

Safe Church

The Diocese of New Hampshire continues to update its Safe Church policy, and I am happy to report that The Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist participated in a diocesan Safe Church Training program in 2019. Our church is making good progress renewing certificates of those who have gone through the diocese's Safe Church training program, as well as supporting the training of several new vestry members, Sunday School leaders, and Altar Guild members.

For those who may not know what Safe Church Training is about, our diocese writes: Universal training is required for church employees, volunteers working with youth, home visitors and church leaders including vestry members, volunteer program leaders and Altar Guild. Certification of training shall be renewed every three years. Training will consist of required online modules and one community ZOOM call. While training and background checks are required for those mentioned above, it is open to all church members.

Vestry member Maureen Gillum adds the following about why Safe Church training is so important. "Safe Church is a program to inform, raise awareness and put into action policies and procedures to make StJB a place that is safe for all, but especially children. Consider 1 in 4 girls (1 in 6 boys) are abused before the age of 18, but only about 3% of abusers are caught. StJB is trained to look out for warning signs, implement key safe practices, and is committed to making our church and community safe."

Currently, The Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist is looking for a volunteer to take over the role of Safe Church Administrator, but until someone steps up to take on this role, I will act as Safe Church Administrator.

Over the past year, three more vestry members, our Church Treasurer, and our Sunday School Coordinator have joined me in completing the program, though some are still waiting to participate in the final ZOOM call. Please contact me if you would like to sign up for the training or you are interested in serving as our Safe Church Administrator.

Finally, we want The Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist to continue to be a space where every adult and child feels safe and happy, as all children of God are meant to feel.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. David DeSalvo