

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 IV

August / September 2016

Happy Birthday Betty!!!



Parishioner Betty Knipe celebrated her 98th birthday on July 30th.

Pool Party & Dessert Throw Down

Our summer fellowship event this year is a 'Pool Party' on Saturday, August 6th from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. The party will take place at the Gloucester Township Municipal Pool. Come out and have a cool, wonderful, refreshing evening of fun and fellowship. Admission is \$5.00 for anyone over the age of 12 to cover the cost of renting the pool. As an added plus, there will be a 'Dessert Challenge' for all you bakers out there. Come on and enter your favorite homemade dessert in this 'Throw Down' contest. There is a \$10.00 contest entry fee. Be a judge, for a \$2.00 ticket you will be able to taste all the desserts and vote for your favorite. Rain location will be the Parish Hall.

Yoga Sundays

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

SEPTEMBER 11 Remembrance Service

This year marks the 15th anniversary of the September 11 attacks. We will have an evening prayer service on that day, a Sunday, at 5:00 p.m. followed by a time to reflect in the Parish Hall. Details will follow, so watch the bulletins and email blasts. *But 'save the date'.* We will invite our Chews Fire Department neighbors as well as our local police departments. Let's gather as a family and help assure that we will never forget those who gave their lives that day.

IHOC Pack-a-Sack Backpack Collection

Once again we are collecting school supplies, toiletries, and socks for children in our community who are homeless. Please consider picking up an extra backpack, school supplies of all kinds, and toiletries and socks for us to give to IHOC. You can bring the backpacks and supplies individually or you can stuff the backpack before you bring it in. Please mark any filled backpacks as to whether it is for an elementary, middle school, or high school boy or girl. Any and all donations, no matter how small, are appreciated. The deadline is August 14, no exceptions!

Let's Have a Picnic!!!

As always, we begin our Fall season with the annual Vestry Picnic on September 18 following the 10:00 a.m. service. That is the day the choir is back in session as well as the start date of Sunday School. The vestry will provide the burgers, the dogs, the rolls, and the basic condiments. We are asking the parish to bring salads, chips, desserts, and sodas (we have plenty of water). Everyone is invited; no matter what service you normally attend. We will have plenty of fun activities for all ages so mark your calendar, dress comfortably, and come have a great picnic. Invite your friends and neighbors and let them find out what a gem your church is.

Altar Guild Meeting

Members of the Altar Guild and anyone, male or female, interested in becoming a part of this really fun group, is invited and encouraged to come to the 'Fall Start Up' meeting September 10th at 10:00 a.m. We will share information about how it works and what you do and then retreat to a nearby restaurant for lunch. Mark your calendars and join us!!!

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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 Komanchek

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 Komanchek

Altar Guild/Flowers/Memorials

Phyllis Sowers

Mary Wonderlin

Church School

Churchyard

Ernie Jones

ECW

Bernie Brown

Editor

Bob Goodman

Ushers

Shirley Mullen

Acolytes/Readers/Servers Scheduling

Rev. Margaret

Webmaster

Carolyn Bausinger

Deadline for the Fall Messenger

Sunday, September 18, 2016

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

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

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, Anna Black, Margie Schwartz, Theresa DeCicco, Nancy Hosey, Denise Stricker, Jeff Boggess, Jenny Yocum, Cynthia Yeh, Julian Yeh, Sean Santos, Steve Montgomery, Maria Grace, 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 Haughton Family, Andrew, Gemma Hermann and unborn child, Ralph Brancati, and Joseph Reily.

Pray for our Shut-In and Home-Bound

Arlene Potts, Kay Taylor, Betty Knipe, Dorothy Sabot, Anna Scalise, Karen Street, Gwen Welker, and Barbara Houghton.

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

Samantha Sanders, Matthew Sanders (deployed to Afghanistan), Adam Miller, Henry Yang, Amanda Collazzo, Michael Helfrich, Frank Vanore Jr., Steven Barhmaier, Anthony Moss, Michael Truskowski, Abbey Wilkins, Janet Prince, Kewn Sweeten, Andy Misinkavitch, Nigel P. Shockley, Catherine Marie Wilson, Mike Millisky, and Derek Walton.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

August 6: Pool Party & Bake Off, GT Municipal Pool 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
August 14: IHOC Backpack deadline
August 18: BBC, Panera Bread, White Horse Rd., Voorhees 7:00 pm
August 23: Vestry 7:00 pm
September 6: ECW, Parish Hall 10:00 am
September 6: Evening ECW 7:00 pm
September 10: Altar Guild Meeting, Parish Hall 10:00 am
September 16: Coach Bag Bingo
September 18: Sunday School and Choir Start Up/Picnic
September 27: Vestry 7:00 pm
October 2: Blessing of the Animals, Church Lower Parking Lot 3:00 pm
October 4: ECW Annual Dinner
October 18: Fundraiser @ Bertucci's in Sicklerville 11:00 am - 11:00 pm
2 people to man a table to hand out coupons. We get percentage from sales.
October 28: Halloween Party
November 19: Spaghetti Dinner
December 10: Breakfast with Santa

Please note HELP will be needed to make these dates a success.
SIGN-UP sheets will be posted.

Remember to mark your calendars



From the Rector's Desk

Dear ones,

The political season is about to begin in earnest. We will be hearing and seeing many divisive posts, tweets, speeches, and comments. I encourage all of us to take the high road and remember three important questions. Is it true? (Fact Check your information!) Is it kind? (Even IF it is true, is this the way you want to share?) Is it necessary? (Let's be part of the answer, not part of the problem!) We are a diverse church with folks on both sides of the proverbial aisle. Right now our country and the world needs prayer, not rhetoric.

To that end I am planning a service on September 11 to honor all those who lost their lives 15 years ago and to pray for our country. I also hope to honor those in our community who work hard and put their own lives at risk to protect us. If you would like to help with this please let me know. I envision a service beginning at 5 followed by time in the parish hall to eat and share our experiences from 9/11. If you are not able to help out, I hope you will mark your calendar and come. Bring a friend. Let us come together in prayer.

The following is from Celtic Prayer, Book 2. This is the prayer book we use in Anamchara Fellowship for our daily offices. The following is the meditation for Day 19 of the month. This is my prayer. Maybe you can join me.

"Go peaceful
in gentleness
through the violence of these days.
Give freely.
Show tenderness
in all your ways.
Through darkness,
in troubled times
let holiness be your aim.
Seek wisdom.
Let faithfulness
burn like a flame.
God speed you!
God lead you,
and keep you wrapped around His heart!
May you be known by love.
Be righteous.
Speak truthfully
in a world of greed and lies.
Show kindness.
See everyone
through heaven's eyes.
God hold you,
enfold you,
and keep you wrapped around His heart.
May you be known by love.
-Paul Field

Income:

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.

Churchyard News

We need your help! In the past Ernie Jones was able to clear the Christmas decorations and wreaths from the churchyard before Lent. Because of advancing age and health problems he wasn't able to do so this year. We need everyone's help and cooperation to remove whatever is placed on your loved ones resting place, especially when you put new decorations there. Please either place your discarded old decorations in the dumpster behind the parish hall or take them home with you to put in your own trash cans. Anyone who would like information on how to help can phone Ernie Jones at 609 568 6835. We are hoping to continue keeping our beautiful church's churchyard clean and neat looking as it should be. Thank you for your help.

YOUR CHURCHYARD COMMITTEE

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.



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.

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

Stewardship Corner

Parish Operating Fund

Needed Weekly Income	\$ 3,300
Needed Year to Date Income	\$92,400
Received Year to Date Income	\$75,996

Dear Friends and Parishioners:

Just want to send a reminder to keep sending in your donations for the rest of the summer. We understand that many of you are going away or have been away but ask that you either mail or direct deposit your contributions. As we approach August, we find ourselves \$20,000 behind in our offerings. We certainly appreciate all that you do for St. John's and look forward to your continued support.

Thanks as always,0000

Linda

Stewardship Committee



Bible, Books & Coffee Club

August 18 & September 15

The BBC meets every month at Panera's 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. 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! August 18 will be our next gathering. Our book will be "*Water, Wind, Earth, and Fire: The Christian Practice of Praying with the Elements*" by Christine Valters Paintner. This will tickle the fancy of all those who love nature and/or liturgy. I hope you will come.



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.



The St. John's gang ready to serve the hungry at St. Andrews on July 24th.

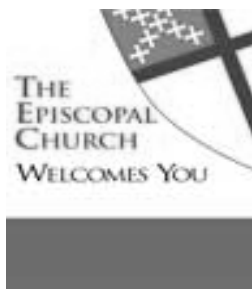
St. Paul's Feeding Ministry

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 of that month. Our next opportunity for this wonderful outreach will take place on October 23. 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 October. Please wait until that weekend to bring them to the parish hall, and please remember someone has to carry your bags up a very long stairway so don't overfill them!



The best helpers from St. John's feeding the hungry at St. Andrews.

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



Fund Raising & Fellowship

Scenes for the successful St. John's 'Drive-thru BBQ'



From the Diocese of New Jersey

From the Bishop

August 4, 2016

Dear People of the Diocese of New Jersey,
Do you not know that in a race the runners all compete, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win it. Athletes exercise self-control in all things; they do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable one...(1 Cor. 9:24-25).

Saturday, August 6th is the Feast of the Transfiguration. On this day, our Lord was transfigured before three of the Apostles - Peter, James, and John. This mystical, mysterious transfiguration was an affirmation of his divinity and a harbinger of Easter.

"Let us build three booths," Peter said, "One for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah!" (Matthew 17:4). Peter, what were you thinking? Silver, bronze, and gold?

The 2016 Summer Olympic Games begin in Rio this week. I love the Olympics. Yes, there have been many things to be concerned about and to criticize. The cost of putting on the Olympics in a city and country that suffers from great poverty should challenge us all. The games will end in Rio and the people of Brazil and of that city will have to pick up the bill for a long time afterward. The Zika virus is a threat that dampens the spirit of the games. The crass commercialization of sports; doping, judging, and a host of other issues can cause me to be jaundiced about the whole thing. Still, I can't help admiring the ideals of the Olympics and the commitment, passion and discipline of the athletes. I will be focused on them over the next two weeks.

The athletes are amazing graced with enormous gifts by God. Some forget this, or have never been aware of it. They let their egos assume that it's all about them. It's not. They have been blessed with gifts from God.

Having gifts alone is not enough, however. The athletes have had to do their part, to use those gifts and build on them. They have needed to combine their God-given gifts with commitment, passion and discipline over time in order to pursue excellence.

Do you not know that in a race the runners all compete, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win it. Athletes exercise self-control in all things; they do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable one. (1 Cor. 9:24-25).

Paul is writing to the church he had founded in Corinth. He uses metaphors from athletics and applies them to faith. Corinth was a very cosmopolitan, even licentious city. Corinth hosted the biennial Isthmian Games which involved athletes from all over the Greco-Roman world. The people of the church in Corinth, who received Paul's letter, would easily have related to Paul's athletic images and metaphors. The metaphor works. Living our Christian faith in today's world takes commitment, passion and discipline.

Seeking and serving Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself in a world in which rudeness,

ugliness and slander have become normative is not easy. Being persistent in the faith and love of Jesus Christ, when so many want to trade in fear and hatred, requires character and courage.

As I watch the Olympics over the next couple of weeks, I will look for moments where God-given gifts meet with human spirit and triumph. I will also look for grace as athletes display sportsmanship and comradery. I plan on allowing myself to be caught up in the ideals of the games, and the hints of God's kingdom they often intimate.

I pray that you are using the gifts with which God has blessed you as you run this joyous marathon of faithful living in Jesus Christ. Run with perseverance the race that is set before you. Run for the imperishable prize and the crown of righteousness which never fades away.

"This is my Son, the Beloved, with him I am well pleased," says the voice from heaven on Transfiguration Mount, "listen to him!" (Matthew 17:5). Yes, listen to him, listen to Jesus. Always listen to Jesus as you run the race.

May God bless you.

In Christ,



The Right Reverend William H. (Chip) Stokes, D.D.
XII Bishop of New Jersey

An Evensong in Celebration of Older Adults Saturday, September 24, 2016, at 2:00 PM

The Fourth Annual Evensong in Celebration of the Witness, Faithfulness, and Contributions of Older Adults, age 65 and older, in our Diocese at Trinity Cathedral in Trenton, New Jersey. Each congregation is welcome to nominate two parishioners to be recognized.

FREEDOM SUNDAY

Freedom Sunday is a global day of worship, prayer and action on human trafficking. In 2016 it will be held on Sunday, September 25. Churches all over the world will join together to raise awareness of the crime of human trafficking and show the world our compassion for men, women and children who are trafficked and exploited emotionally, physically and sexually. The church will demonstrate a united and tangible response against human trafficking. Learn more and signup to share your story or if you plan to take part.