

# The Messenger

The Newsletter of Saint John the Evangelist Episcopal Church  
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Pentecost 2018

## George Edward Councill, 11th Bishop of the

The Right Reverend George Edward Councill, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey from 2003 until he retired in 2013, died May 21 at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in Hamilton, NJ, from complications from a stroke suffered the previous Thursday. He was 68.

Bishop Councill presided during a time of conflict in both The Episcopal Church and the Diocese of New Jersey. His gifts for listening, pastoral care, and healing became the hallmarks of his episcopate.

"I will always be grateful for the pastoral gifts that were embodied in George Councill," said the Right Reverend William H. Stokes, Councill's successor as Bishop of New Jersey. "He turned over to me a diocese that had been broken, but that had experienced tremendous healing through his ministry and his capacity to love Jesus and love God's people."

In a 2013 interview with the Times of Trenton, Bishop Councill laughingly noted: "I wanted to become a bishop to get closer to God, but with so many people here to look after, I thought, 'Wow, I'll really have to get closer to God to do this.' But I feel that I have."

Bishop Councill actively encouraged recognition and giving voice to marginalized communities within the church. As bishop, Councill allowed his clergy permission to officiate over same-sex marriages in their churches in 2013.

"It was very dear to me to keep everyone at the table, the Lord's table, and not needlessly build these boundaries among one another," he said in a 2013 interview. "The church isn't the totally safe place I want it to be [for the LGBTQ community], but I think we've made it a safer place for them, and a place where they can come, and be seen as people who want the same things as all of us: to have a healthy, happy, strong, supportive family."

Bishop Councill also made the dismantling of structural racism a priority within the Diocese. "Bishop Councill's immense kindness and capacity to listen as a healer were instrumental in moving towards racial reconciliation in the Diocese of New Jersey, particularly in his unwavering support of our Anti-Racism ministries," said Barbara Okamoto Bach, longtime member and a leader and educator in the Diocese's Anti-Racism Commission. "His strong belief in our efforts, and that healing and reconciliation were attainable through the redemptive power of God's love, made so many difficult paths of healing possible."

"Never have I known a more spiritual, loving, compassionate man of God," said The Rev. Canon Elizabeth Geitz, who served as Bishop Councill's transition officer, a position dedicated to clergy placement, for the majority of his episcopate. "What a loss for us."

Bishop Councill graduated from the University of California at Riverside Phi Beta Kappa with honors with a Bachelor of Arts in



## Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey dies at 68

1971. In 1975 he earned a Master of Divinity from Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Councill was ordained a priest in 1975 in the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles. Among other positions, he served as Rector of the Church of the Holy Spirit, Lake Forest, IL from 1995 to 2003 and as Canon to the Ordinary in the Diocese of Western Massachusetts from 1986 to 1995.

After retirement, Councill served as resident Chaplain of Doane Academy, an Episcopal college preparatory school in Burlington, New Jersey. He taught courses on Ethics and World Religions.

Councill lived in Pennington, New Jersey with his wife of 47 years, Ruth May Tietjen, an artist, and illustrator. They met while undergraduate students at the University of Redlands. He is survived by Ruth and their two daughters; Sarah Councill Turner, who graduated from Virginia Theological Seminary with a Master of Theological Studies degree, Martha Councill-Vargas, Professor of Flute at Western Michigan University, his six-year-old granddaughter, Alma Susana Vargas, his sister, Pamela Plouffé, nephews Jerry Roberts III, and Justin Roberts, and his niece, Dawn Drootin and their families.

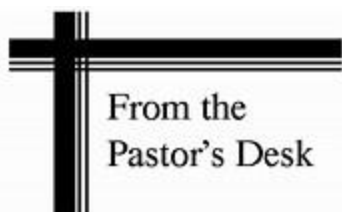
Visitations will be welcome on Monday, May 28, from 5 PM to 7 PM at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, 801 West State Street in Trenton, NJ.

A funeral service will be held on Tuesday, May 29, at 10 AM at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, 801 West State Street in Trenton, NJ. The Right Reverend William H. Stokes, Bishop of New Jersey, will preside; the Right Reverend Alan M. Gates, Bishop of Massachusetts, will offer the tribute. The Most Reverend Michael Bruce Curry, Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church, will preach.

A reception will immediately follow the service. At 2 PM, a procession will leave Trinity Cathedral for St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 145 West Broad Street in Burlington, NJ for the interment.

In lieu of flowers, the Councill family requests donations be made to the George E. Councill Fund for UrbanPromise Ministries in the Diocese of New Jersey. UrbanPromise Ministries is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to equipping children and young adults in underserved communities with the skills necessary for academic achievement, life management, spiritual growth, and Christian leadership. In the Diocese of NJ, UrbanPromise currently serves the cities of Camden and Trenton.

"[Life is] too good not to try to live according to God's will, and when we fall down, to get up again, for the sake of that loving mother, father and friend whom we've seen in Jesus Christ," Bishop Councill said in a service celebrating his ministry in October 2013. "We have to rejoice, we have to celebrate, because He's raised from the dead, so there's nothing to stand between you and that love. May that love prosper among you; I'll see you in church."



### What's New?

By now, most persons attending Services at St. John's are accustomed to the fact that we offer gluten-free communion wafers and a non-alcoholic cup. There has been sufficient positive response through calling for these to indicate that it is good to have these.

### Anointing at Communion Time

In the last issue of the newsletter, I previewed one more communion-time change. Because of Holy Week and the Easter Season, I held off in offering anointing for healing at communion time, but now that the other changes have been established, we can begin. So on Pentecost (May 20) anointing will be available at the altar rail when you come up for communion. This anointing is the prayer of the Church that God's healing hand will be upon the ones for whom we pray. You may request the healing for yourself, or it may be that you ask to be anointed for the healing of someone else. To indicate that you wish to be anointed, just hold your hands in an upward position when the priest comes to you with the Eucharist. I will lean toward you to ask if you want the anointing for yourself or for someone else. Then I will briefly lay my hand upon you as I pray for the desired healing (physical, emotional, or spiritual). As I do that, it is very appropriate that other persons nearby lay hands on you and join in the prayer. Then I will anoint you with oil blessed by the Bishop. After which I will give you communion.

### Adult Christian Formation

A number of people have commented that the study we did through the Season of Lent helped them to understand Jesus better and so drew them closer to Jesus. I am a great believer that our learning about God does not stop when we "graduate" from children's Sunday School. In fact, it is quite clear that the experiences we have as adults need to be seen in the context of our faith, and an appropriate Adult program of Religious Formation helps to do that. When I inquired about people's preferences, many said they would like our video-based classes to continue on a monthly basis. I spoke with people after each of the Services on May 20 about how we will do worship during the Season of Pentecost and about what we will be studying in our monthly Adult Christian Education Sessions. I am proposing that we consider either the second or the third weekend for these sessions, to be held after each of our Services.

### 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.

### The Altar Table

The free-standing altar-table has been in place since the beginning of Lent. It offers some practical advantages, for example, I do not block the light coming from above as I stand at this table.

There are historical and liturgical reasons that recommend this arrangement, too. In 1549, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Thomas Cranmer, produced the first prayer book in English. He also published *Reasons Why the Lord's Board Should be Rather after the Form of a Table Than of an Altar*. Four centuries later, a book titled *The Architectural Setting of Anglican Worship* by Addleshaw and Etchells surveyed the many table-altar decisions and the various locations in church buildings where the Lord's board has been and might be located.

Three-quarters of a century after Cranmer, Archbishop Laud preferred the table-altar be located against the "east" wall of the chancel. In 1643, however, when Cromwell was in power, the House of Commons passed an ordinance abolishing all altars at the east end. Laud was imprisoned, and two years later beheaded. Some altars were moved back against the wall after the Restoration in the 1660s. In time, "altar" generally came to mean a structure with a solid front resembling a large box or a tomb.

In most churches in England and in the American Colonies for the next two centuries, the so-called "altar" was in fact a table with legs and looked like a large table. In America, during the colonial years and until the last part of the 19th century, most parish churches had holy tables, which were located at various places in the buildings.



The Oxford Movement in England also spread to America. It sought to revive some medieval perspectives and Gothic styles, and one of them was to have a solid altar against the east wall of the chancel. For evangelicals in the Episcopal Church, this location and design for the Lord's board epitomized their concern that the Oxford Movement was introducing Roman Catholic doctrine and liturgical practices, both in the Church of England and the Episcopal Church in this country. In 1846, the Bishop of Ohio, Charles McIlvaine, a leading evangelical, refused to consecrate the newly built St. Paul's Church in Columbus because it had a solid-front altar rather than a holy table. He wrote:

"Now, my brethren, I have not looked without serious consideration upon these things. For several years, I have not consecrated a church, as far as I can remember, in which there was an altar-form structure, instead of a proper table. But this was rather because such a structure did not happen to be in the new churches; than because I was prepared to make any serious objection to it. But the altered condition of things to which I have already referred, has placed the subject in a very different light; so that I have been led to inquire into my duty with regard to it, as I had not done before. The conclusion to which I

### The Altar Table (continued)

have come is this: that hereafter I must refuse to consecrate any church in which there is an altar-form structure for the Lord's Supper, and in which there is not a proper table, in the usual sense, as the permanent furniture. I must require, not only that there be not an altar, but that there be a permanent and proper table. Of this determination I take the present opportunity of giving notice to the Diocese." (Charles Pettit McIlvaine, D.D., Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Ohio. 1846)

As the 19th century progressed, however, the majority of Episcopal churches adopted the Oxford Movement's perspectives and installed solid-front altars against the east walls. Consequently, by 1946, 100 years after Bishop McIlvaine refused to consecrate a church with an altar, an Episcopal church with a free-standing holy table was quite rare. The celebrants stood with their backs to the congregation at the solid altars. Even so, the rubrics in the 1928 Book of Common Prayer refer to the holy table or communion table, and very rarely and in seldom-noticed rubrics use the word "altar."

In the 1960s and '70s, however, once again the altars, especially in Episcopal and Roman Catholic church buildings, were moved forward away from the wall and made free standing. Often the altars were not changed to tables, but simply moved so the celebrants could stand behind them and face the congregation. The majority of new churches have free-standing holy tables, though some of these have fabric frontals which hang to the floor so the tables look like solid altars.

Another liturgical emphasis in recent decades has been that altars or holy tables should be close to the people. Church buildings with deep chancels such as Washington National Cathedral, All Saints' Chapel in Sewanee, Tenn., and the chapel at the Kanuga Conference Center in North Carolina, have left the altar at or near the east wall, but have added another on the floor of the nave just in front of the steps into the chancel. These nave altars or holy tables are used for most of the celebrations of the Eucharist. (Archives of the Episcopal Church)

As I wrote in the last newsletter, the original St. John's most certainly had an altar table for the communion service. As I researched the tradition of Altar Tables in the Anglican and Episcopal tradition, I came upon one detail that I had not expected: A primary consideration for a proper altar-table was that it was moveable, and, in fact, there were ample records that the altar table, or "Lord's Board," was, in fact, moved. The Roman tradition still heavily influenced to the tomb-like idea of an altar requires a fixed position, but this is not the case for the Anglican and Episcopal tradition.

A disadvantage of the current table has been brought to my attention, that at communion time it creates a narrow passage to the communion rail. There is no denying that, though people have managed to navigate their way past the table, it was with some difficulty. For the Solemn Communion Service for our youngsters, we moved the table aside at communion time, and that was accomplished with very little difficulty as was its re-positioning after communion. I propose that we will give this process a trial and see how it affects the flow.

*Fr. Don*

### The Warden Speaks

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

My fellow parishioners:

Thank you to everyone who participated in the May 17<sup>th</sup> Outback Steak House fund raiser.

We have some up-coming fellowship events.

Saturday, June 2nd - Gloucester Township Day, Veterans Park 10:00 am until 10:00 pm at Veterans Park. A signup sheet is in the parish hall. We will need some cases of water to hand out. Please come and join us (and bring a chair) to talk about our 'Love' for St John's.

Sunday, June 3rd - Spring Convocation meeting, this is a reminder for Bob Goodman & Dorothy Blindenbacher who are the delegates with me.

Saturday, July 7th - Pool Party at the Gloucester Twp. Pool. Thank you to Todd Wonderlin for setting up this fun day. We will have more information to follow.

To all parishioners, please feel free to contact myself, Susan Jones our Jr. Warden, or any other Vestry member if you have any questions or concerns. Please remember, that we are here for you.

May God Bless all of you.

*Patricia A. Bosch,*  
Sr. Warden

### Stewardship Corner

*by Dot Blindenbacher*

Thank you to all who made the basket auction a great success! And as we go into summer, we also thank our choir and our Sunday School teachers for their dedication throughout the year. We also offer a huge thank-you to all who shared their faith and talents with this year's Communion class.

Year-round financial stewardship is important to keep up-- during the summer months, especially, when many of us are away on Sundays. Please use your pre-addressed giving envelopes to mail in your contributions if you will be away. You could also include St. John's in your list of online bill payees if you use this service from your bank.

Gloucester Township Day is June 2<sup>nd</sup>. We need people to be representatives at our tent and we need cases of bottled water to give away. There is a signup sheet in the parish hall. Or just show up and stay an hour or two.

We will be serving dinner at St. Paul's in Camden on July 22<sup>nd</sup>. If you want to help serve, please be at the church at 4:00 pm. Donations of seasonally appropriate clothes may be brought at that time. We cannot store them in the parish hall before the day of our visit. The Fall date for St. Paul's will be September 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer!

**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.**

## Discernment News

On May 6th, Canon Connie White presided over the Congregational Conversations as part of the preparation for our call for a new Rector for St. John's. Several of our church members participated and provided their thoughts to the very specific questions put forth from the Diocesan Transition Team. The responses will help your Discernment Committee compile our parish profile that will be used in the selection process.

Matt Torpey has developed a data report from the responses and has composed additional questions to present to the congregation to help in the development of our mission and needs from the new Rector. We will be sending the data report and questions out to the overall congregation, and this will also be posted on our website.

The Discernment Committee is continuing to meet along with Fr. Jeff Kirk, our Discernment Counselor, for this very important mission. Please keep us in your prayers for guidance to make the right decision for St. John's and our congregation.

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.



*"With a Voice of Singing..."*

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



The choir will have its last Sunday performance for the 2017-18 season on June 10th. On that day the choir will be joined by special guests from the St. John's community.

We are in the process of setting a date for a SongFest for Summer 2018. Our two songfest events were a lot of fun last year, and we look forward to learning a little more about the music we sing and make each week as part of worship.

This was a great year for the choir. Dan wants to personally thank each member, as well as our guests, for all their hard work and thoughtfulness week in and week out. He would like to give a special shout out to Linda Ambler for joining this year and for her lovely contributions to the group. Singing is a wonderful hobby, and if anyone is interested, please don't hesitate to ask Linda about her experiences and what she found helpful as a new choir member.



## 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 July 22<sup>nd</sup>. 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 July 17<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## 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.

## IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

June 2: Gloucester Township Day  
June 3: Camden Convocation, St. Mary's, Haddon Heights  
June 10: Last day for Choir and Sunday School until September  
Sunday School Awards Ceremony - Parish Hall after 10:00 am service  
July 7: Parish Pool Party (Gloucester Township Pool) 6:00 pm-8:00 pm  
July 22: Feeding the Hungry, St. Paul's, Camden 4:00 pm

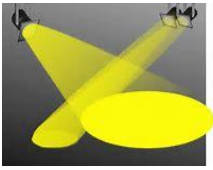
**Remember to mark your calendars**



## 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.





## Spotlight on our Youth:



The 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary Solemn Holy Communion with Fr. Don April 28, 2018.  
(photo courtesy Judy McGrath)

### Solemn Holy Communion 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Class

On Friday night, April 27th, eleven families gathered in the Parish Hall for a pizza party, a lesson with Father Don Caron and a final rehearsal for Solemn Holy Communion.

Then on Saturday, April 28th, families, friends, and sponsors gathered for a Solemn Holy Communion Mass. Father Caron gave a children's mass for our children. Following the traditional procession, Emily Torpey, Noah Schreiber, and Frankie Conn gave the readings for the day. Madison Cain and Gregory Cain performed the usher's duties. Paige DeClerico and Shane Robinson's candles led the way for gifts presented by Kiersten Craddock (Ciborium), Hailey Han (Chalice), Macie Kendzior (wine), and Ava Mcmanamen (wine). There were many photos taken by Judy McGrath to remember the day and many congratulations occurred in the receiving line. A reception followed in our Parish hall with a beautiful cake and many thank you messages for all those who helped with the program.

The following Sunday, May 6th, the children returned to church for the candle ceremony. As part of the children's lesson on mission, their hand drawings festooned the ends of the pews and drawings on their paper feet led the way from altar to steps. Each student was called to the altar by Father Caron, received a beautiful candle in memory of their Baptism and told to go forth to be the Light of Christ and to be His hands and feet here on earth. Each student exited the church, walking the way of their paper feet, and had their picture taken with their candle.

Behind all the lovely ceremonies was the concerted effort of these children to learn. They asked very in-depth questions and were always ready with perceptive answers. A lot of fun occurred with the activities. We could not have asked for a more special class to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of our St. John's Solemn Holy Communion Program.

Love and Peace,

**Kathleen Martel**

## The ECW Page

ECW News from Bernie Brown & Mary Wonderlin



### Annual Basket Auction

(photos courtesy Bob Goodman)



One and all, young and old had fun on 'Tax Day' April 17, 2018 at another super successful ECW Basket Auction. Many local merchants made generous donations, and we would like to thank our many parishioners for their donations. The ECW women are madly worked on preparing baskets and coordinating this annual event. Thank you to all who made the basket auction a great success!

The annual ECW picnic was held on Wednesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Red Bank National Park.

There is a penny jar on the table at the back of the church. Donations go to the diocese and are used by less fortunate churches to purchase educational supplies. Please consider putting in a penny or 25.

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*

### Upcoming Diocesan Events



All congregations in the Diocese are invited to participate in the Trinity Cathedral's Cathedral Sunday confirmations on June 3, 2018 at 10:30 am.  
(photo from 'Good News in the Garden State')

#### **Join Trinity Cathedral - Annual Cathedral Sunday**

Bishop William H. Stokes enthusiastically invites parishioners throughout our Diocese to celebrate Cathedral Sunday on June 3, 2018 by joining in worship in a special Flower Festival Eucharist Service beginning at 10:30 a.m. The Cathedral will be decorated with numerous magnificent floral arrangements created by floral ministries and parishioners throughout the Diocese at a floral workshop conducted the day before. Bishop Stokes will be the Celebrant, and the Reverend Canon BisChildren from various parishes will read, lead prayers, and offer the elements. All are invited to a lite lunch immediately following the Eucharist highlighting the many vital urban ministries of Trinity Cathedral.

There will be a Cathedral scavenger hunt for the kids as well as docent-led tours of the magnificently adorned and historic Cathedral. All congregations have been encouraged to send representatives, especially youth, to worship at "their second home church," and all floral ministries and interested parishioners, regardless of skill level, are invited to participate in the free and professionally led workshop on Saturday, June 2nd. All floral materials will be provided, as will lunch. For further information on the workshop and confirmation, contact Patrice D'Angelo at the Cathedral Office at 609-392-3805 or at [patriceattrinity@aol.com](mailto:patriceattrinity@aol.com).



Prince Harry and Meghan Markle listen to a sermon by Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, primate of the Episcopal Church, in St. George's Chapel at Windsor Castle during their wedding service on May 19. (Photo: Reuters)

#### **Presiding Bishop Curry Preaches at Royal Wedding**

[Episcopal News Service – Windsor, U.K.] When millions of people around the world tuned in to witness and celebrate the royal wedding of Prince Harry and American actress Meghan Markle, they were also treated to one of the most dynamic preachers the happy couple could have chosen for their nuptials.

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, the African-American leader of the U.S.-based Episcopal Church, spoke passionately for 13 minutes about the power of love.

#### **"The Power of Love"—A Sermon**

by the Most Rev. Michael B. Curry

For the Marriage of HRH Prince Henry of Wales & Ms. Meghan Markle, Saturday, May 19, 2018.

And now in the name of our loving, liberating, and life-giving God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

From the Song of Solomon, in the Bible:

Set me as a seal upon your heart,  
as a seal upon your arm;  
for love is (as) strong as death,  
passion fierce as the grave.  
Its flashes are flashes of fire,  
a raging flame.

Many waters cannot quench love,  
neither can floods drown it (*out*).  
Song of Songs 8:6-7

The late Dr. Martin Luther King once said, and I quote:  
"We must discover the power of love, the redemptive power of love. And when we discover that, we will be able to make of this old world a new world. Love is the only way."

There's power in love. Don't underestimate it. Don't even over-sentimentalize it. There's power, power in love. If you don't believe me, think about a time when you first fell in love. The whole world seemed to center around you, and your beloved. Oh, there's power, power in love. Not just in its romantic forms, but any form, any shape, of love. There's a certain sense, in which when you are loved, and you know it, when someone cares for you and you know it, when you love, and you show it, it actually feels right. There's something right about it. And there's a reason for it.

(continued on next page)



## Bishop Curry's Sermon - continued

The reason has to do with the source. We were made by a power of love. And our lives were meant and are meant to be lived in that love. That's why we are here. Ultimately the source of love is God himself. The source of all of our lives.

As an old medieval poem puts it: "Where true love is found, God himself is there." 1<sup>st</sup> John in the New Testament says it this way.

"Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; Everyone who loves is born of God. Whoever does not love does not know God. For God is love." (1John 4:4-8).

There's power in love. There's power in love to help and heal when nothing else can. There's power in love to lift up and liberate when nothing else will. There's power in love to show us the way to live. "Set me as a seal on your heart A seal on your arm." For love, it's as strong as death. But love is not only about a young couple. Now the power of love is demonstrated by the fact that we're all here. Two young people fell in love, and we all showed up!

But it's not just for and about a young couple who we rejoice with. It's more than that. Jesus of Nazareth on one occasion was asked by a lawyer to sum up the essence of the teachings of Moses. And he read back and reached back into the Hebrew scriptures to Deuteronomy and Leviticus, and Jesus said: You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind and all your strength. This is the first, and great commandment. And the second is like it. Love your neighbor as yourself.

And then in Matthew's version, he added, he said: On these two, love of God and love of neighbor, hang all the law, all the prophets. Everything that Moses wrote, everything in the holy prophets, everything in the Scriptures, everything that God has been trying to tell the world! Love God! Love your neighbors. And while you're at it, love yourself.

Someone once said that Jesus began the most revolutionary movement in all of human history. A movement grounded in the unconditional love of God for the world. And a movement mandating people to live that love. And in so doing, to change not only their lives, but the very life of the world itself.

I'm talking about some power. Real power. Power to change the world. And if you don't believe me, well, there were some old slaves in America's Antebellum South, who explained the dynamic power of love and why it has the power to transform. They explained it this way – they sang a spiritual, even in the midst of their captivity. It's one that says:

"There is a balm in Gilead"

A healing balm, something that can make things right –

"There is a balm in Gilead. To make the wounded whole

There is a balm in Gilead. To heal the sin-sick soul."

And one of the stanzas actually explains why – they said:

"If you cannot preach like Peter, and you cannot pray like Paul, Royal You tell the love of Jesus. How he died to save us all."

Oh, that's the balm in Gilead! This way of love, it is the way of life! They got it! He died to save us all! He didn't die for anything he could get out of it! Jesus did not get an honorary doctorate for dying! He wasn't getting anything out of it! He gave up his life, he sacrificed his life for the good of others, for the good of the other, for the well-being of the world, for us!

That's what love is. Love is not selfish and self-centered. Love can be sacrificial. And in so doing, becomes redemptive. And that way of unselfish, sacrificial, redemptive love, changes lives. And it can change this world.

If you don't believe me, just stop and think, or imagine. Think, and imagine. Well, think and imagine a world where love is the way. Imagine our homes and families when love is the way. Imagine neighborhoods and communities when love is the way. Imagine our governments and nations when love is the way.

Imagine business and commerce when love is the way. Imagine this tired old world when love is the way.

When love is the way, unselfish, sacrificial, redemptive.

When love is the way, then no child would go to bed hungry in this world ever again. When love is the way, we will let justice roll down like a mighty stream and righteousness like an ever-flowing brook. When love is the way, poverty would become history. When love is the way, the earth will be a sanctuary. When love is the way, we will lay down our swords and shields down by the riverside to study war no more. When love is the way, there's plenty good room. Plenty good room. For all of God's children.

And when love is the way, we actually treat each other – well, like we're actually family. When love is the way, we know that God is the source of us all, and we are brothers and sisters. Children of God.

My brothers and sisters, that's a new heaven, a new earth, a new world. A new human family.

And let me tell you something, old Solomon was right in the Old Testament, that's fire. Teilhard de Chardin – and with this, I will sit down, we gotta get you all married.

French Jesuit Teilhard de Chardin was arguably one of the great minds, great spirits of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. A Jesuit, Roman Catholic priest, a scientist, a scholar, a mystic. In some of his writings he said, from his scientific background, as well as his theological one. Some of his writings he said, as others have, that the discovery, or invention, or harnessing of fire was one of the great scientific and technological discoveries in all of human history.

Fire to a great extent made human civilization possible.

Fire made it possible to cook food, and to provide sanitary ways of eating, which reduced the spread of disease in its time.

Fire made it possible to heat and warm environments and thereby made human migration around the world a possibility, even into colder climates.

Fire made it possible – there was no Bronze Age without fire. No Iron Age without fire. No Industrial Revolution without fire.

The advances of science and technology are greatly dependent on the human ability and capacity to take fire and use it for human good. Anybody get here in a car today? An automobile? Nod your heads if you did, I'm guessing, I know there were some carriages. For those of us who came in cars, fire, and the controlled, harnessed fire made that possible.

I know that the Bible says, and I believe it, that Jesus walked on the water, but I have to tell you, I didn't walk across the Atlantic Ocean to get here! Controlled fire in that plane got me here! Fire makes it possible for us to text and Tweet and email and Instagram and Facebook and socially be dysfunctional with each other! Fire makes all of that possible! And de Chardin said fire was one of the greatest discoveries in all of human history.

And he then went on to say that if humanity ever harnesses the energy of fire again, if humanity ever captures the energy of love, it will be the second time in history that we have discovered fire.

Dr. King was right. We must discover love. The redemptive power of love. And when we do that, we will make of this old world a new world. My brother, my sister, God love you, God bless you. And may God hold us all, in those Almighty hands of love.



# The Messenger

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

## 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

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

## Parish Prayers for Joys and Concerns

### Pray for those in Special Need

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, 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, 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, Joanne Van Patton, Betty Bidinger, Bud Bidinger, Terry and her grandchildren, Karlene Gray, Helen Shupp, Sal Aversa, Margie Arches, Ann Masker, Marc Lilley, Thomas Caruso, John Davidson, Luiz Hernandez, and Marissa Rocco.

### 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 Truszkowski, 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

**Deadline for the August/September Messenger**  
**Monday, July 23, 2018**

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