

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

Volume MMXV— Issue IV

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

Fall 2015 Issue



New comfort for the choir (will they stay awake for the sermon)?

Fall Season Begins with Annual Picnic

The tradition continues as we begin our Fall season with the annual Vestry Picnic on Sunday, September 13th following the 10:00 a.m. service. This is the day the choir is back in session as well as the start date of Sunday School. The vestry will provide the burgers, the dogs, the rolls, and the basic condiments. We are asking parishioners to bring salads, chips, desserts, as well as soft drinks. (Please note we have plenty of water). Everyone is invited; no matter what service you normally attend. We will have plenty of fun activities for all ages so mark your calendar, dress comfortably, and come have a great picnic. Invite your friends and neighbors and let them find out what a gem your church is.



**Saturday
September
12th, 2015**



Annual Blessing of the Animals

On Sunday, October 4th the annual blessing of the animals to commemorate St. Francis of Assisi, will take place at 3:00 p.m. on the Parish Hall lower parking lot. This year it actually falls on the Feast Day of St. Francis! All animals are invited and welcome, along with their owners. Please have your pet suitably restrained. We don't want any unexpected disagreements or snacking to occur. Even if you do not have an animal to be blessed you are more than welcome to come join in the fun. It is such a delight to see all the different pets that we love and care for. As has become the custom, we will also pray for those pets we have loved but see no longer. So come join us!

Books, Bible, and Coffee

The BBC meets the third Thursday of every month at Panera Bread, 1200 White Horse Rd, Voorhees, NJ 08043 (across from Target). 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 September 17th. Our current reading is "Searching for Sunday", by Rachel Evans. Do you have a suggestion for the next good read, either fiction or non-fiction?

Vestry meetings are held the 4th Tuesday every month in the Parish Hall 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

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Web Page: [HTTP://www.stjohns1789.org](http://www.stjohns1789.org)

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

STAFF

Rector

The Reverend Margaret Sterchi

Organist & Music Director

Patricia Fronczek

Parish Secretary

Shirley Mullen

Sexton

Mike Millisky

Senior Warden

Craig Keisling

Junior Warden

Matt Torpey

Treasurer

Lisa Schwinge

Vestry

Louis Gross

Diane Chando

Nancy Hawkins

Steve DeBaun

Jason Komancheck

Michael Millisky

Linda Amber

Lou DeCecco

Pat Bosch

Michael Lutz

Joe Baylouny

Mary Wonderlin

Delegates to Convention

Jason Komancheck

David Amber

Linda Amber

Delegates to Convocation

Nancy Hawkins

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

GoodSearch

You Search or Shop...
We Give!

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

Deadline for the October/November Messenger Sunday, September 17, 2015

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

Weekly Schedule

Saturdays

5:00 p.m. Rite II Eucharist with Sermon

Sundays

7:45 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

Summer is winding down. Not only are there ads for Back to School, but also I saw Christmas Paper at BJ's yesterday. No, it was not available to buy, but it was up on a high shelf waiting to be put in stock. Sigh. It seems our merchants start the Christmas madness earlier and earlier every year. Heavens, it is still up in the 90's out there!

This is always a reminder to me that time marches on. Last year I was eager to get moved into my new house. Actually I was eager for it to be completed! And now I am living in the house and adjusting to the new reality called commuting. Most everything is in place in the house, although there are a few things that need to be done. There is no rush. I am beginning to get a handle on how this is going to work. It was most confusing with the broken leg and resulting surgery. Now I am figuring it out.

The Rectory is still pretty much a mess, although with the August "slump" I anticipate time to get in there and get it done. Mostly I want to do this because I think we can really use the Rectory in new and fun ways. There will be a room available for me with a bed in case I need to stay the night due to either bad weather or a very late night/early morning meeting. The living room will have couches that I no longer want for just sitting and being, along with a small TV where movies or other programs can be watched. This will provide a quiet space for parishioners to join me in times of quiet reflection, education, or crafting and coloring. The kitchen will be available for us to enjoy snacks or even a meal.

As for the dogs, and me, we will continue to travel between home and the parish. Many clergy do this, often with greater distance and time involved. We have two places that are comfortable and feel homey. Even with late meetings, I am usually home and in bed no later than 11, often earlier. The parish does not pay for my mileage between the house and the church, which is on me. I am even finding it

possible to remain focused on my "administrative day", usually Monday, in my home office. And the other joy is I usually find another day in the week to actually get in more reading and studying and being with God.

My time in Habit is also becoming much more natural. There are times I forget I have it on and am startled when I am addressed as "Sister". It feels very natural to me; that this is what I am supposed to be wearing. Because of objections from folks in the parish I do not wear the veil when at the altar. I will also not wear the Habit when officiating at a wedding or funeral where I am not wearing the chasuble. Those are events where my being in Habit will be a distraction from where the attention needs to be focused. Otherwise when doing ministry I will continue to wear my Habit with joy and awe that God has called me in this new direction.

As I reflect on this move and the new reality in my world of being a Sister I am amazed at how God certainly works in mysterious ways. I also realize how important it is to both pray about new opportunities AND be ready to say YES. Sometimes it really is of God. Life becomes a bit more complicated, but once it is worked out through listening for the Holy Spirit life becomes just that more awesome! God is good, ALL THE TIME!

Reverent Margaret +

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.

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

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 the Capital Fund are two (2) 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, Craig Keisling, or Sarah Carter.

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

Sabbatical

Often times people wonder who needs a Sabbatical anyway. The truth is that in our current world of the work-place probably everyone needs a Sabbatical. There are even some companies today that include Sabbatical time as a part of the benefits for employees. We are not talking about vacation, which is a different time off work. Sabbatical is a time in which you stop all the busy work and just BE. Yes, it can take place at the shore or your mountain retreat house, but the focus is not on DOING but on BEING. So the idea is to pack up some books and writing material, maybe information on a new skill (ever wanted to learn to knit, or play the violin?) and then go, leave the world behind, and "Be with God."

This is not the Academic Sabbatical in which research, study, and some sort of publication is expected. This is the time in which one is only expected to return refreshed and energized with new ideas and new desires for "the next thing". Clergy are often burned out and leave ministry prematurely. The Sabbatical is an opportunity to stop and remember why one got into this ministry in the first place, so that the same flush of joy and excitement that took place at ordination can return and be shared with the parish. I will be retiring before this will be a reality for me (but not for a few years), but when you call your next Rector, remember how important this time away is for both the clergy *and* the parish.

Wawa Shorti Coupons

Coupons for Wawa Shorti hoagies are available from Mary Wonderlin 783-6805 and Shirley Mullen 227-1051. 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.

What exactly is Stewardship? Why should I give to the church?

Once again it is that time of year when we look at our faith, our community, and our parish and determine how we can be good stewards of our time, talent, and treasure. Stewardship covers all of these. It is more than just writing a check, sticking it in an envelope, and then either mailing it in or dropping it into the collection plate. That certainly is a part of our stewardship, but we also have to ask why and how much and what else there is to it.

As we grow to understand how God provides all that we have and all that we are, we also grow to understand how we are called to give back to God in gratitude. Sometimes that entails taking time out of our day to work on financial needs; sometimes we spend part of our weekend cleaning the church, working in the gardens, or preparing and setting up for the worship services; sometimes we stop what we are doing and offer up prayers for our loved ones and the loved ones of the parish family; and sometimes we sit and knit or crochet so a child or senior citizen, or sea farer will have something warm in the cold winter months. There are so many other ways in which members of the parish give of their time and talent. That would fill a newsletter in itself.

A bit more difficult is to talk about how and why we give of our treasure. Christ tells us that where our treasure lies, there will our hearts be found. A wise person once told me to look at my checkbook. Where I am spending my money will reveal my priorities. I must say that when I actually look at how I spend my money I sometimes have to wince. Do I really need that many books, or toys, or stuff for the dogs, or stuff for ME? Here at St. John's we do not ask you to fill out a pledge form. Instead we simply ask that you turn in an estimate of giving form, so the vestry has an idea of how much money we will have to work with in planning the annual budget. Without your support, the doors of the church will not be able to remain open. It is that simple. Soon you will receive a letter asking you to let us know how much you think you will be able to give to St. John's to keep the doors open, the lights on, and the heat or air conditioning on.

We only look at the total amount to determine a budget. Your estimate then goes into a sealed envelope and is not opened to "check up on you" to see if you are making your pledge. We trust that you will do your best, and maybe even give a little more than expected. Please consider filling out the form and turning it in so your vestry can make the best budget possible.

Thank you.

Reverent Margaret +

Your Inner Child!

Is your inner child longing to break free? Would you like an opportunity for a quiet moment to relax, sip tea (or other beverage), and return to a simpler time? Come join us on September 5, beginning at 10:00 a.m., for an opportunity to visit and "Color"! Yup, we are going to have a variety of choices for coloring and a variety of colored pens, pencils, and markers. This can be a silent meditative time or we might want to make it a time of quiet conversation. The group can decide. Contact the Rev. Sr. Margaret Kentigern at marsterchi2001@gmail.com to let her know if you are interested and where we will meet. If she has the Rectory cleaned up and a table set up we will meet there. Who knows, we may want to make this a monthly event! If you want to join us but would rather "color in yarn" by knitting or crocheting, don't let that stop you. Even if you don't want to color you are invited to join us for a "time apart". (But let's see if we can't get some colors in your hands!)

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

Sept. 1:	ECW Kickoff Dinner 7:00 p.m.
Sept. 5:	Find your inner child thru coloring at the Rectory 10:00 a.m.
Sept. 8:	ECW Meeting 10:00 a.m.
Sept. 12:	Yard Cleanup beginning at 8:00 a.m.
Sept. 13:	Return of Choir, beginning of Sunday School, Annual Picnic!
Sept. 17:	Books, Bible, and Coffee at Panera's in Voorhees 7:00 p.m.
Sept. 22:	Vestry 7:00 p.m.
Oct. 5:	Evening ECW Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Oct. 8:	ECW Meeting 10:00 a.m.
Oct. 7:	Fall Convocation meeting St. Mary's, Haddon Heights 7:00 p.m.
Oct. 15:	BBC, Panera Bread, Voorhees, NJ 7:00 p.m.
Oct. 20:	Vestry 7:00 p.m.
Oct. 30:	Annual Halloween Party, Parish Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Remember to mark your calendars

The ECW Page

Due to Labor Day this year falling on Monday, September 7th, St John's ECW will be kicking off another year on Tuesday, September 8th at 10:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall. All other months we will meet the first Monday of each month at 10:00 am. We plan our many events for the coming year. There is an evening ECW that meets the first Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. for those unable to make the Monday meetings. All women are invited to come join in the fun!

Event Dates:

09/01 - Kickoff dinner at Philomena's 7:00 p.m.
09/08 - ECW meeting 10:00 a.m.
10/05 - ECW meeting 10:00 a.m.
10/06 - Evening ECW meeting 7:00 p.m.
10/23 - Coach Bag Bingo
11/02 - ECW meeting 10:00 a.m.
11/03 - Evening ECW meeting 7:00 p.m.

Yard Cleanup

Wow! Have you noticed our Church Grounds? The wet summer, following a snowy winter, was the perfect weather for weeds! Boy do we have them! So on September 12, as many as can be there are asked to show up to begin getting those weeds under control. Our local Girl Scout troop is going to join us as well, but we need adults to help show the girls what to pull. This will make the grounds so lovely for our picnic the following day. Please consider joining us. Be sure to bring any gardening tools you may think you will need. This is definitely one of those "Time, Talent, and Treasure" stewardship moments, with the emphasis on "Time"!

BBC Book Club on September 17, 7:00 p.m.



Panera Bread, Voorhees
Book: "Searching for Sunday"
by Rachel Evans

Visit our Web Site:

www.stjohns1789.org

Spotlight on our Youth:

Help Wanted: Sunday School Teachers Needed

We really need folks to step up this year. We are pulling the 4th and 5th graders into a class of their own, but need parents and other interested adults to come lead the class. This is a fun group of kids, so please consider participating. If several volunteer it won't be an every Sunday event, but possibly only once a month, depending on the number of leaders. "Sunday School" begins September 13th, so mark your calendars. You don't need a degree to teach Sunday School, just a love of children. This is another opportunity for "Stewardship of Time and Talent".

Holy Communion Class 2016

This year we will have Holy Communion Class, so if you have a child in 2nd or 3rd grade or an older child who has not taken the class, be sure to be here to get them registered for Sunday School so we know how many to plan for come January. That class will begin January 10, 2016.

"Survivor"

The last Sunday "Funday", "Survivor!" will be postponed one week. So instead of having an event the last Sunday in August, "Survivor!" will take place on September 6th. This ought to be a really fun event for the children as they get ready to go back to school, so I hope you will bring them.

St. Paul's Feeding Ministry

Matt Torpey led a "kitchen krew" of the Sunday School children to prepare food to feed the hungry at St. Paul's in Camden on August 23rd. That evening volunteers joined with St. Andrew's at St. Paul's to serve food to the hungry. Our next opportunity to participate in this ministry will be on November 22. If you cannot participate but would like to help with donations to purchase the food, you can write a check to the church and indicate "St. Paul's Feeding" in the memo. The Rev. Deacon Jorge will be there so come and say Hi to him! This has become a wonderful outreach ministry.

**Ride, Walk, Contribute
Battle against Hunger, September 11-13**



Last year, the Office of Jubilee Ministries of the Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey launched The Battle for Justice, an initiative that combines advocacy with action to address social justice issues in the communities served by our 147 churches.

On Sunday, September 13th, we invite you to join hundreds of other riders, walkers, runners, joggers and supporters as we focus on hunger, raising awareness about this pervasive and ever-growing issue as well as funds to fight it in our communities across the Diocese.

Along with many other participants in George & Kinny's Walk, Bishop Stokes will be walking the scenic Delaware Canal Towpath on the PA side of the river, starting at the General Greene Pavilion in Washington Crossing State Park and returning there in time to greet the riders from the Battle Against Hunger Bike Tour at 5:00 p.m. sharp.

Help support Bishop Stokes efforts and the efforts of all those participating.

Evensong: Honoring the Ministries of Older Adults in Our Diocese

Celebrate & be exhilarated and inspired by this celebratory service!

Preacher: The Reverend Dr. Dennis McNally, Society of Jesus, Professor of Art at St. Joseph's University, Philadelphia, PA.

Officiant: The Right Reverend William H. (Chip) Stokes, D.D., Bishop of the Diocese of New Jersey

The Diocese of New Jersey Committee for Ministry with Older Adults proudly announces

the Third Annual Evensong Service in Celebration of the Witness, Faithfulness and Contributions of Older Adults in our Diocese. Following the Evensong Service, a reception will be held in Synod Hall where certificates will be given to the honorees. Families and friends of the honorees are welcome to attend the service. Those who have not previously visited the Cathedral may wish to come at 12:30 p.m. for a guided tour. Sponsored by the Committee on Ministry with Older Adults. Register online at <http://tinyurl.com/nkeotsk> or contact Mary Anne Clisham, phone 609 394-5281, ext. 10 or email mclisham@dioceseofnj.org.

Coffee Hour

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



Scenes from the St. John's Luau



Food, fellowship & fun!



Food, glorious food!!



Seriously Judy!!!

Noisy Sunday

We continue to collect donations on Noisy Sunday. 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



The Kitchen "Krew"



Food prep



Lending a helping hand!