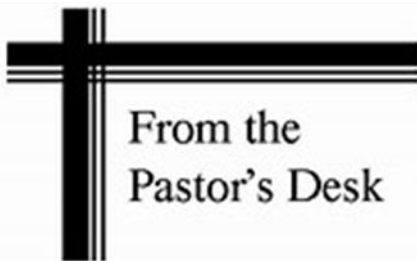


The Messenger

The Newsletter of Saint John the Evangelist Episcopal Church
1720 Old Black Horse Pike (at Chews Landing Road)
Chews Landing, NJ 08012-5218
The Reverend Canon Richard C. Wrede, Parish Priest
Volume MMXIX – Issue XI

Church Office (856) 227-1051
Church E-mail: St.Johns1789@verizon.net
Web Page: <http://www.stjohns1789.org>
The Realm (On Line Parish Directory): <https://onrealm.org>
December 2019



A Christmas Message By Fr. Wrede



It was early evening on Christmas Eve almost 30 years ago. It was a bitterly cold night, with snow on the ground and wind whistling through the leaky windows of our Rectory. Katie, then a baby, was in bed, and Anne and I were sitting in our living room trying to take a breather before heading off to our respective Christmas Eve Midnight Masses. The church phone rang and I got up to answer it. It was a man's voice, one that I didn't recognize. He told me that he and his pregnant wife had moved to Florida to find work, but they were unsuccessful. They were heading home to Maine to move in with family until the baby was born and something turned up. They were travelling on Interstate 80 (which we could see out our kitchen window) and their tank was almost empty. Could I help?

My mind raced through all the things I needed to do. It was only my second Christmas as a priest, and still feeling a bit nervous and tentative as to what I was to do. Anne looked at me, and I rolled my eyes. I asked him where they were, and he told me Dunkin' Donuts. I bundled up and headed on out. When I arrived, I looked around but found no one who lived up the description. I asked the cashier – no, no one like that here.

I returned home fuming. It was bad enough to have a call like this on such a busy night, but then to have the person dragging me out just to disappear on me, well ...

I unbundled, made a cup of tea and sat down. The church phone rang again. It was the man wondering where I was. I told him I went to Dunkin' Donuts and couldn't find him. He

told me they hadn't moved. I asked him where he was, and of course he didn't know. I looked in the Yellow Pages: Are you on Essex Street? I heard him yell to some-one at the counter. I heard a disembodied 'Yes' in a foreign accent. There were two Dunkins equidistant to the church, and I went to the wrong one. I hung up, dumped my tea down the drain, re-bundled, and off I went.

I found the man and his pregnant wife, sipping on coffee in Styrofoam cups with the residual crumbs of their crullers in front of them. He explained their situation to me once again. I told them I had no cash to offer, but I could get their tank filled up.

We went outside, and there was an ancient station wagon, packed to the gills with their worldly possessions. His wife, very pregnant, maneuvered herself into the passenger seat. He started up the car, and I led them to the closest gas station. I told the attendant to fill 'er up and gave him our credit card. With that big old car, and the gas station so close to the highway, it cost a fortune, over \$20.00! I gave them directions, wished them God-speed, and I watched as their over-packed vehicle slowly lumbered into a right turn and headed up the ramp to the interstate.

That night, as I read before my congregation the story of Jesus' birth from St. Luke's Gospel, something began to gnaw at me. It was only during the Eucharistic Prayer that I realized what it was. Poor Man. Pregnant Wife. Far from home. Decrepit Vehicle. Travel in Lousy Conditions. How could I have missed it! It was the nativity story, only written in the year of our Lord 1991, and I was a bit actor in far larger narrative.

The Nativity Story as it unfolded twenty centuries ago was at the time as unremarkable and unremarked upon as my experience nearly thirty years ago. It was on the surface another small drama in the course of human lives and events - indeed it is its very ordinariness that makes it so extraordinary. Yet that story, that wondrous story, that glorious story is, by virtue of its surface insignificance, constantly in danger of being lost in the midst of the hubbub of the season. It is only visible when we, as God's dearly beloved people, are willing to open the eyes of our hearts to

this greatest sign of God's love. It requires our leaving our warm homes, putting on our warm clothes and venturing forth into a cold and un-caring world. For only then can we enter into the worship of the babe lying in a manger and encounter the warmth of the divine embrace promises to make it all worthwhile.

So I invite you all, and encourage you to invite others as well, to 'Come and adore Him, born the prince of angels ... O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord' and worship this God-made-flesh this Christmas Season. Amen!

Education



Adult Education: Starting on Sundays January 19th and 26th during coffee hour after the 10am service. We will gather at the tables in the back of the Parish Hall.

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the Earth." What does the first sentence of the Bible really mean? There are many

different accounts about "The Creation" in the Bible, not just the two accounts that are in the book of Genesis. (yes, there are two different accounts of "The Creation" in Genesis.) They are quite different from each other. Psalm 19 suggests that there may be some evolutionary process going on. Psalm 104 places God's creation of the Earth in the present tense!

Scientists today have barely begun to fathom the number of stars and galaxies which they have started to compare it to the number of grains of sand on the beaches in a way that sounds very much like Psalm 139. Even Jesus himself offers us a few words about "the beginning" that are a bit different than those the Book of Genesis offers.

We will look at these beautifully written Biblical accounts and allow them to open many concepts of creation that do not look too very different than what today's science, poetry and art has shown us.

-The Rev. Anne McRae Wrede BA. M.Div.
arkwrede@juno.com

Holy Communion Class: The season is coming quickly and plans are under way! A very positive planning meeting was held October 20th to discuss the continuation of the 31-year tradition of our St. John's Holy Communion Program. In attendance: Father Wrede, long serving partner Lisa Craddock, Jess Robinson, Amy and Wayne Han, Tom and Deidre Gratton, Mary Wonderlin, and Susan Jones. Brittney Stahl Walton was unable to attend but will continue her artistry with the prayer plaques. Everyone is invited to join the team. Many minds and many hands are coming together for the benefit of our children. I shared my personal goal that every child who walks through our doors learns how much they are Loved and Cared for here at St. John's and this will always be their home no matter where life takes them! I hope and pray the new team will continue with this goal.



The Intent to Study Ceremony will take place at the 10 am mass on January 12, 2020. There will be a PARENT MEETING following mass in the Parish Hall. Game, snack and supervision will be provided. Peyton Craddock is joining the child supervision and project team this season! It is a great asset to have young people helping younger people! Welcome Peyton! The children's first class on Baptism will be on January 26th, as January 19th is a holiday weekend.



We will need sponsors for five young men and one adult male. Our young girl is already spoken for. The job of a sponsor is simply to greet their person each Sunday, ask them about their lessons, pray for them, and attend their Holy Communion Day. The sponsor is introduced on

Community Sunday and assists the family with completion of their paper person and has their picture taken for the memory album.

Make sure you come out for Community Sunday for good snacks, the St. John's reel, introductions, a lot of fun finishing the paper people, and great fellowship. Let's make the 2020 season the Best Ever!

****Holy Communion Day is scheduled for April 28th, 2020.****

-Kathy Martel

Fundraising



Wawa Shorti Hoagies: Wawa Shorti hoagie coupons are available from the office and from Mary Wonderlin for \$4.00. The Church gets a part of your purchase. The coupon entitles you to one Shorti hoagie of your choice. They make a great Christmas gift or stocking stuffer!

Amazon Smile: The Church receives a portion of all sales with no additional cost to you. On your first visit to smile.amazon.com, you are prompted to select a charitable organization from the list of eligible organizations. Type "Church of St. John the Evangelist Blackwood" into the search bar, and simply select our church. Then, whenever you purchase anything on Amazon, go to smile.amazon.com, and your purchase will automatically qualify. Thank you in advance!



Episcopal Athletes: The 3rd Annual Founder's Day 5K Run/1-mile walk was a huge success! We had over 60 people participate on November 2nd, which turned out to be a gorgeous morning for a run & walk. The event also raised over \$3,000 for St. John's. Countless thanks go to Mary Lou Shockley for once again spearheading the efforts to put together and run such a successful event!



(Photographs courtesy of Pat Bosch & Mary Lou Shockley)

ECW News

Cookie Exchange: The ECW held its annual cookie exchange after its December meeting. The cookies were delicious. We were able to fill and deliver tins of cookies for the shut-ins.

Christmas Luncheon: The annual ECW Christmas Luncheon was held at Villari's Lakeside in Sicklerville on Wednesday, Dec. 11th. The ladies had a wonderful time celebrating!

Soup's Up! The Annual Soup Sale will be held on Jan. 18 from 9:00 to 12:00. We encourage any parishioners to make soup. Soups may be dropped off on Friday, Jan. 17 from 6:00 to 8:00 in the Parish Hall. The price for a quart of soup is \$6.00. Come get some to help you warm up for an easy dinner on the upcoming cold winter days!



Super Bowl Party Basket: Due to the very successful Octoberfest Party Basket, the ECW will be offering chances for a Super Bowl Party Basket. Chances will be available starting Sunday, December 29, 2019 after the 10am mass. The drawing will be at the coffee hour January 27, 2020 for Super Bowl Sunday, February 2, 2020! We

hope everyone will offer chances to family, friends, neighbors and co-workers and especially at their New Year's Parties! The Octoberfest Party in a Basket was a success bringing in \$640.00. Our ECW is most grateful for all you help! Please help us make this one even more successful!

Outreach

SCUCS: We continue to collect food for SCUCS. The senior citizens in Camden County are always in need of food, no matter the weather. Bags are in the back of the church and Parish Hall.



Every Donation Makes A Difference



St. Paul's: The next St. Paul's trip will be December 22nd. We will not need volunteers to help serve food; however, donations are being sought in order to prepare a Christmas Dinner that can be sent. We are collecting warm-weather clothing (gloves, hats, blankets, and coats) that can be sent as well. As always, we are also looking for any other donations that anyone might have, especially their staple items: oranges, individually-wrapped peanut butter crackers, fruit snacks, applesauce, pudding, and additional personal items such as toothbrushes, hotel-sized toothpaste, shampoo, soap, etc.

Reverse Advent Calendar:

Reminder to continue collecting items for your "Reverse Advent Calendar!" Each day add an item to a box, and bring the items into church that week. These items will be donated to SCUCS and Unforgotten Haven at the end of December. Even if you aren't able to give each day, please give what you can! See the insert in the Bulletin or contact Mary Wonderlin for additional information.



Fellowship



Spotlight on the Youth: Have you met Emily Torpey?? She is her Dad's number one assistant in St. John's kitchen helping to prepare delicious meals. Emily worked the entire day on Father Sullivan's dedication luncheon and again on our recent spaghetti dinner. She is quiet, industrious, works steadily and always, always greets all with a smile! She is a Blessing here at St. Johns!

Breakfast with Santa: Santa Claus made a visit to the children of St. John's on Saturday, Dec. 7th! Light refreshments were served, crafts were created, and the children who came received gifts from the Jolly Ol' Fellow. All of the families who participated had a wonderful time!



(Photograph courtesy of Pat Bosch)

St. John's Annual Christmas Pageant: Our Annual Christmas Eve Pageant service will be held at 4:30 pm on December 24th so it is time to prepare for another wonderful retelling of the beautiful Christmas Story. This is the perfect opportunity for the children of all ages to give of themselves as their gift to

our Church! In order to ensure that the Pageant is a success, there will be weekly rehearsals which began Sunday, Dec. 1, continuing on Dec. 8, 15, & 22 in the church directly following the 10 am services. On Monday, 12/23, 5pm we will have a pizza, chicken finger and ziti dinner provided for the entire cast and their families. If you would like to participate, please fill out the bottom of the form found in the back of the church or the parish hall. Please feel free to call Susan Jones: Home 856-227-8248, or cell for texts at 609-617-4542.

Pancake Supper: The annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper will be held on Feb. 25th, 2020 from 5-7pm. Volunteers will be needed to help prepare and serve food. All parishioners are invited to bring their friends and family members to an evening of Fellowship to kick off the Lenten season!

Shane Robinson and his "friend" helping out at the Robinson Family's Coffee Hour -Kayla and Lucas were on hand to help as well!

(Photograph courtesy of Kathy Martel)



Vestry News

Convocation: St. John's had the honor of hosting the Camden Convocation Fall Meeting on October 22nd in the Parish Hall. Phyllis Jones asked us to identify characteristics of "schools of discipleship." The Diocese will be using this information from the various regions in future planning and programs. St. John's also had six individuals in attendance, including Canon Wrede and Rev. Anne Wrede.



(Photograph courtesy of Dorothy Blindenbacher)

Ministry Needs: Thanks to everyone who has participated in any ministry this past year. You make our parish work. We have done a great deal this year, and we have great plans for the year to come. For that reason, we have a request:

Please consider stepping up your activity in the life of St. John's by serving on Vestry. At the Annual Parish Meeting on February 2nd, we will be seeking four vestry members and two wardens. This requires only a bit of your time, plus your own good judgment, to participate in the decisions and set the directions we take to keep St. John's a vibrant and growing parish. It is an experience that will foster your growth in faith and as a member of our parish family. Ask yourself, is this my year to step up?

Choir Updates

Christmas Carols: The choir is getting into the Christmas spirit with some special music for the season. First, we will be joined by instrumental soloists Cynthia Smith (flute) and Margaret Nelson (oboe) for an Advent Canticle on December 15th. The choir will also be performing several new works at the 7:30 service on Christmas Eve. Finally, be sure to join us for music, words and merriment at the annual Service of Lessons and Carols on December 29th.



Best,
Dan Nelson, Choir Director

A New Deacon for St. John's

At the Regular December 10th meeting, St. John's Vestry voted unanimously to accept with enthusiasm the assignment of the Revd. Kenneth Carpinelli by Bishop Stokes to our parish. Deacon Ken is a resident of Turnersville and a school psychologist with Gloucester Twp. Public Schools. He recently completed his internship placement at St Peter's in Medford and was a very active member of St. Thomas' in Glassboro prior to entering the ordination process. We will formally welcome Deacon Ken upon approval of his Letter of Agreement.

Deacons are, along with Bishops and Priests, one of the three orders of ordained ministry. They are called to a life of service. Liturgically, they proclaim the gospel, introduce the confession, set-up the altar for communion and proclaim the dismissal. They can also, with the Bishop's permission, administer communion from the reserved sacrament without

a priest being present. Outside worship, they are the ordained bridge between the church and the world as well as the connection between the lay and the ordained. Thus, they can also visit the sick at home or the hospital and are involved in assisting, encouraging and initiating outreach ministries.

Specifically, at St. John's, Deacon Ken at worship would do what Deacons do. Particularly helpful would be his setting up the altar for communion, which would free me up if needed to occasionally sing with the choir. He would put together and coordinate the prayers and intercessions and lead them when no one else is available. As an educator, he is interested in Christian Education, specifically working with Kathy Martel and the communion class team and upcoming Confirmation. More generally Deacon Ken can an invaluable resource to our own at-risk young people and their families. Outreach opportunities include the possibility of St. John's adopting needy children in a specific school and providing them with needed school supplies. And of course, there is our relationship with St. Paul's Camden. What we are both clear about is in no way is he to 'take away' ministries that everyone is already doing, but rather to enhance and build upon what is being done.

So, what will this cost? Deacons come and serve in churches for free. The only diocesan requirement is that they are given an expense account, usually around \$500 a year to cover mileage and other out of pocket needs. Needless to say, deacons are very much in demand, with about 75 active in a diocese of 144 churches.

Canon Wrede has known Ken for four years and both he and Mother Anne taught him in the Diocesan School for Deacons. Both hold him in high regard. It is a high complement to our congregation that he met with Bishop Stokes and asked to be appointed to St. John's.

Please take the opportunity to meet him and speak with him as we welcome him into the family. And we give thanks to God as Deacon Ken begins his ministry among us.

Junior Warden's Report



Thank-you to all who participated in the Fall clean-up. What a fabulous job, with so many leaves to be rounded up! And thank-you to all who helped set up for the spaghetti dinner, brought scrumptious desserts, stayed to clean up, or who came for the fellowship. It was nourishing evening for

body and spirit. Special thanks, of course, to our chef, Matt Torpey, who “slaved over a hot stove all day” (he very nearly literally did this) to provide our feast. I hope many of you availed yourselves of the chance to buy a container of meat and sauce to enjoy at home.

Our stewardship campaign was successful, thanks to the work of Vestry member Chris Goodman. If you have not turned in your Estimate of Giving card, it is never too late!

Speaking of stewardship, please consider using your time and talent in one of our many ministries, which were listed on the back of the card. If you need more information, or are interested in participating but don’t know who to contact, contact me and I will head you in the right direction.

Also, our annual parish meeting and election will be here before we know it. In the intervening weeks and months prayerfully consider whether you are called to give your time and talent to the life of St. John’s by joining Vestry or by representing us at Convocation or Convention.

This year we will be needing four new vestry members and two wardens. These are positions that require some of your time, but not an inordinate amount. Most of what they require is commitment, your own good judgment and your love of our church. You will learn a lot, and you will deepen your relationship with your faith and with our parish family, many of whom, from all walks of life, have so served. So ask, in prayer, if you are called to make a difference in this way.

I wish you all happy anticipation during this Advent season, the Merriest Christmas, and many blessings in 2020.

Senior Warden’s Report

Throughout Advent all three Eucharists will begin with the Penitential Order, which places the Confession and absolution at the beginning of the service. This purpose of moving this portion of the liturgy to this location is to both emphasize the penitential nature of the season and so that we may be prepared to come before God with ‘clean hands and a pure heart’ at the beginning of our worship. You may notice that this is the custom in the various daily offices (Morning and Evening Prayer, Noontime and Compline) in the Book of Common Prayer.



STEWARDSHIP: Thank you for your continued support of our church. Please keep your pledge current and any additions will be gratefully accepted!

Operating FUND: November Income: \$10,384.

Please note that as of December 9th, St. John’s was running a deficit of \$17,241.58 for the year 2019.

We are at the end of **Stewardship Season!** If you have not yet turned in your Estimate of Giving for 2020, you are asked to do so as soon as possible. Extra forms are available in the back of the church. You can also email them to st.johns1789@verizon.net.

Pledges to date: \$81,760 with 41 families currently reported, an average of \$1,994 per year, or \$38.34 a week. If you have not turned your pledge in yet, there is still time!

Many thanks to Pat Bosch and all those who assisted in making this year’s **Breakfast with Santa** such a success last Saturday, December 7th. The children enjoyed their visit with ‘the jolly old elf’ while bringing gifts for children in need.

St. John’s Annual Christmas Pageant: Our Annual Christmas Eve Pageant service will be held at 4:30 pm on December 24th so it is time to prepare for another wonderful retelling of the beautiful Christmas Story. This is the perfect opportunity for the children of all ages to give of themselves as their gift to our Church!

In order to ensure that the Pageant is a success, there will be weekly rehearsals on Sunday, Dec. 15, & 22 in the church directly following the 10 am services. On Monday, 12/23, 5pm we will have a pizza, chicken fingers and ziti dinner provided for the entire cast and their families. If you would like to participate, please fill out the bottom of the form found in the back of the church or the parish hall. Also feel free to call Susan Jones: Home 856-227-8248 or Cell for texts, too at 609-617-4542.

Heartfelt thanks and may God continue to bless you all,

Susan Jones

Sr. Warden

Call/text 609-617-4542



(Photographs of St. John’s latest newlyweds, Mr. & Mrs. Greg Gleason, courtesy of Susan Jones)

Thank-You from Father Sullivan

Below is the thank-you card that Fr. Wrede received from Fr. Sullivan following his appointment as Rector emeritus. The card was handwritten; many thanks to Shirley Mullen for deciphering and transcribing:



“Reverend and Dear Father,

I don't know where to even begin to thank you for last Sunday. I was exhausted when it was over and went to bed and slept for two hours and have been savoring the day ever since.

I've been gone twenty-two years and nothing like this ever happened before, so I suspect you were behind it! I thank you for saying so many nice things about me and I must start trying to live up to your compliments! It was wonderful to see so many of the dear people again, and I was impressed to see so many new young people. I think that beautiful scroll from which you read in the Parish House was given to me. I don't know where it was put during the luncheon and did not think of it until I got home and hope I can still get it. The luncheon was beyond belief, the room so attractive, the food gourmet. I was too tired to eat much but I certainly enjoyed looking and tasting (I did eat all the soup!) And I did find Matt and thanked him. He is a treasure and I hope a keeper! Last but by no means least, may I say that I like your Anne very much. She is a comforting presence.

I think there were people in the kitchen that I never saw and should have thanked. I never saw the dessert table but was given a piece of everything to bring home. I see your hand behind it all and do thank you again with all my heart. I certainly pray for God's blessing upon you and your ministry to those very dear people.

-ROBERT

P.S. I can't seem to work my copier [printer], so am writing by hand which is rather fun.

P.P.S. I know you are a Canon, but the Banyard days (which were my days) so many were made canons that it was thought to be more of an honor not to be one than to be one. I do want to honor you.

P.P.P.S. The oboe accompaniment was most impressive. (I played the clarinet in the marching band at Princeton).”

The Bishop's 'Good News in the Garden State'



12.13.2019

Dear People of the Diocese of New Jersey,

Be strong and let your heart take courage; all you who wait for the Lord.

— Psalm 37:24

This past Thursday Shelton Radix, Thomas Szczerba, Catherine Wiczorek, Douglas Worthington, and Luke Zerra were ordained to the sacred order of deacons at Trinity Cathedral. As a diocese and as a church, we are blessed. They are an exceptional group of people. Each brings unique gifts, skills, and deep faithfulness to the ministry of the Church. I am confident we all rejoice at their ordinations. I urge us all to pray for them as they live into their diaconal ministries and move toward the priesthood.

In my sermon at their ordination, I shared some of the story of Alfred Delp, a priest of the Society of Jesus ("Jesuits"). I can't help feeling that Delp's story, witness, faithfulness, and writings have real significance for us today.

75 years ago, in December of 1944, Alfred Delp was serving in solitary confinement in Tegel Prison in Berlin. He had been part of the German Resistance. Delp aided Jews trying to flee Hitler's Germany with food, shelter, and guidance to other links in the underground network. Delp was also a member of a group called the "Kreisau Circle," which included people of various political, social, and religious backgrounds. They worked together trying to plan for Germany after Hitler with "a particular concern for Germany's cultural, religious and moral future in the wake of the moral degradation promoted by the Nazis."

The Kreisau Circle also worked with other German resistance groups, including one made up of German military officers who attempted and failed to assassinate Hitler in 1944. In response to that failed attempt, the Gestapo arrested thousands of people, including Alfred Delp. He was accused of knowing about the plot and failing to report it. He was taken first to Moabit Prison in Berlin, where he was interrogated and tortured. He was subsequently transferred to Berlin's Tegel Prison.

His friends in the resistance discovered his whereabouts. The resistance managed to communicate with him in prison, to smuggle food and writing materials to him, and to smuggle messages and other writings of his out. His prison writings were later published and are often compared to the prison writings of his more well-known Protestant colleague in ministry, Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

Fr. Alfred Delp, S.J. was tried in January of 1945. Although he was not charged with a role in the assassination plot against Hitler, because of his uncompromising commitment to the Christian faith, and his refusal to renounce the Society of Jesus (he had taken his final vows as Jesuit in prison in December of 1944), as well as his active participation as a member of the resistance. In his diary, Delp wrote, "The actual reason for my condemnation was that I happened to be and chose to remain a Jesuit."

Fr. Alfred Delp, S.J. was convicted of high treason and sentenced to be hanged to death. This sentence was carried out on February 2, 1945, the Feast of the Presentation, Candlemas. As he was led to the gallows, he quipped to the chaplain accompanying him, "In a half an hour, I shall know more than you do."

Upon learning of his execution on that particular feast day, parishioners of his recalled that exactly four years before, on the very same feast day, Fr. Delp had preached about the symbolism of the candle light traditionally associated with Candlemas. He had observed, "candles give light at the cost of their own substance."

This Advent, I discovered and have been reading from a volume titled *Advent of the Heart*, a collection of Advent writings and reflections written by Alfred Delp as he served as a parish priest in Nazi Germany and while he was in Tegel Prison. His writings are profoundly faithful and powerful.

"Advent is a time of being deeply shaken," Delp writes, "so that man [sic] will wake up to himself. . . . The shaking is what sets up the secret blessedness of this season and enkindles the inner light in our hearts, so Advent will be blessed with the promises of the Lord."

In Delp's observance of Advent, as in our own, the figure of John the Baptist figures prominently. John looms large in the appointed Gospel readings for the 2nd and 3rd Sundays of Advent each year as the voice of one "crying out in the wilderness." Delp writes:

Blessed is that era that can honestly claim that it is not a desert wilderness. Woe, however to the era in which the voices calling in the wilderness have fallen silent, shouted down by the noise of the day, or prohibited, drowned in the intoxication with progress, or restricted and quiet out of fear and cowardice. The devastation will soon take over so horrendously on all sides that the scriptural reference to a desert wilderness will spontaneously occur to us all.

He refers to John the Baptist figures produced by each age, figures "forged by the lighting of mission and vocation" who "should never be lacking from life, not for a moment" and expresses concern: "May the Advent figure of John the

Baptist, of the inexorable messenger and warning prophet in God's name, not be a stranger in our wilderness of ruins. Much in our lives is dependent upon these figures. For how shall we hear if no one calls and the storm of delusion and wild destruction truly overcomes us?"

In the midst of the angry rhetoric and turmoil of our current times, as we flirt with autocracy in this country and in other once-democratic nations of the world; as alternative facts, lies and misinformation become increasingly normalized and, as crass, bald, self-interested partisanship obstructs the effective pursuit of truth and justice, Fr. Alfred Delp's question, written as he was bound in handcuffs in Tegel Prison in the center of Hitler's Nazi Germany in December of 1944 haunts me, "*For how shall we hear if no one calls and the storm of delusion and wild destruction truly overcomes us?*"

Pray that we will always have John the Baptist figures and prophetic voices and leaders like Fr. Alfred Delp, S.J.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever.

Amen.

Faithfully yours in Christ,



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

Parish Prayers for Joys and Concerns

Pray for those in Special Need

John Worsham, Eric Quintavalle, Abby Collins, Matthew Sterling, Bill Peters, Jimmy Yang, Joan Shupp, Margie Schwartz, Theresa DeCicco, Nancy Hosey, Denise Stricker, Jeff Boggess, Jenny Yocum, Cynthia & Julian Yeh, Sean Santos, Steve Montgomery, Maria Grace, John Kuchler, Jean Perkins, Ann Roney, Harry Smith, Jean Perkins, Maria Velez, Jared Callen, Hadley Benfield, Phyllis Mancuso, William Mayer, Sr., Joseph Mancuso, Nicole Youngs, Nancy Klobnak, the Houghton Family, Andrew, Gemma and Finn Hermann, Joseph Reily, Nick Giambri, Dot Lutz, Brad Siracuse, Sandy Ferguson, Atwood Shupp, James Wager, John Ervin, Frances Ash, Ken Timms, Michael B., Nancy Hosey, Joanne Van-Patton, Betty & Bud Bidinger, Terry and her grandchildren, Karlene Gray, Helen Shupp, Margie Arches, Ann Masker, Marc Lilley, Thomas

Caruso, John Davidson, Marissa Rocco, Ken Sweeten, Anna, Diane Oberoski, Cynthia Smith, Joshua Kull, Angela McCarty Martin, Jule McRae

Pray for our Shut-In and Home-Bound

Kay Taylor, Barbara Houghton, Karen Street

Pray for those serving the military, police, and fire dpts.

Samantha & Matthew Sanders, Adam Miller, Henry Yang, Amanda Collazzo, Frank Vanore, Jr., Steven Barthmaier, Anthony Moss, Michael Truskowski, Abbey Wilkins, Janet Prince, Ken Sweeten, Andy Misinkavitach, Garrett Bogdan, Nigel P. Shockley, Catherine Marie Wilson, Mike Millisky, Derek Walton, Colin Mair, Ryan Mair, Michael C. Marcucci

The Editor's Corner



It's the most wonderful time of the year! As a child, I loved this season for the obvious reasons – getting a piece of chocolate from my Advent Calendar each day leading up to Christmas, eating delicious meals at holiday dinners, and of course opening gifts on Christmas morning. However, over the years my attitude toward the holiday season has matured (as many of ours have). I now have a significantly greater appreciation for the truly important aspects of this time of year – spending valuable time with family and friends, experiencing the wonder present in my daughter's eyes as she lives through Christmas as I once did, and celebrating the story of the birth of Christ. I am privileged to be able to spend the season with the parishioners of our church, and I look forward to many future Advent seasons as a member of St. John's Chews Landing.

Thank you all for everything that you do. Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to all!

I have the honor to be Your Obedient Servant,

-Todd Wonderlin

****All items to be included in The Messenger can be emailed to twonderlin@gmail.com. The deadline for articles for the next issue is February 10th.**

CHRISTMAS at St. John's

December 24: 4:30 Pageant with Candle light
7:30 Festive Eucharist with Candle Light
11:30 Midnight Mass with Candle Light

December 25: 10:00AM Holy Eucharist with carols

December 28/29: 1st Sunday of Christmas, 5 PM & 8 AM

December 29: Christmas Lessons and Carols at 10AM

All Members & Friends of St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church

Parish Ministries		
Altar Guild	Phyllis Sowers	856-906-3530
Choir	Phyllis Sowers	856-906-3530
Church School	Mary Wonderlin	609-560-9153
Churchyard	Ernest Jones	609-568-6835
Episcopal Church Women	Bernie Brown	856-402-2439
Flowers Memorials	Phyllis Sowers	856-906-3530
Acolytes/Readers/Servers	Steve DeBaun	856-278-3284
Ushers/Greeters	Shirley Mullen	856-227-1051

Class of 2020		Class of 2021	
Matt Torpey	215-756-2470	Chris Goodman	856-313-8552
Tom Gratton	856-905-2978	Mary Wonderlin	609-560-9153
Dori Millisky	856-784-0311	Peggy Cardone	609-440-3675
Don Martel	856-381-5739	Jason Komanchek	856-952-3931

Class of 2022		Treasurer	
Mike Lutz	609-332-0334	Peggy Cardone	609-440-3675
Jessica Robinson	609-254-6855		
Pam Sichelstiel	856-237-3952		
Phyllis Sowers	856-906-3530		

2019 Delegates to Convention		2019 Delegates to Convocation	
Matt Torpey	215-756-2470	Lou & Marion DeCecco	856-848-8110
Judy McGrath	609-313-5025	Pat Bosch	856-939-2041
Judy Vaughan-Sterling	609-707-5005	Dorothy Blindenbacher	609-870-1869

2020 Delegates to Convocation	
Dorothy Blindenbacher	609-870-1869
Diedre Gratton	856-905-2979
Kerry McManaman	609-760-6012

The Revd Canon Richard C. Wrede, stjohns.canonwrede@gmail.com, 609-502-4720
 Parish Secretary: Mrs. Shirley Mullen
 Office in Parish Hall Hours: Wednesday & Thursday, 9:00 am – 12:00 noon
 Parish Office Phone: (856) 227-1051
 Church E-mail: St.Johns1789@Verizon.net
 Church Website: www.stjohns1789.org
 Choir Rehearsal: Wednesday nights in the Church at 7:30 p.m.
 The Realm (On Line Directory information) <https://onrealm.org/TheChurchStJohn/Signin>

Vital Tech Crew: Website, Newsletter, Realm
 Website: Julia Alford-Peirce and Wayne Hans Newsletter: Todd Wonderlin
 Bulletin: Keith Peirce and Shirley Mullen Realm: Lee Jones

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Saturdays: 5:00PM Rite II Eucharist with Sermon
Sundays: 8:00AM Rite I Eucharist with Sermon
 9:30AM Church School
 10:00AM Rite II Family Eucharist with Sermon