

# 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](mailto:St.Johns1789@verizon.net)  
The Reverend Margaret Sterchi, Rector

**Volume MMXV– Issue II**

**Easter 2015 Issue**

**‘He is Risen He is Risen’  
‘The Lord is Risen Indeed’**

## **HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES**

**Maundy Thursday** (April 2): Service 7:30 p.m.  
**The Watch** follows in the chapel

**Good Friday** (April 3): Stations of the Cross 12 Noon  
Service 7:30 p.m.

**The Great Vigil** (April 4): Service at 8:00 p.m.  
(No 5:00 p.m. service this day)

**Easter Day** (April 5): Services 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

**Sunday after Easter:** 10:00 a.m. Flowering of the  
Cross Service followed by the  
Annual Children’s ‘Easter Egg’  
Hunt in the Churchyard

## **National Day of Prayer**

May 7 is the National Day of Prayer. Once again the Gloucester Township is hosting a breakfast at the Gloucester Township Hall from 7AM to 8AM. There is no cost to attend but tickets are required. Reverend Margaret will have tickets in early April. Let her know if you would like to attend. Last year we had a great time and great food. Join us this year.

## **Reaching Out**

Thank you to everyone who participated in the IHOC spring outreach project. We collected many shoe boxes filled with t-shirts, socks, mouthwash, toothbrushes and other items for the homeless.

## **Annual Flowering of Cross & Easter Egg Hunt**



The annual Flowering of the Cross (Photo courtesy Sallie Jones)

On the Sunday after Easter will be the usual Flowering of the Cross and the Annual Easter Egg Hunt. Please bring flowers from your garden to place in the cross. Also feel free to pick up candy the week after Easter (when it is on sale at half-price) and bring it when you come that weekend for us to give to the children (and adults too) after the Egg Hunt.

## **Smile You’re on Candid Camera**

Commencing April 12, we hope to begin photographing members of the Church of St. John the Evangelist. Please plan on popping over to the parish hall and have your picture taken. We would like to create a space in the parish hall with all the photos posted in order that visitors and new comers (as we as us “old timers”) may place names to a face.

## The Messenger

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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

Patricia Fronczek

#### Parish Secretary

Shirley Mullen

#### Sexton

Mike Millisky

#### Senior Warden

Craig Keisling

#### Junior Warden

Matt Torpey

#### Treasurer

Lisa Schwinge

#### Vestry

Louis Gross

Diane Chando

Nancy Hawkins

Steve DeBaun

Jason Komancheck

Michael Millisky

Linda Amber

Lou DeCecco

Pat Bosch

Michael Lutz

Joe Baylouny

Mary Wonderlin

#### Delegates to Convention

Jason Komancheck

David Amber

Linda Amber

#### Delegates to Convocation

Nancy Hawkins

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

Carolyn Bausinger

## 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. Signing into The Realm is easy, go to: HYPERLINK "<https://onrealm.org/TheChurchStJohn/Signin>" <https://onrealm.org/TheChurchStJohn/Signin> Once you sign in you can access your information. If you have any questions please contact Lee Jones at HYPERLINK "<mailto:h20doc1@comcast.net>" [h20doc1@comcast.net](mailto: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!

## 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.

## SCUCS

One of our major outreach efforts is donation of food for SCUCS, a Camden County organization which provides food for senior citizens throughout the county. Given the current economy, many seniors 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.

## St. Paul's Feeding Ministry

Thank you to everyone who came out to help with the St. Paul's feeding ministry on March 22nd. An extra special huge thank you goes out to Matt Torpey who prepared all the chili for our contribution. Matt is an amazing cook. We thank him for taking this on endeavor. You Rock!!!

## From the Rector's Desk

This has certainly been a long, cold winter. We have had plenty of snow. We have had plenty of rain. We have had plenty of wind. We have had plenty of cold. I think we are all ready for Spring to arrive. The good news is Spring is actually here. Even with snow on the ground the daffodils and hyacinth leaves are pushing up, ready to bloom at any time. By Easter we may even have fresh flowers for the annual flowering of the cross. I have had several conversations with people who have commented that the birds are now out and singing their little hearts out. The silence of winter has changed into the joyful music of spring.

Our Lenten program this year revolved around the question of what might God be doing in our neighborhood. We have talked to parishioners, friends, and neighbors about how God is active in the places where we live and move and have our being. We have wandered the neighborhood and looked for God and what God might be doing that is new. We are trying to see where WE, the people of St. John the Evangelist might fit in this new beginning. This is a conversation that the whole parish needs to engage. God IS at work in our neighborhood and we need to find the ways in which our ministry might add to that work. Your vestry is committed to look into the future and see what our long range goals might be to make this parish even more engaged with the world. If one of your vestry members approaches you for a conversation, please listen to what he or she may have to say and then let them know what you think. When the Bishop asks if our community would miss us if we were to shut our doors we want to be able to respond with a resounding "YES". We are already a vital part of this community, so let's keep up the good work.

I pray that each of you had a Holy Lent in which you found yourself touched by God in ways that you have never experienced before. That is the gift Lent offers each year. Now we are entering into the Great 50 Days of Easter. This is another gift in which we can celebrate all that God has done to touch our lives. This is a season of feasting and celebrating. This is a season of rejoicing and believing. THIS is the reason we can encounter death and know that death is not the end of the story. Christ is Risen...and so shall we. So go and celebrate. Sing with joy. Praise God. And know just how much you are loved, by the One who is Love. Then take that Love and share it with the world. Let's make this corner of God's world just that much brighter.

*Reverend Margaret +*

**Visit our Web Site:**

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## Sabbatical

As some of you know, the Rector was planning on taking a Sabbatical in 2014. For a variety of reasons, that did not happen. One of those reasons is that people seem confused as to what a Sabbatical is and why it is important. It is counter-productive for a rector to take a Sabbatical when many in the

parish are either confused or not on board with the idea. In the newsletter we will begin exploring just what a Sabbatical can mean to a priest AND to the parish where the priest serves. Over the next few months there will be a short blurb in The Messenger to help explain this concept. I hope you will read it and if you have ANY questions or comments to please speak to Reverend Margaret. This is something that if done right is a benefit to both the clergy AND the parish.

Last issue I talked about the benefit to the parish for the rector to take a sabbatical. This issue I would like to bring up the benefit to the priest on Sabbatical. A priest has a job a little different from most of the general public. I promise we do NOT only work on Saturday and Sunday. Our jobs consist of days throughout the week that can fill well over 8 hours of work time, some during the day and some in the evening. Besides administrative tasks we are needed for pastoral issues, diocesan work, and study time. At any time our phone may ring in which all plans can be tossed as we will be spending hours sitting with a family. This can happen day or night, work hours or off time. And it is all part of the call to ordained ministry. None of this is something a priest prefers not to do, although we all excel in one or two areas and may not be quite as excited in other areas. But after many years of service there is a time in which the priest can approach burn-out. The purpose of regular Sabbatical time (3 months every 7 years) is to provide an opportunity for rest and renewal of the priest. This is a time for relaxing with the family, catching up on reading of journals and theological books, and learning something new. The priest returns to the parish with renewed energy, new ideas, and excitement at the prospect of helping the parish become even stronger. Thus the parish and priest come back together with everyone ready and eager to begin a new chapter in the life of the parish. A sabbatical becomes a time of opportunity for everyone in the parish.

Comments? Let's talk!

## New Officers Elected at Annual Meeting

On February 1, 2015, parishioner's elected new officers during St. John's Annual Parish Meeting. Craig Keisling became Senior/Rectors Warden replacing the outgoing Senior Warden Michael Lutz while Matt Torpey was elected the Junior/People's warden. Elected to full 3 year terms to the vestry were Pat Bosh, Michael Lutz, Joe Baylouny, and Mary Wonderlin, while Diane Chando and Nancy Hawkins were elected to fill 1 year unexpired terms to the vestry. Also selected were Delegates to Convention Jason Komanchek, Dave Amber and Linda Ambler as well as Delegates to Convocation Nancy Hawkins, Pat Bosch, and Jason Komanchek. Lisa Schwinge will continue to serve as the Parish Treasurer.

We extend to Sr. Warden Michael Lutz and to each of the outgoing vestry Sarah Sambenedetto, Chris Goodman and Cynthia Rolle a hearty thank you, for their dedication and service.

Considerable information was shared and copies the 2014 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.

## Vocational Diaconate Ordination

Jorge Martinez who has been serving with us as an Intern for the past year will be Ordained to the Vocational Diaconate on Saturday, May 9, 2015. The Ordination of Deacons Ceremony will take place 10:00 a.m. at Trinity Cathedral, 801 West State Street, Trenton, NJ 08618.

## BBC Book Club on April 16 & May 21

**Books, Bible, and Coffee**  
**7:00 pm Panera Bread, Voorhees, NJ**

The BBC is back meeting at Panera Bread on the White Horse Road in Voorhees. We meet at 7:00 p.m. on the Third Thursday of each month. It is a great opportunity to share thoughts on the current book. However, even if you have not read the book we also just have great fellowship, so you are more than welcome to join us! The book for April is "Flunking Sainthood: A Year of Breaking the Sabbath, Forgetting to Pray, and still Loving My Neighbor", by Jana Riess. In April we will meet on the 16<sup>th</sup> and in May on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

## 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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!

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Kelly Baylouny, Chris Goodman, Craig Keisling or Mary Wonderlin.

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 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 one Wawa Shorti Hoagie of your choice. The ECW receives a portion of this purchase. Proceeds benefit St. John's.

## The ECW Page

## Annual Basket Auction

**Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup> 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 & Soft Pretzels will also be available for purchase**

## Annual Basket Auction April 14

The annual ECW Basket Auction will be held Tuesday, April 14, 2015. Only 100 tickets are sold for this sell-out event. The doors open at 6:00 pm and the auction kicks off at 7:00 pm. Please consider donating either a filled basket or individual items to be put into the baskets. Large baskets are needed! If you need a smaller basket for your donation, they may be picked up in the Parish Hall. 100 baskets are needed for a successful auction.

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

## **Weekly Schedule**

### **Saturdays**

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

### **Sundays**

**7:45 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**

## **Noisy Sunday**

We continue to collect donations on Noisy Sunday. Sometimes we either forget to pass the can or it is not an opportune time for the collection. But by and large at the last weekend of the month we collect funds for the South Jersey Food Bank and Almost Home Animal Shelter. The first two months of this year we collected \$105.69. Thank you to everyone who made a donation. Every penny counts!

## **External Eucharist Ministry**

The External Eucharist Ministry (EEM) is a wonderful way to keep our Shut-In and Homebound church members involved with the extended family of St. John's.

At one time we had 5 active teams and each team went out once every 5 weeks. Presently there are only 6 active EEM's: Denise Brancati, Mary Cancelliere, Steve DeBaun, Trish Fronczek, Susan Jones and Judy McGrath. Each team goes out once a month, so we are able to visit everyone every month. But there are 5 shut-in's that we visit so 2 teams have to visit two people each time and the other team visits one person. There are 5 inactive EEM's, two attending college, one is very involved with being a new parent, one who can only work as an emergency replacement, and one will return during the 2nd half of the year.

We would love to have more people involved so our shut-in's would be visited more often and be able to interact with more people. If you would like to see what a visitation is like just ask one of the active EEM team members if you can join them for a visit. You will then see how worthwhile and fulfilling it is to participate in this ministry.

If you are interested or would like to know more about the ministry, please speak with either Steve DeBaun or Rev. Margaret.

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

## **Goodsearch and Goodshop**

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 Watch**

Watch that will take place from 9:00 p.m. April 2 until 7:00 p.m. April 3, as sign-up sheet has been 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 a 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 a.m or a p.m. shift.

## **Cards & Prayers for Our Sick & Shut-In**

If you or any is knows of anyone in need of cards or prayers as prayers are said daily for our sick and shut-in's or for those with special needs, please contact Kate Teasdale 856-617-5931 or email tangsoo192@aol.com. Cards are sent out for all occasions.

## **Deadline for the Summer Messenger**

**Sunday, May 17, 2015**

Email items to **HYPERLINK**

"mailto:Robertgoodman1@comcast.net"

[Robertgoodman1@comcast.net](mailto:Robertgoodman1@comcast.net)

(Please show The Messenger in the subject line).



## **IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES**

Apr 2	<i>Maundy Thursday – Service of Foot Washing, Eucharist &amp; Stripping of the Altar</i>	7:30 pm
	<i>The Watch</i>	9:00 pm thru Apr 18 7:00 pm
Apr 3	<i>Good Friday</i>	
	<i>Stations of the Cross</i>	12:00 noon
	<i>Veneration of the Cross and Reserve Sacrament</i>	7:30 pm
Apr 4	<i>The Great Vigil of Easter</i>	8:00 pm
Apr 5	<i>Easter Sunday</i>	
Apr 6	<i>ECW</i>	10:00 am
Apr 7	<i>Evening ECW</i>	7:00 pm
Apr 12	<i>Flowering of the Cross</i>	10:00 am
	<i>Easter Egg Hung</i>	
Apr 14	<i>Annual ECW Basket Auction</i>	6:00 pm
Apr 16	<i>BBC Panera Bread, Voorhees</i>	7:00 pm
Apr 28	<i>Vestry Meeting</i>	7:00 pm
May 2	<i>ECW Yard Sale</i>	8:00 am
May 4	<i>ECW</i>	10:00 am
May 5	<i>Evening ECW</i>	7:00 pm
May 9	<i>Ordinations of Deacons, Trenton Cathedral</i>	10:00 am
	<i>Family Bowling Night, Brunswick Lanes, Deptford</i>	
May 21	<i>BBC Panera Bread, Voorhees</i>	7:00 pm
May 26	<i>Vestry Meeting</i>	7:00 pm

## **From the Diocese of New Jersey**

### **Deacons Ordination**

**Saturday, May 9, 2015, 10:00 a.m.**

**Trinity Cathedral  
801 West State Street  
Trenton, NJ 08618**

## **Yankee Candle Fundraiser**

Mother's Day is just around the corner and we have the perfect gift for Mom. Once again we are partnering with Yankee Candle Fundraising. They are the world's #1 candle brand and they offer a wide range of premium candles, fragrances; and decor items at a very wide range of prices. The most important thing to know is that 40% of every sale goes to The Church of St. John the Evangelist! Yankee Candle Fundraising offers two ways to shop, by catalog and online. Yankee Candle products are perfect gifts for anniversaries, hostess gifts, housewarmings, birthdays, and any type of special occasion.

The Yankee Candle Fundraiser catalogs are now available from Denise Brancati. If you prefer to order on-line, please go to [www.yankeecandlefundraising.com](http://www.yankeecandlefundraising.com) and enter our Group Number **990036057** in the "Start Shipping" box. Then shop for catalog items and online exclusives to help us reach our goal. It's easy & your order is delivered right to your door. We have found the orders are delivered faster using the on-line method. Yankee sends a profit check to St. John's. Of course you can still order through the catalog. Look for the Yankee display table in the parish hall. Simply place your sealed order & check made out to: The Church of St. John the Evangelist in the bin on the table or give to Denise Brancati on or before: Sunday, April 12, 2015. Again, many thanks for your continued support of this St. John's fundraiser.

## **Capital Campaign**

We have paid off the HVAC work on the church and parish hall. The vestry is now preparing for additional capital improvements for the future, such as repaving the parking lot and reroofing the buildings. Please help by continuing to give to our Capital Fund as you have been.