

The Messenger

The Newsletter of
Saint John the Evangelist Episcopal Church
1720 Old Black Horse Pike (at Chews Landing Road)
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The Reverend Margaret Sterchi, Rector

VOLUME MMXIII—ISSUE I

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2013 ISSUE



Celebrating the feast of the Epiphany, the three Kings present their gifts.
(Photo courtesy Cynthia Rolle)

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting for our parish will take place on the Sunday, **February 3, 2013** immediately following the 10:00 am service. Yes this is also Super Bowl Sunday, but we always finish in plenty of time for folks to get home and enjoy the pre-parties as well as all the Super Bowl commercials. This will be the usual pot-luck and meeting, so be thinking about which delicious dish you are bringing.

We also need people to serve in leadership roles. We need Vestry persons, Convocation Delegates, and Convention Delegates. The Convocation Delegates attend two meetings a year, one in the spring and one in the fall. Convention Delegates attend the pre-Convention meeting if possible plus TWO conventions. The Annual Convention will be held in Wildwood this year on March 1st & 2nd. Delegates can either spend the night in Wildwood or commute if preferred. Delegates will not be responsible for expenses unless he or she chooses to reimburse the parish. The second convention will be the one to elect a bishop and will take place on May 4th, at a location to be determined. This is an exciting year to be a delegate, so prayerfully consider this. Please let Steve Moritz, the Senior Warden, know if you are interested in any of these positions.

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

Service for Christian Unity

Once again our choir will participate with several other choirs at the service for Christian Unity to be held on Thursday, January 17, 2012 at 7:30 in the evening. This year the service may take place at Trinity Lutheran Church, Clements Bridge Road, Runnemede, NJ. Mark your calendars now for a service that is always a delight to attend and an opportunity to support our fabulous choir! It really doesn't matter where it is held, it is always a joy.

Is It Soup Yet???

Tired of those boxed and canned soups? Head over to the parish hall on Saturday, January 12 for a variety of delicious soups on sail by the St. John's ECW. The quart soup selections go on sale at 9:00 am. Don't miss this opportunity to stock up on some of the best homemade soup in New Jersey!



"Thank you to everyone who brought in toys to the *Breakfast with Santa*".
(Photo courtesy Jason Love)

Toys Delivered to Salvation Army

The toys collected at the Breakfast with Santa on December 8, 2012 were delivered to the Salvation Army in Camden where they were distributed to the local community in time for Christmas. The Salvation Army thanks St. John's for the toys and for thinking of the less fortunate during the holiday season.

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Organist & Music Director

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Parish Secretary

Shirley Mullen

Sexton

Mike Millisky

Senior Warden

Stephen Moritz

Junior Warden

Trish Lilley

Vestry

Denise Brancati

Margaret Doniger

Lee Jones

Jason Love

Michael Lutz

Michael Millisky

Cynthia Rolle

Frank Salvati

Sarah Sambenedetto

Lisa Schwinge, Treasurer

Sharon Sweeten

Judy Vaughan-Sterling

Peggy Wynne

Altar Guild

Phyllis Sowers

Church School

Mary Wonderlin

Churchyard

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ECW

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Flowers/Memorials

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Acolytes/Readers/Servers

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Shirley Mullen

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TRANSPORTED INTO A NEW REALM

No, this is not the Rapture, but rather St. John's membership is coming alive in the "Cloud" and all tech-savvy parishioners will be able to access their personal information as well as a directory of your fellow parishioners, keeping in touch with important groups within the Church. We are busy ironing out and practicing with the details of how to use the program, and anticipate that all parishioners can access the program by the annual meeting!

Here are some features of this program:

- Access from anywhere, anytime, by any internet capable device (PC, Mac, Kindle, I-Pad, Smart Phone). Keep Up with events of the Parish by viewing announcements and time sensitive Notifications (cancelled service, urgent need).
 - Access and update yours and your family's personal information (name, address, phone numbers, email addresses, birthdays, baptisms, confirmation, contribution history, etc.)
 - Ability to make individual details private.
 - Access to group communication and ability to organize, coordinate and email between group members.
 - Ability to post a personal image of each member! A Virtual Photo Directory on-line that is especially valuable for those of us who must strive to put faces and names together.
 - Much more as we all learn how to use the program.
 - This does not replace the website, but we link the two programs sometime in the future.
- Please look out for an email inviting you to join in, or go online to: <https://onrealm.org> yourself.

Select the site: The Church of St. John the Evangelist

Select: Register now.

Enter your email address

Enter and confirm a password

Select: Register

You will be instructed to go to your email from where you will be led through the process of signing in. From there you can see your personal information and add family members and family information.

1. When you sign in, unless you are the primary email holder and already in the system, your access is limited to only your own information until it is "allowed" by an administrator. Then you will have full "Church Member" access. We will strive to approve "pending" members as fast as possible.

2. The "?" in the upper right will take you to a useful help section.

3. Email st.johns1789@verizon.net with any questions or issues and we will get back to you as soon as possible. If you want information "Private" let us know as soon as possible. Children's details are private by default. Bear in mind that all the workers behind the scenes are volunteers.

Typical disclaimer: We will neither share nor sell your private information. God knows it already, and the rest is for you to choose when and where to share!

**Deadline for the March/April Messenger
Sunday, February 17, 2013.**

Items may be e-mailed to robertgoodman1@comcast.net
(Please show The Messenger in the subject line) or they may be left in the Parish Office.



From the Rector's Desk

Happy New Year! Now the days are growing longer and the light is a bit brighter. Even if we end up with some snowy days, we know that for us the sun is out there a bit longer each day. And of course as most of you know I am definitely hoping for at least a few snowy days. Most of us are happier that the sun is shining a bit longer. I know my dogs are happier as it means a better chance of getting to the dog park and while there enjoying a longer walk.

As we begin this New Year we still are struggling to shake off the darkness of December 14. This will take time as we continue to process our sadness and sense of loss, even though these were not our children and loved ones. Somehow all those victims became a part of our lives and so we all grieve. For that reason alone I am so grateful that we as a parish are engaged in the Bible Challenge. Each day we are encouraged to read a part of scripture so that by Advent 1 of 2013 we will have read the entire bible. What an accomplishment. As many have already found out, some of the stories in the Bible, particularly in the Hebrew Scriptures (the Old Testament) are difficult to read, being rather harsh and violent. We have to remember that this is just a part of who we are as people of God. Bad things happen. God is still present in the midst of them. The authors of scripture, in many instances, are trying to explain to the people of that day how events come about and how God may be present, not that God necessarily approved of some of the carnage that we read about. So keep struggling with this. Ask questions. Come up with reasons why you may or may not agree with some of those stories. But as you continue to read, also look for the Grace of God. This is one way we can also look for the Grace of God in events of our own lives, including the tragedy in Newtown, Connecticut. God's Grace was everywhere that day if we will just look.

I also encourage all of us (including your rector) to take care of ourselves. Let's make this the year we eat healthier, get moving, and find the time to stop and actually see all of God's creation. That is how we stay healthy, both in mind and spirit, in the midst of grief. It is sometimes easy to find God in the big things, even tragedy, but we don't always look for God in our every day lives. You know, those days when we get up, move through the day, and fall into bed not even remembering what we ate for supper. Many of us decorated "Gratitude Jars" on the third Sunday of Advent, but you don't need a specially decorated jar. Any jar will do. Just take the time to tuck in slips of paper for all those things for which you are grateful. Write down the moments you saw God in the world. When having a difficult day, pull out those pieces of paper and remind yourself of how God is indeed at work in the world. As we read in the prologue to John's Gospel, the Light has come into the world and

the darkness CANNOT overcome it (emphasis mine). We can find that Light each day and then share it with those we meet, spreading the Light until it fills the world. The darkness will not be gone, but the Light will be there to overshadow it.

May we all have a Light-Filled 2013!

Reverend Margaret+

The BBC

Last year we began a new group called The BBC (Books, Bible, and Coffee). Over the year we read many wonderful books, from Theological information to wonderful fiction. We have moved once, from Coffee Works Café to Panera Bread, White Horse Road, Voorhees (across from Target). We may move yet again to the Panera Bread in Deptford to make it easier to get there. We will let you know, but the NEXT gathering will be at the Panera's on White Horse Road on Thursday, January 24 when we will discuss Rob Bell's book, Love Wins: A Book About Heaven, Hell, and the Fate of Every Person Who Ever Lived. Now that is a title that should stir some interest. It is 224 pages and is available in hardback, paperback, and as an e-book for Kindle, Nook, and other e-readers. Join us for fabulous food and delightful discussion. If you have a book you would like to discuss, come to our gathering and suggest if for the next month. All suggestions are welcome!



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.

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.

THE ECW PAGE

The December ECW Meeting kicked off with our annual cookie exchange. Tins were distributed to our shut ins by our ladies. Thank you all for this great ministry of visiting our homebound and the time and compassion with which it is done. Our shut ins greatly appreciate and look forward to the delicious baked goods and fellowship.

The ladies enjoyed a Christmas Luncheon at Valari's Restaurant and exchanged gifts. A great time was had by all. Many thanks to Joyce Root for planning this event every year.

The Soup Sale is on the way! Containers for soup can be picked up at the Parish Hall for those of you who plan to make soup. Please sign out your containers and return the soup on Friday before the sale to the Parish Hall. The Soup Sale is scheduled for January 12th beginning at 9am.

Our Bake Sale in February will be Outreach based and all proceeds will go to the victims of Hurricane Sandy. Reverend Margaret will be in charge of distributing the monies collected from the sale. Please come out and support this effort to help those in need. We thank you all for your continued support of our ECW events.

On behalf of the ladies of the ECW we wish you a blessed and happy New Year and hope to see you at our meetings.

Respectfully, Sister Kate Maura ECW President

ECW Craft Fair



ECW Craft Fair pictures of the courtesy Sallie Jones.

ECW Cookie Exchange



ECW cookie exchange pictures Courtesy Sallie Jones.

ECW Luncheon



ECW Luncheon pictures courtesy Sallie Jones.



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.

THE BIBLE CHALLENGE

Bishop George Cuncell has issued a challenge to the Diocese of New Jersey — to read the Bible over the course of the next year. Our parish started on Monday, December 3, so you are in time to join us. You are asked to participate by following the reading schedule in *The Bible Challenge* by Marek Zabriskie, or by downloading the schedule from [The Center for Biblical Studies](#). Follow the outline as provided in the book or online, and by next Advent you will have read the entire Bible. Readings are from Monday - Saturday. This is a way to deepen your faith in a way you would never expect. On Sunday mornings, during coffee hour, we can share what surprised us, what moved us, and what comforted us.

Gift Cards

Gift Cards are available on a monthly. If you would like to order a gift card at any time, fill out a form, found at the back of the church, and turn it in with a check made out to St. John the Evangelist to either Reverend Margaret or Sharon Sweeten. We normally order the first or second weekend of the month. The order usually takes about a week to get in. We receive a percentage of the value of the gift card that is deposited in the Capital Fund account. Remember this is FREE MONEY, the best kind of money!

Noisy Sunday

Last year we began a delightful outreach called Noisy Sunday. The last Sunday of each month we pass coffee cans around the church, making lots of noise as we put in our loose change (or bills if you prefer). This past year we took in over \$1000 in change and except for the special collection for Hurricane Sandy relief, shared this outpouring of love and generosity with the South Jersey Food Bank and Almost Home Animal Shelter. They have been extremely grateful for our generosity. We will keep this up in 2013 as the needs never go away. Thank you all for your participation.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

Jan. 12:	ECW Soup Sale 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Jan. 17:	Choral Service for Christian Unity, Trinity Lutheran 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 22:	Vestry Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Jan. 24:	BBC @ Panera Bread, Voorhees 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 25:	54 th Bishop's Ball, Trenton Cathedral - 8:00 p.m. to midnight
Jan. 26:	Family Matters – Behavior Disorders 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Feb. 03:	Annual Parish Meeting – Following 10:00 a.m. Service
Feb. 04:	ECW Meeting 10:00 a.m.
Feb. 05:	Evening ECW Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Feb. 09:	ECW Bake Sale – Following 5:00 p.m. Service
Feb. 10:	ECW Bake Sale – Following the Sunday Services
Feb. 12:	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper – 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Feb. 13:	Ash Wednesday
Feb. 19:	Vestry Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Feb. 21:	BBC @ Panera Bread, Voorhees 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 23:	Family Matters – Peer Pressure 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Remember to mark your calendars

THE WARDEN SPEAKS

Hello Everybody,

I hope you all had a great Christmas. It is a joyous time for families and can be a time of sorrow for those who have lost loved ones. We have a great family here at St John's and like a family we need to show support for each other. A great way to show support is to get involved in one of the many groups centered at St John's. Please encourage our new members to get involved. The church is fueled by volunteers and each of us must support the efforts of the other organizations in the parish. Here are a few areas where we can use some help.

The church would like to set up a 501C organization for our historic church and graveyard, we desperately need people that could help investigate and help with the application process. The 501C designation would qualify St John's for many grant opportunities.

In the new year we will be organizing a team of chalice ministers to regularly visit our home-bound parishioners. Our elderly are the bedrock of the parish, they welcomed us when we were new and we owe it to them to keep them connected, please consider getting involved.

Fund Raising Captains – We need ideas for fundraising, but beyond that we need people to champion those ideas and shepherd them into reality.

General repairs – We have three buildings at St John's. If you have skills in a particular area, please let me or one of the vestry members know. General cleanup can always use more hands.

Family Matters Committee needs a volunteer to be the point person for the February meeting on peer pressure. The committee is young, energetic and fun and this would be a great way for a new parishioner to get involved with a great group and a great program.

I hope everyone has a Happy New Year and it has been a privilege to serve as your Senior Warden over the last year. Please get involved and show support for each other so we can continue to move forward as a congregation.

Steve Moritz - Outgoing Senior Warden

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

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR YOUTH:

Breakfast with Santa



Our Rector with Santa (picture courtesy Matt Torpey)



Enjoying breakfast with Santa.

(photo courtesy Matt Torpey)



Happy to see Santa (photo courtesy Matt Torpey)

Best Pageant Ever

Photos courtesy of Cynthia Rolle



Christmas Eve Pageant

Photos courtesy Sharon Sweeten



The Cast

Photo courtesy Trish Lilley



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

Pageant Rehearsal

Photos courtesy of Daniel Robinson



The Feast of the Epiphany

Photos courtesy Cynthia Rolle



Family Matters at St. John's

A community-based platform and discussion forum addressing family-oriented topics that stimulate growth, strengthening, and understanding for the seeds of our community

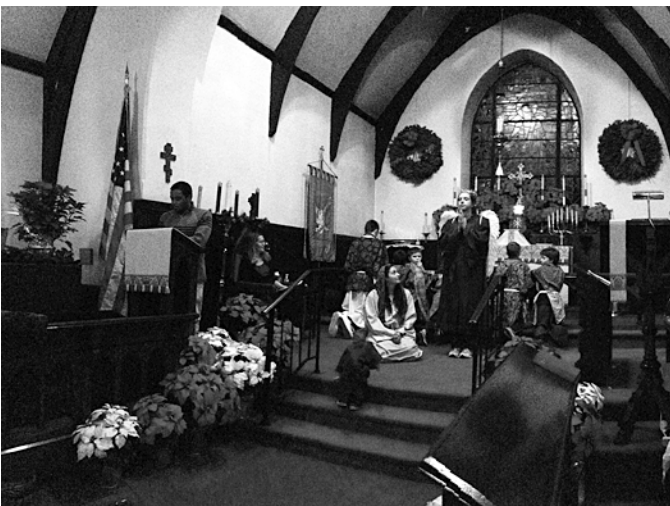
Family Matters is hosted by St. John's Episcopal Church in Chews Landing, and meets monthly. The purpose of Family Matters is to provide a platform for the community to address common issues, topics and situations that arise in family life by bringing subject matter experts to educate the audience.

Our topic for Saturday, January 26, is Behaviour Disorders — ADD/ADHD. Additional information on this program will be provided in the very near future.

When: Saturday, January 26, at 6:30

Duration: Hour and a half

Location: St. John's Parish Hall, 1720 Old Black Horse Pike, Blackwood; ample parking is available beside the parish hall



Bishop George's Visitation

Photos Courtesy Cynthia Rolle



A Day of Blessing & Celebration

Photos Courtesy Cynthia Rolle



Baptism, Confirmation & Reception

Photos Courtesy Cynthia Rolle



From the Diocese of New Jersey

54th Bishop's Ball

Date: Friday, January 25, 2013

Time: 8:00 PM to 12 Midnight

Who: ALL Ages

Cost: \$20 per person

Dress: Semi-Formal (Optional)

All proceeds from the ball will go to Nets for Life.

Register Now: 54th Bishop's Ball

Where: Trinity Cathedral, Trenton, New Jersey

Diocesan Events

Youth Ministry Adult Workshop

Wednesday, February 6, 2013

Diocesan House, Trenton, New Jersey

Thirteenth Annual Diocesan Acolyte Festival

Saturday, February 9, 2013

Trinity Cathedral, Trenton, New Jersey

Come join acolytes from around the diocese for an opportunity for fellowship and learning in a day-long celebration of the ministry of the acolyte.

The theme of this year's festival is

The Holy Spirit Working in our Lives.

When: Saturday Feb. 9th, 9:30am-3:30pm

Where: Trinity Cathedral

Registration is \$25 in advance or \$30 at the door and includes refreshments, meals, and a T-shirt.

Absalom Jones Service of Witness to Black Ministries

Sunday, February 10, 2013

Trinity Cathedral, Trenton, New Jersey

Visit our Web Site:

www.stjohns1789.org

