

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) 228-5748
Church E-mail: St.Johns1789@verizon.net
The Reverend Margaret Sterchi, Rector

VOLUME MMXI— ISSUE V

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2011 ISSUE

10th Anniversary 9/11 Commemoration

This year marks the tenth anniversary of 9/11. Since it falls on a Sunday, we have an opportunity to provide a service to our community in the form of an evensong prayer service. I invite you to mark your calendar for Sunday, September 11 for two events. That morning the Chews Landing Fire Company will gather to remember the day with prayers, the ringing of bells, the reading of names, and the blessing and placement of a beam that comes from one of the towers. Chews Landing Road from Somerdale to Lower Landing will be closed beginning at 8:00 a.m. The event will begin with the ringing of the bell at 8:46 a.m., the time the first aircraft hit the North Tower. It will continue until about 11:00 a.m., but we will leave at 9:59 a.m. at the sounding of the siren to signify the falling of the first Tower to begin our 10:00 a.m. worship service. Then at 6:00 p.m. we invite everyone and their friends and families to join us for an evensong of lessons and prayers at the church. Following the service we will have a reception with light hors d'oeuvres and cake and an opportunity to share how our lives have changed since that fateful day. We will also celebrate the birthday of one of our own who was born that day to recognize that even in the midst of death comes life. Please join us and invite your friends and neighbors.

Visit our Web Site:

www.stjohns1789.org

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

Annual Parish Picnic September 18

The start of Sunday School and the return of the choir will be on September 18 and of course we will have the “Annual Fall Parish Picnic” immediately following the 10:00 a.m. service. The vestry is planning on games for the children as well so everyone can have a great time and get to meet and greet each other. Watch for the sign up for the dishes that go with the hamburgers and hot dogs that are provided by the vestry. Be sure to invite your friends and neighbors.

Chews Landing Fire Company tentative schedule for 9/11 commemoration

8:00 a.m.	Road closure to take effect
8:46 a.m.	Ringing of bell at the time the North Tower was struck by aircraft
8:50 a.m.	Posting of colors
9:03 a.m.	Ringing of bell at the time the South Tower was struck by aircraft
9:05 a.m.	Prayer service
9:30 a.m.	Camden County Pipes and Drums—selected hymns
9:35 a.m.	Comments by Mayor Mayer and Sen. Madden
9:59 a.m.	Sounding of siren to signify fall of WTC Tower 2 (Note: at this time some of us will leave quietly to return to the church for the 10AM service)
10:00 a.m.	Reading of names of Emergency Responders
10:28 a.m.	Sounding of siren to signify fall of WTC Tower 1
10:30 a.m.	Unveiling and blessing of Artifact Monument

Please be aware that Chews Landing road will be closed beginning at 8AM from west of the intersection with Old Black Horse Pike/Somerdale Road to Lower Landing Road. If you are coming south on Black Horse Pike please go to Olympus Ave. (where the new cemetery is located) and turn left, then turn left on Old Black Horse Pike and proceed to the church parking lot.

The Messenger

Church of Saint John the Evangelist
1720 Old Black Horse Pike
Chews Landing, NJ 08012
856-227-1051 Fax: 856-228-5748
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

Successful Backpack Collection

The summer IHOC Pack-a-Sack for Back-to-School project was an amazing success here at St. John's. As a result of your kindness and generosity, 37 homeless students in grades K-12 will receive new backpacks, filled with back-to-school supplies and underwear. Backpacks and supplies collected from all participating churches were organized in two southern Camden County locations — Chews United Methodist Church, our neighbor on the Black Horse Pike, and St. Paul's Presbyterian Church in Laurel Springs. From there, IHOC volunteers distributed them to approximately 20 Camden County shelters and to the AIDS Coalition.

Back for a fourth year...

Jewelry and Glass Galore!

Carolyn Bausinger and Denise O'Brien will host a three-day home show featuring handmade jewelry, stained and fused glass pieces and crocheted items. This is not a demonstration, but a holiday shopping bonanza! Come when it is convenient, buy what you like and take it with you. By all means, bring friends. Jewelry will include necklaces, bracelets and earrings (including Christmas designs); glass includes bowls, plates, serving trays, tree ornaments and more. Most pieces are one-of-a-kind, so whether you are buying for yourself or as a gift, you will have something unique and beautiful. Carolyn is donating part of her profits to St. John's, so your purchases will benefit our parish, too.

Location: 172 La Costa Drive in the Valleybrook section of Gloucester Twp.

Dates/Times: Friday, Nov. 11, from 4 - 8 pm;
Saturday, Nov. 12, from 10 am - 4 pm;
Sunday, Nov. 13, from 12 noon - 2 pm

**Deadline for the November/December Messenger
Sunday, October 17, 2011.**

Items may be e-mailed to robertgoodman1@comcast.net
(Please show The Messenger in the subject line) or they may be left in the Parish Office.

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



From the Rector's Desk

"Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came towards Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, 'Lord, save me!'" (Mt. Chapter 14, NRSV)

When visiting one of our shut-ins last week I read that scripture and we talked about it. Afterwards it was suggested that I write something about it, and not having a topic in mind for this issue of the Messenger, I decided this was a good idea.

No one in his right mind is going to get out of a boat in the middle of a storm. This is the only safe haven that a body has under these circumstances. But Jesus has come walking across the water and the disciples are in awe. In spite of the boat being a safe, known place, Peter is intrigued, so he asks Jesus to call him out of the boat. Peter is able to get out of the boat and walk on water because he is totally focused on Jesus, who has commanded him to get out of the boat. Then Peter loses his focus. He begins to see the swirling water and feel the wind buffeting him. He realizes he is in a precarious position and begins to sink. Crying out to Jesus to save him, Jesus immediately reaches out, takes Peter's hand, and then both return to the boat. It is not that Peter lost his faith in Jesus, but it is that his faith wavered in that moment of panic. Peter was no longer focused on Jesus. Instead he was looking at the danger all around him.

How often do we lose our focus on Jesus? During our lives there are times we are called out of the boat; we are called to leave the place where we are comfortable and feel safe and asked to step out and take a risk. Maybe it is to leave home and go far away for school or a job. Maybe it is to join with another person and promise to live together in unity for the rest of our lives. Maybe it is to create another person, one for whom we will be responsible for the rest of our lives. Maybe it is

to leave the job we are familiar with and strike out to a new job. The last "boat" any of us are asked to leave is the boat that is our very life, from which we move from this world into the next.

When we think about it, our "boats" are pretty temporary. It seems just as we get really comfortable, knowing every nook and cranny, we are commanded to step out into the unknown. When we are able to focus on our Lord, that stepping out is not hard. But so often we lose our focus. What causes you to lose *your* focus? When do you step out in joy and excitement, only to realize that you are in the scary unknown and suddenly you begin to feel as if you are sinking? Or when are the times you don't want to step out at all? It happens to all of us. Our focus is lost in many ways. Sometimes money gets in the way. We realize that maybe we will not have enough money to do all the things we want. Sometimes people get in the way. We are reminded that we will not be near those who love and care for us and our safety net will be far away. Or sometimes people just question our judgment. Sometimes we get in the way. We question our motives and maybe even our sanity!

We are indeed all called to get out of the safety of our boat at times. Does fear hold you in place? Do you step out, only to lose your focus and begin to sink? Do you step out and walk confidently to the next safe harbor, completely aware that God is with you? But the most important thing to ask yourself is this: when you step out and lose your focus, feel as if you are sinking, do you cry out to our Lord for help, knowing He will immediately reach out and take you by the hand and lead you safely to the next harbor? The next time you feel you are sinking, call on Jesus. He is there to save you. And at the last he will lead you to the safest harbor of all, into the arms of God.

Reverend Margaret+



THE ECW PAGE

Welcome Back Ladies!

On behalf of the ECW and EECW we hope you have enjoyed your summer vacations and look forward to the start of our busy year ahead. We will be meeting to craft beginning Sept 19th for our Annual Craft Show. If you have any suggestions or would like to join in the fun please meet at the Parish hall at 10:00 a.m. beginning every Monday starting September 19th.

We have some exciting events coming up so please mark your calendars for the following dates:

Sept. 10 & 11:	ECW Bake Sale following Church Services
Nov. 5	ECW Holiday Craft Show

The ECW meets the first Monday of every month in the Parish Hall at 10:00 a.m. and the EECW meets the first Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. We look forward to seeing you at one of our meetings.

Respectfully,

Sister Kate Maura - ECW President

Coffee Hour

Coffee Hour Hosts are needed for the fall and winter. A sign up sheet is posted in the Parish Hall. Coffee Hour is the perfect venue welcoming our visitors and newcomers as well as getting to know each other better. Coffee Hour follows the late service and it is an important opportunity to meet and greet people. Keep this a success and join us for some refreshments and good fellowship. Also please consider finding a buddy and hosting a Coffee Hour. A sign up sheet is posted in the Parish Hall.

Hurricane Irene



Flooding from Big Timber Creek as a result of Hurricane Irene closed Somerdale Road. (Photo Courtesy Cynthia Rolle)

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR YOUTH:

National Acolyte Festival

The first year I moved to this part of the world I had the joy of attending the National Acolyte Festival in Washington, DC and then went several years after. If you have not attended and would like to go as an acolyte, here is your chance. There is a bus leaving St. Bartholomew, Cherry Hill, at 6:00AM on October 8 and will return, leaving Washington at 2:30PM to arrive probably by 6. Because I have mass that night I am unable to attend, but if we have at least one adult to go with any interested children I can promise you it will be a day to remember. There will be over 2000 acolytes from across the country, all processing for a special service and then workshops for the afternoon. The cost is \$30/person and registration deadline is September 25. I am not sure if that includes the registration for the event or just the bus cost. You can contact me if interested, or call The Rev. Lynn Johnson at 856-424-2229 or 609-702-9919.

Our Spring Graduates

Belated congratulations to our 2011 Spring Graduates:

Ryan Stahl will be attending Arcadia University to study Health management and physical therapy.

Jason Moritz will be studying at the Camden campus of Rutgers University.

Michael Dold is off to Boston University where he will be studying pharmacy.

Stephen Barbagallo is off to Maryland.

Vanessa Goodman received her degree in Graphic Design from Philadelphia University and has moved to Los Angeles, CA

Wawa Shorti Coupons

Coupons for Wawa Shorti hoagies are available from Mary Wonderlin 783-6805 and Shirley Mullen 227-1051. Coupons are \$3.50 each and can be used to purchase any Wawa Shorti sandwich or be used towards the purchase of any larger sandwich. Proceeds benefit St. John's.

What exactly is Stewardship?

Once again it is that time of year when we look at our faith, our community, and our parish and determine how we can be good stewards of our time, talent, and treasure. Stewardship covers all of these. It is more than just writing a check, sticking it in an envelope, and then either mailing it in or dropping it into the collection plate. That certainly is a part of our stewardship, but we also have to ask why and how much and what else is there.

As we grow to understand how God provides all that we have and all that we are, we also grow to understand how we are called to give back to God in gratitude. Sometimes that entails taking time out of our day to work on financial needs; sometimes we spend part of our weekend cleaning the church, working in the gardens, or preparing and setting up for the worship services; sometimes we stop what we are doing and offer up prayers for our loved ones and the loved ones of the parish family; and sometimes we sit and knit or crochet so a child or senior citizen, or sea farer will have something warm in the cold winter months. There are so many other ways in which members of the parish give of their time and talent. That would fill a newsletter in itself.

A bit more difficult is to talk about how and why we give of our treasure. Christ tells us that where our treasure lies, there will our hearts be found. A wise person once told me to look at my checkbook. Where I am spending my money will reveal my priorities. I must say that when I actually look at how I spend my money I sometimes have to wince. Do I really need that many books, or toys, or stuff for the dogs, or stuff for ME? Here at St. John's we do not ask you to fill out a pledge form. Instead we simply ask that you turn in an estimate of giving form, so the vestry has an idea of how much money we will have to work with in planning the annual budget. Without your support, the doors of the church will not be able to remain open. It is that simple. Here is what some of your fellow parishioners have said as to why they give.

"My mom, brother and I were confirmed at St. John's in October, 1963. In 1985 our parents moved from Glendora to a mobile

home in Williamstown. I would go down every weekend to help my mom take care of my dad until he passed away in 1992. I then helped take care of my mom until she passed away in 2002. The only immediate family I have left is my brother George, who lives in Florida. Mom's death hit me really hard. She was my mom but also my best friend. I needed something to hold onto to help me through it so in May of 2003 I came back to St. John's, where I joined the Altar Guild. St. John's is my big family close to home."

"Why do I give to St. John's? The Bible speaks of tithing. Although we are not there yet, I feel it is important to continue to work toward that goal. More than an obligation, I am so thankful for what St. John's has given me. My weekly offering and time are ways of giving thanks. I also feel pledging is important. It allows the church an ability to budget and plan. We have a household budget, and I know I'd be in a panic if I didn't know what funds were coming in from one month to the next. I am thankful to God for all my blessings. My offering check is the first check written on payday, not written from the funds that are left over."

"Why is the church important to me? I don't feel I need to be in church to worship. God's presence is 24/7. However, the Sunday community worship is important. It is a centering factor that gives me focus and direction. It's at those services that I re-charge the batteries and find new inspiration. The message of the sermon affords me possibly a different outlook or point of view and also instruction. Worshipping with the parish family on Sundays can give me a different perspective, and yet always a comfort of being with those that hold many of the same common values."

"We give to the church so the church can carry on its mission. For all that the church gives to us spiritually, it's important for us to give back, to support the church financially to enable the youth of our community to learn and grow and be enriched by following the word of Jesus Christ. The church is important to us because it meets our spiritual needs. It gives us a place to worship and to be nearer to God."

"For many years I have taught our

(continued on page 6)

Why should I give to the church?

(continued from page 5)

children that God understood our need to “Belong” and so He gave us our church; not the building, but our church family. The building, warm and welcoming as it is, serves as His house here on earth where our family prays, loves, supports, and learns. The peace and comfort here is special to me. Hearing His word at mass refreshes me for the daily care of my family and my patients. I think also of all those who cared for St. John’s before us. Just outside our building’s backdoor are the graves of the women who started our church school so many years ago. It has been a joy to continue their mission and to spread the Lord’s word to others.”

I began tithing many years ago when a crisis in my life led me to understand just how important God is to my life. I came to understand that God is not asking much of me, just a small percentage of all that God has given me in order that work of ministry in the world can be carried out. I continue to give at the level of the tithe as your rector. It was once pointed out to me at another parish that if everyone in the church would work towards giving at the level of the tithe, there would be so much available for outreach to those in need it would take a full time committee to take care of it. Wouldn’t it be wonderful if that became a “problem” at St. John the Evangelist in Chews Landing?

My hope is that many of you find that you could have written something similar to what your fellow parishioners have provided. St. John the Evangelist is not just important to your rector or to the vestry. It is important to many, many others. I hope you consider yourself to be one of those. I also hope you will prayerfully consider your estimate of giving when you receive your stewardship letter. We are still struggling to reach the break-even point in our budget, much less having an excess that can go to outreach. I pray that 2012 will make the year we reach that goal.

*Reverend
Margaret +*

GoodSearch

You Search or Shop...
We Give!

Goodsearch and 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 **GOODSHOP.COM** when ordering and **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. Our official name will come up. Then continue using the site and any purchases you make using the link to the many shopping sites will give us a percentage of your purchase at no cost to you. Every time you search for something we will get a penny. That may not seem like much, but it adds up. 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.

Gift Cards

Gift Cards are available to be ordered at any time. We will try to get in an order at the end of each month if there are any to be ordered, but we can order special times as well. There are no minimums. Remember that this is an opportunity to support the church as we receive a percentage of every card you order. So pick up an order form and when you have an occasion to order a Gift Card, or when you want one for yourself to purchase items at Target or WalMart or Acme or Shoprite or wherever, let Sharon Sweeten or Reverend Margaret know and we will make sure your order is placed.

Please contact the offices with any changes in address, phone number, or E-mail address.

Book Study

Our current book study is The Monastery of the Heart by Joan Chittister. We are taking our time in reading through the book together, so come join us. If you don't have the book you can just listen in and add your comments. Or you can get the book from Amazon or Barnes and Noble and read along with us. It is a study in how we can incorporate the Rule of St. Benedict into our daily lives, which will be of benefit to everyone!

Blessing of the Animals

The annual blessing of the animals to commemorate St. Francis will take place on Sunday, October 2nd in the lower parking lot at 3:00 pm. All animals are invited and welcome, along with their owners. Please have your pet suitably restrained. We do not want any unexpected disagreements or snacking to occur. Even if you do not have an animal to be blessed you are more than welcome to come join in the fun. It is such a delight to see all the different pets that we love and care for. So which pets will the Sweetens or the Milliskys bring this year? We have yet to bless all of theirs, even though they bring several each year.

Parish Clean-up day

All Hands on Deck! We need folks to come to the parish hall on Saturday, September 10 at 9AM for a clean-up day. We need to get the inside of the parish hall all spiffed up for guests for the following evening when we host the evensong to commemorate the 10th anniversary of 9/11. We also need to get the Sunday School rooms ready for the beginning of the year, which will happen the following weekend. Please mark your calendar and come give a little time or a lot of time to get our church ready for the coming year. It is possible the day might start earlier if anyone wants to start even earlier. A list of items to be done will be posted, but if you have a pet project that is not posted please feel free to bring what you need and do it. Also if anyone cannot make that Saturday but would like to come in during the week, just let the rector know and we will make sure the building is open for you.

Capital Fund

Bless everyone who has pledged to our Capital Fund. The work on the church and the parish hall might be completed or nearly so by the time you read this. With the upgrade in the existing lighting, heating, and air conditioning we should have much lower energy costs and recoup our investment within a few years. In the meantime, the budget will hopefully reflect the lower payments. We have over \$35,000 pledged to the fund, with the generous gift from the ECW bringing the total to \$40,000. If all goes well we may still be able to get air conditioning in the parish hall by next summer. After this past summer, that would be a real blessing. There are still projects that need to be done, some more urgent than others. Besides the air conditioning of the parish hall, we are also in need of grading and blacktopping the parking lot and painting the parish hall exterior. Painting the interior of the parish hall is also a desire. All of that will depend on the generosity of the parish as we do not want to actually borrow any money for these projects. So if you have not turned in your pledge for the Capital Fund and you are able to give a bit over and above your donation to the operating fund, please do so. If you are able to contribute to the Capital Fund on an occasional basis, please do so even if you are not comfortable in turning in a pledge. If you have questions about any of this, please ask any of the vestry members. When making your contribution to the Capital Fund, please write a separate check and make it clear on the check it is for the Capital Fund, otherwise it will end up in the Operating Fund. If you choose to give cash, please use a separate envelope or mark your envelopes to clearly differentiate where the money is to go. Your counters will be ever grateful for this. Your rector is grateful for your generosity in giving that allows this parish to continue its mission and ministry in this neighborhood.

Remember all those on our Parish Prayer List
Keep them in our Prayers!

Names for All Saints

If you have any names you would like included for our All Saints weekend, please get them in to Reverend Margaret now. Email is best, but a written note is also fine. Any names from last year will already be on the master list, so just send in any additional names from this past year. If you have not turned in a list in the past, please do so now so we can make sure your beloved saint or saints that are now with God will be remembered at the services the first weekend in November. Also remember that this is an ongoing list that will be used for Christmas and Easter flowers as well.

Let's Start Now

Hello all - I try to do this as much as possible! And why not keep on going all year?? Support THIS country!

What have you got to lose???? God knows we need to support our companies.....and if it creates just one job.....it's worth it! God Bless America!

Of all the stuff that I have ever passed on, this has got to be one of the most important. Please read and keep passing it on. This sounds like a great plan. I hope America gets it done!

Well over 50 yrs ago I knew a lady who would not buy Christmas gifts if they were made in China. Her daughter will recognize her in the following.

Did y'all see Diane Sawyer's special report a few weeks ago? They removed ALL items from a typical, middle class family's home that were not made in the USA .

There was hardly anything left besides the kitchen sink. Literally. During the special they showed truckloads of items - USA made - being brought in to replace everything and talked about how to find these items and the difference in price etc..

It was interesting that Diane said if every American spent just \$64 more than normal on USA made items this year, it would create something like 200,000 new jobs!

I WAS BUYING FOOD THE OTHER DAY AT WALMART and ON THE LABEL OF SOME PRODUCTS IT SAID 'FROM CHINA '

FOR EXAMPLE THE "OUR FAMILY" BRAND OF THE MANDARIN ORANGES SAYS RIGHT ON THE CAN 'FROM CHINA '

I WAS SHOCKED SO FOR A FEW MORE CENTS I BOUGHT THE LIBERTY GOLD BRAND OR THE DOLE SINCE IT'S FROM CALIF.

Are we Americans as dumb as we appear --- or --- is it that we just do not think. The Chinese, knowingly and intentionally, export inferior and even toxic products and dangerous toys and goods to be sold in American markets.

70% of Americans believe that the trading privileges afforded to the Chinese should be suspended.

Why do you need the government to suspend trading privileges? DO IT YOURSELF, AMERICA !!

Simply look on the bottom of every product you buy, and if it says 'Made in China ' or 'PRC' (and that now includes Hong Kong), simply choose another product, or none at all. You will be amazed at how dependent you are on Chinese products, and you will be equally amazed at what you can do without.

Who needs plastic eggs to celebrate Easter? If you must have eggs, use real ones and benefit some American farmer. Easter is just an example. The point is do not wait for the government to act. Just go ahead and assume control on your own.

THINK ABOUT THIS: If 200 million Americans each refuse to buy just \$20 of Chinese goods, that's a billion dollar trade imbalance resolved in our favor...fast!!

Most of the people who have been reading about this matter are planning on implementing this on Aug. 1st and continue it until Sept. 1st. That is only one month of trading losses, but it will hit the Chinese for 1/12th of the total, or 8%, of their American exports. Then they might have to ask themselves if the benefits of their arrogance and lawlessness were worth it.

Remember, September 1st to October 1st. Let's show them that we are Americans and NOBODY can take us for granted.

If we can't live without cheap Chinese goods for one month out of our lives, WE DESERVE WHAT WE GET!

Pass it on, America ...

AND instead of doing it for just ONE month - why not try to do it all the time?