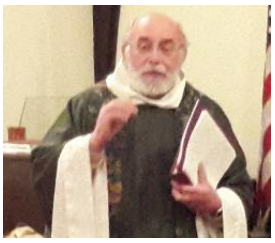
The Messenger

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

Church Office (856) 227-1051
Church E-mail: St.Johns1789@verizon.net
Web Page: http://www.stjohns1789.org
The Realm (On Line Parish Directory): https//onrealm.org

Volume MMXIX – Issue I February 2019

From the Pastor's Desk



The Meaning of Lent

By Fr. Don

Ash Wednesday falls on March 6. We will have ashes distributed at three services: 7:30 A.M. (Very short service and imposition of ashes), 11:30 A.M. (Very short service and imposition of ashes), 7:30 P.M. Usual Eucharist Service with ashes. Easter this year falls on April 21, close to the latest it can ever be. The next edition of our Newsletter, The Messenger, will not be published until after Easter, so I take this opportunity to share with you some reflections about the Season of Lent.

Lent began as a season of last-minute preparation for catechumens (people who were going to be baptized.) Their training had gone on for up to three years, but as the day approached, they began a season of forty days of special instruction and spiritual activity, with the whole congregation supporting them and praying for them. Gradually, people who had already been baptized recognized that this intense period of preparation brought about some very desirable spiritual effects in the catechumens, so they asked if they might be included, too.

The primary meaning of Lent is reconciliation. The alternate Old Testament reading for Ash Wednesday says, "If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. you shall be called the repairer of the breach."

Lent is about healing the breaches that have fractured us and our world. A breach of our own making separates us from God. And within ourselves, we feel split, troubled about deciding between what our hearts tell us is right and what we think we need to do to get by. In our communities we have rifts caused by customs that seem to us like obvious truth, because no one dares to question them. We are at odds with other people who have different ideas, different appearances, different languages, different ways. Our world is split between the haves and the have nots. National policies and use of force and resources are dedicated to keeping things comfortable for those who are comfortable. We savage the resources and the environment of our world to make ourselves even more comfortable.

Many of these sources of division slip beneath our radar until something forces us to see things as they really are. Life is so full, so hectic, that we rarely have the time to reflect and evaluate ourselves and our world. So Lent. Yes, it is a penitential season. The word "sin" comes into focus during lent. We have sinned "by what we have done and what we have left undone," as our confession says. But we live in a world where brokenness is everywhere, where things are not the way God would have them. In Lent we name the brokenness and we try to bring healing. There are limits, we admit, to what we can do as individuals and as a church community. There are some things that can be healed only through the power of God's love. In Lent, we recognize our limitations and our dependence on God, and we place ourselves into the care of God in a way that is more humble and more intense. We try to set aside frivolity that is distracting so that we can follow Jesus as he went into the empty desert for forty days and listen to God.

Last year I introduced an option for Ash Wednesday that I would like you to think about. When you are receiving ashes, you can, of course, come to the priest, who will mark the cross on your forehead. This is called the imposition of ashes. But the word "imposition" makes it sound like this is being forced on people. The spirit of Lent is something that should be willingly and eagerly taken on, as it was among early Christians (and Jews) who put ashes on themselves as a sign of repentance. To encourage this, a station will be available where, if you choose, you can put on your own ashes.

Lent is about reconciliation because God is about reconciliation. As we humbly submit ourselves to what God

('The Meaning of Lent' cont.)

calls us to do, a little bit of healing comes into the world. With this in mind, I do encourage everyone to take upon yourself some special Lenten practice. As children the question in my parochial school playground was "What didja give up for Lent?" The idea of giving up was based on that notion of simplifying, brushing away the unnecessary in order to get to what is rock-solid and essential. That's symbolized by our not using flowers on the altar during Lent. But we often miss that point, and think that the self-denial of avoiding chocolate or some other treat is the point. We think that God wants us to suffer.

What God wants is for people to live together in peace and justice, with no one suffering. Creation and all the wonderful things in it is God's gift to God's beloved. Yes, we can and do abuse and misuse it, and coming to that realization is part of the benefit of being especially aware during this season. So How to live a good Lent? Take time to listen. Listen with ears attuned to God. Look at what is real. See what is good, and be thankful for it. See what is broken and consider how you might make it better. Admit your ability and your limitations, and ask for God's help and guidance. Pray for the coming of the Kingdom of God in you, in your home, in your church, in our world.

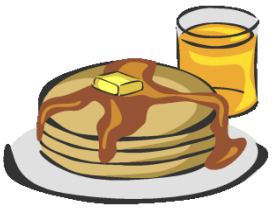
What's Happening in Lent

After each of the Services on Lenten weekends, a video from the series, Embracing an Adult Faith will be shown, with discussion following.

On the Saturdays of Lent, a special Service, based on the style of the Taizé monastery in France, will be offered. This is a much-simplified service, with candle light, scripture, simple music, and lots of quiet. Communion will be available, with a much-simplified form. If you want to make something special of your Lenten worship, this is for you.

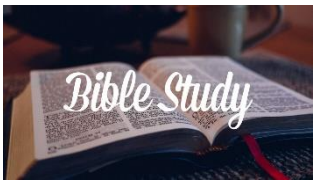
The entrance rites of the main service at 10:00 on Sunday will be adapted each week to use parts of the Prayer Book that are seldom seen: the Great Litany, the Penitential Rite, the Decalogue and others.

Time for the Pancake Supper!



The annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper will held be on March 5th from 5:00 pm until 7:00 pm in the Parish Hall. Come celebrate with your family/friends and enjoy delicious pancakes, bacon/sausage, beverages, desert, and fellowship as we prepare to begin Lent. Suggested Donation is $10 for adults and $5 for children with a maximum family donation of $30. Helpers are needed!!! Please consider coming in during the afternoon to help prepare the meal and help set up. Clean up folks are also needed.

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.

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.

St. Paul's: The next St. Paul's trip will be March 24. We will be preparing food at the Parish Hall and helping to serve those less fortunate. We are looking for any donations of turkeys that anyone might have please reach out to Barry McManaman.

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!

Mother's Day Flower Sale: A Mother's Day Flower Sale will be held, with an order deadline of April 14th, 2019.

Fellowship

Ceili: St. John's will be hosting a Ceili, the Irish version of square dance on Friday evening, March 15 at 6:30pm-9:00pm in the Parish Hall to celebrate St. Patrick. There will be an instructor to teach steps and live music. This is for ALL ages and should be a lot of fun. A donation of $5 is requested, and bring a snack or dessert to share.

ECW

Basket Auction: ECW is having out annual basket auction on Friday, April 5. We would appreciate any basket donations parishioners can make. Tickets go on sale the first weekend in March. Contact Mary Wonderlin at 609-560-9153 or mwonder@comcast.net for tickets. Tickets cost $10 and include a bottle of water and ticket sheets.

SOUPER Sale: ECW would also like to thank all for your support of our Soup Sale. We netted $570. Thank you to all who made and bought soup.

District ECW Meeting: ECW hosted a District ECW meeting on February 18 with 15 guests from other churches in the area. Following a delicious covered dish luncheon there was prayer and a Bible reading for discussion. This was followed by each church sharing their current events, outreach, upcoming district projects and Diocesan events. Sharing was so appropriate for the Valentine theme!

(Photographs courtesy of Bernie Brown)

Wooden Processional Cross will be used for all Lenten services-choir gathers in choir stalls simple procession of acolytes and priest only

March 3 Children bury the Alleluias

March 6 Ash Wednesday
7:30 A.M. Very short service and imposition of ashes
11:30 A.M. Very short service and imposition of ashes
7:30 P.M. Usual Eucharist Service with ashes

March 9,10
1st Sunday of Lent, The Great Litany p. 148 No Lenten Processional hymn
Lenten Study Embracing an Adult Faith Session 1: God following every service in parish hall

(Lenten schedule cont.)

March 16, 17
2nd Sunday of Lent the Penitential Order p 319 Rite I and p 351 Rite 2
Lenten Processional 401
Lenten Study Embracing an Adult Faith Session 2: Jesus following every service in parish hall

March 23, 24
3rd Sunday of Lent Decalogue p. 350 No Entrance hymn
Lenten Study Embracing an Adult Faith Session 3: Salvation following every service in parish hall

March 30, 31
4th Sunday of Lent ordinary opening Entrance Hymn
Lenten Study Embracing an Adult Faith Session 4: Practice following every service in parish hall

April 6, 7 5th
Sunday of Lent Rite 1 for 10:00 service No Entrance Hymn
Lenten Study Embracing an Adult Faith Session 5: Community following every service in parish hall

April 13, 14
Palm Sunday Service of Palms begins outdoors (weather permitting)
Euch Prayer A (Rite II) Silent communion time (no music at all)
Silent recessional
9:00 - 9:45 Lenten Study Embracing an Adult Faith Session 1: God following every service in parish hall

April 18 Maundy Thursday
7:30 Washing of the feet
All night garden watch in the church

April 19 Good Friday
Church open for meditation all day
2:30 Stations of the cross with special parts for kids
7:30 Veneration of the Cross & Mass of the Pre-sanctified

April 20 Holy Saturday
8:00 Great Vigil of Easter Begin outdoors (weather permitting)

April 21 Easter Service
8:00 and 10:00 Eucharistic Prayer B

June 8, 9 Pentecost
People invited in advance to wear red

Parish Hall Updates from the Sr. Warden

LOTS of GREAT NEWS regarding PARISH HALL UPDATES:

MARCH 4 ANKOR Fire & Safely Coordination regarding disarming oven alarm and biannual inspection
MARCH 8 CLEAN as a WHISTLE coordination of flooring install dates for waxing date(s) confirmation
MARCH 8-11 OLD FLOOR DEMOLISHING & determine if new subflooring necessary- HELP REQUESTED!
MARCH 11-13 CARPET CENTRAL New FLOOR INSTALL begins @ 10am Monday, progresses until complete
MARCH 13-14 CLEAN as a WHISTLE New FLOOR WAXING begins IF new floor install completed March 12
MARCH 15 CEILI – ST PATRICK'S DANCE INSTRUCTION & CELEBRATION PARTY 6:30-9pm

Please mark your calendars with the above dates and kindly advise me of any problems with our current calendar along with letting me know if you can VOLUNTEER yourself and/or family members for Friday-Sunday Floor Demolishing dates! In addition, I will check with REPUBLIC to see if they will pick up our flooring tile and dates for pick up. If anyone already knows this info, please share that with me. Lee and I have already advised AA that we are in the midst of transforming the Parish Hall and they were very amenable to working things out with us. They continue to be very grateful to us for the use of the space for 20 years and they appreciate all the beautiful work already completed! I look forward to connecting with the Girl Scout troop soon, too.

HUGE THANKS TO JESS, DAN, FAMILY & FRIENDS for completing work in PARISH HALL Foyer, Stairway, Upper Hallway & Main Room including "serving area:"
--CLEANING, SCRAPING, REPAIRING, SANDING, FINISHING ALL WALLS & TRIMWORK
--PAINTING ALL WALLS & TRIMWORK
--PAINTING CEILING TILE GRID WORK in Foyer/Upper Hallway
--REPLACED CEILING TILES due to disintegration, health concerns as well as for aesthetic reasons
--REPLACED ONE of three light fixtures in Upper Hallway with much larger, better and more energy efficient light fixture with one or two more forthcoming, soon!

ADDITONAL HEARTFELT THANKS TO FATHER DON & MEL for their donation of a chandelier light fixture for the Foyer, please see the beautiful picture below! Dan Robinson is already working out how to best install and when that can be done. This will be an enormous enhancement over the current miniscule light fixture we now depend upon for illumination, THANK YOU, Father Don & Mel!

-Susan Jones

Holy Communion

In eleven months (how time flies!), we will begin the Solemn (Holy) Communion Class of 2020. As each of the prior 30 years has passed we learned and saw new avenues to make the classes more meaningful for the children. A survey of parents following the 2018 season revealed we need to stress our program is a FAMILY CENTERED program as there is significant family involvement in the lessons. In the past we added parent support lessons so that they can personalize what is taught in class. This is very important! When the children study baptism they need to know what their day was like. They need to know who in their family and community needs prayers. When they study confession they need to practice saying "I'm sorry" and experience forgiveness. In today's world, I can't stress enough how important it is for the children to attend Sunday School and prepare for their Christian adulthood.

Looking back in 2018 we were Blessed to learn of three other churches adapting our program for their churches and translating the plans into Spanish. We are so Thankful to Jorge Martinez for his facilitating this growth. This week we e-mailed a copy of the program to a former St. John's member who attends a church in Pennsylvania. Also in 2018 I was honored to present our program at an ECW district meeting and a description of the program was published in our ECW Diocesan Newsletter.

Looking ahead to 2020, it is my PRAYER that former Holy Communion Class parents will step up and form a team of four or more members to continue our program. There is an acute need for more hands to guarantee its success and its future.

With Love and Peace,
Kathleen Martel

WHAT CAN THE CHURCH DO FOR THE BURNED OUT GENERATION?

January 9th, 2019
By Laura Patterson
(Shared courtesy of Fr. Don)

I've never known how to explain to older church members why their children or grandchildren just aren't as involved as they are. It's not that these younger generations don't attend church, or don't profess faith, or don't want to be involved. It's that they just... aren't. They can't make it. With varying degrees of judgement, I hear grief mingled with confusion and fear in the Bible studies, circle gatherings, and council meetings.

"What did we do wrong? We raised them in church, why aren't they here? When I was young I managed to get my kids to church on Sunday morning. I was a working mother and I still showed up."

I've never known how to explain the overwhelming feeling of just not having enough time, even for things you care about, that I sense from so many people my age — and that I often feel myself. I've not been able to quantify the poundage of pressure on my generation—the Millennials—in a way that wasn't written off as being weak or whiny or self-absorbed.

Last week, an article from BuzzfeedNews suddenly popped up all over my Facebook newsfeed, shared almost simultaneously by friends who didn't know each other, who lived across the country, who had different jobs and family situations. It was Anne Helen Peterson's "How Millennials Became the Burnout Generation." For each of us, this lengthy and well-researched article named and explained what we've been feeling for the decade-plus that we have been considered "real adults."

In the article, Peterson explains that for my generation, we have been pushed to work harder, to prepare more, to fit yet another career-building activity into our lives since we were children. She calls it "optimization," and it is the ever-beating drum that defines our world. Unfortunately, despite a life of constantly optimizing for greater production and success, many Millennials have not seen the promised financial stability of a life of working hard and making good decisions.

Instead, we are a generation that graduated into a recession, struggled to find steady or gainful employment, and still is lagging behind. The precariousness of our financial stability, despite a lifetime of preparation, creates dissonance and shame. There is a very real psychic burden. The result of optimization, she also explains, is that we have been trained to make the best use of our time and as a result we struggle with tasks that are high-effort and low-reward, such as running errands that can't be optimized for efficiency (think of filling out a form on paper and having to hand deliver it somewhere). There are additional pressures introduced by social media, our political climate, and the demands of work that doesn't stop at the office door.

The reason for all of this drive to do more is, in Peterson's estimation, about us as workers being always pushed to produce more, to turn a bigger profit. The result is a generation that is already burned out.

('What can the church do for the burned out generation?' cont.)

In my experience, the church has been guilty of buying into the pressure to optimize. Most of the conversations about reaching "young families" revolve around making church easier to engage with quickly so they can return to the rest of their busy lives. Ministries like "ashes to go" on Ash Wednesday are an obvious example of this optimization, but other trends belie our buy-in to this pattern too. In many larger, well-staffed churches, discipling children involves dropping them off to be taught by professionals for about an hour while the parents worship before going on to the next practice or meeting. I have personally written and distributed Bible studies that can be read quickly in the morning, rather than involving discussion with a group. Not only have our efforts to meet Millennials where they/we are been unsuccessful, we have unwittingly been contributing to the problem.

The work of discipleship is slow. The work of relationship is slow. The change we desire to see in the lives of our church members and the changes we desire to bring into our communities cannot and should not be "optimized." Furthermore, the drive to greater production contradicts the truth of a God who loves us even as sinners who cannot do good on our own. It is not only a pastoral task for the church to make space for de-optimization, but it is our prophetic task as well. We must be the ones reminding all the burned-out young adults in our lives that they're loved no matter what they do or don't do, no matter how perfect or imperfect their lives are, no matter how successful they are or how much they struggle.

At the end of the article, Peterson asks what can be done to change this systemic problem other than overhaul our economic system. In the church at least, we can turn away from the idol of optimization and production. We already have the tools to do this in our practice of sabbath and in our emphasis on sanctification as a life-long process. Sabbath, understood as a set-aside and inviolable time of rest from production and the enjoyment of creativity with God, stands in stark contrast to a world where every moment must be building a brand or contributing to a bottom line. The long, slow work of sanctification is a reminder of the importance of our relationship with God and the scope of transformation. It often requires us to stop and pay attention to ourselves, to each other, and to the Spirit's movement in the world. It is not an ingestion of knowledge (as we so often treat discipleship ministries), but a reforming of who we are into the image of Christ. It honors our created-ness and beloved-ness in a world that sees us a tools.

For our churches to have any relevance to a generation that is already burned out, we cannot contribute to or mimic what caused the burnout in the first place. The Gospel is already contrary to the message that led us here; we must reclaim and proclaim boldly that very difference.

Special Message

I was absolutely taken by surprise at the outpouring of love and generosity from the people of St. John's as you remembered my birthday. I don't have adequate words to express my thanks to you for the many kind words, and for the gifts you gave to me. The eagle bookends will be a constant reminder of this church and the wonderful people here. You have made this part of my ministry one of the most joyful of my life.

-Fr. Don

(Photographs courtesy of Mary Wonderlin)

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 & her grandchildren, Karlene Gray, Helen Shupp, Sal Aversa, Margie Arches, Ann Masker, Marc Lilley, Thomas Caruso, John Davidson, Luiz Hernandez, 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 Misinkavitach, Garrett Bogdan, Nigel P. Shockley, Catherine Marie Wilson, Mike Millisky, Derek Walton, Colin Mair, Ryan Mair

The Editor's Corner

Greetings! As I write and edit my first issue, I value the opportunity to serve as the new editor of St. John's Messenger, and hope to carry out the task honorably and completely. I have several thanks to extend at this point. First, to the Vestry, for entrusting this task to me. Second, to Bob Goodman, for his many years of service to The Messenger, and especially for his guidance and assistance in the transition. Third, to all who have shared (and will continue to do so) articles to be included in The Messenger. This could never be put together without your help, and I wholly value all of the input. And finally, to all members of St. John's who devote their time, talent, and treasure to ensuring that this parish will continue to grow and thrive in the future.

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 for the next issue is Sunday, April 7th.*

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: Dot 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 Komancheck	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		
Phyliss 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		Dot Blindenbacher	

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