

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

Church Office (856) 227-1051
Church Fax (856) 228-5748
Church E-mail: St.Johns1789@verizon.net
The Reverend Margaret Sterchi, Rector

Volume MMXIII– Issue VI

November/December 2013 Issue



The Rt. Rev. William "Chip" Stokes was consecrated as XII Bishop of the Diocese of NJ on November 2, 2013 at Trinity Cathedral.

Founders Day Service

Our Founder's Day services will take place on November 16 and 17. This is the time when we recognize just how long we have been on the corner of Chews Landing and Old Black Horse Pike by worshipping with the service that would have taken place at the time in 1789. It looks very different and feels very different. But it is a reminder that our prayers have changed over the years just as our nation has changed over the years. I hope you will come and experience this wonderful service and celebrate our 224 years of continuous worship on this corner!

Eagle Court of Honor

Eagle Court of Honor for David Martinez will be held on Saturday, November 30th at noon at the church. A reception will follow in the parish hall. If you are able to attend, please R.S.V.P. to Christa at 609-923-4589 or via e-mail at clm52869@gmail.com.

Spaghetti Dinner

We will have our "Amazing" annual Spaghetti Dinner on November 23 from 5 pm to 7 pm in the Parish Hall. This is always a fun time for great fellowship and fabulous food. We will serve spaghetti, meatballs, sausage, salad, bread, and desserts. There will be take-out available as well, so come and join us! Suggested donation is \$10 per adult, \$5 per child, or \$30 per family.

Stewardship

The Stewardship material is now in your hands or will be shortly. The vestry and wardens ask that you prayerfully decide what you are able to give in the coming year, fill out the form, and return it the weekend we celebrate the founding of our parish, November 16 & 17. Additional forms will be available in the back of the church if you forget to bring yours. Let's make this the year we have 100% participation. It is so much easier creating a budget when we have a good idea of our income for the year. God bless each and every one of you as you make this serious decision. And thank you for your participation!

Holiday Schedule

We don't want you to miss out on an opportunity to worship our Lord during the holiday season. Here are the services, both at St. John's and with our neighbors:

November 24:	Thanksgiving Ministerium Service Blackwood Methodist Church, 123 Church St., Blackwood (6:00 pm tours, 7:00 pm service & reception following).
November 27:	Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service Chews United Methodist Church, 7:30 pm
November 28:	Annual St. John's Thanksgiving Eucharist 10:00 am followed by lunch with the rector who will cook the turkey, dressing & gravy. (Please let her know if you are interested and what you would like to provide).
December 23:	Christmas Pageant Dress Rehearsal/Pizza party 5:00
December 24:	Christmas Pageant and Candlelight Service: 4:30 pm Christmas Eve Choral Candlelight Service: 7:30 pm Christmas Eve Midnight Candlelight Mass: 11:30 pm
December 25:	Christmas Day casual service: 10:00 am
December 29:	Annual Service of Lessons & Carols 10:00 am

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

The Messenger

Church of Saint John the Evangelist
1720 Old Black Horse Pike
Chews Landing, NJ 08012
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

Parish Secretary

Shirley Mullen

Sexton

Mike Millisky

Senior Warden

Trish Lilley

Junior Warden

Michael Lutz

Treasurer

Lisa Schwinge

Vestry

Jason Love

Michael Millisky

Peggy Wynne

Lee Jones

Sarah Sambenedetto

Pat Bosch

Jason Komanchek

Craig Keisling

Sharon Sweeten

Cynthia Rolle

Louis Gross

Matt Torpey

Delegates to Convention

Sharon Sweeten

Judy Vaughan-Sterling

Cynthia Rolle

Delegates to Convocation

Nancy Hawkins

Carolyn Bausinger

Sarah Sambenedetto

Altar Guild/Flowers/Memorials

Phyllis Sowers

Church School

Mary Wonderlin

Churchyard

Ernie Jones

ECW

Sr. Kate Maura Teasdale

Editor

Bob Goodman

Flowers/Memorials

Phyllis Sowers

Ushers

Shirley Mullen

Webmaster

Carolyn Bausinger

Gift Cards

Gift Card orders will be made the week of December 1 (and December 15 if there is a need for it). This is the holiday season and if you are giving gift cards to loved ones, why not let the church benefit as well? Pick up an order form in the back of the church, check out all the great opportunities for giving and then fill it out. Write you check out to St. John for the total amount. Give the order to either Sharon Sweeten or Reverend Margaret and we will get the order in for you. Then sit back and relax. Your shopping is done! The cards usually are back with us by the following weekend and will be distributed at that time. Remember we get a percentage of your purchase. You get the full amount of the card you ordered, but we get a benefit as well. The more you order, the more money that goes into our capital fund for future repairs and upgrades.

SCUCS

Periodically Joyce Root stops in the church and parish hall and gathers up all the donated food to take to SCUCS, a Camden County Senior Citizen organization that provides food for the seniors in our community who are hungry and unable to purchase basic groceries. Hunger is with us no matter what time of year it may be. We often forget this when the weather warms up. Lately there has not been much for Joyce to take in. I encourage all of us to remember SCUCS when we stop in the grocery store. You will find bags available in the parish hall with suggested items listed on an attached card. Take a bag, pick up as much or as little as fits your budget and return the bag to the church. There are many folks who will appreciate your generosity when they sit down to a meal.

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 7PM for an hour of gentle yoga to soothing music. Lead 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. Hard to beat this deal! Do yourself and your body a favor and join us!

January/February 2014 Messenger Deadline Sunday, December 15, 2013.

Items may be e-mailed to robert.goodman1@comcast.net (Please show The Messenger in the subject line) or they may be left in the Parish Office.



From the Rector's Desk

While reading over last year's message at this time of year I was struck by two items. One is that The Bible Challenge is almost over. Several of you have been much more faithful than I have at reading the lessons each day. In my excuse I will say that I am reading lessons each day, but the ones that are on the Daily Office Lectionary. It seems I never have time to sit down and read the rest. So for those who have completed the entire Bible Challenge, my hat is off to you. I would love for some of you to say something during this Advent, if you are willing, about what the experience was like for you. The other item of note is that it was a year ago that we first received our blue bracelets with TGIF, Today God Is First. Many of you continue to wear your bracelet. Some have asked for replacements or and additional one to give to others. We have plenty, so if you would like one please ask. You will definitely receive. What has YOUR experience been like while wearing this bracelet? I am happy to say I am much better at wearing the bracelet than reading the scriptures. I love having it on and periodically touching it, reminding me who is, or should be, first in my life.

Advent is a Holy time of year, as I have mentioned in the past. It is a time, created by the church, for quietly waiting and being with God. It is a time for patience and stillness. And yet our society tells us just the opposite. Songs, movies, and even books tell us this is the time of year for hustle and bustle. This is a time with way more things on our "to do" list than hours in the day. But the church is counter-cultural. The church is a place to enter and become something other than what society expects. We just read a book for the BBC, "Ordinary People as Monks and Mystics" and had a quiet day. In both of those experiences we heard about the need for patience, the importance of solitude, the joy of silence, the desire for a new way of living that actually makes sense and leads us into a closer relationship with Christ. On December 14 we are going to try again to host a quiet day. We will continue to talk about the discipline of developing a closer relationship to Christ. We will have an opportunity to look at different methods of praying, of living out our days in contact with Christ, and of developing a Rule of Life that just might be life changing. This may sound like hard work, or something that is too "spiritual" for the ordinary person in the pew, or perhaps even a little scary. That is not the intention. This time is a gentle one in which we can check out ways that just might work in our busy lives to spend time with the One who loves us the most; our Lord and Savior, and choose something that actually works for us. I cannot urge you enough to give this a try. Mark your calendar now and keep that day free so you can come, take a deep breath, and see how your relationship with God might change

for the better. I don't think you will regret this, and you just might hunger for more of these days.

Reverend Margaret +

Flat Jesus

Did you go anywhere with Flat Jesus? The rector took him to Lopez Island with her for her vacation the first of September. They had a marvelous time! He got to meet her niece and the new boyfriend, who introduced Flat Jesus to the joys of trying different types of beer. One chilly morning the group headed out to the library, where Flat Jesus warmed himself by the fire. It was so cozy. Flat Jesus was amazed at the ferry. He had no idea you could drive a car onto a boat and then go to the mainland to head home. He found it fascinating! Once back in the area, he made rounds with the rector to various shut-ins. But one of his favorite activities was attending the monthly BBC meeting (Books, Bible, and Coffee). He found the discussion on "Ordinary People as Monks and Mystics" to be quite interesting. The rector thinks he is please we are wrestling with ways in which we can become closer to our Lord. He just wonders where everyone was, as it was a very small group.

A Word about Technology

As they say in the Cinemark Theater, Technology is everywhere. There is a time and a place for OMG and LOL as well as a time and a place for playing games like Candy Crush. However the church is neither the time nor the place. When you are texting friends or playing games on your portable devices you are disrupting the worship experience of your neighbors in the pew. Surely you can go for an hour without the need to play a game or contact a friend. If you receive an emergency call, that is different. Step out of the building and take the call. Otherwise, it can wait! So please either turn your cell phones off or silence them while in worship. And please, no games. You are setting a really bad example for our children, but even more importantly you are interrupting the prayer life of the person next to you.



With the time for gift giving upon us, this is a gentle reminder that when you are shopping online, or even searching online, if you use Goodshop or Goodsearch and designate St. Johns, Chews Landing as your charity we will receive a percentage of your purchase or a penny for every search. This seems like a small amount, but it adds up over time. We have raised \$1,288.19 so far. So support the church and check to see if the online store you want to shop in is a part of Goodshop. You will be surprised when you see just how many stores are a part of this organization! www.goodsearch.com or www.goodshop.com. Be sure to enter St Johns Episcopal Church – Chews Landing as your charity.

The ECW Page

We have a list of wonderful events coming your way!

On November 23rd the Vestry is holding a Spaghetti dinner from 5pm to 7:30 p.m. If any ladies can make a dessert please let us know. Sister Kate Maura will be delivering spaghetti dinners to the shut-ins this evening if anyone would like to help out.

The ladies of the ECW will be hosting a special coffee hour on November 24th at which time Kathleen Martell will give us the opportunity to purchase her beautiful handmade memorial Christmas wreaths and swags.

The next regular meeting of the ECW will be held on Monday, December 2nd at 10:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall, we hope to see you there. We will be holding our annual "Cookie Exchange" at this meeting.

On December 16th we will host a District Meeting in our Parish Hall. This will be an "Outreach for Animals" and we will be accepting donations of canned dog or cat food, dry food, any blankets or paper products.

January 6th we will kick off the New Year holding our meeting a Betty Mantzell's house. We thank you Betty for hosting our meeting in your home. We are looking forward to the fun and fellowship.

Please note the following ECW event dates:

Nov. 16 - ECW Kitchen Clean Up Day
Nov. 23 - Vestry Spaghetti Dinner
Nov. 24 - ECW Hosting Coffee Hour
 & Christmas Memorial Wreath Sale
Dec. 2 - ECW Meeting and Cookie Exchange
Dec. 16 - ECW District Animal Outreach Meeting
Jan. 18 - The Annual ECW Soup Sale
Feb. 15 & 16 ECW Bake Sale
Feb. 17 - ECW District meeting
 at St. John in the Wilderness
Mar. 3 - Making of the Irish Potatoes
Apr. 8 - Annual Basket Auction
May 20 - ECW Meeting
May 20 ECW Picnic
Jun. 2 - ECW meeting and Cleanup

Respectfully,
Sister Kate Maura
ECW President



ECW met on Monday, September 9th, 2013 with nine ladies attending. Pictured are Mary Wonderlin, Joyce Root, Betty Mantzell, Rev. Margaret, Sallie Jones, Kathy Horne, Bernie Brown, Kate Teasdale and Kathleen Martell. (Photo courtesy Sallie Jones)



At the September ECW meeting the ladies planned a full calendar of events for the year. Pictured celebrating September birthdays were Joyce Root, Kate Teasdale, and Kathleen Martell. Yummy cakes were shared in celebration. (Photo courtesy Sallie Jones)



The Evening ECW hosted an Octoberfest with a great selection of food featuring kielbasa, pierogies, German potato salad, hot dogs, sauerkraut, apple salad and pretzels. Everyone one attending also got their fill of delicious desserts. (Photo courtesy Sallie Jones)



All smiles must be Octoberfest!!! (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.

ECW Coach Bag Bingo Night

... and a Good Time Had by All



"Coach Bingo" caller was Jermaine Rolle. (Photo courtesy Sallie Jones)



A good time is had at Sue Clark's table. (Photo courtesy Sallie Jones)



Karen Zirbser displays her prize. (Photo courtesy Sallie Jones)



Family and friends join Betty Mantzell's table for some "Coach Bingo" fun. (Photo courtesy Sallie Jones)



Winner Judy Vaughan-Sterling shows her prize (with a guest, Kathi Heller). (Photo courtesy Sallie Jones)



Daughter Katrina McCoy and a friend with Trish Lilley share a good time at "Coach Bag Bingo". (Photo courtesy Carolyn Bausinger)

Visit our Web Site:
www.stjohns1789.org

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

ECW Coach Bag Bingo Good Times

Sunday, Evenings 7:00 pm in the Parish Hall



Sharing the fun with Cynthia Rolle, Cynthia's mom Jen Rodriguez (left) and Ashon Rolle (right). (Photo courtesy Carolyn Bausinger)



Barbara Rigney (left) and her daughter-in-law await the next Coach Bag Bingo call. (Photo courtesy Carolyn Bausinger)



Showing their winning smile are Jessica Robinson and her stepmother Toni. (Photo courtesy Carolyn Bausinger)

ECW Girls Just Want to Have Fun



Yes Joyce!!!!

(Photo courtesy Carolyn Bausinger)



Enjoying the Octoberfest!

(Photo courtesy Sallie Jones)



Octoberfest revelers!

(Photo courtesy Sallie Jones)

"Chair Yoga"

Parish Prayers for Joys and Concerns

Pray for those in Special Need

Bp. George Cuncell, John Worsham, Eric Quintavalle, Stan Wojciechowski, Robert Hamilton, Harry 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, Ralph Turano, David Sowers, John Grace, Matt Dold, Tom Wynne, Dessie Fiorillo, Joanne McColgan, Katie Bednarek, Jimmy Yang, Martha Gumenuk, Aubrey McCarty, Joan Shupp, Skip Zirbser, Cynthia Rolle, Cathy Dyer, and Todd G.

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, Hillary Getz, Henry Yang, Amanda Collazzo, Michael Helfrich, Frank Vanore, Jr., Steven Barhmaier, Michael Truszkowski, Mark Sanders, Kevin McKnight, and Anthony Moss.



Chris Goodman & Margaret enjoy the IHOC dinner.



The "Harmony Show Choir" provided the evening's entertainment at the IHOC Dinner. (Photo courtesy Carolyn Bausinger)



The annual blessing of the animals was held on October 6. (Photo courtesy Jason Love)

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

- Nov. 16: Parish Cleanup Day 8:00 a.m. until Noon
Nov. 16: ECW Kitchen Cleanup Day 8:00 a.m. until Noon
Nov. 21: BBC Book Discussion Grp. Panera Bread, Voorhees 7:00 p.m.
Nov. 23: Annual Spaghetti Dinner 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.
Nov. 24: Gloucester Twp. Ministerium Thanksgiving Service
Blackwood United Methodist Church 7:30 p.m.
Nov. 26: Vestry Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Nov. 27: Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service, Chews UMC 7:30 p.m.
Nov. 28: Annual Thanksgiving Service & Dinner 10:00 a.m.
Nov. 30: David Martinez, Eagle Court of Honor 12:00 noon
Dec. 1: Family Advent Program & Lunch 11:30 a.m.
Dec. 1: Christmas Pageant Rehearsal 11:30 a.m.
Dec. 1: Chair Yoga 7:00 p.m.
Dec. 2: ECW Meeting & Cookie Exchange 10:00 a.m.
Dec. 3: Evening ECW Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Dec. 8: Family Advent Program & Lunch 11:30 a.m.
Dec. 8: Christmas Pageant Rehearsal 11:30 a.m.
Dec. 8: GCCC Christmas Concert Gloucester County College 3:00 p.m.
Dec. 8: Chair Yoga 7:00 p.m.
Dec. 15: Family Advent Program & Lunch 11:30 a.m.
Dec. 15: Christmas Pageant Rehearsal 11:30 a.m.
Dec. 15: Chair Yoga 7:00 p.m.
Dec. 17: Vestry Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Dec. 19: BBC Book Discussion Grp. Panera Bread, Voorhees 7:00 p.m.
Dec. 22: Family Advent Program & Lunch 11:30 a.m.
Dec. 22: Christmas Pageant Rehearsal 11:30 a.m.
Dec. 23: Pageant Dress Rehearsal & Pizza Party 5:30 p.m.
Dec. 23: Greening of the Church 6:00 p.m.
Dec. 24: Annual Christmas Pageant & Eucharist 4:30 p.m.
Festive Eucharist with Carols 7:30 p.m.
Festive Eucharist with Carols 11:00 p.m.
Dec. 25: Come as you are Eucharist with Carols 10:00 a.m.
Dec. 29: Festival of Lessons & Carols 10:00 a.m.
Dec. 29: Caroling for Parish shut-ins 11:30 a.m.
Dec. 29: Chair Yoga 7:00 p.m.
Dec. 31: New Year's Eve
Jan. 1: Happy New Year

Remember to mark your calendars

Weekday Services

Monday – Thursday

Morning prayer is held at the rector's home (or can be scheduled in the chapel). Please call to let her know you would like to attend.

Tuesday

6:00 pm Celtic Evening Prayer

Wednesday

10:00 am Holy Eucharist followed by Bible Study

Animal Adoption Event Held at St. John's

On Saturday, November 9th, an Animal Adoption event was held at the St. John's parish hall. There were pets for adoption as well as vendors of items for purchase. Items were also collected for donation to various shelters.

(Below photos courtesy Sharon Sweeten)



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.



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.

