

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 MMXIV– Issue I

January/February 2014 Issue

One Star, One Shining Star



"From the Heaven's above, bearing glad tidings of everlasting love"
(Photo courtesy Lisa Diem-Craddock)

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting for our parish will take place on Sunday, February 2, immediately following the 10:00 a.m. service. Although this is Super Bowl Sunday, we always finish in plenty of time for folks to get home and enjoy the pre-parties as well as all the Super Bowl commercials. The meeting will include a pot-luck lunch, so be thinking about which delicious dish you are bringing. We need people to serve in leadership roles including Vestry persons, Delegates to both Convention and Convocation. A packet can be found church pews in the church describing the Vestry position if you are interested and want to learn more. Convention Delegates attend the pre-Convention meeting if possible plus the Annual Convention to be held in Cherry Hill on February 28 and March 1. Delegates will not be responsible for expenses unless he or she chooses to reimburse the parish. This will be Bishop Chip's first convention and should be a great one, so prayerfully consider this. Convocation Delegates attend 2 meetings a year, (in the spring and in the fall). Please let Senior Warden Trish Lilley, know if you are interested in any of these positions.

Is It Soup Yet?

The ECW will be selling delicious homemade soup on Saturday, January 18, 2014 at a cost of \$6.00 per container. These belly warming soups may be purchased at the parish hall between the hours of 9:00 a.m. up until 1:00 p.m. Also, soup maybe purchased after the 5:00 pm church service. Soup sales will continue on Sunday, January 19th, following the church services (while supplies last). Some of the possible choices are: Broccoli & Ham; Cheesy Potato; Mushroom; Escarole; Lima Bean, Vegetable Beef; Chicken Corn; Spanish Bean, Chicken Corn; Italian Wedding, New England Clam Chowder: and a whole lot more. Soup containers may be picked up in the parish hall if you have a favorite soup you would like to donate. Donated soups maybe dropped off on Friday, January 17th. Members of the ECW will be there to accept the soup between the hours of 6:00 & 8:00 p.m.

Holy Communion Classes

The Intent to Study Ceremony will take place at the 10:00 a.m. mass on January 12, 2014. The parent class will follow immediately after mass in the parish hall. Snacks, movie and supervision for children will be available. This meeting is critical for parents to understand their responsibilities during the season. We will be asking for a sponsor from our parish family for each child. A sponsor greets the child each Sunday, asks about their lessons, prays for the child and accompany with parents and family to communion on Holy Communion day. You will be introduced at the coffee hour on February 9th. Many long term friendships have been started on community Sunday. We will also have our annual St. John's reel when new members and our family get to know each other. The Holy Communion mass will take place on Sunday, May 4th, at 10:00 a.m. and the candle ceremony will be held 10:00 a.m. Sunday, May 11th. We are excited this year as we have two students who are second generation for our St. John's program

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

Noisy Sunday

Last year we began a delightful outreach called Noisy Sunday. On the last Sunday of each month we pass coffee cans around the church, making lots of noise as we put in our loose change (or bills if you prefer). This past year we shared this outpouring of love and generosity with the South Jersey Food Bank and Almost Home Animal Shelter. They have been extremely grateful for our generosity. We will keep this up in 2014 as the needs never go away. Thank you all for your participation.

Ash Wednesday

Lent is late this year, but now is the time to be thinking about it. Ash Wednesday is Wednesday, March 5. Services will be held at 7:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m., and 7:30 p.m. The choir will participate at the evening service. You are invited to attend the service that will best fit your schedule.

Shrove Tuesday

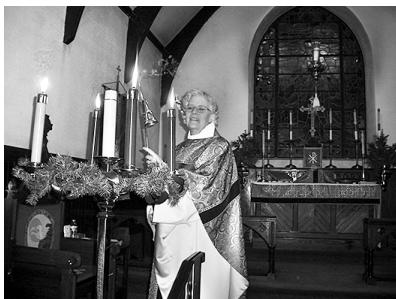
With Ash Wednesday on March 5, that means that the annual Pancake Supper will take place on March 4. Details will be available on the website and in the bulletin, but mark your calendars now. You do not want to miss this dinner. There will be a variety of pancakes, bacon, sausage, fruit, and desserts. Let's enjoy Fat Tuesday as a family as we begin to cross over into Lent.

Chair Yoga

Is it time to start moving? Getting the muscles to stretch a bit and do it in a gentle, user-friendly environment? Come give Chair Yoga a chance. We meet on Sunday evenings at 7:00 p.m. for an hour of gentle yoga to soothing music. Led by our own Dot Blindenbacher, a certified Yoga instructor, we move at our own pace, never pushing ourselves too hard. If the movement causes pain, Dot lets us know another way to achieve the stretch but not have the pain. We begin and end with quietly sitting in a dimly lighted room and go home feeling refreshed. There is no charge, but a free will offering is accepted. The usual donation is only \$5.00. Hard to beat this deal! Do yourself and your body a favor and join the fun!!!

**Deadline for the March/April Messenger
Sunday, February 16, 2014.**

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



From the Rector's Desk

Happy New Year! New Year; we hear that greeting and thing about new beginnings. The New Year comes whether or not we are ready for it. It comes even if we don't WANT to think of things new. And it is here. This is our time, in the season of Epiphany; to shed light on our lives and our world and see what it is that is being made new. Or maybe what we need to be proactive in to make things new. And I am not talking about resolutions. I have been around for 62 years and made many "new resolution" lists. There are times I even wish I had kept some of those lists. I am betting that they were pretty much the same from year to year. You know the lists: lose weight, quit smoking, be more efficient, clean the house, get rid of the clutter, cleanout the closets...and the list goes on and on. Not only should I have kept the list, but maybe it would have been fun to write the date I totally forgot the list. If it lasted a month, I was doing good!

God wants us to be the best we can be. God sent Jesus into the world to be a part of us and to save us from our sins. We know this, or at least I hope we do. Jesus experiences everything we experience and what he brought into this world was joy and light. I wonder how we might change our traditional resolutions if we were to remember the blessings that God wants us to share and enjoy. I wonder what our year would look like if we saw the glass half full, instead of half empty. What if instead of negative resolutions we put positive ones down? So instead of resolving to lose weight, what if we resolve to live into a longer, healthier life? What if we resolve to live a life such that we get to do the exciting things we want to do? That would include losing weight, stopping smoking, exercising, and all the other self-improvements we consider. What if instead of resolving to clean out the junk in my house I resolve to enjoy quilting more, which would mean organizing the house so I can have fun with quilting. These are POSITIVE goals and resolutions. I don't know about you, but it is a whole lot easier to work towards a positive goal than a negative one. Maybe I can stick with it this year if I change my attitude.

We can do the same at the parish. We can come up with positive goals that will make us want to work hard to achieve them. Our ministry can grow even bigger than it is now. Our joy and delight with each other will grow as well.

So as we enter into the season of light, I invite all of us to look at the positive goals we can put in our individual lives and in the life of the parish. God gives us a world that is filled with light and color and joy. Let us walk in that light, put on all those colors, and live into the joy that is ours.

Happy Epiphany for 2014! And may all your resolutions be positive.

Reverend Margaret +



Remember when searching on the internet or ordering on-line to go to **GOODSHOP.COM** when ordering and **GOODSEARCH.COM** when looking for a particular site. At the box where they ask who are you shopping for or who are you searching for just type in "St. John's Chews Landing" and hit the verify button. Our official name will come up. Then continue using the site and any purchases you make using the link to the many shopping sites will give us a percentage of your purchase at no cost to you. Every time you search for something we will get a penny. That may not seem like much, but it adds up. If everyone in the parish would use these sites and share them with their friends and family, just imagine how much we could make...at no cost to anyone! If you are not sure how to use these sites please call Reverend Margaret. She will be delighted to walk you through the process. Like the gift cards, this is FREE MONEY, so please invite your friends and family wherever they may be to take advantage of this.

The BBC

The BBC (Books, Bible, and Coffee) is still meeting on an almost once a month schedule. Over the year we will read many wonderful books, from Theological information to wonderful fiction. We meet at Panera Bread on White Horse Road across from Target in Voorhees at 7:00 p.m. The next gathering will take place on Thursday, January 9 when we will discuss Margaret Guenther's book, "Toward Holy Ground". This is a great read, especially for folks entering the "second half" of life. Join us for fabulous food and delightful discussion. The suggestion for our next book, for February, is "Proof of Heaven". We will let you know details in the announcements. Do join us as for a great time.

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

Gift Cards

Gift Cards are available on a monthly basis. If you would like to order a gift card at any time, fill out a form, found at the back of the church, and turn it in with a check made out to St. John the Evangelist to either Reverend Margaret or Sharon Sweeten. We normally order the first or second weekend of the month. The order usually takes about a week to get in. We receive a percentage of the value of the gift card that is deposited in the Capital Fund account. Remember this is FREE MONEY, the best kind of money!

Service for Christian Unity

Once again our choir will participate with several other choirs at the service for Christian Unity to be held on Thursday, January 23, 2014 at 7:30 in the evening, tentatively scheduled for Holy Child Parish, Runnemede. We had hoped we could host this wonderful event this year, but with a new choir director/organist we just don't feel we are ready. And I am still not sure how we can fit in all the choirs as well as those who come to enjoy the service. So we are not sure where this event will take place. We will let everyone know as soon as the decision is made, but mark your calendars now for a service that is always a delight to attend and an opportunity to support our fabulous choir! It really doesn't matter where it is held, as it is always a joy.



NJ Children & Family Services workers receive St. John's donations.
(Photo courtesy Jason Love)

Bringing Joy to Those in Need

Thank you to everyone who donated for St. John's Outreach Program "Adopt A Family". The NJ Children & Family Services caseworkers picked up the items on December 18th and said thank you so much! Merry Christmas!

Weekly Schedule Saturdays

5:00 p.m. Rite II Eucharist with Sermon

Sundays

8:00 a.m. Rite I Eucharist with Sermon

9:30 a.m. Church School (Sept.–June)

10:00 a.m. Rite II Family Eucharist with Sermon

Wednesdays

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Sept.–June)

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

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

Jan. 05	Chair Yoga	7:00 pm
Jan. 06	ECW Meeting	10:00 am
Jan. 07	Evening ECW Meeting	7:00 pm
Jan. 09	BBC, Book Discussion Group @ Panera Bread	7:00 pm
Jan. 12	Holy Communion – Intent to Study Ceremony	10:00 am
Jan. 12	Chair Yoga	7:00 pm
Jan. 18	Soup Sale	9:00 am
Jan. 19	Chair Yoga	7:00 pm
Jan. 21	Vestry Meeting	7:00 pm
Jan. 23	Service for Christian Unity, Holy Child Runnemede	7:30 pm
Jan. 26	Chair Yoga	7:00 pm
Feb. 02	Annual Parish Meeting	11:15 am
Feb. 02	Chair Yoga	7:00 pm
Feb. 03	ECW Meeting	10:00 am
Feb. 04	Evening ECW Meeting	7:00 pm
Feb. 09	Holy Communion Community Day/St. John's Reel	11:15 am
Feb. 09	Chair Yoga	7:00 pm
Feb. 15 & 16	ECW Bake Sale	
Feb. 16	Chair Yoga	7:00 pm
Feb. 20	BBC, Book Discussion Group @ Panera Bread	7:00 pm
Feb. 23	Chair Yoga	7:00 pm
Feb. 25	Vestry Meeting	7:00 pm
Feb. 28 & March 1	Diocesan Convention, Cherry Hill, NJ	
Mar. 04	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper	6:00 pm
Mar. 05	Ash Wednesday –	7:30 a.m. 10:00 am & 7:30 pm

Remember to mark your calendars

Visit our Web Site:

www.stjohns1789.org

The ECW Page



Our ECW hosted the ECW District Meeting at our parish hall on December 16. We had a potluck luncheon as requested with visiting ladies bringing their most delicious meals that we all enjoyed very much. Our ladies supplied the salad, desserts and beverages. Tables were decorated with poinsettias and Christmas candies making it a festive and joyful event. One lucky lady at each table won the beautiful poinsettia to take home. We ended the meeting singing Christmas carols.
(Photo courtesy Sallie Jones)

ECW Notes

The ECW ladies kicked off the December meeting with a delicious 'cookie exchange' of their favorite treats. Cookies were distributed to the 'shut-ins' after the meeting. Thank you ladies for all that you do throughout the year.

The ECW Christmas Luncheon took place on December 20th with a 'Secret Santa' gift exchange. Thank you to Joyce Root for planning and arranging this event.

On December 16th we also hosted the ECW District Christmas Luncheon and enjoyed fellowship and lot's of Christmas Goodies. Thank you to all who made this event such a wonderful success.

Please make note of the following planned ECW events:

1. The next meeting will be held at Betty Mantzell's house on January 6th.
2. Soup Sale January 18th from 9:00 am until 1:00 pm.
3. ECW Bake Sale February 15 & 16.
4. ECW District meeting 12 noon, February 17th at St. John in the Wilderness. We will carpool from the parish hall 11:30 a.m.
5. March 3 make and ready for sale our famous Irish Potatoes.
6. Basket Auction April 8th.
7. Annual ECW Picnic on May 20th.
8. June 2nd ECW Meeting & Clean-up planned.

Respectfully,

Sister Kate Maura

ECW President



"Our meal was good and the company of each other was special".
(Photo courtesy Sallie Jones)



Pictured are the ECW ladies enjoying their Christmas luncheon at Villari's Lakeside Inn on December 20th. Pollyanna's were exchanged after lunch. Everyone had a super nice time as each year they look forward to the gala event.
(Photo courtesy Sallie Jones)



"Girls just want to have fun" at the ECW District meeting in December.
(Photo courtesy Sallie Jones)

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.

Spotlight on our Youth:

Breakfast with Santa



The children were all smiles for 'Breakfast with Santa'. (Photo courtesy Stefanie Torpey)



"...and were you a good girl this year?" (Photo courtesy Stefanie Torpey)



Checking in with Santa (Photo courtesy Jason Love)

Movie Night



'Movie Night' with the children ready to watch "*The Polar Express*".
(Photo courtesy Cynthia Rolle)

Christmas Eve 2013



The annual Nativity Pageant on Christmas Eve was presented by the children of St. John's.
(Photo courtesy Cynthia Rolle)



'Sing choirs of Angels....' (Photo courtesy Cynthia Rolle)

From the Diocese of New Jersey
Epiphany Silent Retreat

An Epiphany 'Silent Retreat' will be held January 6, 7, & 8th at the Community of St. John Baptist 82 West Main Street, Mendham, NJ 07945 (973 543-4641).

Beginning on the night of the Epiphany we will gather at the Convent in Mendham with our sister and brother clergy from the Diocese of Newark for a joint retreat led by The Rev. Dr. Dennis McNally, SJ. Fr. Dennis is a Jesuit priest, artist, author, and an experienced retreat leader who will guide us in the ways of Jesus and Ignatius.

There will be ample time for quiet, reflection, and the renewal of our spirits.

Spring Youth Ministry Events

The 'Spring' 2014 catalog of the Ministry Institute offerings is now available. Here's some advance notice! Also, please see the website for the Youth Ministry Office of the Diocese of New Jersey at www.newjerseyyouth.org for detailed information on registration, attendance, adult sponsors, medical release forms, and scholarships. You may also call the Director of Youth Ministry, The Reverend Canon Debi Clarke, Deacon, 609 394-5281, extension 36.

**55th Bishop's Ball
Welcome Bishop & Mrs. Stokes**

Friday, January 31, 2014
For All ages
Trinity Cathedral, Trenton, New Jersey

Happening 23

Friday, April 4 - Sunday, April 6, 2014
For 9th through 12th graders
Christ Church, Toms River, New Jersey

Spring Youth Event

Friday, May 16 - Sunday, May 18, 2014
For 6th through 12th graders
Camp Lebanon, Lebanon, New Jersey

Senior Baccalaureate Service

Sunday, June 8, 2014
For 12th graders, family, and friends
Trinity Cathedral, Trenton, New Jersey



St. John's Annual Spaghetti Dinner



The cook's are shown here hard at work preparing the spaghetti.
(Photo courtesy Stefanie Torpey)



Food, fun and fellowship, enjoyed at the St. John's annual 'Spaghetti Dinner'.
(Photo courtesy Sallie Jones)



Folks chow down making for another successful St. John's 'Spaghetti Dinner'.
(Photo courtesy Sallie Jones)

Recycling Christmas Trees



Pictured here are some of the Christmas Wreaths Kathleen Martel creates from discarded artificial Christmas trees. (Photo courtesy Sallie Jones)



Coffee Hour

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



The Greatest Story Ever Told



(Photos courtesy Cynthia Rolle)