

The Messenger

The Newsletter of Saint John the Evangelist Episcopal Church
1720 Old Black Horse Pike & Chews Landing Road
Chews Landing, NJ 08012-5218
Church Office (856) 227-1051
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The Realm (On Line Parish Directory): <https://onrealm.org>
Web Page: [HTTP://www.stjohns1789.org](http://www.stjohns1789.org)
Church E-mail: St.Johns1789@verizon.net
The Reverend Margaret Sterchi, Rector
Spring 2017

Reverend Margaret to Retire January 1, 2018

Reverend Margaret announced during the services the weekend of May 13 & 14 her intention to retire January 1, 2018. She sent the following to the parish.

On Monday, May 15th, I turned 66. Because of the way Social Security works with Spousal Survival benefits, I began collecting Social Security as of January. After much prayer and spiritual discernment with my Spiritual Director and after meeting with the Bishop and the diocesan financial officer, I came to the realization that it is time for me to retire as of January 1, 2018. I will miss all of you with all my heart and you will definitely be in my prayers. I have been working for 50 years now without a significant break and I am tired. There are things I want to do (such as quilting and volunteer work with an animal shelter) that has not happened because of the demands of being a full-time rector in a parish where I am the only full time employee. I love my job, but I miss my quilting! I will be with you for the next 7 plus months and during that time we will transition the administrative and some of the pastoral work that I do to either our very part time secretary or to a volunteer. We will have time in the next 7 months to both grieve our parting on December 31 as well as celebrate our ministry and life together. The diocese will be with you all every step of the way as you look towards your next priest. I believe that this step is an invitation from God for me to look at my ministry, both as an ordained priest and as a professed member of the Anamchara Fellowship, and see where I am to go from here. I also believe that this is an invitation from God to the Parish to look at your ministries and see what changes and new ministries you might begin with the encouragement of a new rector with new ideas and fresh energy.

I now want to remind you that this is not my parish. This is your parish. Most of you were here when I arrived and I hope all of you will be here when I make my good-byes and when your new priest arrives so that you may greet him or her with the same enthusiasm you greeted me on December 14, 2006. For a smooth transition, it is so important that we all continue to support this parish with our time, talent, and treasure. Without all three, there can be no smooth transition. But with all three you will be welcoming someone new in a fairly short timeframe. There is work to do for the next few months that will require funding. Please continue to keep your pledges up to date. If it is possible to increase your pledge, please consider doing so. It is more important now than ever before. God loves this church, as Lou DeCecco frequently tells us, and with the help and support of everyone we will continue to grow and thrive.

Blessings upon each, and every one of you.

Margaret

Gloucester Township Day

It is that time of year again! Summer must be upon us if it is time for Gloucester Township Day, the first Saturday of June each year. This year we will once again have a booth at the event, to be held on June 3rd from 9:00 am until 9:00 pm the Veteran's Memorial Park across from Shoprite and Dunkin Donuts on Chews Landing Road. We will give away bottles of ice-cold water as well as some trinkets for the kids and brochures about our church. We need your help! Please consider donating a case of water for us to give away. Just bring it to the Parish Hall by the end of May. Then come join us at the park for great conversation and fun people watching. Remember the fireworks will take place at the end of the day.

Pool Party!!!

Are you ready to party???? Save the date. On Saturday night July 15th, we will have our Second Annual Pool Party from 6:00 pm until 8:00 pm at the Gloucester Township Municipal Pool. Everyone is invited as the pool will be reserved for St. John's parishioners and our invited guests. There will be a \$5.00 charge to cover the cost of reserving the pool. Feel free to bring snacks to share. We are also looking to have another Dessert Challenge as well. We had a blast last year, so you won't want to miss this one! Watch the weekly bulletin and email blasts for further details. Let's get wet!!!

Parking Lot Repaved and Lined

The parking lot has been leveled, repaved and lined, complete with handicapped designation. This is a result of your contributions to the Capital Fund. We are looking at further major improvements. Thank you for your generosity in giving to our Capital Fund.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

May 29 Memorial Day Service, Veterans Park	11:00 am
June 3 Gloucester Township Day, Veterans Park	10:00 am to 9:00 pm
June 4 Last Day for Sunday School & Choir until September	
June 11 "Just Pay it Paward", Chews Veterinary fundraiser	
June 13 Vestry	7:00 pm
July 11 Vestry	7:00 pm
July 15 Pool Party, Gloucester Township Pool	6:00 pm to 8:00 pm
July 23 St. Paul's Feeding Ministry	4:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Remember to mark your calendars



From the Rector's Desk

Dear Ones,

Retirement. What does that word mean to you? If you are already retired, what is your life like? If you are near retirement, what do you hope your life will be like? If retirement is still years away, what do you dream about regarding retirement? Or do you even 'want' to retire?

I have always maintained that retirement should be thought of as retirement 'to' something, not retirement 'from' something. My Spiritual Director has worded it even better recently. Retirement is an invitation from God to new and exciting realities. As I enter into my last 7 months before retirement as a parish priest, I spend time during the week in quiet sitting before God, listening for and to God's invitation to me. There was a time when I thought retirement simply meant I would not have to get up and go to work. I would be in perpetual vacation mode. I now look at retirement differently, which is why I am getting very excited about what my life will look like. I know I will miss the work and ministry and 'people' of St. John's and there will be tears. But I also know that God is simply inviting me into a new chapter of my life.

As long as I have my eyesight and use of my hands I hope I can continue the joy of quilting, adding to my skill, and trying new patterns and color mixtures. My yard was a blank canvass when I moved in, and whereas I have done some work on the front yard, the back yard remains basically grass with a tree and a couple of shrubs. I look forward to slowly landscaping the yard. My time in the Anamchara Fellowship is a joy and a lifelong commitment. God willing, I will be able to use my gifts even more over the next few years. Finally, there are so many organizations that are always in need of hands on volunteers. Animals strike a chord, of course, but I trust God to lead me to the right place to exercise my ministry. Those are just a few of my thoughts and dreams.

When I leave St. John's after the final service, it will be time for 'all' of 'you' to begin articulating your dreams and hopes for the parish. God is inviting 'you' to explore new ministries and see what might be the right fit. Where do you want to make a difference in the community? How do you want to expend your energy? Who might you partner with to do more effective ministry? Why will it become even more important for you to continue to give of your treasure and what ideas might you have to increase the income for St. John's? All these are questions to begin thinking about and praying about. Talk with your fellow parishioners and come up with ideas for ways to work and ways to play. Just as I am doing the hard work of discerning what comes next for me, everyone at St. John's can begin discerning what are the next steps for the parish. There is no rush. We still have 7 months together. God is issuing the invitation. Are we ready to accept?

Reverent Margaret Kentigern + AF



Bible, Books & Coffee Club

7:00 pm, Panera Bread, Voorhees

The BBC meets every month at Panera's in Voorhees (across from Target on White Horse Road), USUALLY on the third or fourth Thursday of the month. It is a wonderful place to meet, get something to drink and/or something to eat, and talk about many things, including the book we are reading. Even if you have not read the book, it is still fun to come to talk because we seldom have a night in which we don't go down a few rabbit trails! So, join us!

The Warden Speaks

by Pat Bosch

Gloucester Township Day is Saturday, June 3, 2017 from 9:00am to 9:00pm @ Veterans Park. I put up a sign-up sheet in the parish hall for 1 hour intervals. Also, we will need water for the day. It can be brought to church on Sunday's and I can pick it up there. Everyone is welcome to sit for an hour with me to talk about St John's to those that stop at our booth.

Stewardship Corner

by Linda Ambler — Stewardship Committee

Alleluia! The Lord is Risen! While we are still in the midst of celebrating Easter, I'd like to thank the Altar Servers, Acolytes, Choir, Altar Guild, Readers and Ushers and all who contributed to making our Easter Services beautiful and meaningful. Thank you to Rev. Margaret who delivered the Easter Story to us all through Lent and Holy Week. We appreciate your hard work.

Summer is approaching quickly with Sunday school coming to a close and the choir taking a short sabbatical. I know you will be busy with sports and travel, but please try to attend services whenever you can through the summer months. Dan will continue as our organist through the summer so that we can all join in song to worship the Lord.

I'm also making an important plea that you please continue making your contributions over the summer. While we may be enjoying vacations in the coming months, the bills still need to be paid to keep our Church doors open. You can mail your contributions in or arrange for your bank to make direct deposits.

I have one last thought in regard to Estate Planning. When you are drawing up your will, please consider bequeathing a gift to St. John's.

More on Stewardship

from the Rector

Have you a will: Have you included the church in your will? The 'Book of Common Prayer' directs the Rector to Remind parishioners that having a will is important, and if they are able, to leave bequests for religious and charitable uses (BCP p. 445). We are fortunate that parishioners in the past have generously included our parish in their estate planning (most recently Nancy Hawkins and Gwen Welker). I encourage everyone to consider this. St. John's is on the beneficiaries of my life insurance policy.



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



CHOIR NOTES FROM OUR MUSIC DIRECTOR

1st St. John's Summer Song Fest!

Have you ever watched American Idol or the Voice and wondered how those people sing so well? Have you ever felt nervous opening your mouth in front of others? Have you ever wondered what vocal part you sing, but were afraid to ask? Do you belt out tunes in the shower or in the car? Do you like silly group activities and good food? If so, then mark your calendars for the first St. John's Song Fests! On Thursday, July 13th and Sunday, August 20th at 7:30 pm we'll be joined a local vocal expert and stage personality who will lead participants in fun group activities that will be sure to have everyone singing loudly and proudly. Stay tuned for details in the weekly bulletins!

Best,

Dan Nelson



The Choir presents the offertory anthem the first Sunday after Easter.
(photo courtesy Bob Goodman)

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 Sunday School Choir singing during the 'Flowering of the Cross' on the Sunday after Easter.
(photo courtesy Bob Goodman)

Choir & Sunday School Break for Summer

June 4th will be the final day of Sunday School and Choir until September. Come and join us as we honor our hard-working St. John's Choir and Sunday School students.

OUTREACH & FELLOWSHIP

St. Paul's Feeding the Hungry Outreach

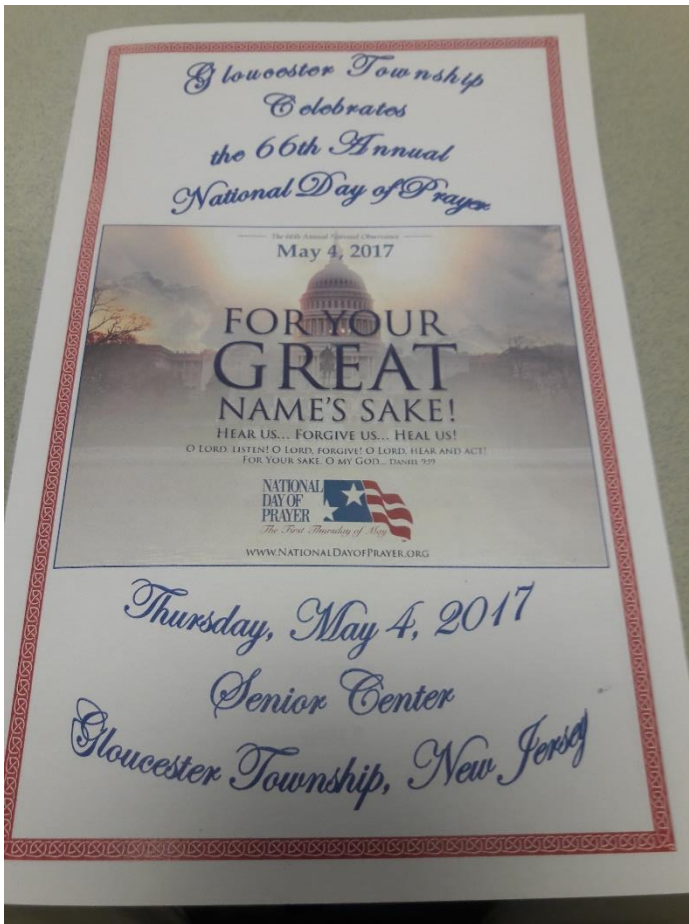
We join St. Andrews to help feed hungry men, women, and children at St. Paul's whenever there is a month in which there are five (5) Sundays, we take the fourth Sunday of that month. We will next participate in this wonderful outreach July 23rd. If you have any toiletries that you picked up and realize you really don't need them, the homeless are in desperate need of them. Bring them to the parish hall and we will see to it they get into the hands of folks who will really appreciate them. If you are sorting your winter/ spring wardrobe, we can also take warmer clothes in April. Please wait until that weekend to bring them to the parish hall. Also, please use kitchen size bags as the stairs leading up to the parish hall at St. Paul's is very steep!

SCUCS

One of our major outreach efforts is donation of food for SCUCS, an organization in Camden County that provides food for senior citizens in the county. With the current economy, there are many seniors who go hungry every day. We provide reusable grocery bags with suggested items attached to the handle. Pick one up, purchase whatever items you choose, and return the bag the following week. Joyce Root will make sure the food gets to the proper location. They always send us a thank you and are most appreciative of our help. No matter the weather, our older folks all need to eat, so consider helping with this wonderful outreach opportunity.

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

National Day of Prayer



Breakfast and Prayer



Reverend Margaret offering prayer. (photo courtesy Bob Goodman)



Greetings to the group from Mayor Mayer. (photo from GT time line)

National Day of Prayer

The National Day of Prayer happens on the first Thursday of May, a day of observance when people turn to God in prayer and meditation. On May 4th, Mayor David Mayer and Council There sponsored a breakfast at the Gloucester Township Senior Center with Michael O'Neil of One Love South Jersey as the Keynote Speaker. Mayor Mayer addressed the attendees and Reverend Margaret along with various members of the local clergy participated each presenting a prayer.



Michael O'Neill of One Love South Jersey was the Keynote speaker. (photo from GT time line)



Enjoying breakfast! (photo from GT time line)



Attendees in prayer. (photo from GT time line)



Another Successful Season

June 5th is the last meeting for the 2016-2017 ECW year. The ladies want to thank everyone for your support this past successful year. They were able to donate \$7,000.00 to the parish in thanksgiving.



ECW held their Annual Basket Auction on April 4th. (photo courtesy Bob Goodman)



Ann Waller manning the raffle table. (photo courtesy Bob Goodman)



Socializing prior to the auction. (photo courtesy Bob Goodman)



Anticipation! (photo courtesy Bob Goodman)



Discussing strategy pre-auction! (photo courtesy Bob Goodman)

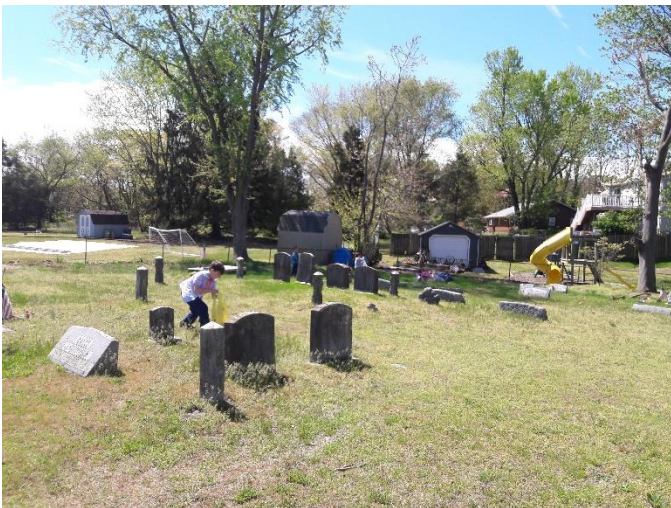


Where to place our tickets??? (photo courtesy Bob Goodman)

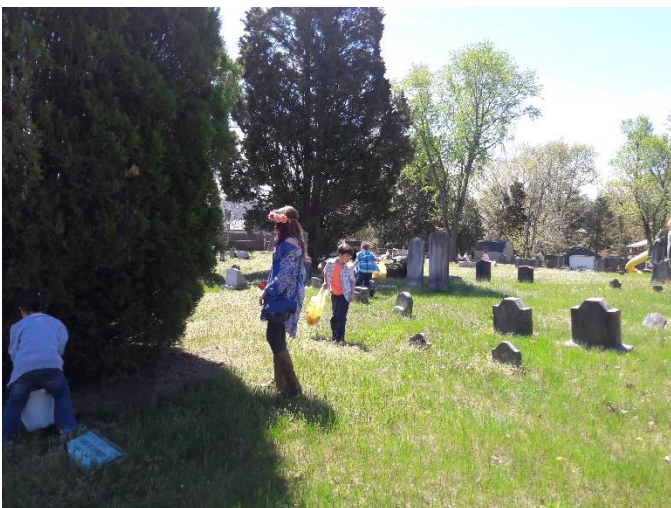
Spotlight on our Youth:



The search is on. Annual Easter Egg Hunt in the churchyard. (photo courtesy Bob Goodman)



I found one!!! (photo courtesy Bob Goodman)



Wow, eggs galore! (photo courtesy Bob Goodman)

Please contact the parish office with any changes in address, phone number, or e-mail address.

From the Diocese of New Jersey



You Have a Partner in Ecuador

Think of how spiritually and culturally enriching it could be for your parish to have a companion parish in Ecuador. Several churches in this fascinating South American country have expressed interest in forming an ongoing relationship with a parish in the Diocese of New Jersey to share ideas, prayers, visits, holiday greetings and just get acquainted. Such a relationship could be a highly rewarding experience for your parish's youth program and for your overall congregation.



The Companion Diocese Committee would like to introduce you to your potential partner in Ecuador this summer.

For more information contact the Rev. Mark Van Sant (732-222-4563) or Paul Murphy (609-799-5252).

Stewardship Workshops

Diocese of New Jersey

Saturday, June 17th...9:30 AM—3:00 PM

Registration \$10—Pay at the Door...Coffee @ 9 AM

Three Locations

**Saint Mark's, Plainfield,
St. Bartholomew's, Cherry Hill
St. Mark's and All Saints, Galloway**

Critical Discussions

- **Diocesan Background & History**
- **Transformational Stewardship**
- **New Consecration Sunday**
- **TENS for 2017**
- **Electronic and Generational Giving**

Please Register the Following Folks for _____

Name _____ Church _____ Location _____

Name _____ Church _____

Name _____ Church _____

Send form to: Fr. Don Muller, St. Peter's, 1 Hartford Rd. Medford 08053-2447,
or scan and email to office@stpetersmedford.org

The Flowering of the Cross

(photos courtesy Bob Goodman)



Parish Prayers for Joys and Concerns

Pray for those in Special Need

John Worsham, Eric Quintavalle, Abby Collins, Matthew Sterling, Bill Cox, 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, Barney Snyder, Jean Perkins, Robert Brancati, Ann Roney, Harry Smith, Maria Velez, Jared Callen, Hadley Benfield, Phyllis Mancuso, William Mayer, Sr., Joseph Mancuso, Nicole Youngs, Kym Lundy McCalla, Nancy Klobnak, Lori Onorato, the Haughton Family, Ann Waller, Andrew Hermann, Gemma Hermann, Finn Hermann, Ralph Brancati, Joseph Reily, Joe Waller, Judy Gore, Lee Jones, Nick Giambri, Dot Lutz, Brad Siracuse, Lisa Green, Atwood Shupp, James Wagner, Lane John Tillman, John Ervin, Frances Ash, Ken Timms, and Michael Bieg.

Pray for our Shut-In and Home-Bound

Kay Taylor, Betty Knipe, Anna Scalise, and Barbara Houghton.

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.

Parting Shots



National Day of Prayer participants.

(photo from GT files)



Gloucester Townships finest participating in the National Day of Prayer.
(photo from GT files)



No this is not bingo!

(photo from GT files)

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 Summer Messenger
Sunday, July 23, 2017

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

The Messenger

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STAFF

Rector

The Reverend Margaret Sterchi

Organist & Music Director

Dan Nelson

Parish Secretary

Shirley Mullen

Sexton

Mike Millisky

Senior Warden

Michael Lutz

Junior Warden

Pat Bosch

Treasurer

Peggy Cardone/Lou DeCecco

Vestry

Joe Baylouny

Mary Wonderlin

Linda Amber

Todd Wonderlin

Lou DeCecco

Phyllis Sowers

Steve DeBaun

Shelby Myers

Barry McManaman

Tom O'Keefe

Tom Gratton

Dori Milliski

Delegates to Convention

Bob Goodman

Judy McGrath

Tom O'Keefe

Delegates to Convocation

Bob Goodman

Pat Bosch

Jason Komanchek

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

Rev. Margaret



