

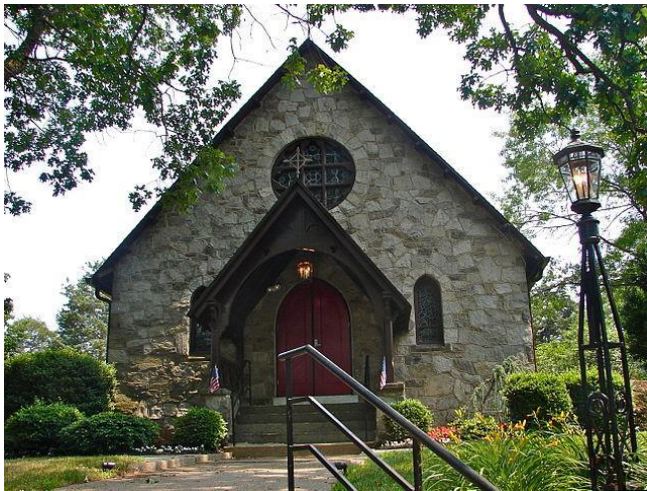
# The Messenger

The Newsletter of Saint John the Evangelist Episcopal Church  
1720 Old Black Horse Pike (at Chews Landing Road)  
Chews Landing, NJ 08012-5218  
The Reverend Donald Caron, Interim Rector

Church Office (856) 227-1051  
Church E-mail: [St.Johns1789@verizon.net](mailto:St.Johns1789@verizon.net)  
Web Page: [HTTP://www.stjohns1789.org](http://www.stjohns1789.org)  
The Realm (On Line Parish Directory): <https://onrealm>.

Volume MMXVIII - Issue IV

Fall 2018



Help support the capital improvement drive of our 229-year-old parish, named to the National Registry of Historic Places.

## St. John's Founders Day 5K Run/1 Mile Walk



...and let us run with patience the race that is set before us.....

**Saturday, November 17, 2018  
(Rain or Shine)**

**Online registration and results**

**[www.LMSports.com](http://www.LMSports.com)**

**Entry Fee (Non-Refundable)**

**Registration \$25**

**No online entry after 10pm November 15**

**Race Day Fee \$30**

**Packet pick-up available the night before:**

**6-7PM at the church**

**1720 Old Black Horse Pike**

**Chews Landing, NJ 08012**

**Day of the Race**

**Registration/Packet pick-up 7:30AM**

**Race Start: 9:00AM**

**1261 Chews Landing Road**

**(Gloucester Twp. Municipal Bldg. & Veterans Park)**

***T-shirts guaranteed to first 100 online registrants.***

**Prizes awarded to top 3 overall finishers, male & female.**

## Annual Blessing of the Animals



The blessing of the animals to celebrate the feast of St. Francis (October 4) will be held on Saturday, October 6<sup>th</sup> at the 5:00 Service. This might surprise people who have skepticism about bringing pets into the church. I must admit that I was skeptical when I first experienced this at Christ Church, Middletown, but to my astonishment, it went perfectly well, and, I believe, it is the best way we can honor the spirituality of St. Francis. A service for the blessing of the animals will replace the usual beginning of the Service. Children who have a favorite stuffed animal are invited to bring them so that they can be blessed, too.

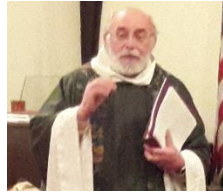
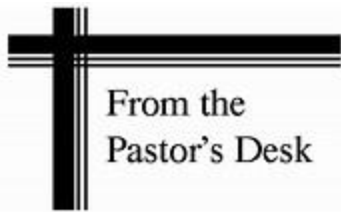


## Annual Spaghetti Dinner, November 17<sup>th</sup>

The Annual Spaghetti Dinner is around the corner. This year the event will be following the "Founder's Day 5K Run/1 Mile Walk on Saturday, November 17<sup>th</sup>. There will be two (2) seating's, one at 5:00 pm and one at 6:30 pm. Tickets will be sold for the different sittings. Dinner will be a sit-down and you will be served! The ticket prices will be \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children (12 and under). You can also purchase an entire table (8 seats) for \$75.00. There will be salad, spaghetti dinner with roll/meatballs or sausage and a dessert. Please invite your family, friends, and neighbors. There will also be takeout deal for those who prefer to dine at home! The price for takeout is \$8:00 per person or for \$25.00 you get a take home meal for four, (4 salads, 4 rolls, 4 servings of pasta with meatballs, & 4 desserts).

We also need volunteers to help with the serving and cleaning up. You can volunteer to serve at one seating and then dine with family at the other! There will be a signup sheet in the parish hall.

Please support the church by selling tickets, and either join us at the parish hall or have a dinner party at home.



Dear People of St. John's,

I have just finished reading an article by Dwight DeWerth-Pallmeyer that appeared in the Philadelphia Inquirer. It quotes statistics about the decline in church and synagogue attendance since 1972. It goes on to try to analyze why this decline has occurred. Pallmeyer cites "As of 2017, more than 27 percent of Americans labeled themselves as 'spiritual but not religious.'" Young people especially say they have been turned off by "hypocrisy of church leaders."

He cites loneliness as one loss that comes through not attending church and quotes some Cigna studies that lonely people are more likely to die prematurely than those who smoke. He says that "faith, at its core is about community." Another loss cited in the article is the loss of happiness. He cites The Journal Review of Religious Research as saying: "Numerous studies indicate a positive correlation between religiosity as measured by attendance at religious services and happiness."

In making suggestions on what churches might do, he says "One can only expect youth and adults to attend worship services if those gatherings resonate in a meaningful style that speaks to them in their language."

I tend to look a little deeper. Changing worship styles has drawn some people to church— at least for a time, as is evidenced by mega-churches. But the statistics tell us that the back door of those churches (the exit) is as busy as the front door. Perhaps the response of people who reject church attendance is a way God is forcing us to re-think what Church ought to be. I spoke of that a couple of weeks ago when I said that the church is merely a tool created by Jesus to help bring about the Kingdom of God.

My early faith formation was all about church. Attending and following the rules was supposed to guarantee the reward of heaven. But heaven and hell don't mean what they used to. People of our day have witnessed the hell of the holocaust, of nuclear weapons used on civilian populations, or unspeakable famine and the constant fear of terrorism. We have seen worse than any pictures of hell painted by churchmen. At the same time, in the once-deeply Christian West, people are enjoying an abundance of goods that would have never be dreamed of by earlier generations. It is in the West, with a heaven-on-earth philosophy of consumerism that church attendance is declining.

So why go to church? For fellowship? Many churchgoers will cite the relationships they have at church as very meaningful to them. Common worship— what we do in community— is an expression of the values we hold as a group, and participation in worship strengthens us in those values. "Worship" comes from "worth-ship" suggesting it names what we find of worth. In the Episcopal style of worship, we often use language that is unlike everyday language, opening ourselves to the

consideration of things that are not part of everyday life— God, grace, eternity. We consider important themes for living like forgiveness and we are reminded of the model of Jesus as we read the words of scripture. These are the things that are important for human beings. We need a sense of our own worth beyond our capacity for buying things. We need a way of considering how we stand in this world in our relationships to something bigger than ourselves, and how we stand in relationship to other people and the created world. We need a model of morality beyond the embrace of "what's good for me". And we need the support of others who can tell us that, in spite of what we see on TV or in the other media, the values that we hold are sound and good and worth-while. We need each other to help us confirm that we are not crazy in embracing the vision that Jesus called the Kingdom of God. That's what happens when we take time from our busy schedules, or when we set aside our focus on our discomfort or inconvenience and we make a priority of joining together at church.

But that's not enough. That is only the formation that is required for becoming disciples. That is our classroom. The most important part of what we get out of church attendance is a sense of direction to make real the vision of God's kingdom. That doesn't happen in the church; it happens in the world. It begins in a small, but very important way with how we continue our personal relationships with God, other people and with creation.

Personal prayer is a mystery to most people. We have been told it is good, but rarely have we been taught how to do it. It has been presented to as a mysterious thing, and too often we have seen personal prayer as beyond us. In its simplest (and probably most effective) form, prayer is a conversation with God— both talking and listening.

Our relationship with others shows our conviction in Christ when we are loving. That is the death to self of considering what is best for others over what is best for ourselves. That extends to our care for the environment as well. As citizens of the world as well as citizens of the Kingdom of God, we ought to be convinced that what is best for the body politic is what we hold as dear in our religious convictions, and we exercise our civic duties, especially voting in a way that upholds the values of the Kingdom of God. This is not always clear, so we turn to conversation with others in church to help guide what we do outside the church. In those conversations we test and confirm our values.

So, we are not alone. We are part of an assembly that learns, tests, confirms and tries to live the values of our faith. This is a way of being guided by the Spirit, but it cannot be achieved without the participation of others.

## **Bible Study**

Father Caron's wife is leading a Bible Study "Uppity Women of the Bible" 10:00 am Monday mornings weekly thru October 22<sup>nd</sup> in the Parish Hall

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

**Vestry meetings are held in the Parish Hall on the 2nd Tuesday evening of each month 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.**

## Advent Book Club

There will be an Advent Book Club to study the Rob Bell book, 'What We Talk About When We Talk About God', (available on Amazon – (don't forget Amazon Smile) [https://www.amazon.com/s?k=what+we+talk+about+when+we+talk+about+god&i=stripbooks&crd=38XEFI603Z4VS&prefix=What+We+Talk+About%2Cstripbooks%2C207&ref=nb\\_sb\\_ss\\_i\\_5\\_18](https://www.amazon.com/s?k=what+we+talk+about+when+we+talk+about+god&i=stripbooks&crd=38XEFI603Z4VS&prefix=What+We+Talk+About%2Cstripbooks%2C207&ref=nb_sb_ss_i_5_18). Copies are available for under \$4.

The location, day and time are still to be determined. In the past, the St. John book study was held at a restaurant off-campus. The study is planned for four sessions, beginning the week of November 25. I want to hear from people about their preferences of location and meeting time. You can email me at [donalddcaron1@gmail.com](mailto:donalddcaron1@gmail.com).

## Discernment News

### Discernment News

Our committee is busy preparing to receive names of candidates for Rector of our beautiful church. We extended our search through the Diocese for display on the Episcopal News Service and posting on several additional areas of the website. We have developed our course of action for the interview process and look forward to beginning this next step. Please pray for God's guidance for us.

Wishing you blessings,

*Linda Ambler*

for the Discernment Committee

## Vestry & Discernment Committee Prayer

Lord, we ask you to guide the members of our vestry and Discernment Committee so that they may hear your voice leading St. John the Evangelist Church into the future to which you are calling us. Give them wisdom and insight into the qualities of leadership needed to best serve our precious church. Inspire also the person You intend to be our spiritual leader and pastor. Give us all a sense of happy anticipation as we await the one we know will be the right one according to Your plan for us. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.



## 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 Wardens Speak

### 'Senior Moments'

#### Words of Wisdom from our Sr. Warden Patricia Bosch

My fellow parishioners:

I want to say Thank You to all who went to St. Paul's on September 23rd.

Next, the end of the year is fast approaching, time to start thinking about Vestry Members for 2019, we are looking for 3 or 4 parishioners to join. You will be helping St. John's (one night per month). Everyone, please think about it and let a vestry member know. Thank you in advance.

The work on the Rectory is coming along well. We should be ready to paint in a couple of weeks.

May God Bless all of you.

*Patricia A. Bosch,*

Sr. Warden

### 'Junior Jottings'

#### Notations from our Junior Warden Susan Jones

How wonderful enjoying another fabulous "Welcome Back Choir and Sunday School Picnic!" Seeing so many of our congregants welcoming back our youngest members while enjoying everyone's delicious banquet specialty offerings is always an especially spirited and nourishing event for heart, soul and body!

We also want to welcome all interested people to join our new St. John's Architectural Review Committee. In addition to regular upkeep of our church and parish hall we are also looking for ways to make them handicap accessible all while keeping our Historical Registry and being sensitive to both the history and aesthetics of our treasured church. Please contact me in person or feel free to call/text me anytime at 609-617-4542.

All best wishes and prayers,

*Susan*

Jr. Warden

## IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| October 6:   | Blessing of the Animals - during the 5:00 pm service                                 |
| October 8    | Uppity Women of the Bible Meeting 10:00 am   |
| October 9:   | Vestry Meeting, Parish Hall 7:00 – 9:00  |
| October 15:  | Uppity Women of the Bible Meeting 10:00 am   |
| October 16   | Boscov's Pass fundraiser. \$5 per card for 25% off on purchases made on October 16th |
| October 22:  | Uppity Women of the Bible Meeting  |
| November 4:  | "Thanks Giving Sunday" End of Stewardship Vestry Brunch                              |
| November 5:  | ECW Meeting 10:00 am   |
| November 6:  | Evening ECW Meeting 7:00 pm  |
| November 13: | Vestry Meeting, Parish Hall 7:00 – 9:00 pm   |
| November 17: | 5K Run / 1 Mile Walk Founder's Day Race  |
| November 17: | Annual Spaghetti Dinner 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm  |
| November 22: | Thanksgiving Day Service, 10:00 am   |
| November 25: | 'What We Talk About When We Talk About God   |
| December 2:  | First Sunday of Advent   |
| December 3:  | ECW meeting and cookie exchange Parish Hall 10:00 am                                 |
| December 4:  | Evening ECW meeting 7:00 pm  |
| December 4:  | 'What We Talk About When We Talk About God'  |

Remember to mark your calendars





## 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.

## Unforgotten Haven

Unforgotten Haven projects have been a big success. Dori Millisky has created a bulletin board announcing the projects boxes are available for donating items. Going forward we will continue to donate to them through the former 'Noisy Sunday' collection the last weekend of the month

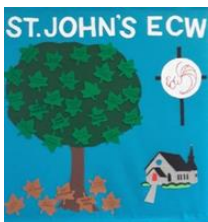
## St. Paul's Camden Feeding the Hungry

Thank you to all who pitched in to feed the hungry at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Camden on Sunday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>.

We team up with St. Andrews St. Andrew's, Camden, to help feed hungry men, women, and children at St. Paul's, on the fourth Sunday of the month whenever there is a month in which there are five (5) Sundays. We will next participate in this wonderful outreach December 23<sup>rd</sup>. If you have any toiletries and or cold weather clothing the homeless are in desperate need of them. Please bring them to the parish hall between December 16<sup>th</sup> & December 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## The ECW Page

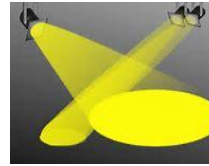
ECW News from Bernie Brown & Mary Wonderlin



Our Coach Bingo was a success. We made about \$1000. Thank you to all who came and played and all who helped.

On Tuesday October 2<sup>nd</sup>, the ladies gathered together for an enjoyable evening at Filomena Cucina Italiana, Blackwood for the annual ECW Dinner.

The next ECW meeting will be 10:00 am Monday, November 5<sup>th</sup> and the evening group will meet Tuesday, November 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. Both meetings will take in the Parish hall.



## Spotlight on our Youth:

## Holy Communion Class Update

Although we will not be having a formal Holy Communion class this spring it is important for children to attend Sunday School on a regular basis. Children need to learn their Bible stories because Holy Communion lessons build on that foundation. This is so important with the experiential program we teach.

Last season I asked for parent feedback so that I could adjust certain facets to meet the family needs. The one overwhelming response was that we stress to parents ahead of time that this is a "family program". The success of the program involves parent input of family history and current happenings.

We teachers were most likely not present at the child's Baptism or know who is in need of prayers within their family/friend circle. We are not there to record the I'm sorry/I forgive when we study confession. Parents have the opportunity to take just 20 minutes each week during the program and personalize the lesson for their child, making it more meaningful for them.

Today's Happenings are Tomorrow's Memories, Let's Make Wonderful, Meaningful Ones!

Love and Peace,

*Kathleen Martel*

## Stewardship Corner

*Dot Blindenbacher* — Stewardship Committee

Handouts were distributed at the Church Picnic. There will be a collection box at the Parish Hall for people to return the forms.

November 4<sup>th</sup> "Thanks-Giving Sunday" will be the end of the giving campaign.

The Vestry will host a brunch on November 4<sup>th</sup>. Details will be worked out by the Stewardship committee and presented to the Vestry at the October meeting.

## "With a Voice of Singing..."



**Choir Notes from Our Music Director Dan Nelson**



Choir started rehearsing in the late summer and had our first performance on September 16<sup>th</sup>. We've returned with fresh and energized voices after the summer off. The choir is looking forward to some new challenges and new music this year, which will include inviting soloists and instrumentalists to join us on some Sundays.

If you've been thinking about doing something new and exciting at church, consider joining choir! We rehearse on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 pm.

Rehearsals are very low stress and we accommodate all levels of interest and music making.



You can see by the photo of the front of the house that it too needs clean-up and other work to achieve curb appeal! (photo courtesy Dot Blindenbacher)

## **Rectory -- Many Hands (Would) Make Lighter Work**

*by Dot Blindenbacher*

Every Saturday from 9 am until noon, a few dedicated members have been at the Rectory, getting it in shape to show to candidates for our new rector position. Pictures here show vestry member Barry McManaman spackling and Junior Warden Susan Jones trimming shrubbery. Senior Warden Pat Bosch and vestry member Mary Wonderlin have also been there frequently, but we need more of you involved to get it all done in a timely fashion.

Members of the vestry have been working hard cleaning the rectory. We have cleaned out the basement and are now busy cleaning the main floor. All the windows and window treatments have been cleaned. We have wiped down all walls and ceilings in the bedrooms and hall. We are now moving onto the living room and kitchen. We will be painting all walls and ceilings in the house. That is when we will really need help from the rest of the congregation.

Please consider coming out and helping toward the end of October. If we all pitch in, it can be done quickly. Each Saturday from 9 - 12. Thank you, Barry McManaman, for taking charge in preparing the rectory for a new priest.



Vestry member Barry McManaman spackling the rectory walls. (photo courtesy Dot Blindenbacher)



Seen here, Jr. Warden Susan Jones trimming shrubbery. (photo courtesy Dot Blindenbacher)

## ***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**

**Deadline for the Advent/Christmas/Epiphany Messenger  
Monday, November 23, 2018**

Items may be e-mailed to [Robertgoodman1@comcast.net](mailto:Robertgoodman1@comcast.net)  
(Please show The Messenger on the subject line)





Come out and pitch in! (photo courtesy Dot Blindenbacher)

## Rectory Work

Continued from page 5

There are tasks of varying difficulty, not all requiring special skill or strength. Barry can show you where you are needed. Tell him you're coming, or just show up. You can spend the whole three hours from 9-noon, or just an hour or two.

When the walls are prepared, we will be having a "paint party," which we hope many will "attend."

Come on out and pitch in!



Please consider supporting St. John's in your online shopping on Amazon.com! The Church receives .05% of all eligible sales with no additional cost to you. On your first visit to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), you are prompted to select a charitable organization from the list of eligible organizations. Type "Church of St. John the Evangelist Blackwood" into the search bar, and simply select our church. Then, whenever you purchase anything on Amazon, go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), and your purchase will automatically qualify. Thank you in advance! Be sure to let your family, friends and neighbors know about this, no matter where they live. Anyone can participate and the more that do the more we will receive.

# The Messenger

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## STAFF

### Interim Rector

The Reverend Donald Caron

### Organist & Music Director

Dan Nelson

### Parish Secretary

Shirley Mullen

### Sexton

Mike Millisky

### Senior Warden

Pat Bosch

### Junior Warden

Susan Jones

### Treasurer

Peggy Cardone/Lou DeCecco

### Vestry

Lou DeCecco

Phyllis Sowers

Steve DeBaun

Peggy Cardone

Barry McManaman

Tom Gratton

Dori Milliski

Don Martel

Dot Blindenbacher

Chris Goodman

Linda Meinel

Mary Wonderlin

### Delegates to Convention

Bob Goodman

Judy McGrath

Judy Vaughn-Sterling

Dot Blindenbacher (Alternate)

### Delegates to Convocation

Bob Goodman

Pat Bosch

Dot Blindenbacher

### Altar Guild/Flowers/Memorials

Phyllis Sowers

### Church School

Mary Wonderlin

### Churchyard

Ernie Jones

### ECW

Bernie Brown

### Publicity

Bob Goodman

### Ushers

Shirley Mullen

### Acolytes/Readers/Servers Scheduling

Steve DeBaun

## Wawa 'Shorti Hoagie' Coupon

Coupons for Wawa 'Shorti hoagies' are available from the office and from Mary Wonderlin 783-6805. Coupons are \$4.00 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.