

# The Messenger

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

Church Office (856) 227-1051  
Web Page: [HTTP://www.stjohns1789.org](http://www.stjohns1789.org)  
Church E-mail: [St.Johns1789@verizon.net](mailto:St.Johns1789@verizon.net)  
The Reverend Margaret Sterchi, Rector

**Volume MMXVI— Issue II**

**Easter 2016 Issue**

**'He is Risen, He is Risen'  
'The Lord is Risen Indeed'**



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

## Annual Flowering of Cross

The annual flowering of the cross will take place during the April 3 10:00 a.m. service. Flowers will be provided, but we suggest that if there are any flowers in your garden to snip a few for your family to use in the flowering of the cross. We then process the cross at the end of the service to the front porch where it will sit and remind those passing by that Christ is Risen.

## Annual Basket Auction April 12

The annual ECW Basket Auction will be held Tuesday, April 12, 2016. Only 100 tickets are sold for this sell-out event. The doors open at 6:00 pm and the auction kicks off at 7:00 pm. Please consider donating either a filled basket or individual items to be put into the baskets. Large baskets are needed! If you need a smaller basket for your donation, they may be picked up in the Parish Hall. 100 baskets are need for a successful auction.

## The Bishop is coming! The Bishop is coming!

Hear ye, Hear ye! The Bishop is coming April 10 for the 10:00 a.m. service. The Rt. Rev. William H. (Chip) Stokes, XII Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey will be preaching and celebrating as well as confirming those who have been attending the classes. This year we have four adults and seven youth. Come and support your brothers and sisters in Christ. A festive reception will follow the service.

## Annual Easter Egg Hunt

The annual Easter Egg Hunt will take place on April 3 immediately following the 10:00 a.m. service. All children are invited to come for the hunt. Sunday School will be in session so we will wait until all the little ones have come across to the churchyard before we begin. The plastic eggs will be empty. Following the hunt the children bring the eggs to the Parish Hall where they are exchanged for candy and treats. Friends are invited to join the children.

## National Day of Prayer

May 5 is the National Day of Prayer. Once again the Gloucester Township is hosting a breakfast at the Gloucester Township Hall from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.. There is no cost to attend but tickets are required. Reverend Margaret will have tickets in early April. Let her know if you would like to attend. Last year we had a great time and great food. Join us this year.

## HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES

Palm Sunday (March 20):	10:00 a.m. Service meet in Parish Hall for the Palm procession.
Maundy Thursday (Mar 24):	Service 7:30 p.m. <b>The Watch</b> follows in the chapel
Good Friday (March 25):	Stations of the Cross 12 Noon Service 7:30 p.m.
The Great Vigil (March 26):	Service at 8:00 p.m. <i>(No 5:00 p.m. service this day)</i>
Easter Day (March 27):	Services 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.
Sunday after Easter (Apr 3):	10:00 a.m. Flowering of the Cross Service followed by the Annual Children's 'Easter Egg' hunt in the Churchyard

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

### STAFF

#### Rector

The Reverend Margaret Sterchi  
**Organist & Music Director**

#### Parish Secretary

Shirley Mullen

#### Sexton

Mike Millisky

#### Senior Warden

Matt Torpey

#### Junior Warden

Michael Lutz

#### Treasurer

Kelly Baylouny

#### Vestry

Jason Komancheck

Michael Millisky

Linda Amber

Lou DeCecco

Pat Bosch

Joe Baylouny

Mary Wonderlin

Todd Wonderlin

Phyllis Sowers

Steve DeBaun

Shelby Myers

Donna DeCicco

#### Delegates to Convention

Bob Goodman

Judy Vaughan-Sterling

Jude DeBaun

#### Delegates to Convocation

Barry McManaman

Pat Bosch

Jason Komancheck

#### Altar Guild/Flowers/Memorials

Phyllis Sowers

#### Church School

Mary Wonderlin

#### Churchyard

Ernie Jones

#### ECW

Bernie Brown

#### Editor

Bob Goodman

#### Ushers

Shirley Mullen

#### Acolytes/Readers/Servers Scheduling

Rev. Margaret

#### Webmaster

Carolyn Bausinger

# April 9, 2016



## IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

March 24:	Maundy Thursday – Service of Foot Washing, Eucharist & Stripping of the Altar	7:30 pm
	The Watch	9:00 pm thru March 25 7:00 pm
March 25:	Good Friday	
	Stations of the Cross	12:00 noon
	Veneration of the Cross and Reserve Sacrament	7:30 pm
March 26:	The Great Vigil of Easter Liturgy	8:00 pm
March 27:	Easter Sunday – Services	8:00 am & 10:00 am
April 3:	Flowering of the cross	10:00 am
	Easter Egg Hunt	11:30 am
April 4:	ECW	10:00 am
April 5:	Evening ECW	7:00 pm
April 9:	Spring Work Day	8:00 am until 12:00 noon
April 10:	Bishop's Visitation – Confirmation	10:00 am
April 12:	Annual ECW Basket Auction	6:00 pm
April 17:	Vestry Retreat	1:00 pm until 4:00 pm
April 21:	BBC, Panera Bread, Voorhees	7:00 pm
April 26:	Vestry Meeting	7:00 pm
May 1:	Holy Communion Service	10:00 am
May 2:	ECW	10:00 am
May 3:	Evening ECW	7:00 pm
May 5:	National Day of Prayer Service (GT Senior Center)	7:00 am
May 17:	ECW Picnic – Redbank	12:00 noon
May 19:	BBC Panera Bread, Voorhees	7:00 pm
May 22:	Convocation Meeting	3:00 pm
	Feeding at St. Paul's	6:00 pm
May 24:	Vestry Meeting	7:00 pm
June 4:	Gloucester Township Day	10:00 am to 9:00 pm
June 5:	Last Day of "Sunday School" & Choir	

Remember to mark your calendars

## 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



From the Rector's Desk

Dear ones,

Well THAT went fast. It seems like yesterday that I was sitting at my desk and pondering Lent. I commented that it would go fast, and it sure did! In part I believe it feels so fast because Easter is so early! It is only Mid-March and we are starting Holy Week in 2 days. And yet, because of the very strange winter, I also look out and see my hyacinth blooming, daffodils waving in the breeze, and my neighbor's magnolia in full bloom. It may be St. Patrick's Day but it sure feels like a month later. Then again, we have snow predicted for Palm Sunday. There will be some very unhappy plants (as well as people) if the prediction holds true.

Easter is by far my favorite Holy Day of the year. I love the Triduum, those three most Holy Days of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Great Vigil of Easter. I love the story. I love the way the three days TELL the story in a way that we get to live it. We "Re-Member" the story. We bring the story from the past into the now so we can live it out. We know the story. We can probably do a respectable job of telling the story to a non-Christian. But at this time of year we have the awesome privilege of actually entering into the story; hearing the voices as they shout out hatred or cry out in grief and the bells as they ring in the Good News that Christ is alive; smelling the scent of dust in the dry air as well as the scent of fear and sweat and pain; of seeing our Lord kneel at the feet of the disciples to wash their feet in service to them or watching the cross as it moves down the aisle or observing the flint strike a spark that lights the new fire. All this is packed into a mere three days.

I love the parts of the service that become quiet so that we can ponder these events and take them into our hearts. This is the time we get the chance to pray and meditate on all that has, is, and will happen and what it means to each one of us, not only as individuals but also as a church community. How can we not come away from this moment filled with the Holy Spirit and knowing that we are loved more than we can ever know or be able to express. This is the love of which the mystics in the church speak, although they can only tell of their experience in metaphors, as we have no words to fully express this Love that is indeed God. I know other faith traditions speak of God's Love. I'm just not sure they have the opportunity of experiencing this Love the way Christians do when we gaze upon the cross and enter into the drama of Holy Week.

My prayer for each of you is that as you enter into this Holy Week and then begin the Great 50 Days of Easter, you will know more fully just how much you are Loved by our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. And when you realize this and find yourself free to love in return, may you go out into the world and LOVE, just as you are LOVED. THAT is the new Mandate from Jesus. 'Happy Easter' The Lord is Risen INDEED!

*Reverent Margaret Kentigern+, AF*

## HOLY WEEK EVENTS

Holy week is the most important week of the Christian Year. We gather several evenings to "tell our story". Each service is special and very different from any other service of the year.

On March 24 we will gather at 7:30 p.m. for the Maundy Thursday Liturgy. At this service we commemorate and re-member the Last Supper, when Jesus gathered with his disciples for the last time. This is when he instituted the Eucharist. He also gave the new Maundatum and washed the disciple's feet. During this service the rector will wash the feet of any who choose to come forward. Everyone is invited. At the end of the service we process the reserve sacrament to the chapel of repose in the parish hall and strip the altar as we enter into Good Friday. The Watch begins at this time and continues until the Good Friday Liturgy.

On March 25 we will gather at 7:30 p.m. for the Good Friday Liturgy. We will hear once again the Passion according to St. John and a large cross will be brought forward for people to venerate. All are invited to come forward and honor the cross in whatever way is comfortable for you. Some will kiss the foot of the cross. Some will kneel at the foot of the cross. Some will reach out and touch the cross. Some will simply bow to the cross. You are invited to do what works for you. We then bring the reserve sacrament back into the church and distribute it. Anyone can remain in the church for prayer, but all are asked to remain in silence until you get into your car.

On March 26 we will gather in the dark church at 8:00 p.m. for The Great Vigil. This is the primary Easter Service. We sit in candlelight and hear the lessons that tell us who we are and WHOSE we are. We renew our Baptismal Covenant. And finally we proclaim that Christ is Risen, turn on all the lights and light the altar candles as the rector flings Holy Water on everyone, and we begin the first Easter Eucharist of the year. The service is long so wear comfortable clothing. Young children may fall asleep. That is fine, the pews have a cushion. Some may choose to step outside for some air. That is also fine. We will still be hearing the lessons when you return. Come. See what all the fuss is about. Your experience of Easter may be changed forever.

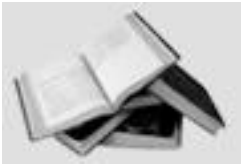
### New Officers Elected at Annual Meeting

Parishioner's elected new officers on February 2, 2016 during the annual meeting. Matt Torpey moved up to replace Craig Keisling as the Senior/Rector's Warden and Michael Lutz was elected as the Junior/People's warden. Elected to full 3 year terms to the vestry were Phyllis Sowers, Steve DeBaun, Shelby Myers, and Donna DeCicco, while Todd Wonderlin was voted to fill an unexpired 2 year term. Also chosen were Delegates to Convention Bob Goodman, Judy Vahghan-Sterling, and Jude DeBaun as well as Delegates to Convocation Barry McManaman, Pat Bosch, & Jason Komancheck.

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

## The Watch

The Watch will take place from 9:00 p.m. March 24 until 7:00 p.m. March 25. A sign-up sheet has been posted. Christ asks us to watch just one hour with him. You are invited to be a part of that watch. It is preferable that at least two watchers are on duty during the wee hours of the night and morning (11:00 p.m. until 5:00 a.m.), so please try to buddy up during this time. Coffee will be available in the kitchen. Feel free to make a fresh pot if you desire. The watch takes place in the chapel of the parish hall (downstairs next to the office). Please observe silence as best as possible if you are in the building. If you are watching, dress comfortably and bring any material you may wish to read or pray over during your time. More than two watchers are allowed, and if you do not sign up and wish decide to drop in for a time, that is fine as well. I encourage the parish to make sure that there are enough watchers so that Christ is never alone during those hours. When signing up for your shift, be sure to note whether you are signing up for an a.m. or a p.m. shift.



### **Books, Bible, and Coffee Next BBC Book Club, April 21 & May 19, 7:00 pm 'Panera Bread', Voorhees, NJ**

The BBC meets every month at Panera's in Voorhees (across from Target on White Horse Road), usually on the third 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! April 21 will be our next gathering. We are reading "The Jesus Prayer" by Frederica Mathewes-Green.

## **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.

### **Deadline for the Summer Messenger Sunday, May 15, 2016**

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

## Help Our Counters!

Those who count our donations and those who record them in the computer are volunteers from among the vestry and congregation. They spend time every week in making sure our deposit and the recording of donations is accurate. There are ways YOU can make their job easier and faster that will mean very little extra time for you. It may mean the counters will be able to come up and enjoy a bit of coffee hour however.

1. When preparing your envelope, please make sure you PRINT information neatly and completely. Indicate what account you want your donation to go for. If you indicate other, please specify. Otherwise it will go into the general fund. Under your amount, please indicate if it is cash or check and put the check number down as well. If you don't do this, the counter has to, which takes time when you are dealing with over 40 envelopes.
2. Remember that Operating Fund and Capital Fund are TWO different accounts. We cannot tear your check in half, so PLEASE put in two separate checks, one for each account. Please put the check numbers on the envelope under the proper fund.
3. Flower and Oil money go into the Operating Fund. They are NOT memorial account donations. If you are making a donation in memory of someone who has died, please use a separate check. Shirley Mullen and Rev. Margaret handle this. Rev. Margaret will send you a letter acknowledging your donation for tax purposes. It does not get put into the computer.
4. If you miss a week or more you can use one envelope to "catch up". Enclosing multiple envelopes is not helpful. The donation is recorded on the date it is received, not the date on the envelope. It is fine to write one check for the entire amount for the same reason.
5. Unless you are enclosing coins or mailing in your envelope, it is not necessary to seal the envelope. The counters just have to "unseal" the envelope, which takes more time. If you are compelled to seal it, please do so lightly!
6. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mary Wonderlin, Chris Goodman, Sarah Carter, or Craig Keisling.

If you are willing to be included as one of our counters, please contact Mary Wonderlin. We can always use another counter or two.

## **Coffee Hour**

Coffee Hour Hosts are needed for the fall and winter. A sign-up sheet is posted in the Parish Hall. Coffee Hour is the perfect venue welcoming our visitors and newcomers as well as getting to know each other better. Coffee Hour follows the late service and it is an important opportunity to meet and greet people. Keep this a success and join us for some refreshments and good fellowship. Also please consider finding a buddy and hosting a Coffee Hour. A signup sheet is posted in the Parish Hall.



## Highlights from Diocesan Convention 2016

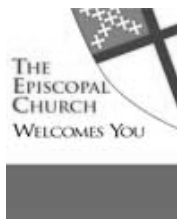
- Inspiration, worship and Presiding Bishop Michael Curry's preaching at the Convention Eucharist.
- Learning how the way of St. Paul is being lived throughout the diocese.
- The Young Adults of the Diocese presentation "Know Your Story" Jenga: an opportunity for all of us to playfully engage in a series of questions about our relationships with God and scripture via the popular game of balancing wooden blocks.
- Workshops on a diverse set of topics on Saturday morning, on storytelling, Hispanic/Latino engagement, new perspectives on stewardship and fundraising, and our relationship with the environment.
- Exploring the streets of Camden and learning of the great work being done there by Episcopal churches and partners with the Presiding Bishop.
- The Bishop's Cross awarded to Canon Chuck Perfater for dedicating his life and work to the diocese.
- Our Year-in-Review reflection on the humbling and fantastic moments throughout the diocese over the last 12 months.
- The new multi-year initiative, Know Your Story, Live It Boldly, in which we'll rededicate our connections to scripture in order to more wholly proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom in our communities.



## Camden pilgrimage featured in the New York Times!

New York Times photographer Mark Makela accompanied Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, members of his staff, Bishop Stokes and other members of the diocese and media on a tour of Camden, and the wonderful work being done by our parishes, Urban Promise and other organizations in Camden.

In the article "Episcopal Church's First Black Leader, a Gay Marriage Backer, Focuses on Race" images from St. Augustine's, Camden appear as well as images of our bishop and members of the diocese. The article explores the Presiding Bishop's history, experiences, and philosophy for his time as Presiding Bishop.



## Update on Bishop Council

Dear friends,

Thank you for all your prayers, love, and wonderful support of George and me during this time of surgery and recovery.

Initially, George came through the surgery very well. But he has had a bit of a rough time in recovery. A combination of anesthesia, the surgery itself, and other factors have clouded his thinking at times. But there are extended periods when he is his old self, and these seem to be increasing. It is all within what can be considered normal, as each patient's experience is different. So we have every reason to believe that he will recover fully. He entered rehab yesterday, and this should speed his recovery considerably. We do not know how long he will be there.

We will not begin to experience the benefits of the surgery for some months to come. There is an internal stimulator (like a pacemaker) which was implanted in his chest wall. It is designed to send electrical impulses by way of a thin internal wire up to tiny electrodes which were placed in the brain. It has not yet been activated and programmed. That will take place after Easter. The device is designed to stimulate dopamine production in the brain, which is currently deficient due to the Parkinson's. Right now the medications are doing that job, but the hope is that this will take the place of some or all of the medications.

Again, my thanks, and blessings to all,

Ruth Council

## Of Interest Locally Around the Diocese

### Faith Renewal

Faith Renewal: Strengthening Our Faith in a Changing World (an inspiring evening with Dr. Tony Campolo, prominent author, pastor & educator. St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, 1989 Rt. 70 East, Cherry Hill, NJ at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 21, 2016.

### Making Beautiful Music

St. Mary's, Haddon Heights has always been known as a center for excellent music and musical activities in south Jersey. Has been hosting a new concert series, "Sundays at Four," featuring St. Mary's choir, as well as local musicians and soloists. The current and upcoming offerings in this series includes:

- March 20, 2016 Passion Sunday Presentation of "The Seven Last Words: by Theodore Du Bois with St. Mary's choir under direction of Mr. William Fenimore.
- April 24, 2016 Concert by Children Song of South Jersey under the direction of Ms. Polly Murray.

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

*Spotlight on our Youth:*



(Holy Communion Class photo's courtesy of Don Martel)

**Our Holy Communion Class**

Thank You, Thank You St. John's Family! Your support this season has been phenomenal! Our Holy Communion Class witnessed the Baptism of Baby Ethan then they baptized their dolls and bears. While role playing Priest, Parents and Godparents they explored the importance of the promises that were made at their Baptism.

Your participation "MADE" their Community Day! From helping as sponsors and coloring their paper people to the Best St. John's Reel ever!

The class is now concentrating on Jesus, Prayer, Forgiveness and Holy Week.

Along with you, the class is anxiously awaiting our Bishop's visit and will demonstrate their Stewardship.

Please keep up your wonderful support. We cannot do this program without you!

*Kathy Martel*



## Annual Basket Auction

Tuesday, April 12<sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm



**Doors open 6:00 pm**

**Admission Tickets \$8.00**

(Includes 2 sheets of basket tickets & a bottle of water)

**Cupcakes will be served at half time**

**Hoagies & Soft Pretzels will also be available for purchase**

### ***Wawa Shorti Coupons***

Coupons for Wawa Shorti hoagies are available from Mary Wonderlin 783-6805. Coupons are \$3.50 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.

### **Parish Prayers for Joys and Concerns**

#### **Pray for those in Special Need**

Bp. George Cuncell, John Worsham, Eric Quintavalle, Joan Collins, Abby Colins, Matthew Sterling, Bill Cox, Bill Peters, Jimmy Yang, Edna Jowett, Joan Shupp, Paul Caruso Sr., Margie Schwartz, David Lester, Theresa DeCicco, Nancy Hosey, Denise Stricker, Jeff Boggess, Jenny Yocum, Mare Cahill, Cynthia & Julian Yeh, Linda Smith, Travis, John Kuchler, Vince Getsinger, Sean Santos, Steve Montgomery, Maria Grace, Anna Black, Barney Snyder, Jean Perkins, Edie Power, Rich Sambenedetto, Robert Brancati, Ann Roney, Harry Smith, Marlaina, Maria Velez, Katie Zalecki, Jared Callen, Kathy Marel, Hadley Benfield, Phyllis Mancuso, Joseph Mancuso, Bill Rigney, William Mayer, Sr., Nancy Hawkins, Betty Manzell.

#### **Pray for our Shut-In and Home-Bound**

Arline Potts, Kay Taylor, Betty Knipe, Dorothy Sabot, Anna Scalise, Karen Street, Gwen Welker, and Barbara Houghton.

#### **Pray for those serving or entering the military**

Samanth & Matthew Sanders, Adam Miller, Henry Yang, Michael Helfrich, Amanda Collazzo, Frank Vanore, Jr., Steven Barhmaier, Anthony Moss Michael Truszkowski, Abbey Wilkins, Janet Prince, Ken Sweeten, Andy Misinkavitch, Henry "Jake" Redding V, Nigel P. Shockley, Catherine Marie Wilson, and Mike Millisky.

Remember when searching on the internet or ordering on-line to go to **GOODSHOP.COM** when ordering and **GOODSEARCH.COM** when looking for a particular site. At the box where they ask who are you shopping for or who are you searching for just type in "St. John's Chews Landing" and hit the verify button. Our official name will come up. Then continue using the site and any purchases you make using the link to the many shopping sites will give us a percentage of your purchase at no cost to you. Every time you search for something we will get a penny. That may not seem like much, but it adds up. If everyone in the parish would use these sites and share them with their friends and family just imagine how much we could make...at no cost to anyone! If you are not sure how to use these sites please call Reverend Margaret. She will be delighted to walk you through the process. Like the gift cards, this is **FREE MONEY**, so please invite your friends and family wherever they may be to take advantage of this.

### **The Realm**

The Realm is the method we record and keep track of our membership. It is an online service that allows us, and you, to make sure we have the latest information on all of our members. By signing onto The Realm you can verify your information, add information, check your donations that have been recorded to date, and even find other members (although you will not have access to their financial information). We are hoping we can even print out a current directory, once we know we have everyone's correct information. You are encouraged to go to The Realm and make sure we have correct information for you. Signing into The Realm is easy, go to: <https://onrealm.org/TheChurchStJohn/Signin> Once you sign in you can access your information. If you have any questions please contact Lee Jones at [h20doc1@comcast.net](mailto:h20doc1@comcast.net). If you see information that is in error and cannot figure out how to fix it, just send an email to Lee or Rev. Margaret and they can take care of it. The more of us willing to check this out, the better our information will be. And you can find anyone in the parish you need to contact by this means. Check it out!

### **Noisy Sunday**

We continue to collect donations on Noisy Sunday. Sometimes we either forget to pass the can or it is not an opportune time for the collection. But by and large at the last weekend of the month we collect funds for the South Jersey Food Bank and Almost Home Animal Shelter.

### **St. Paul's Feeding Ministry**

Please keep in mind our outreach ministry to feed the hungry. Our next opportunity to participate at St. Pauls in Camden will be Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>.