. John's. The rector's kitchen opens onto the courtyard and garden. A closed garage between the church and rectory is provided for the rector's car.

St. John's seeks to serve our community by offering space to a myriad of activities and non-profit organizations. A separate street entrance to the second floor of the Parish Hall provides access to a theater space, long housing Rattlestick Theatre, one of New York's premier off-Broadway theater companies. Rattlestick is a non-profit theater group, which provides a place for new actors, writers and directors to begin or develop their theater careers. Their performances have received critical acclaim. Because theater has been, for many years, an important part of the cultural and economic life of New York, the parish is proud of its commitment to this fine company.

Off the garden and behind the rectory is Wade House, which houses St. John's Counseling Center. St. John's Counseling Center is one of the oldest site locations of PSI, the Psychotherapy & Spirituality Institute, an independent 501(c) non-profit organization. PSI provides psychotherapy, counseling, training, and continuing education to address the emotional and spiritual health of the people of this City and beyond, for sliding-scale fees. A private entrance from the street ensures the privacy of their clients. Its therapists include the Reverend Dr. Gary Hellman, the site director, who has served as an assisting priest at St. John's since the Counseling Center's inception in 1975. Both PSI and Rattlestick Theatre represent longtime commitments of St. John's parish.



We also host rehearsals and performances of community choral groups, including Schola Cantorum on Hudson and the Greenwich Village Chambers Singers. Dignity services are held weekly in the Church. Our congregation collects canned goods for the Food Pantry at the Church of the Ascension. The Parish Hall also provides space for several 12-Step programs, including the Red Door Meetings.

Under the watchful eyes of the Vestry, clergy, and staff, St. John's buildings are among the best-maintained in the Diocese, according to the Diocese's property support director. That said, there are a number of major projects and repairs that have been deferred due to cost, namely re-upholstering the chairs in the church, painting the church interior after repairing old water damage, welding and painting the outdoor iron fence, re-screening the Parish Hall floor, and repairing the east and north parapets.

St. Benedict's Garden.

A horsewalk from the street leads to one of Greenwich Village's hidden gems, St. Benedict's Garden. In the spring of 2016, St. John's began a project to enhance the planting in the garden, which will be continued in 2017. In a portion of the garden, called the Garden of Repose, parishioners' ashes are interred.

St. Benedict's Garden allows us to hold portions of the Mass outdoors, the Blessing of the Animals, an Easter egg hunt for children in the community, and our annual outdoor bazaar. Under the leadership of a new Rector and the Vestry, we look forward to continuing and enlarging our outreach to the community.



WHO WE ARE

52 people (out of 85 sent) responded to the Parish Survey conducted as part of the search process. According to the responses, these are our age-distribution demographics:

- Ages 18 - 24: 0%
- Ages 25 - 34: 11+%
- Ages 35 - 44: 7+%
- Ages 45 - 54: 10%
- Ages 55 - 64: 25+%
- Ages 64-74: 31+%

63.46% of congregants are male, and 36.54% female. The majority (83%) are white, but the congregation includes a number of African-Americans, Asians, and Hispanics, as well as several people who self-identify as of mixed-heritage. Half of us are single and half are married or partnered. Slightly under half describe themselves as heterosexual, and slightly over half as LGBT. 90% hold at least a bachelor's degree, and 68% have graduate or advanced professional degrees. Individual incomes range from under \$35,000 to over \$250,000. Nearly 20% reported incomes under \$55,000. 12.4% reported incomes of \$55,000-75,000. 36% have incomes in the \$100,000-250,000 range, and 4% have incomes over \$250,000. Very few are “cradle” Episcopalians. A number of parishioners live outside the neighborhood as well as outside Manhattan. Average parish attendance at the 11 a.m. liturgy has declined to about 30 and is 5 or less at the 8 a.m. service.



Our Staff.

Our current staff consists of:

- 1 full-time paid Interim Pastor
- 2 part-time Assisting Priests (non-stipendiary)
- 1 part-time (30 hours/week) paid Parish Administrator
- 1 half-time paid Organist-Choirmaster
- 1 full-time paid Sexton
- 1 part-time paid Porter
- 1 part-time paid Bookkeeper

Our Vestry.

Our Vestry consists of 2 Churchwardens (designated senior and junior) elected for a maximum of three two-year terms, as well as 9 Vestry-members elected for a maximum of two three-year terms.

The Clerk of the Vestry and the Treasurer, elected by the Vestry, currently are members of the Vestry, although this is not always the case. Term limits have been abolished during the vacancy of the cure. Note that for the past 20 years, the nominating committee has presented a slate of candidates for election to the Vestry, which practice has provided a stability previously lacking in the parish governing body.

OUR FINANCIAL RESOURCES

That St. John's has a firm financial footing is due in large part to our endowment and the careful stewardship of the Parish Treasurer and Vestry. Space use contributions and endowment distributions make up the majority of our income. That has not reduced the generosity of our congregation, who continue to give tens of thousands of dollars in pledge contributions each year. Although pledges have decreased over the last few years, we hope that a more positive outlook in the economy and the leadership of a new rector will help to grow and stabilize pledges.

The St. John's Colony Trust.

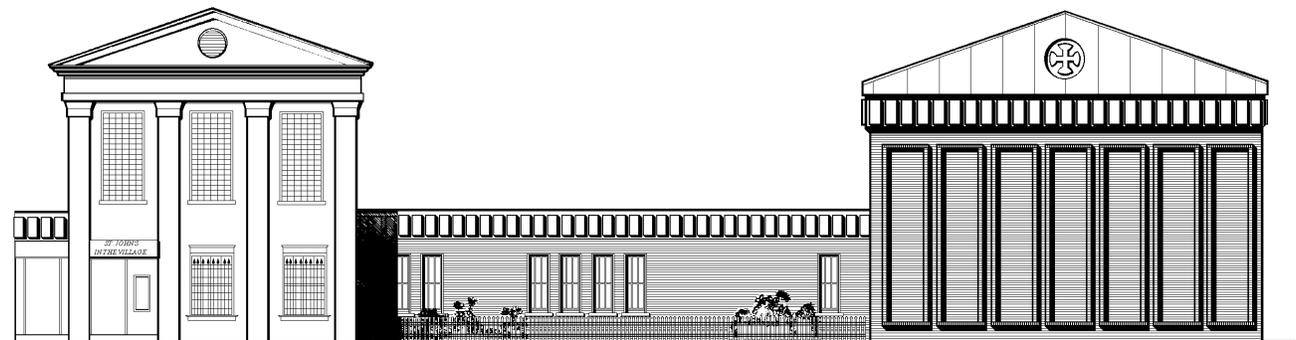
In the early 1900s, the Reverend John Armstrong Wade, the seventh rector, and the Vestry acquired several properties adjacent to the church buildings, which were then rented to writers and artists. A beautiful garden was planted behind the residences. This project became known as the St. John's Colony. Notable residents included Kirk Douglas, Eva La Gallienne, May Swenson, and Justin O'Brien.

By the early 1970s, the St John's Colony had become a financial burden. The Vestry determined that the amount of time spent by the staff on the buildings and the high cost of maintenance required a change. In 1977, St John's started to sell off the properties in the Colony. The proceeds from these sales formed the basis of the parish's current endowment, the St John's Colony Trust.

In the early 1990s, St. John's also relinquished its easement and withdrew its maintenance of the large Colony Garden, saving the parish \$10,000 a year, the cost of maintaining a space used mainly by the owners of the town houses surrounding it and only rarely by the parish.

The St. John's Colony Trust Fund is a New York State simple trust, created by agreement on October 11, 1983 to provide financial support and assistance to St. John's Church. Various mortgage notes, cash, and cash endowments were assigned to establish the Trust. Mortgage notes, cash and cash endowments resulting from the subsequent dispositions of the rental properties held by the Church were also assigned to the Trust. Over time the original mortgages have been converted to investment portfolios.

Under the terms of the Fourth Trust Agreement Amendment (dated November 20, 2010), the amounts to be distributed to the Church are to be equal to 5% of the total value of the Trust Fund based upon a rolling average of the preceding 5 years value determined at March 31st and September 30th of each of those years. For more detail on our financial condition and resources, please see our 2015 financial reports, which are attached to the end of this profile.



OUR HOPES FOR THE FUTURE

St. John's has an aging congregation. As we move forward, every step must be taken to look after their spiritual needs and incorporate them into all aspects of parish life. At the same time we must take St. John's into the future by developing strategies to strengthen existing ministries and create new ones, and to recruit new members. These goals and strategies go hand in hand and include the following:

- We know that we Episcopalians are a minority in a City that adheres to other faith traditions or none at all. Additionally, St. John's is one of several vibrant Episcopal churches located in Greenwich Village. Consequently, our outreach efforts must be tailored to serve the needs of the community and to distinguish our particular ministry among them.
- We must ascertain the needs of the community and determine what we can do to meet them, either as a parish or in partnership with other Episcopal parishes and community organizations in the Village. This is a trend in the greater Church, and we wish to be part of it. This should include maximizing the use of our space by community organizations.
- Currently we have only two young families attending services; more when the youth choir performs. The current chorister families are not parishioners. The ongoing construction of many new housing units in the Village may increase the number of young families in the neighborhood, and we must be prepared to welcome them with attractive programs such as Sunday school.
- Ways to utilize social media, beyond our own website and Facebook page, should be explored.



WHAT WE SEEK IN A NEW RECTOR

While evaluation of Rector candidates will involve a holistic review of each candidate's gifts and experiences, the survey and discussion process have given the Search Committee insight into the parish's hopes for the next Rector of St. John's. These are the qualities we seek, the most important and agreed-upon one being pastoral.

1. Pastor

- serve as a pastor and shepherd to this flock;
- provide spiritual guidance and pastoral counseling;
- be a compassionate and healing presence;
- regularly visit the sick, home-bound, and institutionalized;
- reach out to absent parishioners and those in need;
- show us a glimpse of the promised Easter joy.

2. Priest

- demonstrate devotion to sacramental ministry;
- conduct ordered and reverent liturgies consistent with our Anglo-Catholic tradition (e.g., singing parts of the liturgy);
- preach clear, succinct homilies centered around the Gospel and the propers;
- promote social action and prophetic engagement consistent with the Christian tradition, while avoiding partisan politics;
- appreciate the beautiful music that is an integral part of our liturgical tradition.

3. Administrator

- ably supervise the parish's administrative functions;
- prudently manage this sacred space and its assets;
- lead with a collaborative style;
- engage in skillful conflict resolution;
- promote congregational development;

- conduct stewardship, fund-raising, and capital campaigns;
- work with the Vestry to encourage and develop lay leaders;
- develop a community orientation and establish a visible presence in the Greenwich Village community and in the Diocese;
- participate in inter-faith and ecumenical groups;
- help this congregation discern its special ministry in serving the community.

4. Teacher

- instruct in Christian doctrine;
- hold Christian education classes;
- conduct Confirmation/Reception classes for newcomers.

5. Lead by example

- provide an example of holiness and maintain a stable, mature personal life—regardless of marital status or sexual orientation;
- welcome and include all who wish to participate in our community with openness to the working of the Holy Spirit in all people.

CONCLUSION

We hope that this profile has given you a clear picture of our parish and what we seek in a new Rector. If you believe God may be calling you to be our next Rector, please submit your resume and documents via e-mail during the open application period. May God bless you in your future ministry, whether with us or in another portion of God's Vineyard.

APPENDIX

2015 FINANCIAL REPORTS

2015 INCOME & EXPENSE

	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>PERCENT</u>
INCOME		
Pledges, Plate and Other Offerings	169,286	29.0%
Space Use Contributions	174,770	30.0%
Distributions from Endowment	238,856	41.0%
TOTAL INCOME	582,912	100.0%
EXPENSES		
Office of the Rector	86,571	12.9%
Liturgical Life (1)	87,579	13.0%
Common Life and Christian Formation	18,548	2.8%
Outreach Programs	39,598	5.9%
Administrative Expenses (2)	126,308	18.8%
Building Operations and Maintenance (3)	314,415	46.7%
	673,019	100.0%
NET INCOME (LOSS)	(90,107)	

VALUE OF THE ENDOWMENT

Total Assets at Cost	4,079,578
Unrealized Gain on Securities	559,171
Total	4,638,749
Receivable from Church	257,722
Net Valuation	4,381,027

- (1) Includes Organist-Choirmaster
(2) Includes a full-time administrator
(3) Includes a full-time sexton & 2 porters

HOW TO APPLY

To be considered for the Rector position, please send your application documents (cover letter, resume, and OTM profile) to rectorsearch@stjvny.org.

You may also mail them to:

Rector Search Committee
St. John's in the Village
224 Waverly Place
New York, NY 10014-2405

The deadline for applications is: June 30, 2017. We hope to hear from you.



St. John's in the Village

224 Waverly Place
New York, NY 10014-2405
212-243-6192
www.stjvny

Churchwardens

Carol A. Quatrone
Andrew P. Jones

The Vestry

Timothy Boos (Clerk), James Campbell, III (Treasurer),
Richard E. Lipscomb, Jr., Patrick B. Merry, Elizabeth Rake,
Paul Reitz, Margaret L. (Margot) Shields, John Singler, Jean Tucker

Rector Search Committee

Margot Shields and Daniel P. Weick, Co-Chairs
Gerald L. Dilly, Richard E. Lipscomb, Jr., Patrick B. Merry,
Richard Seeger, Parveen Sondhi

The Clergy

The Rev'd Gwyneth MacKenzie Murphy, Interim Pastor
The Rev'd Dr. Gary Hellman, Assisting
The Rev'd Margaret Tuttle, Assisting

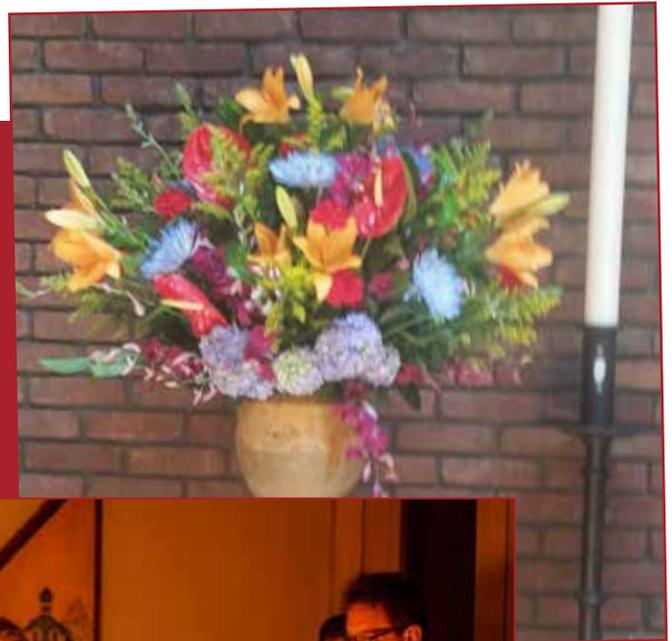
Photographs

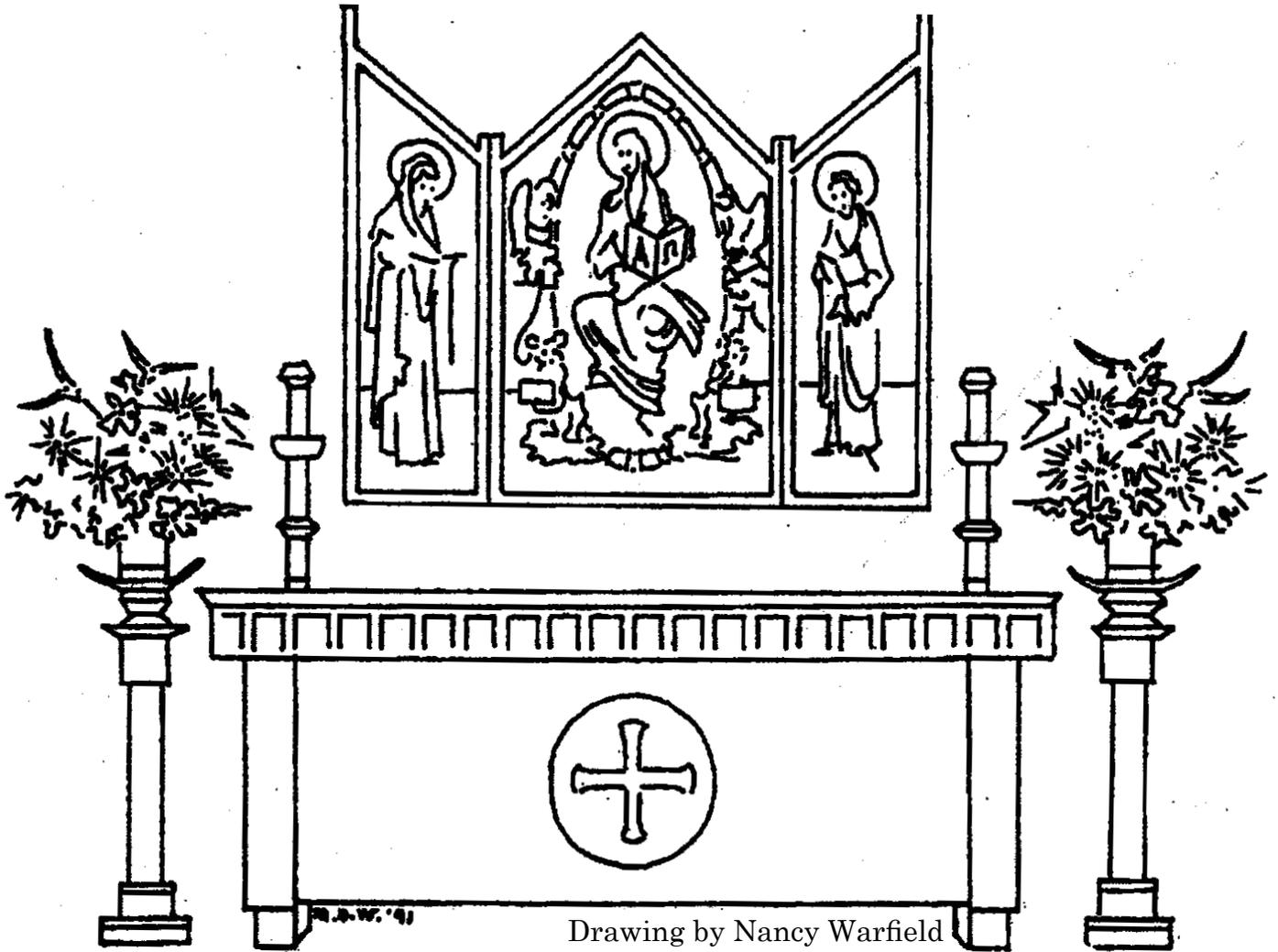
Richard Lipscomb, Gerald Dilly, Joanna Johnston, Owen Lewis, Margot Shields

Design & Layout

Mission Graphics, Episcopal Church of Our Savior, New York







Drawing by Nancy Warfield

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224 Waverly Place

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