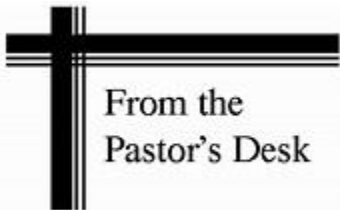


The Messenger

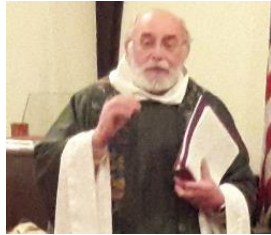
The Newsletter of Saint John the Evangelist Episcopal Church
1720 Old Black Horse Pike (at Chews Landing Road)
Chews Landing, NJ 08012-5218
The Reverend Donald Caron, Interim Rector
Volume MMXIX – Issue II

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Web Page: <http://www.stjohns1789.org>
The Realm (On) Line Parish Directory: <https://onrealm.org>
April 2019



Holy Week and Easter

By Fr. Don



From a very early time, Christians have looked upon the time before Easter as a special time. We celebrate 40 days of Lent, which, by the way, ends precisely when the first note of the entrance hymn of the Maundy Thursday Service is sounded. Then we enter into the shortest of the Church's liturgical seasons, called the Triduum (meaning three days).

By the time we get to Maundy Thursday, we have already heard the story of the Passion of Jesus, this year read from the Gospel of Luke on Palm / Passion Sunday. We take a step back on Maundy Thursday to be with Jesus and his friends at what has come to be known as the Last Supper. Gospel accounts suggest that for those assembled, this was a celebration of the Jewish Passover meal, which reminded people of the liberation of the Jews from slavery in Egypt at the time of Moses. Jews celebrate that meal to this day as a way of remembering how God brought freedom to their ancestors and how God continues to be with God's people.

There are plenty of scholars who argue that the Last Supper was celebrated with more than just Jesus and the Twelve. For one thing, Passover was a celebration for family and friends. Jesus' mother Mary was in Jerusalem (since the Gospels suggest she was a witness on Good Friday), so she and other followers of Jesus, including some other women, were likely there.

The Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke) tell the story of Jesus blessing and offering bread and wine as his body and blood. It is the same story we recall at Eucharist every Sunday. It is the heart of our identity and relationship with Jesus. Rite I says we do this as our duty. Rite II says we do this as a celebration of gratitude. The Gospel of John, oddly

enough, does not relate the establishment of communion. John focuses on Jesus washing his disciples' feet, and giving the command (*mandamus* in Latin) to do as he did for one another. Christians knew immediately that Jesus wasn't limiting the way Christians show love in his name to washing each other's feet. They knew that Jesus was urging all kinds of acts of charity and concern.

On Good Friday the focus is on the agony in the garden, the arrest, trial and execution of Jesus and finally, his burial. In the old liturgy for Good Friday, the Latin phrase "*felix culpa*," happy fault said that it was because of sin that Jesus came to earth and walked among human beings. We also think of the twisted irony of the day: there is nothing good that people did on that Friday, but from all that evil and violence God was able to bring something Good.

Holy Saturday is a quiet day. Jesus lay in the tomb, the disciples hid in the upper room while Jews in Jerusalem and across the world celebrated Passover. We often overlook that. It is not until the sun sets on Saturday that we can think about resurrection as we celebrate the Great Vigil of Easter. For Early Christians this was the most important celebration of the year. It began in darkness, that symbolized the seeming victory of darkness over God's light. Then a spark and a little flame, and then a bonfire, symbolizing the Light of Christ coming back to the world. Each person at the Vigil Service takes a bit of fire from the Easter (Paschal) candle, and the candle's flame is not diminished; the light spreads and grows. Major stories from the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) are read to remind all people of the story of God in the world. Some special prayers that are used at no other time are used, and a chant, the *Exsultet* (Rejoice) is sung. New life is celebrated in the sacrament of Baptism, and even when there are no baptisms at the Service, the water of Easter is blessed, and everyone re-affirms their baptism. Then we all partake of the Eucharist. In ages past, people would celebrate until sunrise.

The Easter season follows. The fifty days until the celebration of the Ascension were called the time of *mystagogia*. It was a time when those who were baptized were instructed about

(‘Holy Week and Easter’ cont.)

their new Christian faith, now that they were fully participating in the worship.

Then we remember the day Jesus rose from this earth to go back to the Father, where he sent the Holy Spirit to his followers on the day of Pentecost.

Flowering of the Cross & Annual Easter Egg Hunt



The Flowering of the Cross and our Annual Easter Egg Hunt are scheduled for Sunday, April 28. The Flowering of the Cross takes place during the 10:00 service. The Easter Egg Hunt will follow the 10:00 service. We encourage everyone to

bring flowers for a successful flowering of the cross. The flowers can be dropped off at the parish hall with any Sunday School teacher. Wrapped candies can be brought in any time up to Sunday, April 28.

Additional Education

Bible Study: The Monday Bible Study continues Mondays. We will be using Rob Bell’s book, *What Is the Bible*. Bell addresses issues such as: Why should we bother with such an ancient book? Isn’t it all myths and fairy tales? What about all that violence? And the contradictions? Is it inspired? Can it help us? Just what is the Bible? Participants will need to purchase a copy of this book (via Amazon or other sources).



Christian Education: We will be running a Christian education after 10am service on Sundays during Lent. Stick around after coffee hour to learn more.



Safe Church Training: The following Sunday School teachers & members of Vestry attended the Safe Church Training in Pitman on

March 23: Susan Jones (Sr. Warden), Dorothy Blindenbacher (Jr. Warden), Shirley Mullen (secretary), Jessica Robinson (Sunday School teacher & Vestry member), Kathy Martel (Communion Class teacher), Don Martel (Vestry member), Patti Tallakson (Sunday School teacher), Chris Goodman

(Vestry & choir member), Michael Lutz (Vestry member), Lisa Craddock (Sunday School teacher), Pat Bosch (Sunday School teacher), Barry McManaman (Vestry member), Phyllis Sowers (Vestry & choir member), and Mary Wonderlin (Sunday School Coordinator and Vestry member). Thank you all for your time and service!

Bishop’s Spring Conference: The Bishop’s Spring Conference will be held on May 4, 2019 at Trinity Church in Princeton for all interested.

Ongoing Fundraisers



Wawa Shorti Hoagies: Wawa Shorti hoagie coupons are available from the office and from Mary Wonderlin for \$4.00. The Church gets a part of your purchase. The coupon entitles you to one Shorti hoagie of your choice.

Amazon Smile: The Church receives a portion of all sales with no additional cost to you. On your first visit to smile.amazon.com, you are prompted to select a charitable organization from the list of eligible organizations. Type “Church of St. John the Evangelist Blackwood” into the search bar, and simply select our church. Then, whenever you purchase anything on Amazon, go to smile.amazon.com, and your purchase will automatically qualify. Thank you in advance!



Outreach

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



Every
Donation
Makes A
Difference



St. Paul’s: The next St. Paul’s trip will be June 23. We will be preparing food at the Parish Hall and helping to serve those less fortunate. We are looking for any donations of turkeys and hams that anyone might have; please reach out to Barry McManaman.



(St. Paul's photographs courtesy of Mary Wonderlin)

ECW

Basket Auction: The ECW had another successful Basket Auction. We appreciate all those who donated items, baskets, and those who attended and spent their hard-earned money. We hope you all won BIG!!



(Basket Auction photographs courtesy of Rick Wonderlin)

ECW Picnic: The ECW Picnic will be held on Wednesday, May 22. Contact any member of the ECW for further information.

Fellowship

Ceili: Everyone had a BLAST at Ceili, the Irish version of square dance on Friday evening, March 15. An instructor was present to teach steps and live music, and all who attended had a great time! Many thanks to Cynthia Smith for orchestrating the event.



(Ceili photographs courtesy of Rick Wonderlin)

Pancake Supper: Despite issues with the stove, Barry McManaman put together a phenomenal Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper! Everyone in attendance had a delicious dinner (Ellie can attest), and the parish was able to raise \$252 in net profit. Thank you to all who contributed and attended!



(Pancake Supper photographs courtesy of Rick Wonderlin)

Discernment Committee News

After completion of our meetings and interviews with candidates, the discernment process has moved to the next step with the presentation of the committee's candidate to the Vestry for their consideration. Please ask God to guide the Vestry in their decision as they determine if this is the right person to minister to our beloved St. John's.

Wishing you blessings,
Linda Ambler and Phyllis Sowers for the Discernment Committee

Choir Updates

The choir is busily preparing music for Holy Week and Easter services. This year we will be performing new works and exploring the possibilities for solo voice to enhance the worship experience. The choir will perform at services the evenings of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil and, of course, Easter Sunday, during which service they will premiere Dan's setting of the Lord's Prayer as commissioned by Father Don. Looking ahead into the season of Easter and beyond, the choir will be introducing some new solo music to worship - listen for the individual voices of choir members during the Offertory!



Best,
Dan Nelson

Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday

5:00 on Saturday beginning outside the front of the church weather permitting.

8:00 Sunday beginning outside the front of the church weather permitting.

10:00 beginning in the Parish Hall, with a procession to the church.

Immediately following the service there will be a pot-luck meal to celebrate the Rolle Family, who will be departing St. Johns to go to North Dakota.

The final session of the Lenten Study will begin after people have had time to start their meal. The topic is Community.

Maundy Thursday

Service will begin at 7:30. The Night Watch will begin in the church immediately following the conclusion of the Service

Good Friday

Stations of the Cross with special parts for children will begin in the church at 2:30

The Full Service with communion will be in the church, beginning at 7:30

Great Vigil of Easter

Begins Saturday evening at 8:00

Easter Sunday

Services at 8:00 and 10:00

Flowering of the Cross and Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 28 following the 10:00 Service



Senior Warden's Report

Our **2019 LENTEN PARISH HALL PROJECT** was a **HUGE SUCCESS!** The foyer and main room were transformed in record time by numerous loving, expert and expeditious parishioners! Many thanks again to you all, especially Jess and Dan Robinson and their entire family. Although every wonderful contractor and many volunteer parishioners were very skeptical of making our projected (and necessary) requested completion dates, **WE DID IT TOGETHER** and all the spackling and painting was done for the **Delicious Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper** run brilliantly by Barry McManaman (almost without a stove!) and even the new floor was ready for Cynthia Smith's **Fantastic First Annual St. Patrick's Celebration** Ceili! And that fun fellowship activity was followed by another superbly successful **Annual ECW Basket Auction**. Then the partying continued almost through the night as Mike Millisky and many others worked together to complete the Hall rental logistics setting up for a Wedding Shower the next morning!

NEW: \$5,000 CAPITAL FUND CAMPAIGN! Due to several Parish Hall roof leaks and continued damage to the ceiling tiles upstairs, we will immediately start a \$5,000 Capital Fund Drive needed to redo the 10' x 20' Flat Roof area on the Parish Hall. A safer, upgraded roof access will also need to be completed. As always, your generosity is greatly appreciated.

HOLY WEEK brings a Fond Farewell Gathering for our dear Rolle Family and a Warm Welcome to a new friend, Pastor Lynn Davis of The Harvest Church! Palm Sunday Service,

(Senior Warden's Report cont.)

beginning at the beautifully palm frond bedecked Parish Hall, will also be the day we celebrate the exciting new adventures and opportunities awaiting Jermaine, Cynthia and Tobias in their new North Dakota home and jobs. It also begins our most Holy Week and, while we pray for the Rolle family and promise to stay in touch, please also join Father Don in welcoming Pastor Davis to our beloved church on Good Friday! Father Don reached out and invited Pastor Davis to deliver the Good Friday Sermon. We look forward to praying with her and learning more about that very solemn and sacred day.

Please enjoy each precious moment of Holy Week and then join the children the following Sunday, April 28, as they celebrate the Flowering of the Cross and sing a few of their favorite songs while the congregation completes the gorgeous flowering. A joyful Easter Egg Hunt follows that lovely service.

Please feel free to contact me or our Jr. Warden, Dorothy Blindenbacher, or any other Vestry member if you have any questions or concerns. Please remember we are here for you.

Heartfelt thanks, again, and may God continue to bless you all,

Susan Jones, Sr. Warden



(Rolle party photographs courtesy of Kerry McManaman)

Junior Warden's Report

Wow! It's only been a couple months since my election and so much is going on!

The parish house is looking fabulous with the new flooring, paint, and new curtains. We could not have done this without the assistance of a number of people and they know who they are. Thank you! We are presently obtaining quotes to replace the flat roof over the parish house kitchen. Improvements continue at the rectory.

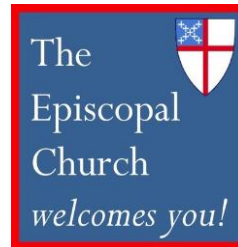
We had a wonderful time at the St. Patrick's Day Ceili, thanks to Cynthia Smith and her friends. Kids of all ages danced and

enjoyed the many sweets and snacks brought from home. Attendance exceeded expectations, so maybe this could become a tradition?

As the "Peoples' Warden" I am concerned with your concerns, so don't ever hesitate to contact me with any of them. My phone number is on the service bulletin every week.

-Dorothy Blindenbacher, Jr. Warden

Diocesan Confirmation



Episcopalians observe the laying on of hands as a commissioning to ministry, and see that as a confirmation of the promises that were made for us if we were baptized as infants. In earlier times, one could come to communion only after having been confirmed by a bishop. Since the Prayer Book renewal in 1976, baptism was seen as the gateway to communion.

To be confirmed is to take your place among the active members of the Church, in a sense, to be seen by all as an adult who has made the decision to follow the way of Jesus within the Episcopal Church. Confirmation is received only once in a lifetime. Anyone who has been confirmed in the Episcopal Church or in any other church with a traditional episcopacy (bishops), like the Catholic or Lutheran churches is not re-confirmed. Typically, young persons sixteen and older are eligible for confirmation.

For Episcopalians who wish to have a sign by which they renew that commitment to follow Jesus in the Episcopal Church, we have what is called Reaffirmation. At the time of confirmation, those who seek to renew their commitment present themselves to the Bishop, who lays hands upon them and prays for their strengthening in faith.

In addition to those two— Confirmation and Reaffirmation, anyone who was not baptized into the Episcopal Church can officially become a member through Reception. At the same ceremony, those who are becoming Episcopalians stand before the Bishop, who lays hands on them and offers a prayer for them as they join the Episcopal Church.

The Diocesan celebration occurs twice a year at the cathedral. The Bishop also does these same three things when he visits a parish.

There is usually some preparation given to candidates for confirmation. Anyone wishing to participate at the cathedral on May 11, please let Fr. Don know as soon as possible. Candidates may decide to wait until the Bishop comes to St. John's or for the Autumn celebration at the cathedral.

Parish Prayers for Joys and Concerns

Pray for those in Special Need

John Worsham, Eric Quintavalle, Abby Collins, Matthew Sterling, Bill Peters, Jimmy Yang, Joan Shupp, Margie Schwartz, Theresa DeCicco, Nancy Hosey, Denise Stricker, Jeff Boggess, Jenny Yocum, Cynthia & Julian Yeh, Sean Santos, Steve Montgomery, Maria Grace, John Kuchler, Jean Perkins, Ann Roney, Harry Smith, Jean Perkins, Maria Velez, Jared Callen, Hadley Benfield, Phyllis Mancuso, William Mayer, Sr., Joseph Mancuso, Nicole Youngs, Nancy Klobnak, the Haughton Family, Ann Waller, Andrew, Gemma and Finn Hermann, Joseph Reily, Joe Waller, Nick Giambri, Dot Lutz, Brad Siracuse, Lisa Green, Atwood Shupp, James Wager, John Ervin, Frances Ash, Ken Timms, Michael B., Barbara Rigney, Nancy Hosey, Joanne Van-Patton, Betty & Bud Bidinger, Terry and her grandchildren, Karlene Gray, Helen Shupp, Sal Aversa, Margie Arches, Ann Masker, Marc Lilley, Thomas Caruso, John Davidson, Marissa Rocco, Ken Sweeten, Anna, Diane Oberoski

Pray for our Shut-In and Home-Bound

Kay Taylor, Anna Scalise, Barbara Houghton, Karen Street

Pray for those serving the military, police, and fire dpts.

Samantha & Matthew Sanders, Adam Miller, Henry Yang, Amanda Collazzo, Frank Vanore, Jr., Steven Barthmaier, Anthony Moss, Michael Truszkowski, Abbey Wilkins, Janet Prince, Ken Sweeten, Andy Misinkavitch, Garrett Bogdan, Nigel P. Shockley, Catherine Marie Wilson, Mike Millisky, Derek Walton, Colin Mair, Ryan Mair

The Editor's Corner



Greetings! We've made it through yet another LONG winter, and Holy Week is right around the corner! Tons of exciting projects have been in the works, and it's great to see the parish coming together to ensure the beautification and improvement of our beloved St. John's. It is only due to the hard work and dedication of the members of our parish that the church continues to thrive, and I have no doubt it will continue to prosper for years and years to come.

It is also with mixed emotions that we say farewell to the Rolle family. Although we will all miss you dearly, you are embarking on a exhilarating new chapter of your lives, and I

am sure that you are excited for all the experiences to come. I hope you will stay in touch frequently!!

I have the honor to be Your Obedient Servant,

-Todd Wonderlin

****All items to be included in The Messenger can be emailed to twonderlin@gmail.com. The deadline for articles and photographs for the next issue is Sunday, June 9th.**

Church Ministers			
All Members & Friends of St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church			
Parish Ministries			
Altar Guild	Phyllis Sowers		856-906-3530
Choir	Phyllis Sowers		856-906-3530
Church School	Mary Wonderlin		609-560-9153
Churchyard	Ernest Jones		609-568-6835
Episcopal Church Women	Bernie Brown		856-402-2439
Flowers Memorials	Phyllis Sowers		856-906-3530
Acolytes/Readers/Servers	Steve DeBaun		856-278-3284
Ushers/Greeters	Shirley Mullen		856-227-1051
Sr. Warden: Susan Jones			609-617-4542
Jr. Warden: Dorothy Blindenbacher			609-870-1869
Class of 2020		Class of 2021	
Barry McManaman	856-296-6867	Chris Goodman	856-313-8552
Tom Gratton	846-905-2978	Mary Wonderlin	609-560-9153
Dori Millisky	856-784-0311	Peggy Cardone	609-440-3675
Don Martel	856-381-5739	Jason Komanchek	856-952-3931
Class of 2022		Treasurer	
Mike Lutz	609-332-0334	Peggy Cardone	609-440-3675
Jessica Robinson	609-254-6855		
Pam Sichelstiel	856-237-3952		
Phyllis Sowers	856-906-3530		
Delegates to Convention		Delegates to Convocation	
Bob Goodman	856-313-6645	Bob Goodman	856-313-6645
Judy McGrath	609-313-5025	Pat Bosch	856-939-2041
Judy Vaughan-Sterling		Dorothy Blindenbacher	609-870-1869
The Reverend Donald Caron, Interim Rector donaldcaron1@gmail.com 478-234-3697			
Parish Secretary:		Mrs. Shirley Mullen	
Office in Parish Hall		Hours: W, F 9 – Noon	
Parish Office Phone:		(856) 227-1051	
Church E-mail:		St.Johns1789@Verizon.net	
Church Website:		www.stjohns1789.org	
Choir Rehearsal:		Wednesday night in the Church 7:30 p.m.	
The Realm (On Line Directory information) https://onrealm.org/TheChurchStJohn/Signin			
Vital Tech Crew: Website, Newsletter, Realm			
Website: Julia Peirce and Wayne Hans			
Newsletter: Todd Wonderlin			
Bulletin: Barry McManaman and Shirley Mullen			
Realm: Lee Jones			

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Saturdays: 5:00PM Rite II Eucharist with Sermon

Sundays: 8:00AM Rite I Eucharist with Sermon

9:30AM Church School

10:00AM Rite II Family Eucharist with Sermon

Wednesdays: 11:30AM Holy Eucharist