

The Messenger

The Newsletter of
Saint John the Evangelist Episcopal Church
1720 Old Black Horse Pike (at Chews Landing Road)
Chews Landing, NJ 08012-5218

Church Office (856) 227-1051
Church Fax (856) 228-5728
Church E-mail: StJohns1789@verizon.net
The Reverend Margaret Sterchi, Rector

Volume MMXI- Issue II

March/April 2011 Issue

New Church Officers Elected

At the Annual Parish meeting held on Sunday, February 6th, Steve Moritz was elected to serve as Junior Warden. Jason Love, Mike Millisky, Peggy Wynne, and Lee Jones were elected to vestry terms ending in 2014 while Frank Salvati was elected to fill the term Steve Moritz's vacated term ending in 2012. Elected as delegates to the New Jersey Diocesan Convention were Jude DeBaun, Nancy Hawkins, and Phyllis Sowers. Elected as delegates to the Camden Convocation were Lou & Marion DeCecco along with Nancy Hawkins. Elected alternate was Mary Wonderlin. The Youth Representatives to the vestry are Katrina McCoy and Julie Millisky.

We are ever so grateful to Mike Millisky for all of his hard work and the dedicated time spent during his terms as Junior and Senior Warden, as well as to Peggy Cardone, Diane Chando, Lisa Cooper (also for her tireless work as Clerk of the Vestry), as well as Sr. Kate Maura Teasdale for giving of their time serving as members of the vestry. A heart felt thank you for everything.

Youth to Host Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

The youth of the parish are hosting the Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper again this year on March 8th from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm. The Ladies of the church are donating baked goods for desert. Come and support the young adults of the parish as they flip pancakes and serve a delicious meal of pancakes, sausage, fruit, drinks and desert. There are no tickets this year. Rather we will accept a free will donation (\$5.00 is the suggested donation). The proceeds will go to the youth for their next event.

Ashes: From Whence They Come?

By The Reverend Margaret Sterchi

Ever wonder where the ashes come from that we use on Ash Wednesday? Come out at 4:30 pm on the Tuesday, March 8th as Rev. Margaret invites the youth and anyone else who is interested to join her on the back parking lot where she will burn past years' palms and damaged linens to create the ashes we will use this year for our Ash Wednesday service. This will make a fun break from preparing the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and you can see your palms become ashes for the next day.

Gifts & Talents Focus of Lenten Program

Last year during Lent we focused on end of life decisions with the program on Sundays following the 10AM service. This year, beginning March 20, we will look at the gifts and talents the members of the parish have to share with each other and with the community as we live out our lives as a family. One of the sessions will be devoted to discovering our spiritual gifts and talents with the use of a survey. This can be fun and interesting, so JOIN US. We will also try to identify the talents we have that can be shared within our parish family. What do you do for a living that can be shared? What do you do as a hobby? What types of needs do you have and do you think the parish can use? We all need to work together as we continue to grow and thrive at St. John the Evangelist. This is an opportunity to find new ways we can grow. Please be a part of this effort.

It's Irish Potato Time

Irish Potatoes will be made by the ECW ladies on March 7th and will go on sale immediately thereafter. Be sure you get one of these treats. You don't want to miss them!

ECW Basket Auction Back by Popular Demand

The Annual ECW Basket Auction will take place on April 12th this year. The auction is early due to the late date of Easter. Please consider making a basket for this event. This is the major fund-raiser for the ladies for the year. If you cannot make a basket but have new items you would like to donate for someone else to use in a basket creation, please bring them in now. All donations will be accepted with great thanks! Be sure to let someone in the ECW know if are interested in purchasing tickets for the event. Seating is limited and only 100 tickets will be sold. This is a popular event and is always a sell-out so order your tickets early. Tickets will go on sale March 21st. Completed baskets with a list of items in the basket are due no later than April 8th in the Parish Hall.

Ash Wednesday Service

Following a night of indulgence in pancakes and baked goods, it is time to begin Lent. Our services this year will take place on Wednesday, March 9th at 7:30 am, 10:00 am, and 7:30 pm. All services will be held in the church.

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E-Mail: St.Johns1789@verizon.net
Web Page: [HTTP://www.stjohns1789.org](http://www.stjohns1789.org)

STAFF

Rector

The Reverend Margaret Sterchi
Organist & Music Director

Rodger Maro

Parish Secretary

Shirley Mullen

Sexton

Mike Millisky

Senior Warden

Stephen DeBaun

Junior Warden

Stephen Moritz

Vestry

Carolyn Bausinger

Ernie Jones

Lee Jones

Trish Lilley, Clerk of the Vestry

Jason Love

Michael Millisky

Cynthia Rolle

Frank Salvati

Lisa Schwinge, Treasurer

Sharon Sweeten

Judy Vaughan-Sterling

Peggy Wynne

Altar Guild

Phyllis Sowers

Church School

Mary Wonderlin

Churchyard

Ernie Jones

ECW

Sr. Kate Maura Teasdale

Editor & Director Of Publicity

Bob Goodman

Flowers/Memorials

Phyllis Sowers

Acolytes/Readers/Servers

Jude DeBaun

Ushers

Shirley Mullen

Webmaster

Carolyn Bausinger

Gift Card Purchases Benefit St. John's

Once again we are offering everyone the chance to order gift cards to save you time and at the same time provide Capital Funds for the parish. The order forms will be in the back of the church with the due date March 31st. Do you shop for groceries? Is there a gift giving opportunity in your future? Do you ever shop at Walmart or Target? If so and you are in the market for a gift card. Order your cards, make a check out for the total amount to St. John's and turn in your form along with a check to Sharon Sweeten or the Parish office. We will submit the forms by the end of March and your cards will arrive here at St. John's during the first week of April. It is that easy and St. John's will enjoy a percentage of your purchase. Remember you can order cards for yourself as well as for gift giving. After all, we all have to buy groceries and sundry items from the drug store. We will repeat this in April, collecting the forms the end of April so you can also make sure you have the gift cards that are perfect for Mother's Day, Father's Day, Graduations, and Weddings.

Easter Memorials

Easter flower donations are due April 10th. Of course they may be turned in at any time before that date. There is an envelope in your envelope packet for this purpose. If you have misplaced it or do not have envelopes, there are flower envelopes in the pews. To be included in the Easter Flower list, you must use a flower envelope of some sort. Please be sure to indicate that the money is for Easter Flowers. If we already have your loved ones on record, just indicate that. If you have any additions or if we do not have your names, please print the names and include them in the envelope. The Easter Flower envelopes will go directly to the Parish Secretary Shirley Mullen who will compile the list for publication. The envelopes will then be given to the "offering counters" for the deposit.

Wednesday Eucharist - Trying Something New

Because of the lack of attendance for the Wednesday morning Eucharist, beginning March 16, we will add a mid-week service at 6:30 pm with Bible Study following immediately after. We will continue with both services and Bible Studies throughout Lent. Then a decision will be made as to which service we will keep as our mid-week service, depending on the desire of the parish as shown by attendance.

Fiscal 2011 off to a Good Start

After finishing 2010 in the red with a deficit \$27,400 on income of \$131,749 against \$159,149 in expenses we are off to a good start as we finished January in the black. January income was \$11,185 while expenses totaled \$8,737 for a balance of \$2,448. So we are doing well, but remember we have quarterly bills that are not reflected in this statement. Keep up the good work and we may have a balanced budget this after several years of finishing with a deficit.

Deadline for the May/June Messenger Sunday, April 17, 2011.

Items may be e-mailed to St.Johns1789@verizon.net (Please show The Messenger in the subject line) or they may be left in the Parish Office.



From the Rector's Desk

The snow is gone (hopefully till next year) and the spring bulbs are poking up through the ground. Daffodils, tulips, and hyacinths will soon provide a colorful beginning to spring. Thus we enter the holiest time of the church year. Many folks look at Christmas as our Holy Season, but in reality that came late in the church calendar. From the beginning the Christian community recognized the great Triduum to be the holiest time of the year. Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and the Great Vigil of Easter provided the time of year when adults were initiated into the church with baptism after a long period of study and prayer. Christians knew that this was when the story of our faith was told and lived out and NOTHING would get in the way of prayer, worship, and celebration of the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord.

Over the years this sacred time of year was lost to most Christians. We jump from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday with nary a thought for what happened in between those events. With the current Book of Common Prayer this Holy Season has once again become the primary focus of our year. That is why these services occur in the first part of the book, after the daily office prayers. We recognize the critical importance of these services. They are a time when we remember who we are and whose we are. It is not always possible for an individual to attend all three services due to work or health, but my prayer for all of you is that if you are able you will be at the services. Some Christians take vacation days in order to be at these services. Some Christians give up opportunities to attend special events, knowing that this most Holy of all times of year only comes once a year. Some Christians realize that the individual observances of life events such as birthdays and anniversaries can be postponed for a few days in order to be with Christ as He makes the ultimate sacrifice for us. For that is why we will gather on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Great Vigil. We will walk with Christ as we bring these events of His life into sharp focus. We will meditate on how His ultimate sacrifice allows us to live a life that is free. We will celebrate the reality that our baptism into the death and resurrection of Christ allows us to enter a life of faith that ultimately looks death in the eye and declares "you lose" because we know there is something after our mortal bodies die.

Where will you be the evenings of April 21, 22, and 23? Christ asked his disciples, "Will you not keep awake one hour with me?" I ask you, "Can you not give our Lord 3 nights out of 365 nights in the year to be with him, pray with him, and be washed in His Love?" Remember that Christ put His life on hold for us simply because He LOVES us. Can we not put our lives on hold for him

because we love Him? Come experience the services of the year that can change your life. Wear sandals on Maundy Thursday and come forward to have your feet washed in the humility of knowing this is what Christ did for his disciples. Come forward on Good Friday and pray at the foot of the cross where Christ died for you. Then come to the Great Vigil on Saturday night and hear the story of who we are as Christians and then experience the full joy of hearing "He is Risen!" for the first time. This is life-changing stuff. This is Easter as you have never experienced it. Be here.

Reverend Margaret +

The Watch

"Will you not stay awake with me for one hour?"

On Maundy Thursday, at the end of the service, the reserve sacrament will be processed to the altar of repose where a watch will begin and last until the Good Friday service. This year we have a second option for the watch that will allow folks access to the church without disturbing the watchers. We will create a Garden of Repose in the chapel in the parish hall for this purpose. At the procession, someone will need to volunteer to remain with the reserve to begin the watch. Then we will need volunteers to come in hour shifts. It is imperative that there be at least two (2) watchers during the night hours (9:00 pm until 6:00 am). A signup sheet will be posted towards the end of Lent for folks to sign up for a shift. Begin talking to folks now to get a partner if you want to watch during the night. We also need folks who will help create a special garden in the chapel. Live or artificial plants will be welcome if you have any you can loan. Let Reverend Margaret know if you can help with this.



Remember to use Goodsearch & Goodshop

Many of you will be using the internet when ordering gifts for Christmas for your loved ones. This is a reminder to go to www.goodshop.com when ordering and to go to www.goodsearch.com when looking for a particular site. At the box where they ask who are you shopping for or who are you searching for just type in "St. John's Chews Landing" and hit the verify button and our official name will come up. Please continue using the site for any purchases you make using the link to the many shopping sites that will give us a percentage of your purchase at no cost to you. Every time you search for something we will get a penny. Though it may not seem like much, it does add up as every penny helps. If everyone in the parish would use these sites and share them with their friends and family, just imagine how much we could make...at no cost to anyone! If you are not sure how to use these sites please call Reverend Margaret. She will be delighted to walk you through the process.

Spotlight on our Youth:



The St. John's Youth Group adventures of the in the snow, will Blue Mountain ever recuperate? (Photo courtesy Susan Jones)

We Had a Ball!

By Susan Jones

Although it poured relentlessly up on Blue Mountain, after a two hour hold up actually parked on the highway, WE HAD A BALL! Not one complaint from the kids and as Don Martel sagely says, "Even a bad day skiing beats a great day doing anything else!" Our kids, young and mature, are THE BEST!

Accompanying Mike & Matt Dold were Julie Grace, and Kelly & David Sowers. Julie Millisky brought her friend Sarah. Amanda, Ian and Mr. Kochey came with Steve Barbagallo. Mark Tallikson also came as well as Mark Jones along with dear Kathy & Don Martel.



Just chillin'!

(Photo courtesy Kathleen Martel)

"The Labyrinth"

By Julie Millisky

As I stand before it,
Its green towers piled high,
It's creeping and it's ominous,
And it makes me question why.
Why do we choose the labyrinth,
When the plains would be so simple?
Would we miss the little things,
The ocean or a child's dimple?
Are we afraid of missing
The things that time and life bestow
Would we rather suffer and experience?
Or is it just that we don't know?
What lies beyond the end
Is a mystery to me
But I choose the labyrinth
Before the realms of eternity
When we think of what we'd leave behind,
All the miles still to go,
Is it worth the pain of the goodbyes,
When the arrow leaves the bow?
The labyrinth begs a question,
In which we all must answer to:
Do we fight through to be happy,
Or because that's just what we must do?

In the face of situations,
We've all toyed with the thought,
If this is where I close the story,
What would this have brought?
When Judas spilled his secret
Was he thinking of it then?
Of his labyrinth of suffering
Coming to an end?
If when we exit this maze,
Light shall break forth from the dawn
Why not cheat the obstacles,
Move out and carry on?
Is it merely instinct that we inherit from our foundations?
Is to search through the maze a curse or blessing
Passed down through generations?
The beauty of us being lost-
The smell and feel and taste
No minute of our wandering
Should be thrown to waste
I'd never make a widower
Because there's too much joy in being a wife
And though sometimes these situations
Cut us like the ridges of a knife
I choose the mighty labyrinth
Because I choose this life

Lenten Project



Do you have an empty shoebox?
Fill it with small size toiletries, socks, children's underwear, label it for a man, woman, or child, and return to St. John's by Sunday, April 3. They will be distributed to area homeless shelters.

2011 Youth Group Ski Trip



Flowering of the Cross

Once again we will celebrate the Sunday after Easter, May 1st with the traditional Flowering of the Cross. All parishioners are invited to bring a few flowers to place in our cross which will then be placed outside for all to enjoy. The children will be encouraged to come forward first and then the adults to fill in the gaps.

Visit our Web Site: www.stjohns1789.org

Scenes from Blue Mountain



Theater Notice

Our own Amanda Kochey and Steve Barbagallo will be starring in the Winslow Township HS production of "Beauty and the Beast!" Amanda will be part of the special ensemble and Steve will be "Gaston." Show dates are March 17th, 18th, and 19th at 7:00 pm with a 2:00 pm matinee on the March 19th. In addition, there will be a breakfast with the cast on March 13 at the Applebee's on Cross Keys Road in Sicklerville.

Parish Prayers for Joys and Concerns

Pray for those in Special Need

Bp. George Cuncell, Ada Burke, Hugo "Bob" Karlsson, Ruth Henderson, Trish Riebel, Isabella, Diane Siracuse, Robert Black, Alan Tennett, Joseph Mancuso, Matthew Sterling, Grace Sterling, Carol Meyers, Dallam Blandy, Ann Wonderlin, Ken Sterchi, Larry Sassa, June Goodman, Arthur Rudolph, Paul Caruso Sr., Dollie Badiali, Sara Reid, Henry "Butch" Redding, David Lester, Edie Power, Josh Kahle, Sandra Sterling, Edith Downie, Wanda Strane, Donald Ivins, Dolores Ivins, Mary Lindstrom, Betty Ashmen, Jane O'Neill, Stephen Hall, Kyle McKnight, the Emly Family, Trish Surtacle, Ed Troutt, Glad Jones, Tony Jenkins, Isabella McCroy, Lou Root, Alex Potts, and Willow Voss.

Pray for our Shut-In and Home-Bound

Kay Taylor, Betty Knipe, Alberta Wilk, Dorothy Sabot, Sarah Reid, and Mary Molineaux.

Pray for those serving or entering the military

Sammi Jones, Daniel Jones, Mark Jones, Amanda Collazzo, Travis Droll, Stacey Droll, Nicholas Sackie, Irving Moya, Melody Moss, Anthony Moss, Daniel Carcione, Henry Yang, Kevin McKnight, and Hillary Getz.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

April 17/18: Palm Sunday Weekend
The 10:00 am service will begin in the Parish Hall with procession to the church, (weather permitting).

April 20: Holy Wednesday - Stations of the Cross at 6:00 pm
April 21: Maundy Thursday service 7:30 pm
Watch through the night begins following the service continuing until 6:00 pm on Friday.

April 22: Good Friday
Stations of the Cross 12:00 noon - Good Friday Liturgy at 7:30 pm

April 23: Easter Vigil begins 8:00 pm

April 24: Easter Sunday services 7:45 am & 10:00 am
May 1: Annual Flowering of the Cross 10:00 am

The ECW Page:

Our first Annual Bake Sale was an enormous success. We made a total of \$219.00 thanks to your support. A special note of thanks goes out to all of the ladies who baked the delicious desserts for our sale. We did have request for more cakes and pies, and even the men have offered to bake! We look forward to bringing you another great Valentine's Bake Sale next year.

St. John's hosted the ECW District Meeting held in the Parish Hall Monday, February 21st at 12:00 noon. Lunch and desserts were served. Minutes of the ECW District Meetings are posted in the Parish Hall all for everyone to review.

Our next meeting is March 7th and we will be making Irish Potatoes. All are invited to come out and join in the fun and fellowship of making this great treat. Irish Potatoes will be available at the Parish Hall for an offering of \$5.00 per box. Don't miss out on these great treats as they will not be around long.

Spring is around the corner and it is almost time for our Basket Auction. The Auction will take place on April 12th. If you need a basket for crafting we will have them available in the Parish Hall soon. If you are available to help out with this event please let us know. Watch for more news about the Basket Auction in the Parish Bulletin.

The ECW meets the first Monday of the month at 10am in the Parish Hall. The EECW meets the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm in the Parish Hall. We would love to have you join us and look forward to meeting you. Once again on behalf of the ECW and EECW we would like to welcome our new members Kathy, Sharon, Edith, and Diane.

Sister KATE MAURA
ECW President

Julian Group

Julian Group meets the third Monday of each month at 7:00 pm in the parish hall. We begin in silent prayer, then we enjoy snacks and fellowship, and we end with some reading and discussion time. Everyone is invited to attend. There is no carry-over from week to week so you may jump in at any time and not feel "lost". If you want to deepen your prayer life, there is no better option out there. The next meeting will be Monday, March 21st. Come join us!

Save the Date

Annual Red Cross Blood Drive
Saturday, May 7th, 2011 - 8:00 am until 2:00 pm
St. John's Parish Hall

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

| | |
|--------------|---|
| March 1: | Evening Prayer 7:00 pm |
| March 1: | Evening ECW 7:00 pm, Parish Hall |
| March 5: | Diocesan Convention @ Scottish Rite, Collingswood, NJ |
| March 7: | ECW 10:00 am, Parish Hall |
| March 7: | Irish Potatoes made and go on sale. |
| March 8: | Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, 5:30 pm – Parish Hall |
| March 9: | Ash Wednesday Services 7:30 am 10:30 am & 7:30 pm |
| March 21: | Julian Group at 7:00 pm |
| March 22: | Vestry Meeting 7:30 pm |
| April 4: | ECW 10:00 am, Parish Hall |
| April 8: | ECW 10:00 am, Parish Hall |
| April 12: | Basket Auction 6:00 pm, Parish Hall |
| April 26: | Vestry Meeting 7:30 pm |
| April 17/18: | Palm Sunday Weekend |
| April 20: | Holy Wednesday - Stations of the Cross at 6:00 pm |
| April 21: | Maundy Thursday service 7:30 pm |
| April 22: | Good Friday Stations of the Cross 12:00 noon |
| April 22: | Good Friday Liturgy at 7:30 pm |
| April 23: | Easter Vigil begins 8:00 pm |
| April 24: | Easter Sunday services 7:45 am & 10:00 am |
| May 1: | Annual Flowering of the Cross 10:00 am |
| May 7: | Blood Drive 8:00 am – 2:00 pm, Parish Hall |

Remember to mark your calendars

Weekly Schedule

Saturdays

5:00 p.m. Rite II Eucharist with Sermon

Sundays

7:45 a.m. Rite I Eucharist with Sermon

9:30 a.m. Church School

10:00 a.m. Rite II Family Eucharist with Sermon

Wednesdays

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

6:30 p/m/ Holy Eucharist followed by Bible Study

It's Easy Being Green

Used inkjet printer cartridges and cell phones may be left in the box in the parish hall (no more laser cartridges, please). It is the "Green Thing to do"!

Helping Those in Need

We continue to collect food for SCUCS. The senior citizens in Camden are always in need of food, no matter the weather. Bags are in the back of the church and parish hall.

Don't Forget Our Four Legged Furry Friends

We continue to collect items for the animal shelters. Towels, blankets, dry dog and cat food as well as wet food, treats and toys are welcome. Place outside office door in the hall of the Parish Hall.

Vestry meetings are held in the Parish Hall on the 4th Tuesday evening of each month 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.