

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

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

Volume MMXVIII - Issue I

Lent 2018



Ashes – What's *That* About?

By Fr. Don

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday (This year on February 14) when all manner of Christians leave a service with a cross of smudged black ash on their foreheads. The use of ashes to express an inner condition is ancient and wide-spread.

A few weeks ago, we heard a story from the Book of Jonah in which the people of Nineveh showed their intention to reform by smearing themselves with ashes (probably gray wood ash) and dressing in scratchy sack cloth—even their animals! In 2 Samuel 13:19 it says, "...and Tamar put ashes on her head and tore the long robe that she wore. And she laid her hand on her head and went away, crying aloud as she went." There are many more references to people putting ashes on themselves, in both the Old and the New Testament.

From very primitive times, people put wood ash on their faces to appear pale (we get our word "ashen" from this) with grief, either because of a great loss or because of remorse. This is still a practice in many foreign cultures. Lent is a time in which we focus on the ways that we have fallen short of the ideals of a life as followers of Jesus and remorse we feel over that. It leads us to a resolve to reform our lives.

We call the ceremony "the Imposition of Ashes", in which, as the priest or minister puts ashes on us as he says, "Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return." It's a not-too-subtle reminder of our mortality. But implied is the idea that we need to make the most of the time we have. An alternative verse that is used is "Repent and believe the Good News." This seems to better capture the meaning of Ash Wednesday and Lent.

I have never liked the term "imposition." Its common meanings are foisting, forcing, or inflicting. If Lent is to have any meaning for us, it must be something we take upon ourselves willingly, even enthusiastically, like the citizens of Nineveh did.

Last year, St. John's had Ash Wednesday Services at 7:30 am, 11:30 am and 7:30 pm. I will be asking if these are the most convenient times for people. The early Service will be a shortened service, so people can get to work. There will also be available an alternative way for you to get ashes, if you are willing to try it. There will be a separate station with ashes and a mirror if you want to put ashes on yourself as a sign of your willingness to take

on the meaning of Lent, so that it will not be "imposed." Of course, the traditional way of receiving ashes will also be available.

Whatever your choice, **do** receive the church's offering of a time to strengthen your discipleship.



It's Pancake Supper Time

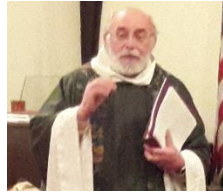
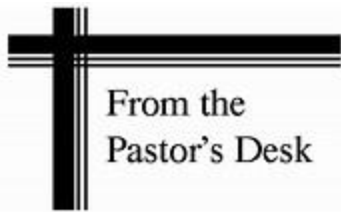
The annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper will held be on February 28th from 5:00 pm until 7:00 pm in the Parish Hall. Come celebrate with your family/friends and enjoy delicious pancakes, bacon/sausage, beverages, desert, and fellowship as we prepare to begin Lent. Suggested Donation is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children with a maximum family donation of \$30. Helpers are needed!!! Please consider coming in during the afternoon to help prepare the meal and help set up. Clean up folks are also needed.

Souper Bowl Outreach

Super Bowl Weekend at St. John's was also Souper Bowl Sunday. Parishioners were invited to put dollars in soup pots for the team they expected to win. The parish accurately predicted the **EAGLES** (\$48.00) over the **New England Patriots** (\$3.00). The Souper Bowl proceeds are used support our outreach as to help feed the homeless at St. Paul's in Camden.

New Officers Elected at Annual Meeting

On February 4, 2018, parishioner's elected new officers during St. John's Annual Parish Meeting. Pat Bosch became Senior/Rectors Warden replacing the outgoing Senior Warden Michael Lutz while Susan Jones was elected the Junior/People's warden. Elected to the vestry were Dot Blindenbacher, Chris Goodman, Linda Meinel and Mary Wonderlin. Elected as Delegate to Convention Judy Vaughan-Sterling and Dot Blindenbacher Alternate Delegate as well as Delegates to Convocation Dot Blindenbacher, Pat Bosch, and Bob Goodman. Lou DeCecco will continue to serve as the Parish Treasurer assisted by Peggy Cardone. To Sr. Warden Michael Lutz and to each of the outgoing vestry Linda Amber, Joe Baylouny, and Todd Wonderlin thank you for your service.



Dear People of St. John the Evangelist,

I am delighted that your Vestry called me to be your Interim Rector. My time with you thus far has shown me what a kind, loving and dedicated community this is, and I look forward to getting to know you all.

The interim time is a time of change. Not only will you see a new Rector, but you will be examining the identity and direction of this church as you go forward. I will be assisting your Vestry and Discernment committee in those tasks. I see my job here as preparing the way for the new Rector and what will, in some ways be, a new parish. I will be asking a lot of questions. I want to know all about you, your history, and your dreams, but in asking those questions, I will be inviting you to look at things that you might have taken for granted over the years. This interim time is an opportunity to confirm some values and practices and try some new ones.

Already there have been a few changes initiated. We have begun the use of a non-alcoholic cup at all services. If you wish to receive from that cup, just indicate so to the minister, perhaps by saying, "other cup."

Anointing for healing will be offered at communion time. This anointing can be for yourself, for concerns of body, mind, or spirit, or you may be anointed in the name of a loved one. Indicate your wish to be anointed by holding your hands up when the priest comes to you. I will ask for whom you wish the anointing, and then I will anoint you wish a short prayer before I give you communion. If you are at the communion rail next to someone being anointed, rest your hand on their arm or shoulder and pray for healing as they are anointed.

From the time of the founding of the Church of England, an important mark of the worshipping community has been an awareness of those in need. This became part of the Episcopal Church's tradition and can be found in the Canons of the church. I noticed an alms box at the back of St. John's Church, that might date from the earliest days. The act of giving for the relief of those in need is enshrined in our tradition, and the Canons call for the Rector's Discretionary Fund to be supported directly by contributions taken up regularly at services. To that end, with the agreement of the Vestry "Noisy Sunday" on the last Sunday of each month will become "Silent Sunday," and the second collection will be split between the Rector's Discretionary Fund and Unforgotten Haven, which is the charity that the funds from Noisy Sunday supported. There will no longer be a line item in the budget for the Discretionary Fund.

You will see a number of changes in the liturgy of St. John as we go forward. It is important for us to experience different ways of worshipping. My intention is to briefly meet with any interested people after each service just prior to the beginning of each Church season, to listen to how that season has been done in the past and to talk

about other possibilities. The consensus at those meetings will determine what we do.

You will likely see some new music introduced into the service, and maybe some other surprises. The Episcopal Church Canons have given us a variety of prayers for our main service and permit even more experimentation at the other services.

I am here to serve you, and work with you to chart a future for this church. If you need me, my phone number is 478-234-3697, and I live close by. If you should get a call from Georgia, that might be me

Fr. Don



Fr. Don in discussion with parishioners after the 5:00 pm service on February 3rd about Lenten programs as well as Lenten, Holy Week, and Easter Services this year. (photo courtesy Bob Goodman)

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

February 13: Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, Parish Hall 5:00 pm
February 13: Vestry Meeting 7:00 pm
February 14: Ash Wednesday (services 7:30 am, 11:30 am, & 7:30 pm)
February 18: St. John's Reel (Holy Communion Class) 11:15 am
February 19: ECW District Meeting, Parish Hall 10:00 am
March 2 & 3: 233rd Convention of the Diocese of NJ, Hyatt, Cherry Hill
March 5: ECW Meeting 10:00 am
March 5: ECW, making Irish Potatoes, on sale immediately afterwards
March 6: Evening ECW Meeting 7:00 pm
March 13: Vestry Meeting 7:00 pm
March 17 & 18: ECW Bake Sale after each service
March 18: Submission deadline for Easter edition of *The Messenger*
March 25: Palm Sunday
March 29: Maundy Thursday Services 7:30 pm
March 29: The Watch 9:00 pm thru April 14 7:00 pm
March 30: Good Friday Services 7:30 pm
March 31: The Great Easter Vigil 8:00 pm
April 1: Easter Sunday Services 8:00 am & 10:00 am
April 2: ECW Meeting 10:00 am
April 3: Evening ECW Meeting 7:00 pm
April 10: Vestry Meeting 7:00 pm
April 8: Flowering of the Cross 10:00 am
April 8: Easter Egg Hunt 11:30 am
April 17: Annual ECW Basket Auction (doors open 6:00 pm)
April 22: Feeding the Hungry St. Paul's Camden 4:00 pm
April 28: Holy Communion Class Solemn Holy Communion 5:00 pm
May 6: Holy Communion Class "Let My Light Shine" Ceremony 10:00 am

Remember to mark your calendars

The Warden Speaks

Final words from our outgoing Sr. Warden
by Mike Lutz

This year at St John's has been a very productive one. The vestry members were exceptional in working as a group to deal with the many issues that confronted us as we cared for the church, parish hall, and rectory. They made tremendous strides in the budget and financial areas consolidating our investments and targeting our services to insure the best possible return for the money spent. Property wise we paved the parking lot, a project that many of us waited a long time to realize. We trimmed and cut trees for safety to our property for parishioners, pointed the front steps into the church, and repaved sidewalks on both sides of the street. The rectory renovation is underway and fire code compliance for the parish hall attic. We are currently creating an office for the new Interim Rector in the parish hall basement. During the latter half of the year we planned and finished a retirement dinner for Rev. Margaret which allowed us to thank her for the 11 years of service she gave to St. John's parish. The past year has been a good one for me as senior warden and I look forward to 2018 with Pat Bosch as our new senior warden and working with father Don Caron our Interim priest.

Words of Wisdom for 2018 *from Patricia Bosch, Sr Warden*

This year we will be searching for a new minister. We are already on the right path with our Interim Priest, Fr. Don Caron. He will guide and help us on our journey through this process.

I ask only one favor from my St John's family, if you have a problem with anything or anyone please come and talk with myself, the Jr Warden or anyone on Vestry so that we can resolve the situation.

I will do my very best to serve you, my St John's family, and our parish to the best of my ability. Always remember we are your Vestry and we are here for you.

God Bless all of you.

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Bosch,
Sr. Warden



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. Please consider finding a buddy and hosting a Coffee Hour. A signup sheet is posted in the Parish Hall.

Stewardship Corner

by Linda Ambler

We finished off 2017 with a spectacular Christmas Pageant. Thank you to Susan Jones and to all the parents and children for your time and talent. Also thank you to the choir and Dan who provided beautiful music to celebrate the season. We said our final farewell to Rev. Margaret on Dec. 31 with a fabulous Lessons in Carols service. Thank you to Bob Goodman who arranged the service.

We started off 2018 by welcoming our interim priest, Fr. Don Caron. We are already moving into February and the Lenten season. Please join us in fellowship for the Pancake Supper on Shrove Tuesday, February 13th. As usual Barry and his staff of kitchen helpers will give their time and talent to make this a fun and filling event.

Please also keep in mind that we rely on your donations to keep our Church operating. We ended 2017 with a financial deficit but hope that you will give with your heart to make our parish thrive in 2018.



St. Paul's Feeding the Hungry Outreach

We join St. Andrews to help feed hungry men, women, and children at St. Paul's whenever there is a month in which there are five (5) Sundays, we take the fourth Sunday of that month. We will next participate in this wonderful outreach April 22nd. If you have any toiletries and or warm weather clothing the homeless are in desperate need of them. Please bring them to the parish hall between April 17th & 22nd.

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.

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.

"With a Voice of Singing..."

CHOIR NOTES FROM OUR MUSIC DIRECTOR DAN NELSON



St. John's performed for the special guests at Reverend Margaret's final service.

The choir also participated in the Annual Ecumenical Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, which was held this year at the Chews United Methodist Church on January 25th. The choir performed two pieces and then joined the combined forces of three other area choirs for two group anthems.

With Lent approaching the choir is preparing some new music and is excited to welcome the new season of the Liturgical calendar with anthems and music at the Ash Wednesday service on 2/14.

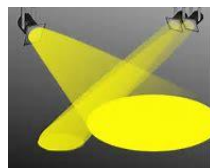
The choir will perform music for all Holy Week services and Easter morning.



The choirs of Chews Methodist, Holy Parish, Trinity Luther and St. John's combine to present "Shall We Gather at the River" and "Psalm 95" at the Ecumenical Service. (photo courtesy Steve DeBaun)

"Sundays at Four"

On Palm Sunday, March 25th at 4:00 pm the ongoing "Sundays at Four" for 2017-2018 concert series will be presented by St. Mary's in Haddon Heights. The program will be a group of combined choirs performing *The Seven Last Words of Christ* by T. Duboise and will feature soprano Teresa Bonilla, tenor Danny Eyerman, baritone Jeff Chapman, with William Fenimore on the organ and Kyle Sheppard, the guest conductor. Judy Vaughan-Sterling and Bob Goodman will represent St. John's in the combined choirs. You will not want to miss this wonderful concert; a perfect way to spend a spring afternoon.



Spotlight on our Youth:

Solemn Holy Communion Class Underway

By Kathy Martel

On January 21, 2018, eleven of our young people and their parents declared their desire to study for Solemn Holy Communion. They answered Father Don's questions with very strong voices and signed the Promise Book at the railing. This is a very dynamic group who have already shown their enthusiasm to study!

January 28th, the class was to witness the Baptism of Baby Elie Wonderlin and then study the promises made while reenacting the baptism with their dolls and stuffed animals.

February 18, 2018 the class will have their Community Sunday with our Parish Family. They will meet their Parish sponsor, take part in the St. John's Reel, and complete their paper person.

Due to the size of our class and the number of expected guests, our class will celebrate their Solemn Holy Communion on Saturday, April 28, 2018.

The class will have their "Let My Light Shine" Candle Ceremony on May 8, 2018 during the 10:00 am mass with their parish family.

The teachers are prepared and are looking forward to a very exciting season with the children.

Please pray for Kiersten, Emily, Paige, Hailey, Ava, Madison, Macie, Noah, Frankie, Shane, and Gregory.

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



St. John's choir joined by Bob Goodman present "Rejoice Sing Noel" and "Christmas Canon" at the 'Week of Prayer for Christian Unity' service at Chews Methodist. (photo courtesy Steve DeBaun)

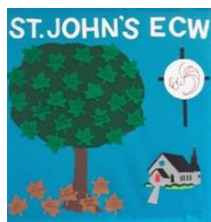
Plaudits to our Choir

Each year we celebrate the Week of Christian Unity with an ecumenical service. The service took place January 25th at the United Methodist Church in Glendora with choirs and clergy from four parishes (Chews Methodist, Holy Child Parish, Trinity Lutheran, and St. John's) with a mix of scripture readings and music. Each choir sang individual anthems and then joined together to sing a pair of combined choir anthems. Fr. Don participated in the reading of the scriptures

We are very grateful for our small but mighty choir of St. John's. Always the smallest our choir sings with a rich, full sound. The choir did St. John's proud doing a fabulous job and once again knocked it out of the park. Great job and kudos to their fearless leader Dan Nelson. Thank you to Bob Goodman, Dave Ambler, Jude DeBaun, Chris Goodman, Louis Gross, Phyllis Sowers, and Judy Vaughan-Sterling, for an outstanding and wonderful, worshipful representation!

The ECW Page

ECW News from Bernie Brown & Mary Wonderlin



The ECW has cleaned out its closet. We found a vast amount of yarn and knitting needles. If anyone would like to take some, please help yourself. The bags of yarn and box of needles are located on the left in the downstairs hall.

In the past we have collected items for pets. Rev. Margaret would take the items to a pet shelter. We no longer have someone to take the items. Please don't leave any more until further notice. If you would like to take items to the shelter, let a vestry member or Mary Wonderlin know.

Printer cartridges = please do not leave printer cartridges in the parish hall. They are not being turned in at this time.

ECW Events are in Full Swing



Soup Sale Success

Thank you for making our annual 'Soup Sale' the weekend of January 21st a success. We made \$748 on the soup sale.

ECW District Meeting

We will be hosting the ECW District Meeting on February 19 in our parish hall

Irish Potatoes Time



On March 5th we will be making our Famous Irish Potatoes - Yummy Yum! They will then be available immediately thereafter.

Wawa Shorti Coupons

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.



ECW Bake Sale

On March 17 & 18 we will be having a bake sale. Come and take home a delicious dessert!



It's Almost Basket Auction Time

April 17 brings our very popular Basket Auction. We appreciate any donations. Letters for merchants are on the table at the back of the church. Tickets will go on sale in March.

Please keep in mind all Episcopal women are members of We meet the first Monday of the month at 10:00 am and the first Tuesday at 7pm. *Please* join us!

From the Diocese of New Jersey

17th Annual Diocesan Acolyte Festival



The 17th Annual Diocesan Acolyte Festival will be held February 11th from 9:30 am until 3:30 pm at Trinity Cathedral, Trenton. The theme is the Saints of God.

The festival is designed to offer the acolytes an opportunity for fellowship and learning in a day-long celebration of their ministry.

A Celebration of the Holy Eucharist – in the cathedral will close the day. Be sure to bring your vestments, processional crosses, thuribles, torches, banners, kites, or whatever else you use in a service. (Don't forget to bring stands if you have them.) Parents and other guests are invited to join us for the service, which will begin at 2:00 p.m.

234th Convention of the Diocese of NJ

Diocesan Convention is a time when representatives from around our diocese gather to share in the polity of the Church, upholding the common mission and ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ. All are welcome to join us as we worship, conduct business, view and listen to presentations, socialize, and network.

The Convention will be held at the Crowne Plaza, 2349 Marlton Pike West, Cherry Hill NJ 08002 on March 2-3, 2018.

All clergy and deputies are invited to attend one or more of the pre-convention hearings to learn more about the budget, resolutions, and canons being presented at convention. The local meeting will be held February 15th at St. Thomas, Glassboro from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

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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

Shelby Myers

Barry McManaman

Tom Gratton

Dori Milliski

Judy Vaughn-Sterling

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

Deadline for the Easter Messenger
Sunday, March 18, 2018

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

Parish Prayers for Joys and Concerns

Pray for those in Special Need

Jeffrey Chappina, John Worsham, Eric Quintavalle, Abby Collins, Matthew Sterling, 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, Jean Perkins, Ann Roney, Harry Smith, Maria Velez, Jared Callen, Hadley Benfield, Phyllis Mancuso, William Mayer, Sr., Joseph Mancuso, Nicole Youngs, Nancy Klobnak, the Haughton Family, Ann Waller, Andrew Hermann, Gemma Hermann, Finn Hermann, Joseph Reily, Joe Waller, Judy Gore, Nick Giambri, Dot Lutz, Brad Siracuse, Lisa Green, Atwood Shupp, James Wagner, Lane John Tillman, John Ervin, Frances Ash, Ken Timms, Michael Bieg, Barbara Rigney, Barbara Summeral, Joanne Van Patton, Betty Bidinger, Bud Bidinger, Terry and her grandchildren, Karlene Gray, Helen Shupp, Sal Aversa, Margie Arches, Ann Masker, Marc Lilley, Anna, Thomas Caruso, John Davidson, and Luiz Hernandez.

Pray for our Shut-In and Home-Bound

Kay Taylor, Anna Scalise, Barbara Houghton and Karen Street.

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 Truskowski, Abbey Wilkins, Janet Prince, Ken Sweeten, Andy Misinkavitch, Nigel P. Shockley, Catherine Marie Wilson, Mike Millisky, Derek Walton, Colin Mair, and Ryan Mair.



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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