

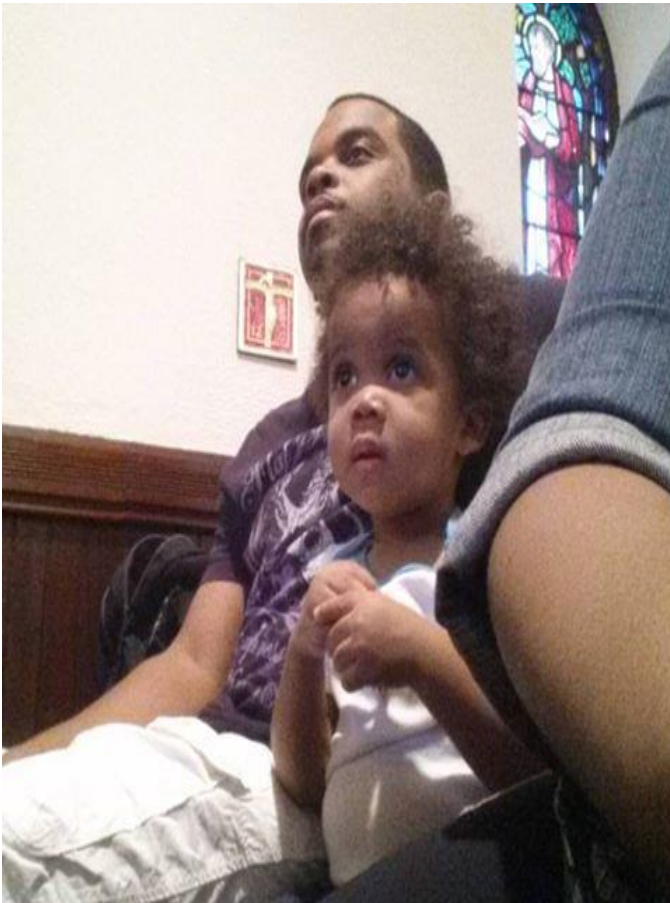
The Messenger

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
Web Page: [HTTP://www.stjohns1789.org](http://www.stjohns1789.org)
Church E-mail: St.Johns1789@verizon.net
The Reverend Margaret Sterchi, Rector

Volume MMXVI - Issue VI

Advent – Christmas – Epiphany 2016



Sharing with my church family. Snuck a picture of Tobias attentively watching our church choir sing a hymn. (Photo courtesy Cynthia Rolle)

New Year's Eve Vigil

This year we would like to do something a little different and special for New Year's Eve. Because it falls on a Saturday this year, we are planning a combined New Year's Eve Vigil & Eucharist. It will take place at the usual time of 5:00 pm, but will look a bit different. We will have more in the way of prayers, some simple music, probably no homily, and then we will end with Eucharist. Not sure exactly what this will look like, but it will be different from the usual, yet special and meaningful. We will be done in plenty of time for you to get to your New Year's Eve parties or events. Then on New Year's Day we will have only one service at 10:00 am (unless heard from the 8:00 am crowd that they want service as usual).

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



Advent

Advent is upon us. The advent wreath is a symbol of watchfulness and increasing joy as the birth of Jesus approaches. This year we will celebrate Advent as usual with a program every week for families of all sizes, from a single individual to a family with multiple generations. All are welcome. While the children are rehearsing the pageant, we will prepare soup and sandwiches and as time permits do any project for the day for ourselves. Then when the children come over after rehearsal we will serve them a kid friendly lunch and help them do the project for the day. We will have a different theme each week. The first week will kick off the season. Advent 2 we celebrate St. Nicholas Day so we will see what is left in the children's shoes that they will leave in the parish hall. Advent 3 will have an art project and Advent 4 we will decorate cookies for Santa. Bring the children for a fun way to prepare for Christmas.

TOYS FOR TOTS

Each year we have an Advent outreach project for our parish. In the past, we have "adopted" a family and made purchases for that family. This year we were unable to find a family so instead we are supporting the Toys for Tots campaign. If you are interested in participating, please bring an 'unwrapped' new toy to the church any time until December 10. After our 'Breakfast with Santa' event we will gather up all the toys and deliver them to a distribution center. Remember that children of all ages are involved, and not just the very young folks.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE:

November 27:	Advent 1...Family project for Advent at Coffee Hour
December 4:	Advent 2...St. Nicholas Sunday at Coffee Hour
December 11:	Advent 3...Art Project at Coffee Hour
December 18:	Advent 4...Cookies for Santa at Coffee Hour
December 23:	Pageant supper and dress rehearsal: 5:00 pm
December 24:	Christmas Pageant and Eucharist: 4:30 pm Holy Eucharist and Candle lighting: 7:30 pm Midnight Mass: 11:30 pm
December 25:	Christmas Day Service (one Service only): 10:00 am
December 31:	Vigil for the New Year and Eucharist 5:00 pm

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Web Page: [HTTP://www.stjohns1789.org](http://www.stjohns1789.org)

The Realm (On Line Parish Directory): <https://onrealm.org>

STAFF

Rector

The Reverend Margaret Sterchi

Organist & Music Director

Dan Nelson

Parish Secretary

Shirley Mullen

Sexton

Mike Millisky

Senior Warden

Matt Torpey

Junior Warden

Michael Lutz

Treasurer

Kelly Baylouny

Vestry

Jason Komancheck

Michael Millisky

Linda Amber

Lou DeCecco

Pat Bosch

Joe Baylouny

Mary Wonderlin

Todd Wonderlin

Phyllis Sowers

Shelby Myers

Donna DeCicco

Delegates to Convention

Bob Goodman

Judy Vaughan-Sterling

Jude DeBaun

Delegates to Convocation

Barry McManaman

Pat Bosch

Jason Komancheck

Altar Guild/Flowers/Memorials

Phyllis Sowers

Church School

Mary Wonderlin

Churchyard

Ernie Jones

ECW

Bernie Brown

Editor

Bob Goodman

Ushers

Shirley Mullen

Acolytes/Readers/Servers Scheduling

Rev. Margaret

Webmaster

Matt Torpey

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

December 4:	Advent 2 (St. Nicholas Sunday)
December 5:	ECW meeting and Cookie Exchange 10:00 am
December 6:	Evening ECW meeting 7:00 pm
December 10:	Breakfast with Santa, 9:00 am until noon
December 11:	Advent 3 (Art Project)
December 13:	ECW Christmas Lunch, Vilari's 12:00 noon
December 15:	BBC, Panera Bread, Voorhees 7:00 pm
December 18:	Advent 4 (Cookie for Santa Decoration)
December 27:	Vestry Meeting 7:00 pm
December 23:	Pageant Dress rehearsal & Pizza Party at 5:00 pm
December 24:	Christmas Eve services at 4:30, 7:30, and 11:30
December 25:	Christmas Day service at 10:00 am only
December 31:	New Year's Eve Vigil and Eucharist 5:00 pm
January 1:	One Service only 10:00 am
January 12:	BBC, Panera Bread, Voorhees 7:00 pm
January 19:	Service for Christian Unity, Holy Child Parish 7:30 pm
January 21:	ECW Soup Sale 9:00 am until 1:00 pm
January 22:	St. Paul feeding ministry 5:00 pm until 8:00 pm
January 24:	Vestry Meeting 7:00 pm
February 5:	Annual Parish Meeting

Remember to mark your calendars

Parish Prayers for Joys and Concerns

Pray for those in Special Need

John Worsham, Eric Quintavalle, Joan Collins, Abby Collins, Matthew Sterling, Bill Cox, Bill Peters, Jimmy Yang, Joan Shupp, Margie Schwartz, Theresa DeCicco, Nancy Hosey, Denise Stricker, Jeff Boggess, Jenny Yocum, Cynthia Yeh, Julian Yeh, Sean Santos, Steve Montgomery, Maria Grace, Anna Black, John Kuchler, Barney Snyder, Jean Perkins, Maria Velez, Robert Brancati, Jared Callen, Ann Roney, Harry Smith, Hadley Benfield, Phyllis Mancuso, Bill Rigney, Nicole Youngs, Joseph Mancuso, William Mayer, Sr., Kym Lundy McCalla, Ann Waller, Nancy Klobnak, Lori Onorato, Danny Nelson, the Houghton Family, Andrew, Gemma and Finn Hermann, Ralph Brancati, Joe Waller, Judy Gore, Joseph Reily, Lee Jones, Nick Giambri, Dot Lutz, and Brad Siracuse

Pray for our Shut-In and Home-Bound

Kay Taylor, Betty Knipe, Dorothy Sabot, Anna Scalise, Karen Street, and Barbara Houghton.

Pray for those serving or entering the military, police, and fire departments

Samantha Sanders, Matthew Sanders, Adam Miller, Henry Yang, Amanda Collazzo, Frank Vanore Jr., Steven Barhmaier, Anthony Moss, Michael Truszkowski, Abbey Wilkins, Janet Prince, Ken Sweeten, Andy Misinkavitch, Nigel P. Shockley, Catherine Marie Wilson, Mike Millisky, and Derek Walton.

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

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

Wednesdays

11:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Deadline for the Fall Messenger
Sunday, January 15, 2017

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



From the Rector's Desk

Dear ones,

Advent has arrived. The beginning of our church year. This is the season of waiting. Our children wait for Christmas Day, wondering what they will find under the tree. Remember? The days pass so slowly. It helps when we provide Advent Calendars, so the kids have something to open each day, revealing a scripture verse, a picture, maybe even a piece of candy or other treat. I personally have my own virtual Advent Calendar where I can "click" on an ornament each day and see what happens in the village. This year it is a seaside themed village. I look forward to beginning it.

We adults are also waiting. We say we are waiting for the Christ Child, for the return of Christ. Hopefully there is a part of that within each of us. However I think there is also a part of the child within us that is also looking forward to Christmas Day. Our days do not pass nearly as slowly. In fact, sometimes they seem to go by in a blink. But we are waiting just the same. What will Christmas bring this year?

Twenty years ago, I was engaged in some serious waiting during Advent. I had applied for the process towards ordination in the Diocese of Dallas. That year I waited to hear from them with either a yes or a no. Every morning I showed up at church an hour before work and just sat in silent prayer. My spiritual director suggested I meditate on Mary, and join her in the wait for the birth of her Holy Child. As I look back I realize that may have been one of my best Advents ever, although last year was pretty spectacular. Last year I made it a point to sit in prayer and then journal every day of Advent. It was so enriching I set aside that journal and will use it every year during Advent. Time for prayer always makes for spectacular times of waiting!

This year I invite every family, whether a family of one or a family of many, to join me in a slightly different Advent journey. On Advent 1 I will have containers for every family to decorate with stickers, but you can also use any container you may have at home. A grocery bag or a box will work just fine. Every day of Advent place a non-perishable food item in the container. Pray for the hungry person who will enjoy that item. Talk about what it means to go hungry or how you show mercy when caring for those who are hungry. By the end of Advent each family will have over two dozen items in their container. Then bring the container to church on Christmas Eve, or sometime after Christmas if you are to be away. We will bless the food and then send it out to be shared with the many seniors in Camden County who cannot provide food for their family. I wonder how much food we will end up blessing?

Whatever you do for Advent, know that you are in my prayers. I pray that each of you has a most Holy Advent and a very Merry Christmas!

Reverend Margaret Kentigern+, AF

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 (2) 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.

Wawa Shortie Coupons

Coupons for Wawa Shortie hoagies are available from the office and from Mary Wonderlin 783-6805. 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.

Stewardship Corner

by Linda Ambler

As you know, this is the time of year to make your pledge for your Estimate of Giving for 2017. Please submit your Estimate of Giving forms as soon as possible. This is merely an estimate, and we ask that you do this simply as a guideline for our budget for the coming year.

The forms as used for budgeting purposes only. Stewardship to our Church involves more than finance. We also need each of you to commit to service to our Church. Please take a minute to complete the Gift of Time and Talent form with where you think you can serve. You will find this to be a very rewarding commitment.

Parish Operating Fund:

Needed Weekly Income	\$ 3,300
Needed Year to Date Income	\$151,500
Received Year to Date Income	\$123,342
Weekly Capital Fund:	\$ 280
Total Project Costs:	\$ 25,000
Total Capital Fund Receive to Date	\$ 9,824

Annual Parish Meeting February 5th

The annual meeting for our parish will take place on Sunday, February 5, 2017, 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 March 3rd & 4th, 2017 at the Hyatt Regency in Princeton, NJ. so prayerfully consider. Convocation is 2 meetings per year (in the spring and in the fall). Please advise Senior Warden Matt Torpey know if you are interested serving in any of these positions.

Service for Christian Unity

Each year we celebrate the week of Christian Unity with an ecumenical service. This is an opportunity for the choirs of several churches to get together, sing some individual anthems and then sing a couple of joint anthems. There are scripture readings as well, but the focus is on the choirs and the music. This coming year the service will take place at the Catholic Parish of the Holy Family in Runnemede on January 19, 2017 at 7:30 pm. Please mark your calendars and come support our choir. This is always a wonderful service that is also lots of fun!

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



Bible, Books & Coffee Club
Next BBC Book Club, December 17
7:00 pm, Panera Bread, Voorhees

The BBC meets every month at Panera Bread on White Horse Road in Voorhees (across from Target on White Horse Road), usually on the third Thursday of the month. It is a wonderful place to meet, get something to drink and/or something to eat, and talk about many things, including the book we are reading. December 15 will be our next gathering. This month we are reading a mystery: 'The Alto Wore Tweed' by Mark Schweizer. This is an easy read and only \$1.99 for a Kindle Edition. Nothing serious, just a fun mystery. Even if you have not read the book, it is still fun to come to talk because we seldom have a night in which we don't go down a few rabbit trails! So, join us! We will meet again on January 19, 2017.

St. Paul's Feeding the Hungry Outreach

We join St. Andrews to help feed hungry men, women, and children at St. Paul's whenever we have a month in which there are five (5) Sundays. We take the fourth Sunday that month. Our next opportunity for this wonderful outreach will take place on January 22, 2017. If you have any toiletries that you picked up while vacationing this summer and realize you really don't need them, the homeless are in desperate need of them. Bring them to the parish hall and we will see to it they get into the hands of folks who will really appreciate them. If you are sorting your fall/winter wardrobe, we can also take warmer clothes in January. Please wait until that weekend to bring them to the parish hall. Also please use kitchen size bags as the stairs leading up to the parish hall at St. Paul's is very steep!

From the Diocese of New Jersey



The 233rd Convention of the Diocese of New Jersey will take place on March 3 & 4, 2017 at the Hyatt Regency, Princeton, NJ. The featured speaker will be Becca Stevens of 'Thistle Farms'.



Spotlight on our Youth:



"for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people".
(Photo courtesy Tara Baugher)

Annual Christmas Pageant

The Annual St. John's Christmas Pageant by our parish youth under the direction of Mrs. Susan Jones, will be presented at 4:30 pm on Christmas Eve December 24th. Dress rehearsal for the Christmas pageant will be held on Friday, December 23rd at 5:00 pm beginning with dinner followed by rehearsal.



Bring your children and a camera for a continental Breakfast with Santa at 9:00 am on Saturday, December 10. (Photo courtesy Stefanie DeKraft Torpey)

Breakfast with Santa

Breakfast w/Santa is on Saturday, December 10th from 10:00 am until noon. There is a sign-up list in the parish hall. Donation is one (1) unwrapped toy which will be given to "Toys for Tots".

Know Your Story, Tell It Boldly!!!

Our children are invited to read specific Bible stories during the next few months and the *tell* the story to an adult. This can be done with just telling the story or with art work, or acting it out. Any way the child wants to let the adult know that the child understands the story. During the month of December, the children who have read all the stories on the bulletin board will get a prize. All ages are encouraged to participate? "Know Your Story, Tell It Boldly".

FUND RAISING & FELLOWSHIP



Christmas Greens & Ornaments

Check out the ornaments in the parish hall made by Elaine, and the Christmas Greens made by Kathy Martel. These are for sale as a St. John's fundraiser.



Coffee Hour

Coffee Hour Hosts are needed for the fall and winter. A signup 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.



Church fundraiser with church songs!! 🏠 (Photo courtesy Stefanie DeKraft Torpey)

Annual ECW Cookie Exchange

The ladies will hold their annual cookie exchange on Monday December 5th at their 10:00 am meeting. They each bring 1 to 2 batches of cookies in order that they may prepare tins for our shut-ins. What is left over after they fill the tins is shared among them. Sounds delicious!

Annual Christmas Luncheon

The annual ECW Christmas Luncheon is scheduled for 12:00 noon on December 13th at Villari's. There will also be a \$10.00 Pollyanna Gift Exchange. All women are invited. For reservations please advise Bernie Brown if you are planning to attend.

Is it Soup Yet???

The ECW will be selling delicious homemade soup on Saturday, January 21st for \$6.00 per container. The belly warming soups may be purchased at the parish hall between the hours of 9:00 am until 1:00 pm. Also soup may be purchased after the 5:00 pm church service. Soup sales will be continued following the church services on Sunday, January 22th following the church services (while supplies last). Soup containers may be picked up in the parish hall if you have a favorite soup you would like to donate. Donated soups may be dropped off on Friday, January 20th. Members of the ECW will be there to accept the soup between the hours of 6:00 & 8:00 pm.

SCUCS

One of our major outreach efforts is donation of food for 'SCUCS', an organization in Camden County which 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.



Remember to bring your non-perishables to church and put them in the basket by the door.

Yoga Sundays

Yoga is available on Sunday evenings, followed by Zumba and then Tai-Chi. Class begins at 7:00 pm and runs until 9:30 pm. Be sure to bring water and wear comfortable clothes!



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.



Merry Christmas