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 Canon Richard C. Wrede, Parish Priest

Volume MMXX - Issue I

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

February 2020





RELISHING A REFRESHING SABBATH

By Fr. Wrede

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor, and do all work: But the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the Sab-bath day, and hallowed it. (Exodus 20:8-11).

Jesus said to them, "The Sabbath was made for humankind and not mankind for the Sabbath; so the Son of Man is lord even of the Sabbath." (Mark 2:27).

In a world that runs 24/7/365, the idea of a day of rest seems hopelessly quaint, like a horse and buggy or a kitchen without a microwave. In a world that preaches 'time is money' sanctifying a day to honor God is a waste. Even though the Christian church, regardless of denomination, has never dispensed with an obligation to keep the Day of the Lord, it is more likely to be ignored than kept, another place where organized Christianity has been rendered irrelevant by our culture. That is where we are in the year of our Lord 2020. But is that where we ought to be?

In a world that runs 24/7/365, "80% of workers feel stress on the job, nearly half say they need help in learning how to manage stress and 42% say their co-workers need such help. 14% of respondents had felt like striking a coworker in the past year" (Attitudes In The American Workplace VI Gallup Poll). The leading six causes of death in the U.S. are all affected by

stress: heart disease, cancer, lung ailments, accidents, cirrhosis of the liver, and suicide (Stressdirections.com). Over \$300 billion a year is spent to make up for increased absenteeism, employee turnover, diminished productivity and stress related medical expenses as tracked by the American Institute of Stress. That is also where we are in the year of our Lord 2020. Is this where we ought to be?

I firmly believe there is a connection between the loss of Sabbath and the increase of stress related issues and illnesses. After all, it has been shown that those who go to church on average live longer, have fewer illnesses, and recover faster when they're sick This alone suggests to me that the concept of Sabbath deserves another look in our 24/7/365 culture.

The idea of a day of rest / day of the Lord seems by all accounts to be an invention of the Hebrew people (or if you prefer, a gift from God to them), that is first defined in the fourth commandment. It is an acknowledgement that we as human creatures are in need both of rest and of faith. The fact that it comes as a direct order from God suggests that we are in need of some discipline in order to accomplish them. Thus throughout the history of the Jewish people, the keeping of the Sabbath day (celebrated on Saturdays) has been enforced, sometimes quite rigorously. Yet it was not to be seen as a burden, but a joy and a gift: "Those who keep the Sabbath and call it a delight shall rejoice in Your kingdom. All who hallo» the seventh day shall be gladdened by Your goodness. This day is Israel's festival if the spirit, sanctified and blessed by You, the most precious if days, a symbol if the joy of creation." (Union Prayer book, p.154).

Jesus ran afoul of the authorities for doing acts of mercy on the seventh day, which caused him to remind all that this day was created for the sale of humanity. With that exception, he kept the Sabbath holy and worshipped, as did his disciples. However, as early as the time of St. Paul, the Christian Sabbath began to move to Sunday (which they called 'the Lord's Day') as both the resurrection and Pentecost occurred on the first day of the week. This became enshrined in law in the year 321 when the Emperor Constantine decreed it a day of rest for the Roman Empire, and in many Christian and post-Christian nations it has remained so. Mohammed, seeing a

good thing, decreed an Islamic Sabbath, celebrated on Fridays and strictly enforced in many Moslem nations to this day.

Given the long, broad, deep and high tradition of Sabbath, and its rapid erosion in the last 40 years or so, it is vital to connect again to the Day of the Lord in some way, shape or form. This time is better than most as Ash Wednesday is just two weeks away.

The <u>Book of Common Prayer</u> calls us to keep a holy Lent, distinguished by prayer, fasting and self-denial (p.265), and in the Litany of Penitence we acknowledge "Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us." (p.268). If you can't come on Sunday, come Saturday evening at 5. I am also looking to re-start the Wednesday morning Eucharist for the season. But regardless of the day, I encourage you, for the health of your body, mind, and spirit, to keep Sabbath. Come together at church to pray, and this Lent give up, not chocolate, beer or broccoli, but an hour or so each week and keep Holy the Lord's Day.

Shahbat Shalom*,

(Tichard+

*The standard greeting between Jews on Shabbat, from sundown on Friday until sundown on Saturday, but is often used as early as Thursday.

A Word about the Character of Weekend Worship
Services



I think that if St. John's is going to provide three weekend services they should be consistent with parish tradition and the congregations that attend them. From what I have picked up since my arrival, the characters of these Eucharists tend to be like this:

 Saturday, 5 PM – The 'come as you are Mass'. This is a more informal and shorter Rite 2 Eucharist. People are coming directly from work, shopping or chores and this service offers a chance to worship God and unwind a bit. We also get a significant number of visitors at this service.

- Sunday, 8 AM The 'formal, traditional mass.' We celebrate the traditional Rite 1 Eucharist, which follows in direct decent from the very founding of our Anglican branch of Christianity in the 16th century. The ritual is formal but deeply spiritual.
- Sunday, 10 AM Our weekly 'family thanksgiving feast.' Eucharist means 'thanksgiving' in Greek (hence 'The Great Thanksgiving') and each Sunday the family gathers, sings, prays and learns, children and adults alike. Like any big family dinner, it can be a bit chaotic but it also reinforces the bonds which keep us together as members of Christ's body gathered around his banqueting table.

However, regardless of your liturgical tastes, come and worship!

-Fr. Wrede

Education



Sunday School: We have had several new families attend church and bringing their children to Sunday school. It is always gratifying to see our Sunday school program grow. Denise DeClerico has offered to help out in the first through third grade class. We really appreciate

this during Holy Communion.

Denise is full of fresh new ideas.

Holy Communion Class: The Holy Communion Class is in full swing. The eight children are meeting each Sunday at 9:30. There are seven boys and one girl. The date for the Holy Communion is Saturday, April 25th, 2020.



ECW News



Next Meeting: The next ECW meeting has been changed to Mon., March 9th at 10:00. The evening group is still meeting on the first Tues. of the month, March 3rd at 7:00 P.M. Irish potatoes go on sale after the March 9th meeting. They are \$5 a box.

Longwood Gardens Trip: Join us on <u>Sunday, April 19th</u> right after church as we celebrate the Easter Season on a tour to world famous Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square PA, just one hour away.

We will carpool from the church parking lot immediately after the 10am service and return around 4pm or a bit later. The Rev. Anne Wrede will be our guide. Riders and drivers are welcome to sign up on the sheet in the church or email Anne Wrede at arkwrede@juno.com.

A tour of Longwood Gardens includes two orientation films, woodsy areas, huge green houses with orchids, calla lilies, a desert room, and a tropical rainforest. There are numerous fountain displays, a cascade, an old-world bell carillon, an organ concert, and a delicious, fireside, lunchroom cafeteria.

There will be about 2 miles of slow walking, many steps, and some hilly garden pathways. Scooters and wheelchairs can be rented at the entrance.

Entrance fees are as follows: Adults: \$25, Seniors and College Students with ID: \$22, Youth: \$13. Children 4yrs and under are free. Bring your own lunch money.

Sponsored by the Episcopal Church Women. Everyone is welcome to come. Longwood Gardens: 1001 Longwood Road, Kennett Square, PA 19348



Basket Auction: The Basket Auction is scheduled for Friday, April 24th at 6:00. Tickets will go on sale in the middle of March. We are looking for any donations you can make. Finished baskets are always welcome. If you have new items, we can put them together with other items to complete baskets. We are always grateful for the support our congregation gives to the ECW events. (Let us know if you need an empty basket. We have plenty).

Fundraising



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!

Successful Raffles: The Super Bowl Basket brought in \$548. Combined with the \$644 brought in by the Octoberfest Basket raffle, the ECW has totaled \$1192 from those two events. Thank you for all those who have supported!

Outreach



Every Donation Makes A Difference **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 22nd. We will be preparing food at the Parish Hall and helping to serve those less fortunate. A carpool leaves the Parish Hall parking lot at 4pm to bring the food to St. Paul's Church,



and will return by 7pm. We are also looking for any donations that anyone might have, especially their staple items: oranges, individually-wrapped peanut butter crackers, fruit snacks, applesauce, pudding, and additional personal items such as toothbrushes, hotel-sized toothpaste, shampoo, soap, etc.

Time for the Pancake Supper!



The annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper will held be on February 25th 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. 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.

Fellowship



Ceili: St. John's will be hosting our second annual Ceili, the Irish version of square dance on Friday evening, March 13th at 6:00pm 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.

St. John's Book Club: Book club will meet on the second Thursday of the month at Panera in Voorhees from 7-9pm. The first half hour will be used to settle in and get food/drinks. One hour will be reserved for silent reading (any book of your choice), followed by the last half hour to talk at your leisure. All are encouraged to participate!



Ash Wednesday Services

The solemn season of Lent opens on ASH WEDNESDAY, February 26th. We will commemorate the solemnity with three services that includes the Ash Wednesday Liturgy, Imposition of Ashes and Holy Eucharist at 7:30 AM, 11:30AM and 7:30PM (with Choir), respectively. Please take this opportunity to renew your faith and begin a begin a Holy Lent.



Choir Updates



The choir and Dan are grateful for everyone who shared in our music making during the holidays. It is a pleasure to learn and present music as part of worship, and we are thankful to have so receptive an audience as the congregants of St. John's! This winter we are preparing for Lenten services, beginning with Ash Wednesday. The choir is busily learning new and exciting compositions, and is already looking

ahead to Easter and beyond. Try to spot some special guests and new instruments in the coming months!

Best, Dan Nelson, Choir Director

Junior Warden's Report



By the time this Messenger is published we will have had our annual meeting and approved our budget, elected new Wardens, Vestry, and representatives for the convention and convocation. All new personnel will be found in the bulletins at weekend services as well as on

the website, along with contact information.

Please keep your pledge up to date as our expenses are ongoing. If you would like to pledge your support or time and talent, and have not already done so, it is never too late. Your participation in the life and upkeep of St. John's what makes us a such a vibrant church family.

Come out to the Pancake Supper on Shrove Tuesday, February 25th, 5-7 PM for a caloric splurge before the beginning of Lent the next day. There will be bacon, sausage, two flavors of pancakes, desserts and beverages. This is a fellowship opportunity as well as a great excuse not to cook dinner.

Attendance at services has increased this past year by 12%. Thank you for welcoming visitors and newcomers, and helping them to understand our order of service. Remember to invite newcomers to coffee hour, and wear your name tag!

Thursday Feb. 13th is the start date for the new Silent Book Club, 7-9 PM at Panera on White Horse Road in Voorhees. Our March date is the 12th. We will take 30 minutes to arrive, order refreshments (or dinner), chat, and then settle in for 60 minutes to read whatever you want! The last 30 minutes are for (optional) conversation, sharing, or socializing. There is no required book, no required discussion or analysis, just a quiet night out with other readers, and the opportunity to share whatever books you love with them (or not).

Please fill out a photo release form when they are distributed. This will allow us to know that we can use images of our members on our website and other publications.

We have learned that Ancestry.com will be scanning in all (available) Diocesan parish records to make them available online. This is good news for those of us trying to flesh out our family histories. Of course this will take time, but stay tuned.

As outgoing Junior Warden, I thank all of you for your support and service to me and to St. John's. I wish such support and success to our incoming Sr. Warden, Mike Lutz and to incoming Jr. Warden, Pat Bosch.

Blessings,
Dorothy Koehler Blindenbacher

The Bishop's 'Good News in the Garden State'



02.14.2020

Dear People of the Diocese of New Jersey.

And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.... 1 Corinthians 13:13

As I write, it's Valentine's Day, a day

when love is in the air. It is also Black History Month. This past week the Episcopal Church calendar commemorated Absalom Jones, the first Black Priest of The Episcopal Church. The life and witness of Absalom Jones is a love story through and through.

Absalom Jones was born into slavery in Delaware on November 7, 1746. According to the online site, Wikipedia, he, his mother and his siblings were "sold" to a neighboring farmer. The farmer kept Absalom, but "sold" his mother and siblings, and moved to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where his "owner" became a merchant. Absalom Jones attended a night school operated by Quakers who taught him to read and write. A significant portion of his reading material came from the Bible. Jones's "owner" was a vestry person who attended Christ Church, Philadelphia. Jones met and married Mary King, a woman enslaved to a neighbor of Jones's "owner." The marriage of Mary and Absalom was performed by The Reverend Jacob Duche, Rector of Christ Church. Although he did live in the bondage of slavery, Jones received modest compensation for some of his labors. According to Wikipedia, sometime before 1778, he used his earnings to purchase Mary's freedom so that she and any children they had would be free. In 1884, he purchased his own freedom.

As a result of the so-called "Great Awakening," Methodism experienced a period of rapid growth during this period. Jones became a lay leader for Black members of St. George's Methodist Church in Philadelphia, an "interracial" congregation in the city. He and his friend, Richard Allen, were both licensed to preach. Their success led to considerable growth among Black members attending St. George's, causing fear and concern among the White members. In 1792, the White leadership decided to isolate the Black members of St. George's by forcing them to worship in an upstairs gallery. In

response, Jones and Allen led their members out of the church.

With the assistance of some Quakers, they eventually formed The Free Africa Society "to aid in the emancipation of slaves and to offer sustenance and spiritual support to widows, orphans, and the poor" in Philadelphia. Jones began to preach at The Free Africa Society. Though they remained friends, Allen went in his own direction and founded the African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church, the first independent denomination founded by black persons. Both Richard Allen and Absalom Jones were active in assisting people during the Yellow Fever epidemic of 1793.

Jones and The Free Africa Society applied to the Diocese of Pennsylvania to become a member church. They set three conditions: the Church must be received as an already organized body; it must have control over its own affairs; and Jones must be licensed as lay-reader and if qualified, ordained as its minister. The Diocese of Pennsylvania, under the leadership of Bishop William White, accepted these conditions. In July of 1794, St. Thomas African Episcopal Church was officially opened. Absalom Jones was ordained a deacon a year later. Seven years after that, he was ordained a priest. Absalom Jones died on February 13, 1818.

Wikipedia says of Jones that he "was famous for his oratory." One sermon of his titled "A Thanksgiving Sermon" was preached on January 1, 1808, the date on which, according to Congressional Act, the importation of slaves into the United States was officially banned. This helped begin a custom in many places of preaching anti-slavery sermons on New Year's Day.

In his love of his wife and children, the love of the people of God entrusted to his care, in his love of vulnerable freed slaves, widows and orphans, and above all in his love of God in Christ, Absalom Jones's story displays the great virtues of faith, hope and charity. It is, indeed, a love story in every way.

This Sunday, the Diocese of New Jersey will celebrate the life of Absalom Jones at Trinity Cathedral with a Eucharist beginning at 3:00pm. The Reverend Dr. Anne-Marie Jeffrey of St. Peter's, Perth Amboy will be the preacher and The Reverend Canon Andy Moore will be the Celebrant. This event, sponsored by the Earl B. Scott Chapter of the Union of Black Episcopalians and the Black Clergy Caucus of the Diocese of New Jersey is intended not just for the Black members of the Diocese, but for all of us. It's a way we can join together to honor and celebrate a true exemplar of the faith and also remind ourselves that Black History is a part of all our history.

Set us free, heavenly Father, from every bond of prejudice and fear; that, honoring the steadfast courage of your servant Absalom Jones, we may show forth in our lives the reconciling love and true freedom of the children of God, which you have

given us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Happy Valentines' Day and Happy Black History Month.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

The Right Reverend William H. (Chip) Stokes, D.D. 12th Bishop of the Diocese of New Jersey

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, Andrew, Gemma and Finn Hermann, Joseph Reily, Nick Giambri, Dot Lutz, Brad Siracuse, Sandy Ferguson, Atwood Shupp, James Wager, John Ervin, Frances Ash, Ken Timms, Michael B., Nancy Hosey, Joanne Van-Patton, Betty & Bud Bidinger, Terry and her grandchildren, Karlene Gray, Helen Shupp, Margie Arches, Ann Masker, Marc Lilley, John Davidson, Marissa Rocco, Ken Sweeten, Anna, Diane Oberoski, Joshua Kull, Angela McCarty Martin, Jule McRae, Rich Evans, Warren Snyder, Karen Grosso, Maryann Trinkher, Jamar

Pray for our Shut-In and Home-Bound

Kay Taylor, Barbara Houghton, Karen Street

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

Collazzo, Frank Vanore, Jr., Steven Barthmaier, Anthony Moss, Michael Truszkowski, Abbey Wilkins, Janet Prince, Ken Sweeten, Garrett Bogdan, Nigel P. Shockley, Catherine Marie Wilson, Mike Millisky, Derek Walton, Colin Mair, Ryan Mair, Michael C. Marcucci, Ethan Chitten

The Editor's Corner



We are officially more than a month into a new decade, one in which we can expect many significant changes. This year alone is sure to be a tumultuous one, with the upcoming presidential election (from which there appears to be no escaping constant news headlines), the games of the XXXII Olympiad, and 'Brexit' becoming finalized, in addition to all of the normally scheduled major world events. Meanwhile, we all seem to have a thousand things on our individual plates, from our occupations, to volunteering, to taking care of friends and family members.

As life seems to constantly be moving a "mile a minute," I find that it is easy to become overwhelmed and simply 'go through the motions' without hesitation. I invite you to take a moment each day to pause and take in all of the wonder that surrounds you. Reflect on everything that you value in your life, and all of the positive people who surround you. I attempt to do this in my own life, and even though some days it can seem more difficult than others, I am amazed by the little things that I so frequently take for granted – the pleasure in a student's eye when he finally grasps a difficult concept, the firm handshake and delightful greeting I receive from our fellow parishioners during the Peace, or the precious little giggle that my daughter emits upon discovering her belly button for the 700th time. I find that when I take the opportunity to observe all of these minor, but lovely, parts of my life, I am not only immediately put into a better mood, but I am also better prepared to face the challenges ahead. I believe that God provides us each of these opportunities, in the hopes that we can learn to truly cherish our lives, our friends and family, and our worship of Jesus Christ.

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 April 10th.

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	Chiday Midden		050 007 4054
Ushers/Greeters	Shirley Mullen		856-227-1051
Sr. Warden: Mike Lutz = 609-332-0334			
Class of 2021		Class	of 2022
Chris Goodman	856-313-8552	Dot Blindenbacher	609-870-1869
Mary Wonderlin	609-560-9153	Jessica Robinson	609-254-6855
Peggy Cardone	609-440-3675	Pam Sichelstiel	856-237-3952
Jason Komancheck	856-952-3931	Phyllis Sowers	856-906-3530
Class of 2023 Treasurer			
Julia Alford-Peirce	267-970-7049	Peggy Cardone	609-440-3675
Tom Gratton	856-905-2978	. 0337 00.00	
Dori Millisky	856-784-0311		
Don Martel	856-381-5739		
2019 Delegates to Convention		2019 Delegates to Convocation	
Matt Torpey	215-756-2470	Lou & Marion DeCecco	
Judy McGrath	609-313-5025	Pat Bosch	856-939-2041
Judy Vaughan-Sterling	609-707-5005	Dorothy Blindenbacher	609-870-1869
2020 Delegates to Convocation		Choir Members	
Dorothy Blindenbacher	609-870-1869	Judy Vaughan-Sterling,	
Diedre Gratton	856-905-2979	David Ambler, Linda An	
		Chris Goodman, Phillis	Sowers
The Bond Course Dishard C. Whoda articles accounted Second core COS COS 4770			
The Revd Canon Richard C. Wrede, stjohns.canonwrede@gmail.com 609-502-4720			
The Revd Kenneth S. Carpinelli, Deacon Stjohns.deaconKen@gmail.com			
Parish Secretary: Mrs. Shirley Mullen			
Office in Parish Hall Hours: Wednesday &Thursday, 9:00 am – 12:00 noon			
Parish Office Phone: (856) 227-1051			
Church E-mail: St.Johns1789@Verizor		<u> 9@(Verizon.net</u>	
Church Website: <u>www.stjohns1789</u>		tjohns1789.org	
Choir Rehearsal: W		lednesday nights in the Church at 7:30 p.m.	
The Realm (Online Directory information) https://onrealm.org/TheChurchStJohn/Signin			
Vital Tech Crew: Website, Newsletter, Realm			
Website: Julia Alford-Peirce			
Newsletter: Todd Wonderlin			
Bulletin: Keith Peirce, Julia Alford-Peirce and Shirley Mullen			
Poolm: Loo losoe			

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Saturdays: 5:00PM Rite II Eucharist with Sermon **Sundays**: 8:00AM Rite I Eucharist with Sermon

9:45AM Church School

Realm:

10:00AM Rite II Family Eucharist with Sermon