

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 II

March/April 2014 Issue



Students met their sponsors and together created their likenesses at the annual Holy Communion Class kickoff coffee hour. (Photo courtesy Lisa Diem-Craddock)

“Lent for Dummies” Or What Is Lent All about Anyway?

This year for Lent we will be offering everyone an opportunity to learn a bit more about Lent. We will talk about where it came from and why we have it every year. We will learn about those very odd services we have during Holy Week (and wonder together why it is even called Holy Week). We will ask questions and answer questions. This will be for everyone, even our children. It will be offered in short bites during coffee hour each week, much like “stump the Rector” in the past. Please join us as you may be the one who knows the answer to a question. Begins March 9 and concludes on April 6.

New Officers Elected at Annual Meeting

Parishioners elected new officers on February 2, 2014 during the annual meeting. Michael Lutz replaced Trish Lilley as the Senior/Rector's Warden while Craig Keisling was elected as the Junior/People's warden. Elected to full 3 year terms to the vestry were Linda Amber, Lou DeCecco, Jason Komanchek, and Mike Millisky. Steve DeBaun was voted to fill an unexpired 2 year term while Nancy Hawkins and Chris Goodman were elected to fill 1 year unexpired terms to the vestry. Also chosen were Delegates to Convention Judy Vahghan-Sterling, Sarah Sambenedetto and Linda Ambler as well as Delegates to Convocation Nancy Hawkins, Pat Bosch, and Sarah Sambenedetto. Lisa Schwinge continues to serve as the Parish Treasurer.

We extend to Sr. Warden Trish Lilley and to all of the outgoing vestry Lee Jones, Jason Love, Sharon Sweeten, and Peggy Wynne a hearty thank you, for their dedication and service.

Considerable information was shared and copies the 2013 meeting minutes, financial information, and reports from all the organizations, are available in the church. If you cannot find what you are looking for, ask Reverend Margaret and she will be happy to provide you with a copy.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Ash Wednesday is March 5, that means the annual Pancake Supper will take place on March 4. You do NOT want to miss this dinner. A variety of pancakes, bacon, sausage, fruit, and desserts will be available. Let's enjoy Fat Tuesday as a family as we begin to cross over into Lent.

Ash Wednesday

Lent is late this year! Ash Wednesday is March 5. We will have the usual services 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.

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856-227-1051

E-Mail: St.Johns1789@verizon.net
Web Page: [HTTP://www.stjohns1789.org](http://www.stjohns1789.org)

STAFF

Rector

The Reverend Margaret Sterchi

Organist & Music Director

Patricia Fronczek

Parish Secretary

Shirley Mullen

Sexton

Mike Millisky

Senior Warden

Michael Lutz

Junior Warden

Craig Keisling

Treasurer

Lisa Schwinge

Vestry

Sarah Sambenedetto

Pat Bosch

Nancy Hawkins

Chris Goodman

Cynthia Rolle

Louis Gross

Matt Torpey

Steve DeBaun

Jason Komanchek

Michael Millisky

Linda Amber

Lou DeCecco

Delegates to Convention

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Sarah Sambenedetto

Linda Amber

Delegates to Convocation

Nancy Hawkins

Pat Bosch

Sarah Sambenedetto

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Church School

Mary Wonderlin

Churchyard

Ernie Jones

ECW

Sr. Kate Maura Teasdale

Editor

Bob Goodman

Ushers

Shirley Mullen

Acolytes/Readers/Servers Scheduling

Jude DeBaun

Webmaster

Carolyn Bausinger

THE WATCH

In April the schedule for The Watch that will take place from 9:00 p.m. April 17 until 7:00 p.m. April 18 will be posted. Christ asks us to watch just one hour with him. You are invited to be a part of that watch. It is preferable that at least two watchers are on duty during the wee hours of the night and morning (11:00 p.m. until 5:00 a.m.), so please try to buddy up during this time. Coffee will be available in the kitchen. Feel free to make a fresh pot if you desire. The watch takes place in the chapel of the parish hall (downstairs next to the office). Please observe silence as best as possible if you are in the building. If you are watching, dress comfortably and bring any material you may wish to read or pray over during your time. More than two watchers are allowed, and if you do not sign up and wish decide to drop in for a time, that is fine as well. I encourage the parish to make sure that there are enough watchers so that Christ is never alone during those hours. When signing up for your shift, be sure to note whether you are signing up for an AM or a PM shift.

Gift Cards

We will order Gift Cards towards the end of March and end of April. This will allow for gifts for Easter and Mother's day as well as ordering cards for your personal use. Remember we get a percentage of the cards you order while you get the full amount of the gift card. It is a great way to raise money for our Capital Fund projects. The more we order at one time, the better deal we get. Please consider ordering cards to help St. John's.

**Deadline for the May/June Messenger
Sunday, April 13, 2014.**

Items may be e-mailed to Robertgoodman1@comcast.net
(Please show The Messenger in the subject line) or they may be left in the Parish Office.

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)

From the Rector's Desk

I think we will all agree that this has been the winter of the snow! It seems that at least once a week we have had more than an inch of the white stuff, and often way more. I know that at the rectory the back yard still has several inches. The Rectory Dogs absolutely love it. The newest addition, little Nicholas Mungo, especially loves it. He will not come in until he is ready, even after Rags and Isla have come in to warm up. But like any small child, he hates the part of having to get dried off once he comes in. If he sees the towel, he will turn around and head back outside. Interesting how even though I am just trying to help him out and care for him he perceives my actions not as loving him but as something to be avoided.

I wonder how often we do the same with Jesus. I know, and I hope you know, that Jesus only wants what is best for us. He loves us with a love that is beyond anything we can possibly comprehend. And I have no doubt there are times He wants to welcome me in from the wet cold with a towel that has been warmed up and will envelop me to chase away the cold. Instead of running into the arms of Christ to be held until I am warm and dry there are those times I turn and flee back into the cold and dark.

Maybe it is because so often I observe such hard things happening around me; to the people I love and care for on a daily basis. I wonder, as do they, where God is in the midst of sadness and difficulty. Does God really only want to love us, only want what is best for us? Or is our Lord someone to avoid, to pretend does not exist? How can a loving God allow hard things to happen? We are coming up to the season of Lent, a time we are given the opportunity of not only letting God into our lives but also a time to accept that Jesus loves us so much that He was willing to die for us. Maybe it is our choices that allow for hard things to happen. This is a time to think about the choices we make; choices God lets us make. Some of those choices are good and lead to good results but some are not so good and lead to pain, either to us or to others. In spite of the choice I make I am aware that even if it is not a good choice it does not diminish the love Jesus has for me. The pain that bad choices cause not only hurts others, and me, but it hurts Jesus as well. This is the season to learn to accept Jesus's love AND to be willing to ask for forgiveness when I make those bad choices. This is the season to move closer and closer to Our Lord and accept his unconditional love. It is a struggle every year at this time, but one so worth making. I invite you to embrace this season of Lent. I invite you to join me in coming in out of the cold and dark and know that

Jesus is waiting with a warm towel to love us and care for us, good or bad choices.

Right now Nicholas is on my lap, sleeping with the security of knowing I love him and want to do my best to care for him. I pray that I will remember this when I am uncertain, worried, and concerned about what is to happen next in my life, or realize I have made a bad choice. I can rest secure in the knowledge that Christ is holding me, loving me, and providing the care that I need no matter the circumstances. I pray that you can do the same.

Reverend Margaret +





The Choir offers a music selection during lessons and carols. (Photo courtesy Cynthia Rolle)

Noisy Sunday

Last year we began a delightful outreach called Noisy Sunday. 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.

SCUCS

One of our major outreach efforts is donation of food for SCUCS, an organization in Camden County that provides food for senior citizens in the county. With the current economy, there are many seniors who go hungry every day. We provide reusable grocery bags with suggested items attached to the handle. Pick one up, purchase whatever items you choose, and return the bag the following week. Joyce Root will make sure the food gets to the proper location. They always send us a thank you and are most appreciative of our help. No matter the weather, our older folks all need to eat, so consider helping with this wonderful outreach opportunity

Chair Yoga

Dot Blindenbacher would like to start up her chair yoga classes in March. Instead of offering them on Sunday evenings, she is considering Sunday following Coffee Hour. Details will be available soon, so watch the bulletin and the website for more information. This is a great way to get healthy in mind, spirit, and body. It could be a great Lenten Discipline that may go on after Easter!

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

Help Our Counters!

Those who count our donations and those who record them in the computer are volunteers from among the vestry and congregation. They spend time every week in making sure our deposit and the recording of donations is accurate. There are ways YOU can make their job easier and faster that will mean very little extra time for you. It may mean the counters will be able to come up and enjoy a bit of coffee hour however.

1. When preparing your envelope, please make sure you PRINT information neatly and completely. Indicate what account you want your donation to go for. If you indicate other, please specify. Otherwise it will go into the general fund. Under your amount, please indicate if it is cash or check and put the check number down as well. If you don't do this, the counter has to, which takes time when you are dealing with over 40 envelopes.
2. Remember that Operating Fund and Capital Fund are TWO different accounts. We cannot tear your check in half, so PLEASE put in two separate checks, one for each account. Please put the check numbers on the envelope under the proper fund.
3. Flower and Oil money go into the Operating Fund. They are NOT memorial account donations. If you are making a donation in memory of someone who has died, please use a separate check. Shirley Mullen and Rev. Margaret handle this. Rev. Margaret will send you a letter acknowledging your donation for tax purposes. It does NOT get put into the computer.
4. If you miss a week or more you can use one envelope to "catch up". Enclosing multiple envelopes is not helpful. The donation is recorded on the date it is received, not the date on the envelope. It is fine to write one check for the entire amount for the same reason.
5. Unless you are enclosing coins or mailing in your envelope, it is not necessary to seal the envelope. The counters just have to "unseal" the envelope, which takes more time. If you are compelled to seal it, please do so lightly!
6. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mary Wonderlin, Chris Goodman, Sarah Carter, or Craig Keisling.

If you are willing to be included as one of our counters, please contact Mary Wonderlin. We can always use another counter or two.

The ECW Page

ECW Notes

Irish Potato's are here! The ladies will make Irish Potatoes at the March 3rd meeting. Please note the price will be \$ 5.00 per box. What a deal, pick some up for yourself and for a friend. The potatoes are available at the Parish Hall from March 3rd on.

It is now time to start sending in your basket items for the Annual Basket Auction. If you have anything you would like to contribute please leave your items in the Parish Hall or give them to one of our ECW Ladies. The Auction will take place on April 8th.

May 20 is the date scheduled for our Picnic. Please let Joyce know if you plan on coming. The Picnic at Red Bank is an event we look forward to all year. We have lot's of fun, fellowship, and food for all to enjoy. This event is not just for ECW women, the men are also welcome to join in the fun.

June 2nd we have a Clean Up day scheduled.

Pease check the Parish Bulletin for ECW Events and/or changes during the year. Our meetings take place the first Monday of every month in the Parish Hall at 10:00 am. We look forward to seeing you at our meetings. The EECW meets the first Tuesday of every month at 7:30 pm in the Parish Hall.

We hope to see you soon!

Respectfully,

Sister Kate Maura

ECW President

Parish Prayers for Joys and Concerns

Pray for those in Special Need

John Worsham, Eric Quintavalle, Stan Wojciechowski, Robert Hamilton, Harry Collins, Joan Collins, Matthew Sterling, June Goodman, Bill Cox, Bob Brown, Anna Collazo, Bill Peters, Margaret Gross, Anthony Mattola, Dollie Badiali, Aiden Riebel, John & Natta Tillman, Jazz Tillman, John Grace, Ralph Turano, Tom Wynne, Dessie Fiorillo, Joanne McColgan, Katie Bednarek, Jimmy Yang, Martha Gumenuk, Aubrey McCarty, Joan Shupp, Jim Orem, Jane Orem, Stella, Hank Martin, Mike Smith, Billy Siracuse, Mike Boodley, John Pigeon, Chuck Ryales, Paul Caruso, SR., Margie Schwartz, and Carol Kowhlowski.

Pray for our Shut-In and Home-Bound

Arline and Alex Potts, Kay Taylor, Betty Knipe, Dorothy Sabot, Anna Scalise, Doris McLoughlin, Karen Street, Gwen Welker, Barbara Houghton, and Mary Molineaux.

Pray for those serving or entering the military

Sammi Jones, Ed Orr, Stacey Droll, Adam Miller, Henry Yang, Amanda Collazzo, Michael Helfrich, Frank Vanore, Jr., Steven Barhmaier, Anthony Moss, Matthew Sanders, Kevin McKnight, and Abbey Wilkins.

Annual Basket Auction

Tuesday, April 8th 7:00 pm



Doors open 6:00 pm

Admission Tickets \$8.00

(Includes 2 sheets of basket tickets & a bottle of water)

Cupcakes will be served at half time

Hoagies will be available for \$4.00

Soft Pretzels will also be sold for 50 cents

Irish Potatoes

On Sale March 3



It's Irish Potato time!

Available St. John's Parish Hall

So stop in and pick up a box.

At just \$5.00 what a bargain!

Irish Potatoes will also be given to our shut-ins.

Shoe Boxes for IHOC

Once again we are collecting shoe boxes and toiletry items for the "Shoe Boxes for IHOC". These are for men, women, and children. Please bring in empty, or full, boxes along with items to go into the boxes. If you bring in a full box, please make sure it is labeled Man, Woman, or Child. Socks and underwear are also appreciated. This collection will run until Mid-March and on the last day we will gather in the parish hall to stuff the boxes.

God is our Refuge and Strength

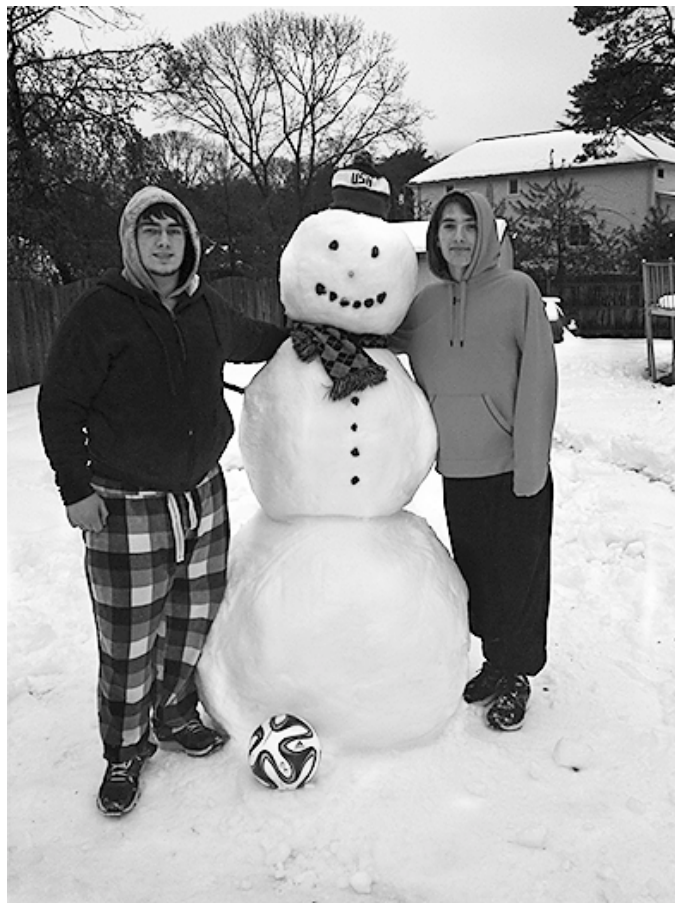
At 3:30 pm on Sunday, March 2, St. Mary's, Haddon Heights will host a Festival of Hymns and Eucharist with organ, piano and brass. During the service, there will be an offering to benefit Philippine victims through Episcopal Relief and Development. This very special event is co-sponsored by St. Mary's in collaboration with the Episcopal Diocese of NJ and the Southwestern Mission Cluster of Parishes, NJ Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. All baptized Christians are welcome to receive the sacrament during the service.

The Realm

The Realm is the method we record and keep track of our membership. It is an online service that allows us, and you, to make sure we have the latest information on all of our members. By signing onto The Realm you can verify your information, add information, check your donations that have been recorded to date, and even find other members (although you will not have access to their financial information). We are hoping we can even print out a current directory, once we know we have everyone's correct information. You are encouraged to go to The Realm and make sure we have correct information for you. The easiest way to sign into The Realm is to go to: <https://onrealm.org/TheChurchStJohn/Signin> Once you sign in you can access your information. If you have any questions please contact Lee Jones at h20doc1@comcast.net. If you see information that is in error and cannot figure out how to fix it, just send an email to Lee or Rev. Margaret and they can take care of it. The more of us willing to check this out, the better our information will be. And you can find anyone in the parish you need to contact by this means. Check it out!

Visit our Web Site:
www.stjohns1789.org

Winter 2014



Family fun (David and Danny Martinez) on yet another snow day...never too old to build a snowman! Complete with USA hat, Philadelphia Union scarf and 2014 World Cup ball! (Photo courtesy Christa Martinez)

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES

- Palm Sunday (April 13):** Usual times. (For the 10:00 a.m. service we will meet in the Parish Hall and process to the church).
- Maundy Thursday (April 17):** Service at 7:30PM. As usual, the WATCH will follow in the chapel.
- Good Friday (April 18):** Stations of the Cross at noon. Service at 7:30PM
- The Great Vigil (April 19):** Service at 8:00PM (NO 5:00PM service this day)
- Easter Day (April 20):** Services at 8:00AM and 10:00AM
- Sunday after Easter:** Services as usual. Flowering of the Cross at the 10:00AM service. Easter Egg hunt for the children following the 10:00AM service.

Spotlight on our Youth:



Pictured above and below the GFS MLK day Ronald McDonald house.



(Photos courtesy Lisa Diem-Craddock)

Diocesan Youth Events

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

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

• Lay Lenten Retreat w Bishop Stokes

Where: [The Evergreens](#)

When: March 8, 9:30am

Cost: \$15, includes lunch

Info: In this one day retreat, stories and images from the desert experience in the Bible and the early Fathers and Mothers will be explored in an attempt to experience the wisdom and wonder of the desert in our lives. There will be meditations and time silent time for each person's own holy encounter.

• Parish Leadership Day

Where: Trinity Cathedral

When: March 15th, 9:30am

Cost: \$10, includes lunch

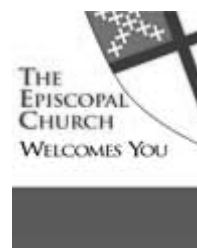
Info: Adaptive Leadership is a practical framework helps individuals and organizations adapt and thrive in challenging environments. It offers a comprehensive and systematic approach to candidly assessing a situation yourself, and then taking action. Presented by Dr. Hugh O'Doherty, you will learn practical tools to advance what you care about most, in a time of rapid change.

• Episcopal Church Foundation 2014 Webinars and Web Conferences

When: Dates Vary

Where: Your computer

For: Free for all as part of ECF's on-going efforts to assist congregations in developing leadership and financial resources, they are offering a wide range of web conferences. Topics include planned giving, capital campaigns, vision, planning, stewardship, communication, parish finances, endowments, and leading change.



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.

From the Diocese of New Jersey

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.

Financial Update

Operating Fund:

Needed Weekly Income:	\$3,300
Needed Year to Date Income:	\$23,100
Received Year to Date Income:	\$21,496

HVAC Upgrade Capital Campaign 8/2011- 8/2014

Needed Weekly Capital Fund:	\$300
Total Cost of Project:	\$43,000
Total Project Income Received to Date:	\$42,609

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

Feb 28 & Mar 1	Diocesan Convention, Cherry Hill, NJ
Mar 2	Festival of Hymns & Eucharist for Philippine Typhoon Victims, St. Mary's Haddon Heights 3:30 pm
Mar 4	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper 6:00 pm
Mar 5	Ash Wednesday - 7:30 am, 10:00 am & 7:30 pm
Mar 3	ECW Meeting 10:00 am - Make and ready for sale the ever famous ECW Irish Potatoes
Mar 4	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper 5:00 - 7:00 pm
Mar 5	Ash Wednesday - 7:30 am 10:00 am & 7:30 pm
Mar 20	BBC Book Discussion Group, Panera Bread, Voorhes 7:00 pm
Mar 25	Vestry Meeting 7:00 pm
Apr 7	ECW Meeting 10:00 am
Apr 8	ECS Basket Auction Doors open 6:00 pm
Apr 13	Palm Sunday
Apr 17	Maundy Thursday - Service of Foot Washing, Eucharist & Stripping of the Altar 7:30 pm
Apr 17	The Watch 9:00 pm thru Apr 18 7:00 pm
Apr 18	Good Friday
	Stations of the Cross 12:00 noon
	Veneration of the Cross and Reserve Sacrament 7:30 pm
Apr 19	The Great Vigil of Easter 8:00 pm
Apr 20	Easter Sunday
Apr 24	BBC Book Discussion Group, Panera Bread, Voorhes 7:00 pm
Apr 27	Flowering of the Cross 10:00 am
Apr 29	Vestry Meeting 7:00 pm
May 4	The Holy Communion Class mass
May 10	Holy Communion Candle Ceremony 10:00 am

Remember to mark your calendars



Coffee Hour

Coffee Hour Hosts are needed for the spring and summer. 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.

