

# 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 MMXV— Issue V**

**October/November 2015 Issue**



A new sign was installed in front of the Parish Hall, can't miss us now!



## Blessing of the Animals

The annual blessing of the animals to commemorate St. Francis will take place on Sunday, October 4 at 3:00 pm on the 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!

## Annual Spaghetti Dinner

Our annual Spaghetti Dinner will take place on Saturday, November 21 from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Please come and enjoy some really wonderful spaghetti, salad, bread, and dessert. There will be a free will offering, with the suggested donation of \$10 for adults and \$8 for children. This is always a fabulous meal with great fellowship, so you do not want to miss out. Invite a neighbor or friend to come and join us. They may even want to stick around!

## Second Annual All Saint's Evensong

November 1, at 4:00 pm the Camden Convocation will host the Second Annual All Saint's Evensong. Once again it will be held at Grace Church in Merchantville. Choirs from around the Convocation will join together to provide the music. Each choir is invited to prepare one anthem for our enjoyment and then they will join together to sing a couple of combined choir pieces. Last year this was one of the high points in the year. I hope you will all put this event on your calendar and come support our choir! The Reverend Sister Margaret Kentigern will be the officiant, and she would love to see some familiar friendly faces out in the congregation!

## St. Paul's Feeding Ministry

On November 22 we will once again have an opportunity to feed some hungry men, women, and children at St. Paul's in Camden. Because this will be the Sunday before Thanksgiving, we thought a Thanksgiving feast would be appropriate. To that end, Matt Torpey will be putting out some foil baking pans with a post-it note attached. On the post-it note will be the item we need to have someone prepare and put in that pan. This will be mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, cranberries, green bean casserole, etc. We are hoping folks in the parish will pick up one of the pans, prepare the dish and put it in the pan, and then bring the pan back to the church that weekend. We will heat up the food and then take it to St. Paul's at 5:00 pm that Sunday. We will be home by 8:00 pm. If you shop at ShopRite and end up with a free turkey, please consider donating it to the church for this very worthy cause. Bring the turkey in the week before so we can get it thawed. We will then cook it up on Sunday afternoon. We are thinking 2-4 turkeys will be sufficient, since we partner with St. Andrew's and they will also be bringing turkey.

## Next BBC Book Club



7:00 pm, October 15  
Panera Bread, White Horse  
Road, Voorhees, NJ  
Book: *"Convictions: How I  
Learned What Matters Most  
by Marcus Borg*

## *The Messenger*

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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 Komanchek

Michael Millisky

Linda Amber

Lou DeCecco

Pat Bosch

Michael Lutz

Joe Baylouny

Mary Wonderlin

#### **Delegates to Convention**

Jason Komanchek

David Amber

Linda Amber

#### **Delegates to Convocation**

Nancy Hawkins

Pat Bosch

Jason Komanchek

#### **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.

### **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.

### **IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES**

October 4:	BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS!	3:00 pm
October 5:	ECW meeting	10:00 am
October 5:	Arline & Alex Potts 70 <sup>th</sup> anniversary!	
October 6:	Evening ECW meeting	7:00 pm
October 7:	Convocation Meeting	7:00 pm-9:30 pm
October 15:	BBC Panera Bread White Horse Rd Voorhees	7:00 pm
October 23:	Coach Bag Bingo, Parish Hall doors open at 6:00 pm	
October 27:	Vestry Meeting	7:00 pm
November 1:	All Saints Evensong, Grace, Merchantville	4:00 pm
November 2:	ECW meeting	10:00 am
November 3:	Evening ECW meeting	7:00 pm
November 3:	Election Day Be sure to vote! It is your Christian duty.	
November 17:	Vestry Meeting	7:00 pm
November 19:	BBC Panera Bread White Horse, Voorhees	7:00 pm
November 21:	Spaghetti Dinner, Parish Hall	5:00 pm
November 22:	St. Paul's Feeding of Thanksgiving Dinner	5:00 pm
November 26:	Thanksgiving Eucharist	10:00 am

*Remember to mark your calendars*

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



### From the Rector's Desk

I sit at my desk on a Sunday evening, writing my reflection for The Messenger. The next day, I begin a two-week vacation. So far I have only been away for a week this year, and that was to go to the Annual Gathering for the Anamchara Fellowship where I was clothed at a Religious in Transition. I am looking forward to some time at home with no agenda for a few days. Then I will be off to see family in Albuquerque. I talk about the need for time away and yet there are times it is hard to fit that time into our busy lives. I hope you have had some time for rest and reflection this year. I almost missed it. God wants us to have time to be still and know that God is ultimately in charge of our lives. That is why Sabbath is so important. We like to think we are in charge and if we stay busy enough we can sometimes pull off that illusion, at least for a short while. But invariably at some point the well-oiled machinery begins to start running a bit rough and we realize that things are getting out of control, either at work, at home, or both. This is the time to stop and take a look at who we are and whose we are. We need to let go of the reins and trust that God, being a gracious and loving God, will show us a better way. If we will only get out of the way, be still, and listen God will show us a way to once again get our priorities straight and put God in the center of our lives. When we do this we are again free to trust and let go. We are free to enjoy the life that God wants for us. We are free to become the stewards of all that God has given us in such a way that lives are changed and the world becomes a brighter place.

I invite you to ponder this. Find ways in which YOU can let go and let God. Discover the new found freedom of letting God be in charge and trust that God only wants what is best for you and will show you how to live out your life as God's disciple. If you don't have a long vacation, then take a day or maybe even half a day. Discipleship is not easy. I don't think it is intended to be easy. Why else would Jesus use language like "Take up your cross and follow me?" So what does it mean to YOU to be a disciple? How would your life be different if you completely let go and let God be in charge? Why don't you give it a try and see what happens? You might find yourself falling in love with God once more. Know that God has never stopped loving you.

*Reverent Margaret +*

#### 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.

### 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.

#### Deadline for the Advent/Christmas/Epiphany Messenger

**Sunday, November 22, 2015**

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

## Spotlight on our Youth:

### High School Group

Jermaine Rolle has agreed to take the leadership in working with our High School aged students. He will meet with them at 9:45 am on the First Sunday of each month. We invite all students in High School to join him for great discussion and lots of fun!

### Names for All Saints

If you have any names you would like included for our All Saints weekend, please get them in to Reverend Margaret now. Email is best, but a written note is also fine. Any names from last year will already be on the master list, so just send in any additional names from this past year. If you have not turned in a list in the past, please do so now so we can make sure your beloved saint or saints that are now with God will be remembered at the services the first weekend in November. Also remember that this is an ongoing list that will be used for Christmas and Easter flowers as well.

### Stewardship Corner

Do you pay your bills online through your bank? Did you know you could pay your church pledge the same way? All you have to do is provide the address for the church that is found on your envelopes. If there is an option for an account number, just use your envelope number. Otherwise put your envelope number in the memo section. (We need your envelope number so you will get full credit.) You can even set up the payment so it is an automatic payment monthly, bi-monthly, or weekly, depending on how you prefer to donate. Then you will no longer even have to think about it, even when you travel. This is an easy way to make sure St. John's will continue to function through your contributions.

### Books, Bible, and Coffee

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! October 15 we will gather at Panera's to discuss "Convictions: How I Learned What Matters Most" by Marcus Borg Do you have a suggestion for the next good read, either fiction or non-fiction?



## The ECW Page

### ECW Event Dates:

10/05 - ECW meeting 10:00 a.m.  
10/06 - Evening ECW meeting 7:00 p.m.  
10/23 - Coach Bag Bingo (doors open 6:00 pm)  
11/02 - ECW meeting 10:00 a.m.  
11/03 - Evening ECW meeting 7:00 p.m.



Don't forget the annual Spaghetti Dinner, November 21.

## 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