

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

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The Reverend Margaret Sterchi, Rector

Volume MMVII - Issue I January - February 2008 Issue

"Threads of Love"

The new group "Threads of Love" is now meeting every Monday (with the exception of the first Monday of the month when the ECW meets) from 10:00 am until noon. The meetings take place at the home of Julia Turner, 18 Chiswick Dr. in Lindenwold. Her phone number is 435-5146 if you need directions.. If you are interested in crocheting or knitting or you are already working on a project but would like to do it with others who are also doing hand work, then come and join the group. You need not be an expert, just someone who enjoys visiting with other people while working on projects or just be eager to learn new skills. The next meeting will be on Monday, January 14, 2008.

"M'm! M'm! Good!"

Now is the time to consume all those items in your freezer to make room for the annual Soup Sale, to be held on January 19 of 2008. Mark your calendar for that Saturday and get here early. Great Soups will be available for only \$6.00 a quart and they go fast. Empty containers will be in the parish hall soon for those donating soup.

Week of Christian Unity

The annual **Ecumenical Prayer Service** for the week of Christian Unity will be held on Thursday, January 24th, 7:30 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church in Runnemede. This beautiful choral service is presented by the participating church choirs. Come out and support the St. John's choir.

"Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper"

Come one come all to the "Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper" sponsored by the ECW at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, February 5th, 2008. Enjoy the traditional pre-Lenten dinner of pancakes, sausages, beverages and dessert.

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday will be upon us before we know it. This year Ash Wednesday and Easter will be as early as they can possibly be. So we will barely have Christmas cleaned up before we will be setting up for Lent. Ash Wednesday will be on February 6 this year. As last year, we will have three services to enable as many as possible to attend a service to receive your ashes. The service times will be at 7:30AM, 10AM, and 7:30PM, which I hope will enable all those desiring the imposition of ashes to attend a convenient service.

Acolyte Festival

On February 9 all acolytes are invited to attend the Acolyte Festival at the Cathedral in Trenton. This is an opportunity for our acolytes to meet and worship with acolytes from other parishes. Put this date on your calendar so we can go, have a great time and learn more about the ministry of serving as an acolyte. Let Reverend Margaret know if you are interested.

Lenten Program

This year's Lenten program will be held on Sundays commencing on February 10th, 2008. The weekly program will begin with "Stations of the Cross" at 5:00 pm followed by a soup & dessert dinner after which Reverend Margaret will facilitate a book study & discussion.

Renewal of Vows

On the weekend of February 16-17 we will give the couples in our congregation an opportunity to renew your wedding vows. During the peace that weekend you are invited to come forward and as a group renew your vows as a Valentine gift to you. You are encouraged to invite your friends to come so they, too, can renew their vows or witness the renewal of your vows.

The Rector's Corner:

Happy New Year, a Bright Epiphany, & a Holy Lent.

This year we will be moving from one event to the other in the blink of an eye. And speaking of the blink of an eye, I have been with you for a year now. The time has passed with the blink of an eye. This has been such a joyful time for me. I find God in each of you as I meet you, visit with you, and share Eucharist with you. God loves each of you with good reason. Having been with you this year I realize how much you care for each other, for the parish of St. John the Evangelist and for God.

In just a month we will be entering into Lent, one of my favorite seasons of the year. This season is a gift from the church. This season provides a chance to look at ourselves, at who we are, whose we are, and where we are going. God invites us on a journey where we move closer to unity with our Lord. This can be a daunting thought. It provides a chance for intimacy with God, and intimacy is always a scary thought. We have six weeks to focus on our relationship with God. If we are willing to be vulnerable and open ourselves to the experience of inviting God into our hearts remarkable things can happen. Part of the discipline during Lent of giving something up is to allow time and space for God to move into our hearts. Now is the time to begin thinking about our time during Lent and decide what sort of discipline we plan on incorporating in our lives for the six weeks of Lent, which will begin in one short month. We often make New Year's resolutions only to find out that within weeks or maybe even days we have forgotten those resolutions. Lent it a time to come up with something we can work on for six weeks that provides for a life-changing opportunity.

I hope as we begin this New Year and look forward to an early Lent we may continue our ministry together and that the parish may continue to grow and flourish in the year to come.

Margaret+

Coffee Hour

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 signup sheet is posted in the Parish Hall.

Outreach Opportunities

At the Parish Breakfast on December 9th, a special program on a unique outreach was presented by Fr. James Von Dreele of the Seaman's Church Institute (SCI). Fr. Von Dreele told us of how SCI provides services to meet mariners' practical, spiritual, and emotional needs. Every year, 65,000 seafarers endure months of isolation and dangerous, grueling conditions to provide a comfortable life for Delaware Valley residents. While always seeking monetary help, SCI also needs "in kind" donations as well. Please consider giving CD's, tapes, gently worn coats and other garments such as tee shirts, sweat shirts, gloves etc. We will collect these items for donation to the SCI in the parish hall.

We have a "Penny Jar" at the back of the church for loose change. Proceeds go to the Church Periodical Club for the purchase of books for those in need. Give us your used printer cartridges and cell phones. We have a box in the parish hall for collection. We send them to Planet Green and earn money for our parish. Proceeds received for the cartridges and phones go in part to the parish and in part to an outreach need determined by the vestry outreach committee.

There is now a list of food needed at the SCUCS. It is posted in the parish hall on the bulletin board and at the back of the church where we collect the food. Please remember this outreach opportunity.

Thanks to all who contributed to the "Toy Drive". The toys were delivered to the Camden Rescue Mission on December 10, 2007.

"Meals on Wheels" needs volunteer drivers to deliver meals one day per week for about 2 hours. This is a very rewarding outreach and the shut-ins are very happy to see you. Call Paul Ivins (227-8126) and he will tell you about this rewarding ministry.

Calendar of Events

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|-----------------|--|
| January 6, 2008 | Service of Lessons & Carols |
| January 19 | ECW Soup Sale |
| January 24 | Week of Christian Unity Service @ Trinity Lutheran |
| February 3 | Annual Parish Meeting |
| February 11 | ECW District Meeting |

Remember to mark your calendars

Spotlight on our Youth:



Washington Township High School gymnast Sammi Jones practices on the uneven bars.

Congratulations to our Champion Gymnast

Sammi Jones and familiar face around St. John's led Washington Township High School to a perfect 14-0 season in dual meets, the fourth undefeated season in school history. The team won the South Jersey Gymnastics League championship, the NJSIAA South Jersey Sectional championship, and placed sixth as a team at the NJSIAA state meet. Sammi who is a senior placed second overall in the individual competition at the state meet. She is currently going through the age old senior ritual "the college selection process". In college, besides academics she plans to continue her gymnastics pursuits. Sammi is the daughter of Lee (our Junior

Warden) and Susan (our Christmas Pageant director and one of our Sunday school teachers) Jones.

St. John's Webmaster

We are in the process of developing a new website thanks to Carolyn Bausinger who has volunteered to be our webmaster. Carolyn has already begun work on the site and Mary Wonderlin, Joe Waller, and Reverend Margaret are working with her. The new website is www.stjohns1789.org. This is the space that has been reserved for St. John's new web site. Carolyn has put up some sample templates and asks that people go on line and take a look at them, make suggestions about a design and direction before and a final decision about the site is made. They are not working web pages, just a snapshot of what they might look like.



Template 1 - This is based on color blocks for the home page, which would allow us to place the most current information right up front.

Parish Prayers for Joys and Concerns

Pray for those in Special Need

Bp. George Cuncell, David Lester, Libby Ryan, Margaret Bell, Bill Knipe, Bob Kieser, Larry Sassa, Cameron Lyons, Adam Miller, Marie Ivins, Emma Ivins, Colleen Spaeth, Anna Glenz, Esther Chando, Catherine Potter, Cyndi Phillips, Denise Phillips, Charles Ivins, Paul Caruso Sr., Frances Robinson, Louise Aimes, Linda Gurner, and Delores Osborne.

Pray for our Shut-In and Home-Bound

Warren Blackburne, Anna Gibson, Miriam Mason, Doris Craig, Margaret Walker and Mary Molineaux.

From the Cranium of the Senior Warden:

Just a Thought

Hope you are finding our now published bi-monthly newsletter to be informative and useful. Your input and your feedback is needed and appreciated.

A year has now passed with Reverend Margaret as our Rector. We are very grateful for her leadership and guidance. We are very happy to know that St. John's is her home.

A note of thanks to all those who contributed, participated, and helped for us to enjoy the Christmas season. Attendance was up at the 4:00 pm and 11:30 pm Christmas Eve services, as well as at the Christmas Day service, and the reinstated 7:30 pm was an attendance success too.

The Festival of Lessons and Carols, a personal favorite, was wonderful and thank you to all of the readers and to the choir for making this the beautiful tradition that it is. A special thanks to the 14 people who after the service participated in the "caroling" at Lakeland and at New Seasons, bringing a smile to the faces of our shut-ins. May this develop into a tradition at St. John's.

Annual Meeting will be held immediately following the 10AM service on Sunday, February 3rd beginning with a Parish Pot-Luck lunch. We are still accepting nominations for parish leadership positions. We are looking for parishioners to serve as vestry members, delegates to convention and convocation, as well as Junior Warden. Contact the Wardens, Rector or the parish office.

Annual audits are required by the Canons of the Episcopal Church for all parishes, missions, and other institutions. The primary purpose of an audit is to assure that financial statements are fairly stated. Any person handling the monies or investments of the church needs an audit to protect the church assets and him/her against suspicion of mishandling those assets. Similarly, rectors, vestries, vicars, bishop's committees, treasurers, and other persons in positions of responsibility may be liable for any losses which would have been discovered by an ordinary audit but were not discovered because they failed to have an audit conducted. The canons permit the auditing of congregational accounts by "an independent

Certified Public Accountant", by "an independent licensed public accountant", or by "such committee as shall be authorized by the Finance Committee, Department of Finance, or other appropriate diocesan authority. In so far as we are not in a position to hire an accounting professional (certified or licensed) not with our current deficit in excess of \$50,000.00 an Audit Committee has been appointed in accordance with the "Manual of Business Methods in Church Affairs" (July 2007), Chapter VI: Audit Guidelines for Congregations. This committee should be composed of 3 persons with at least one having a financial background and cannot be composed of the Rector, Wardens, Treasurer, nor any persons involved in the church finances, nor check signatures. Skip Zirbser, Kashie Schreiber, and Ernie Jones have graciously agreed to serve on this committee and will complete this task before the annual parish meeting.

If you haven't received either your 2008 offering envelopes for 2008 or your copy of the Directory they are available in the Parish Office. Please pick yours up today.

Organizations and parish leaders, please prepare a report for our annual parish meeting. Please turn in reports to the Parish office or e-mail to St.johns1789@verizon.net.

In order to conserve on energy, Midweek services are now held in the Parish Hall downstairs in the room next to the office.

If you are wondering what happened to the historic sign on the corner. It rotted and fell down. It was in the process of being replaced. A local boy scout, Jeremy Jackson is in the process of replacing the sign as his Eagle Scout project.

The Finance Committee of the Vestry has prepared the 2008 Budget to be presented at the Annual Parish Meeting. The 2008 Proposed Budget is an unbalanced budget as costs continue to rise at a greater rate than our revenue. A draft copy of the proposed budget is included in this issue of the messenger.

Vestry meetings are held in the Parish Hall on the 2nd Tuesday evening of each month 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

**Deadline for the March/April Messenger
Sunday, February 17th.**

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

Diocesan Institute of Ministry

Ministry Institute events: January – April 2008

January 2008

11–13 Deacons Retreat with Barbara Cawthorne Crafton
19 Christian Educators Day with Joanne Epply-Schmidt
22 Epiphany Clergy Day: Fireside Chat
26 49th Annual Bishop's Ball (for youth)
27 Invite a Friend Sunday (at your church!)
28 Youth Ministry Adult Workshop: Creative Worship

February 2008

2 Sexual Misconduct Awareness Workshop
9 Acolyte Festival
13–16 Anti-Racism Team Expansion: Advanced Training
16 Service of Witness: Absalom Jones (not a Ministry Institute event)
19 Calling Clergy: A Spiritual and Practical Guide through the Search Process
23 Vestry Day, with Toni Daniels
24–26 Clergy Silent Retreat with Bishop Romero
29–1 224th Diocesan Convention

March 2008

1 The Hightstown Event
6-8 Godly Play Teacher Accreditation
8 Sexual Misconduct Awareness
18 Renewal of Vows and Blessing of Oils (not a Ministry Institute event)

April 2008

5 Sexual Misconduct Awareness Workshop
5 Generation (for youth)
10–12 Analyzing and Understanding Systemic Racism: Introductory Training
13 Recovery Sunday Celebration
17–20 Cursillo Weekend
18–20 The Senior Retreat (for youth)
19 Creating an Awareness of Cross Cultural Ministry
19 Sexual Misconduct Awareness Workshop
23 Youth Ministry Adult Workshop: Theology and Practice of Play
24 Healthy Choices, Healthy Relationships (for clergy)
26 Sexual Misconduct Awareness Workshop

Bible Study

Wednesday mornings at 10:30 am
Thursday evenings at 7:00 pm
Everyone is welcome.

St. John T-Shirts

The choir is selling **St. John T-Shirts** to continue to raise money for new choir vestments. They are available from any choir member. Price is \$10 for sizes up to XL. For sizes over that the price is \$13. Support the choir!

Share Your Talent

The Saint John's Choir could use some voices. The choir sings at the 10:00 am Sunday service, at special times and events, and rehearses on Wednesdays from 7:30 pm until 9:00 pm. with Organist Rodger Maro. Please share your talent. Talk with Rodger or one of our choir members.

Adopt a Saint

We have a wonderful old cemetery. Several of the saints in our cemetery went to be with God many, many years ago and no longer have family around to care for their gravesite. Joe and Ann Waller have begun a wonderful ministry in caring for some of those older sites where no one is around to care for them or to place flowers upon the graves. If you are interested, talk to them about joining in this wonderful ministry. It does not take a lot of time or money and yet the churchyard looks so much brighter and cheerful as a result of their efforts. Can you take the time to adopt one of our saints?

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.

ECW Meetings

ECW meets the first Monday of each month. The day branch at 10:00 am and the evening branch at 7:00 pm.

Church of Saint John the Evangelist



Chew's Landing, New Jersey

Parish Staff

Pastor

The Reverend Margaret Sterchi

Parish Secretary

Mrs. Shirley Mullen

Hours: M, W, F, 9 am-Noon

Parish Office Phone: 856-227-1051

Parish E-mail: St.Johns1789@verizon.net

Organist

Mr. Rodger Maro 309-0996

Sexton

Joseph Waller

The Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey

The Rt. Rev George E. Councill, Bishop

Parish Ministries

Readers/Servers Jude DeBaun 481-4381

Altar Guild- Dorothy Simpson 627-8403

Candle Memorials- Anna Gibson 939-4354

Choir- Phyllis Dold 435-7865

Christian Ed.- Mary Wonderlin 783-6805

Churchyard- Ernest Jones 728-1938

Episc. Church Women - Joyce Root 589-8156

Flower Memorials - Phyllis Dold 435-7865

Ushers - Shirley Mullen 227-1051

Vestry Members

Sr./Rector's Warden - Bob Goodman 232-0415

Junior/People's Warden - Lee Jones 227-8248

Treasurer - Lou DeCecco 227-2986

Clerk of the Vestry - Lisa Cooper 435-0833

Class of 2008

Diane Chando 227-6854

Lisa Cooper, Clerk 435-0833

Lou DeCecco, Treasurer 227-2986

Joyce Root 589-8156

Class of 2009

Frank Jago 312-0106

Stephen Moritz 435-2503

Joseph Waller 783-4964

Mary Wonderlin 783-6805

Class of 2010

Steve DeBaun 481-4381

Phyllis Dold 435-7865

Michael Millisky 784-0311

Frank Salvati 374-7019

Vestry Youth Representatives

Stephen Moritz 435-2503

Delegates to Convention

Vanessa Goodman 232-0415

Nancy Hawkins 346-3734

Sandy Stabilito

Alternates to Convention

Chris Goodman 232-0415

Paul Ivins 227-8126

**Saint John the Evangelist Episcopal Church
1720 Old Black Horse Pike
Chews Landing, New Jersey 08012**

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**The Messenger
January/February 2008**

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

