

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 MMXVI— Issue III

Church Office (856) 227-1051
Web Page: [HTTP://www.stjohns1789.org](http://www.stjohns1789.org)
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The Reverend Margaret Sterchi, Rector

Summer 2016 Issue

Welcome New Organist & Music Director

Dan Nelson is 31 years old and lives with his wife (Margaret), two daughters (Lydia 3 and Anna 1) and two cats in Haddon Township. Dan grew up in north Jersey, but his family has long roots in the south Jersey area. Dan attended Cornell University where he majored in music, and later received a Ph.D. in Music Composition from the University of Pennsylvania. He has worked as a composer and free lancer for several years, primarily in film and commercials. "In 2015 I was looking for a change of pace, and I decided to pivot to a new music-related field, and began the study of the organ. This June will mark the 1st anniversary of my experience as an organist".

According to Dan, "It's been great fun getting to know the community at St. John's! Everyone has been very welcoming and also tolerant of my work as I learn the instrument and the liturgy".

"I always approach the choir by asking myself the question 'How can we better give glory to God through our musical gifts?' There are, of course, many ways to advance ourselves performers, but I would highlight recruitment of new members and the expansion of our musical library as two goals now that I have had time to settle into the position and the choir is coming to the end of its year".

"I think the choir in performance is its own best recruitment tool. When people hear the fresh work and passion that the choir members have been putting into their music, they'll recognize the growth potential this ensemble has. There are a number of different services and communities within St. John's, and I'll be reaching out to all of them as we approach the fall and the choir begins rehearsing again. I will definitely be reaching out to the young people of the congregation, some of whom, already after just four weeks have approached me with enthusiasm about music-making.

"I am hoping to incorporate more improvised work into the liturgy, especially in preludes and postludes. The organ is an instrument with a long history of improvisation of church music, and as a composer I am excited to explore that aspect of organ performance.



Organist Dan Nelson is at the organ and conducting choir rehearsal.
(Photo courtesy Chris Goodman)

Parishioner Honored by Township

Mary Wonderlin, long time parishioner and a member of the vestry, was one of 15 women recognized by Gloucester Township as "Women Who Make a Difference in the Community" as part of Women's History Month at the March 31st council meeting. Women from throughout the township were nominated by their peers as an exemplary citizen who lives or works in Gloucester Township, and has demonstrated significant contributions in the areas of community service. Mary, who taught in the district for 28 years, has volunteered in the school district during her eight-year retirement.



Mary is presented "Women Who Make a Difference" award at the March 31, township council meeting.

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E-Mail: St.Johns1789@verizon.net

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

Daniel Nelson

Parish Secretary

Shirley Mullen

Sexton

Mike Millisky

Senior Warden

Matt Torpey

Junior Warden

Michael Lutz

Treasurer

Kelly Baylouny

Vestry

Jason Komanchek

Michael Millisky

Linda Amber

Lou DeCecco

Pat Bosch

Joe Baylouny

Mary Wonderlin

Todd Wonderlin

Phyllis Sowers

Shelby Myers

Donna DeCicco

Delegates to Convention

Bob Goodman

Judy Vaughan-Sterling

Jude DeBaun

Delegates to Convocation

Barry McManaman

Pat Bosch

Jason Komanchek

Altar Guild/Flowers/Memorials

Phyllis Sowers

Church School

Mary Wonderlin

Churchyard

Ernie Jones

ECW

Bernie Brown

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Acolytes/Readers/Servers Scheduling

Rev. Margaret Sterchi

Webmaster

Carolyn Bausinger

GoodSearch

You Search or Shop...
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Remember when searching on the internet or ordering on-line to go to Goodshop.com when ordering and Goodseach.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.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

June 4	Gloucester Township Day:	10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
June 5	Last day for Sunday school & choir	
June 14	ECW Picnic (postponed from May due to rain)	
June 16	BBC at Panera's, White Horse Rd., Voorhees:	7:00 p.m.
June 22	Convocation, Grace Church, Haddonfield:	7:00 p.m.
June 19	Father's Day	
June 28	Vestry Meeting, Parish Hall:	7:00 p.m.
July 4	Independence Day	
July 18	Deadline for the August/September Messenger	
July 21	BBC at Panera's, White Horse Rd., Voorhees:	7:00 p.m.
July 24	Feeding Ministry St Paul's Camden:	5:00 pm to 8:00 p.m.
July 26	Vestry Meeting, Parish Hall:	7:00 p.m.
August 6	Pool Party, GT Municipal Pool:	6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

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

10:00 a.m. Rite II Family Eucharist with Sermon

Wednesdays

11:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Deadline for the August/September Messenger Sunday, July 17, 2016

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



From the Rector's Desk

Dear ones,

I was beginning to think that 'spring' was never going to get here. It has been cold and wet for the past several weeks. In fact it was warmer at Christmas than it was for parts of April. On Mother's Day there were snow flurries in northern Pennsylvania. This has definitely been one crazy year, weather wise, and it is only June! But I do feel that spring and summer are finally upon us. Certainly events at St. John's are slowing down as we enter "vacation season".

Are you taking time off? Are you taking an opportunity for rest and refreshment? Whether we do this during the traditional time of summer or choose another time of year, this time off business is important. Our bodies were not meant to work 24/7. Even more important our very souls need this time for Sabbath. Scripture commends Sabbath time every week when we are to rest, including our animals. Scripture also commends that every seven years we allow the land to rest. It is that important.

For Christians, it is important to take this time, or at least a part of it, on a weekly and annual basis to just be still and be with God. I believe it was Mother Theresa who when asked what she said when praying responded that she doesn't use words, she *looks* at God. And then when asked what God said she responded that God does not use words, God *looks* back at her. What was important was just being with God. Even when our "monkey minds" get going crazy with all sorts of odd thoughts, it is still important to take this time to be still. Sometimes our thoughts, crazy as they seem, inform us of what is important to our soul. But if we never sit still we will never have the opportunity. I would encourage you, if nothing else, to go down to our labyrinth and walk *slowly* into the center, sit for a few minutes on the bench, and then *slowly* walk back out. Don't worry about what to think or say or do. Just walk and let the Spirit guide you.

As we begin this summer season, look at your calendar and mark off some times for quiet. Use it to garden, color, quilt, read, be with family or just relax. Be aware of God's presence in your life. The week of June 5 I will be joining my Anamchara Fellowship Community for our annual Gathering for study, recreation, and retreat. This year I will be making my Profession as a Religious (this past year has been one as a Transitional Religious). We don't make "Final Vows" but instead make our Profession and then renew our vows every three years. This is my time to be with my Brothers and Sisters as well as having time within the week to be still with God and I treasure it. My prayer for each of you is that you will find a special sort of time for yourself and for your family to be together and to be with God. This time can change lives.

Reverend Margaret Kentigern+, AF

Sabbatical Musings

Sometime in the not too distant future St. John's will have a rector other than me. I am not retiring yet, but at 65 I am now well over half way to my retirement compared to my start time here at St. John 10 years ago. The expectation is that your next rector will have included in his or her contract time for Sabbatical. I experienced resistance when I tried to take time for one, so I am trying to prepare the parish for what is to come. I have talked about Sabbatical in earlier Messengers. This is what the Diocese of New Jersey is considering in introducing Sabbaticals.

"Sabbatical Leave is a period of planned time of intensive enhancement for ministry and mission. It is not vacation, but a renewal period for a cleric's sense of vocation. A balanced renewal program includes opportunities for exploration, reflection, rest, and recreation. A well-designed sabbatical enables the strengthening or even re-discovery of enthusiasm and creativity in ministry.

The Lilly Endowment writes in their description of Clergy Renewal Programs, 'Pastors serve a variety of roles in their privileged position at the center of congregational life: preacher, teacher, spiritual guide, pastoral visitor, friend and confidant. The responsibilities are continual, and the pace and demands of parish life can be relentless, often leaving even the most dedicated pastors recognizing the need to replenish their own spiritual reservoirs to regain energy and strength for their ministry.'

As God's people, we recognize Sabbath is a vital part of the regular rhythm of our individual and common lives. Both Genesis 1:1-2:4 and the Ten Commandments attest that God gave us the gift of the 7th day as a day of rest to enjoy what God has made. The idea of periodic rest was also given to the land when God commended the Israelites to refrain from planting every 7th year so the land could like fallow (Leviticus 25:1-5). This also gave the Israelites themselves rest through refraining from farming. That rest is necessary for the land to be abundant again.

These practices stand behind the development of the Sabbatical, from its origin in academic centers in the Middle Ages to its increasingly common practice in corporate settings. Some denominations have church-wide sabbatical policies, in the Episcopal Church; most dioceses have some established sabbatical practices."

I hope my musings in the past about the benefits of Sabbaticals both to the priest AND the parish as well as information from the Diocese as it becomes formalized will help the wardens, vestry, and members of St. John prepare for the Sabbaticals of future rectors. It really is important.

Reverend Margaret Kentigern+, AF

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



They were ready for the Easter Vigil.

Pool Party!!!

Are you ready to party???? In August St. Johns will host a "Pool Party" at the Gloucester Township Municipal Pool. We are reserving August 6 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. for just our parish family and invited guests. There will be a small charge to cover the cost of reserving the pool. The vestry is planning a "desert" contest. Watch the weekly bulletin and email blasts for further details. So get ready to make a splash & get wet!!!

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 June 4th from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. at 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 as well as some giveaways for the children for us to hand out. Just bring it to the Parish Hall. Pat Bosch (Fellowship Committee) would greatly appreciate having some volunteers to help man the booth during the day. 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.



ECW Happenings:

The ECW Picnic celebrating the end of another very successful year will be held on June 14!

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.



BBC Book Club on June 16
7:00 pm, at Panera Bread in Voorhees

Books, Bible, and Coffee

The BBC meets every month at Panera Bread on White Horse Road in Voorhees (across from Target) 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! June 16 will be our next gathering. We will be reading the recent book from Krista Tippett, who I mention frequently in my sermons, *"Becoming Wise: An Inquiry into the Mystery and Art of Living"*. This one looks to be exceptional.



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 sign-up sheet is posted in the Parish Hall.

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

St. John's Stewardship Corner

Stewardship Highlights - by Linda Ambler

A big thank you everyone who supported our "Pancake Breakfast". This event is one of our most successful fund raisers, and this year was no exception with a profit of about \$400.

St. John's is blessed to have so many members who continually give tirelessly of their time and talent. I'm going to "highlight" some of these wonderful individuals in each Stewardship Corner.

Although this may seem a little out of season, a bravo to Susan Jones for another lovely Christmas pageant. Each year Susan brings our Sunday School students together to present a beautiful rendition of the Christmas Story. Susan also graced us with her violin talent while accompanying the "Choir" in a lilting Welsh Christmas carol.

In May, we watched several of our children make their Holy Communion. Kathy Martel, along with her helpers, prepared the children to receive this most blessed sacrament. Over the years, Kathy has lovingly instructed many of our children in the meaning of the sacraments. Thank you, Kathy, for your dedication to this most important step in our children's spiritual growth.

As you look around at our Parish Hall and Rectory, you will notice that these buildings are aging and in need of repair. The vestry is asking that you invest in your Parish by contributing to the Capital Fund to help finance the needed repairs and upgrades. Following is a list of improvements that will be needed over the next few years:

- ☐ Parking Lot resurfacing
- ☐ New Floor Tiles – Parish Hall kitchen
- ☐ New Countertop – Parish Hall kitchen (Stainless Steel)
- ☐ New Roof – Parish Hall
- ☐ Sump Pump and French Drain - Rectory
- ☐ New Roof – Rectory
- ☐ New Furnace – Rectory

Please consider increasing your contributions to the Capital Fund. Remember that you will need to write a separate check for this contribution. Please note Capital Fund on your check.

Right now, St. John's is operating with a **\$20,000** short-fall.

What can I do to help St. John's close the donut hole of our deficit budget? We can close the donut hole if each family would donate just a little more in addition to your usual donation! For instance:

If 100 of our families would give an extra \$2 a week (\$104 annually); this will amount to \$10,000 a year. This would close half of the budget gap.



\$2 a week is less than a cup of

If 100 of our families would give an extra \$4 a week (\$208 annually); this will close our budget gap of \$20,000!



\$4 a week is less than one visit to

Please commit to being a good "**Steward**" to 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.

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

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

Spotlight on our Youth:

Holy Communion Class of 2016

The Holy Communion Class of 2016 completed their studies and joined their families and friends at our Lord's Table on Sunday, May 1st. Mass was followed by a reception in the parish hall. Brianna, Corrine, Ere, Gabriella, Kacie and Luke thanked their sponsors and shared their memory books and prayer plaques with their families and friends. A good time was had by all!



Rev. Margaret with the 2016 Communion Class. (Photo courtesy Kathy Martel)



Meet the Holy Communion Class of 2016. (Photo courtesy Kathy Martel)



Holy Communion class meets Bishop Chip. (Photo courtesy Kathy Martel)

Confirmation and Reception 2016



Bishop Chip speaks with the children of St. John's.



Bishop Chip gives final blessing to conclude the confirmation service.



Wardens Matt Torpey and Michael Lutz present Bishop Chip with copy of print of the church. (Photo Courtesy Bob Goodman)

Bishop Chip's Visitation



Introducing those confirmed and those received.



Confirmed...



...and received.

National Day of Prayer in Gloucester Twp

The Gloucester Township Police Department joined Mayor David Mayer, Assemblywoman Gabriella Mosquera and the Gloucester Township Ministerium (including our rector, Rev. Margaret) in celebrating the 63rd annual National Day of Prayer. The Gloucester Township Ministerium is a council of Pastors who meet regularly to support the community of Gloucester Township. Mayer hosted the Ministerium's Prayer Breakfast in the Township Senior Center on Thursday, May 5, 2016.



Mayor David Mayer speaks to the National Day of Prayer Breakfast attendees. (Photo courtesy of Bob Goodman)



Keynote speaker addresses the attendees. (Photo courtesy of Bob Goodman)

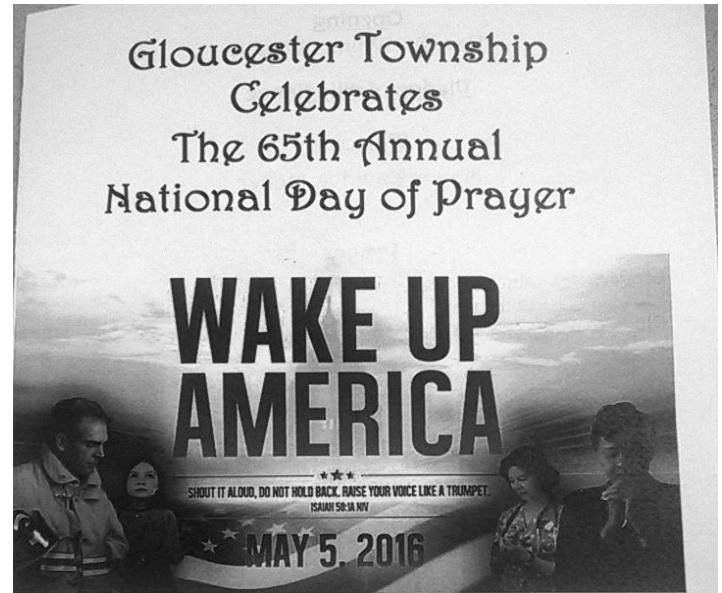


Rev. Margaret speaks to the breakfast goers. (Photo courtesy of Bob Goodman)

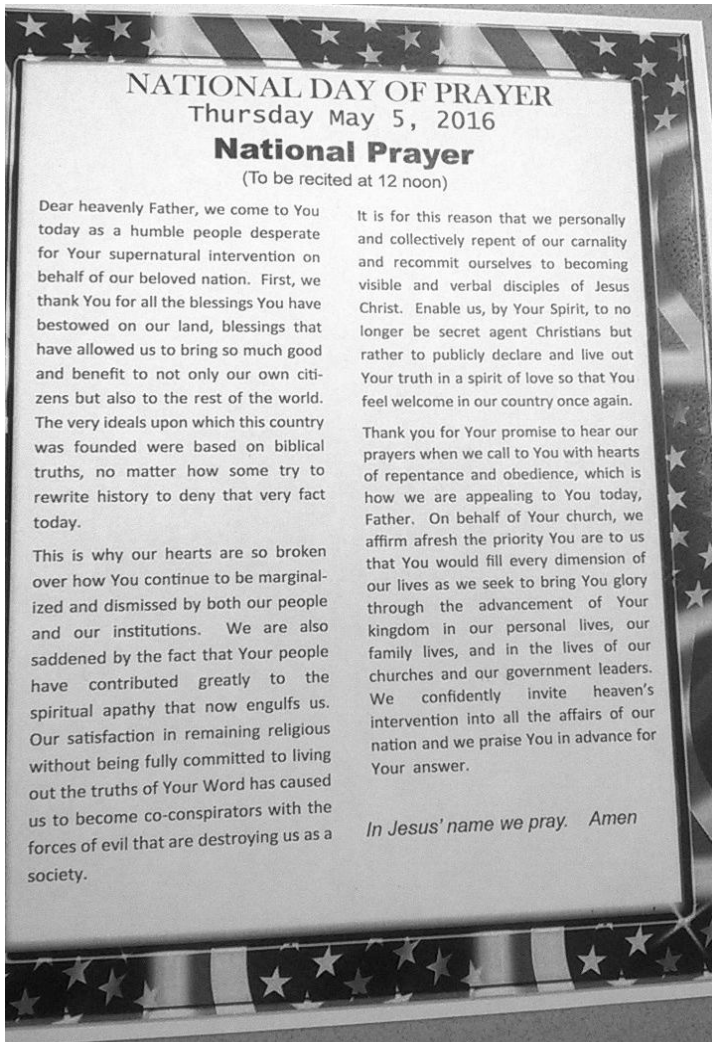
In Conclusion



Parting Shots



"Prayer for such a time as this"



May 5 2016
Senior Center
Gloucester Township, New Jersey

