

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 Donald Caron, Interim Rector

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

Volume MMXVIII - Issue VI

Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2018

The End and the Beginning

As the calendar year moves through Autumn, the liturgical year moves toward the End Time. We celebrate the Kingship of Christ and hear readings that describe the Apocalypse. At the same time, after kids return to school, church activities begin to ramp up. That certainly is true of St. John the Evangelist Church.

Saturday, November 17 is celebrated as Founder's Day. We sponsored a 5K run as well as a walk for anyone who wanted to celebrate with us in a physical activity. There was a Spaghetti Supper that evening for everyone (runners, walkers and anyone else who wants to come). Music during the supper will be provided by a parishioner, Cindy Smith, who specializes in popular music of the Colonial period.

On Sunday, November 18, the 10:00 Service followed the 1789 Book of Common Prayer Communion Service.

Christmas Ornament Exchange



November 25 is the Feast of the Kingship of Christ, which is the last Sunday of the Church Year. On that day, we will have a Christmas Ornament exchange. Parishioners are invited to bring a Christmas tree ornament with the names of family members written on it, or with a tag attached with family member names. The wrapped (it need not be fancy wrapping) ornament is left in a box at the back of the church as you arrive for Service that weekend (all Services) and as you leave, you take one home to pray for the people whose name(s) are on it through the four weeks of Advent.

Advent Book Study



A study of the book, 'What We Talk About When We Talk About God', by Rob Bell will begin at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday evening, November 29, in the classroom in the lower level of the parish hall building and will continue each of the three Thursdays following. Everyone (parishioner or not) is invited. The book is easily obtained through Amazon.com.



Advent



The first Sunday of Advent is December 2. There will be a blessing of the Advent Wreath at all the Services. Rehearsal for the Christmas Pageant will follow the 10:00 Service. The Three Kings will begin their journey to the Stable. Let's see if the kids can spot them as they travel each week! Each Sunday (and Saturday) the Service will begin with the lighting of the Advent Wreath. There will not be Adult Christian Education after Services in December.



On Sunday, December 23, following the 10:00 Service, we will do the "Greening of the Church." Everyone is invited to help. The final rehearsal for the Christmas Pageant will follow a dinner at 5:00 P.M.

Christmas Services



The Christmas Eve Children's Service with the Pageant is at 4:30 pm. There will also be Christmas Eve Services at 7:30 pm and 11:30pm. Christmas Day Service is at 10:00 am.

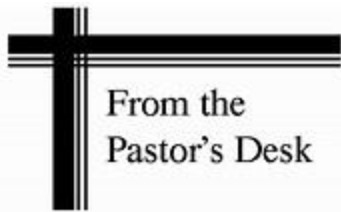


On December 29th, at the 10:00 am Service, we will celebrate the Christmas Season with Lessons and Carols.

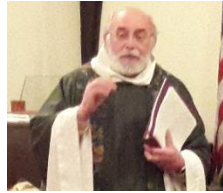


Feast of Epiphany

January 6 is the Feast of Epiphany. The three Kings will complete their journey to the Stable. The de-greening of the church will follow the 10:00 am Service. Everyone is invited to help.



From the
Pastor's Desk



Dear People of St. John's,

Each year the Episcopal Church joins with a number of other Christian churches in celebrating the birth, ministry, passion and resurrection of Jesus through the use of the Liturgical Calendar and the Revised Common Lectionary. The lectionary is the book from which the readings at all of the services are taken. It has three cycles of readings, simply called Year A, Year B and Year C. The main distinction between the three cycles is the use of a specific Gospel. Year A features the Gospel of Matthew. Year B features the Gospel of Mark. Year C features the Gospel of Luke. Parts of the Gospel of John are included in each of the three years, especially in Year B, because Mark's Gospel is so short. The structure of each year follows the calendar. Beginning with the start of the Church year on the First Sunday of Advent (which occurs this year on December 30), the Gospel tells the story of what led up to the birth of Jesus, which is celebrated at Christmas.

In addition to the difference in the parts of the story covered in Gospel readings, the church distinguishes the different liturgical seasons through the use of colors. The Catholic Church uses Violet for the Advent season, and some Episcopal churches follow that designation. More recently, blue, especially a shade called "Sarum Blue" is used for Advent. An ancient style of Christian worship in England called the Use of Sarum, also known as the Sarum Rite or Use of Salisbury, is a variant of the Roman Rite widely used for the ordering of Christian public worship, including the Mass and the Divine Office. It was established by Saint Osmund, Bishop of Salisbury, and Richard Poore in the 11th century and was originally the local form used in the Cathedral and Diocese of Salisbury, England. It later became prevalent throughout southern England and came to be used throughout most of England, Wales, Ireland, and (later) Scotland. It was this style of worship (which was originally a variation of Roman Catholic worship in Latin), that became the foundation for Anglican worship in the earliest Church of England Book of Common Prayer. Blue was used at the Cathedral of Salisbury for Advent. Until modern times, a wide variety of colors was used for liturgy throughout the year, including yellow. The current Episcopal Book of Common Prayer nowhere dictates what colors are to be used. But custom has brought us to blue to distinguish Advent from Lent, when violet is more commonly used.

The story of Advent is certainly different from the story of Lent. By "story" I am referring to the gospel content as well as the "emotional response" to the season. As I look upon it, Advent is a time for recalling the anticipation of the coming of Jesus. That is a joyful anticipation. We make preparations for Christmas in our church, in our homes, and in our hearts. Have a joyful Advent.

Fr. Don

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

November 25 & 26:	Christmas Ornament Exchange
November 29	'What We Talk About When We Talk About God' 7:00 pm
December 2:	First Sunday of Advent
December 3:	ECW meeting and cookie exchange Parish Hall 10:00 am
December 4:	Evening ECW meeting 7:00 pm
December 6:	'What We Talk About When We Talk About God' 7:00 pm
December 8:	'Breakfast with Santa' in the Parish Hall
December 11:	Vestry Meeting 7:00 pm
December 13:	'What We Talk About When We Talk About God' 7:00 pm
December 20:	'What We Talk About When We Talk About God' 7:00 pm
December 23:	Greening of the Church following the 10:00 am service
December 23:	Pageant Rehearsal 5:00 pm
December 24:	Children's Christmas Eve Service with Pageant 4:30 pm
December 24:	Christmas Eve Service with Choir 7:30 pm
December 24:	Christmas Eve Service 11:30 pm
December 25:	Christmas Day Service 10:00 am
December 29:	Festival of Lessons & Carols 10:00 am
January 6:	Feast of the Epiphany
January 6:	De-greening of the church after the 10:00 am service
January 7:	ECW Meeting 10:00 am
January 7:	Evening ECW Meeting 7:00 pm
January 8:	Vestry Meeting 7:00 pm
January 19:	Soup Sale donation drop-off 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
January 20:	Annual ECW Soup Sale 9:00 am until 12:00 pm
February 3:	Annual Parish Meeting immediately following the 10:00 am service
February 4:	ECW Meeting 10:00 am
February 5:	Evening ECW Meeting 7:00 pm

Remember to mark your calendar



Please consider supporting St. John's in your online shopping on Amazon.com! 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! Be sure to let your family, friends and neighbors know about this, no matter where they live. Anyone can participate and the more that do the more we will receive.

Weekly Schedule

Saturdays

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

Sundays

8:00 a.m. Rite I Eucharist with Sermon

9:30 a.m. Church School

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

Vestry meetings are held in the Parish Hall on the 2nd Tuesday evening of each month 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

The Wardens Speak

'Senior Moments'

Words of Wisdom from our Sr. Warden Patricia Bosch

As we approach the end of this year, I would like to send out my wishes for each and every one, to have a very Merry Christmas and the happiest of New Years.

I would like to say "Thank You" to Fr Don Caron for his help and spiritual guidance this past year and in the months to come.

I would like the congregation to take a moment and think about the Vestry. We will be looking for 4 to 5 people to join at the annual meeting (which is the first Sunday in February). If anyone has questions about the Vestry, they can contact myself, or Susan Jones (Jr Warden) or any other Vestry person. This is good for your time/talent with Stewardship.

Finally, Bob, a big Thank You to you for your time and talent in preparing the Messenger for all of us. You keep us informed with everything that was going on in our parish.

May God Bless all of you.

Patricia A. Bosch,

Sr. Warden

'Junior Jottings'

Notations from our Junior Warden Susan Jones

I would like to remind everyone about the upcoming Annual Meeting – Souper Bowl Sunday February 3, 2019. We will need a new class of Vestry members as well as a new Junior Warden. Feel free to note that if Susan Jones can be Junior Warden, 'anyone' who loves St. John's and its parish can do it! She (me) will try to be as patient, welcoming and as wonderful as Pat Bosch, Father Don and the Vestry have been with her!

A huge thanks to the many people who are doing so much to keep St. John's a slice of heaven here on earth! People like Bob Goodman, who has done a phenomenal job tending our Website and Newsletter so graciously and for so long! His website work will be missed enormously along with his lively, informative and nurturing newsletters. We certainly understand his request for a well-deserved recess after 15 years publishing 'The Messenger' and hope everyone will join in prayers of thanks for his superb service, as well as earnest prayers for someone to take on this saintly "calling."

All best wishes and prayers,

Susan

Jr. Warden

Wawa 'Shorti Hoagie' Coupons

Coupons for Wawa 'Shorti hoagies' are available from the office and from Mary Wonderlin 783-6805. Coupons are \$4.00 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.

Discernment News

Our committee is busy preparing to receive names of candidates for Rector of our beautiful church. We look forward to beginning the interview process as the next step in the discernment process. Please ask God to guide the committee in considering the right person to administer to St. John's.

Wishing you blessings,

Linda Ambler

for the Discernment Committee

Vestry & Discernment Committee Prayer

Lord, we ask you to guide the members of our vestry and Discernment Committee so that they may hear your voice leading St. John the Evangelist Church into the future to which you are calling us. Give them wisdom and insight into the qualities of leadership needed to best serve our precious church. Inspire also the person You intend to be our spiritual leader and pastor. Give us all a sense of happy anticipation as we await the one we know will be the right one according to Your plan for us. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

"With a Voice of Singing..."

Choir Notes from Our Music Director Dan Nelson



We were delighted recently to be joined by Cynthia Smith on the Irish Whistle for a brand-new piece with the ensemble. It's a joy to tackle new music and doubly a joy to share music with musicians new to the choir. Many thanks to Cindy!

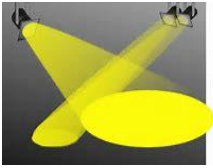
The choir is hard at work preparing new music for Advent and Christmas Eve services. We'll be exploring some new music this year, including a fresh arrangement of the anthem Sweet Little Jesus Boy, so keep your ears tuned in the month of December! The choir will perform at the 7:30 service on Christmas Eve and there will be new musical elements for the 11:30 service.

Looking beyond the Christmas season into Epiphany and the New Year, the choir will once again be participating in the interdenominational ecumenical service in coordination with the Lutheran, Catholic and Methodist congregations of Runnemedede. Look forward to updates about time and date for that service.

As part of a new musical tradition during Advent and beyond we will be singing the Psalms using familiar hymn tunes to guide us. Pay close attention for all sorts of new musical goodies heading your way this season!



Our Annual Breakfast with Santa will be held on Saturday, December 8th. Signups and additional information can be found on the Parish Hall Bulletin Board.



Spotlight on our Youth:

St. John's Annual Christmas Pageant 2018

The Holiday season is fast approaching, and it is time to prepare for another wonderful Christmas Pageant!

"Children" of all ages are encouraged to help retell the beautiful Christmas Story. This is the perfect opportunity for the children to give of themselves as their gift to our Church!

We would like to do our best to ensure that the Pageant is a success, once again, for everyone at St. John's! Let's begin organizing! Our Annual Christmas Eve Pageant service will be held at 4:30 pm and our first step is to find out who would like to participate in this service. Please let me know what parts you are interested in, as soon as possible, so that everyone will have time to learn and enjoy their parts.

Our goal is for the whole church to enjoy and appreciate the glorious Story, and both the children and adults will appreciate it most when they are comfortable with their part in the program.

If you would like to HELP or PARTICIPATE in the pageant, please fill out the form below, and return it to any of the Sunday School Teachers. We need folks of all ages to help! Parents with rehearsals, costuming, and organizing behind the scenes. Adults and Musicians, soloists, duets, narrators, larger parts, and especially to help the younger children to learn and understand their parts.

Children speaking and non-speaking parts: animals, shepherds, angels, etc. If your child is not reading yet, he/she can be assigned the role of an animal. We will do our best to let your child choose which animal he/she would like to be. Children who are interested in parts/roles with lines, may fill in the role they desire below. Please remember, the point is not any one particular part, but participating in the St. John's community celebration of the retelling of the Christmas Story.

**Should you have any questions or need additional information, please Feel free to call Susan Jones: Home 856-227-8248 or Cell for texts, too at 609-617-4542 or email Susan at theplaysthething55@comcast.net.

Rehearsals begin Sunday, December 2, and continuing December 9, and 16 in the church directly following the 10:00 am services.

On Sunday, December 23, at 5:00 pm we will have a pizza & ziti dinner provided for the entire cast and their families with a "formal" Dress Rehearsal to follow directly after we eat and get everyone in costume. We try to run the pageant at least two times all the way through! Monday, December 24, please arrive by 3:15 pm to be in costume, rehearse lines & warm up carols!

We welcome instrumental & solo pieces before & during the pageant! Please let us know of your offering as soon as possible. Your patience and understanding are

appreciated! Attendance is key. Participants need to be able to attend a majority of the practices.

All parts are important.

Thank you ONE & ALL! Heartfelt thanks to those new to our program and to those veterans with years of enthusiastic participation!

(Cut Here)

I/we, would like to perform in the pageant at the 4:30pm service on Christmas Eve. My/our phone &/or cell number(s) are: (H) _____/(C) _____

E-Mail: _____ I/we

will be able to attend most of the practices and the dress rehearsal, with special desire for the roles listed:

Please return to any Sunday School Teacher as soon as possible! Teachers, kindly forward to Susan Jones!

The ECW Page

ECW News from Bernie Brown & Mary Wonderlin



Cookie Exchange

The Annual ECW Cookie Exchange will take place on December 3, 2018 at 10:00 am.



Mmm Mmm Good!!!

The ECW will be selling delicious homemade soup on Saturday, January 20, 2019. The belly warming soups may be purchased at the parish hall between the hours of 9:00 am and 1:00 pm. Also, soup may be purchased after the 5:00 pm church service on Saturday. Soup sales will be continued following the church services on Sunday, January 21st following the church services (while supplies last). Soup containers may be picked up in the parish hall if you have a favorite soup you would like to donate. Donated soups may be dropped off on Friday, January 19th. Members of the ECW will be there to accept the soup between the hours of 6:00 & 8:00 pm.

Stewardship Corner



Dot Blindenbacher – Stewardship Committee

Thanks to everyone who helped and took part in our annual stewardship campaign. It was moving to hear and read about how much St. John's means to some of our parish family and it was really wonderful to share brunch and fellowship on November 4th. Reports are that the food was excellent (and attractive too). Thanks to Barry McManaman for the delicious egg casserole and potatoes. And thank you to the following, who know who they are, Linda, Chris, Lou, Pat, Shirley, and of course Father Don.

Pledges of your time and talent will be requested in January, prior to our Annual Parish Meeting. I think we all agree that stewardship is about more than financial support, so please think and pray about how you can contribute your time and abilities to the needs of St. John's. In particular, we will need four new members of Vestry to replace outgoing members, as well as a Junior Warden. None of our ministries require great amounts of time, it's always fun to work with others, and, many hands do make light work.

I read recently that if you have food in the fridge, clothes on your back and a roof overhead, you are richer than 75% of the people on the planet. (If you have a car, you're even wealthier.) If you have money in a bank, in your wallet or change in a dish somewhere, you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy. The article went on to say that if you can attend a church without fear, you are more blessed than three billion people elsewhere in the world who cannot. And if you can hold up your head, smile and feel thankful, you are *Blessed* because the majority or us can, but most do not. We at St. John's *are* truly blessed. Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas to you all.

Stewardship

Thank you for your continued support of our parish. Please keep your pledge current and please know that any additions are gratefully accepted.

Shop with Scrip

We are reviving the Scrips Gift Card Program which we did several years ago. Gift Cards may be purchased as gifts or for personal use and St. John's will receive a percentage of the purchase price – up to as much as 16% on some retailers. What a great deal, right?

Remember that you can purchase gift cards for your own personal use at retailers including grocery stores where you regularly shop.

Order forms will be available starting the weekend of December 1st and 2nd and are due with payment December 9th for delivery before Christmas.

Saving Soda & Soup Can Tops

Amy Hans is collecting soda and soup can tops to raise money for Ronald McDonald House. There is a collection basket in the Parish Hall.

St. Paul's Camden Feeding the Hungry

Thank you to all who pitched in to feed the hungry at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Camden on Sunday, December 23rd.

We team up with St. Andrews St. Andrew's, Camden, to help feed hungry men, women, and children at St. Paul's, on the fourth Sunday of the month whenever there is a month in which there are five (5) Sundays. We will next participate in this wonderful outreach December 23rd. If you have any toiletries and or cold weather clothing the homeless are in desperate need of them. Please bring them to the parish hall between December 16th & December 22nd.

Service for Christian Unity

Each year we celebrate the week of Christian Unity with an ecumenical service. This is an opportunity for the choirs of several churches to get together, sing some individual anthems and then sing a couple of joint anthems. There are scripture readings as well, but the focus is on the choirs and the music. This coming year the service will take place on January 17, 2018 at 7:30 pm. Sunday Bulletins for location. Please mark your calendars and come support our choir. This is always a wonderful service that is also lots of fun!

SCUCS

One of our major outreach efforts is donation of food for 'SCUCS', an organization in Camden County which 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.

Unforgotten Haven

Unforgotten Haven projects have been a big success. Dori Millisky has created a bulletin board announcing the projects boxes are available for donating items. Going forward we will continue to donate to them through the former 'Noisy Sunday' collection the last weekend of the month

Deadline for the February Messenger Sunday, January 20, 2019

Items may be e-mailed to St.Johns1789@verizon.net
(Please show The Messenger on the subject line)

The Messenger

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STAFF

Interim Rector

The Reverend Donald Caron

Organist & Music Director

Dan Nelson

Parish Secretary

Shirley Mullen

Sexton

Mike Millisky

Senior Warden

Pat Bosch

Junior Warden

Susan Jones

Treasurer

Peggy Cardone/Lou DeCecco

Vestry

Lou DeCecco

Phyllis Sowers

Steve DeBaun

Peggy Cardone

Barry McManaman

Tom Gratton

Dori Milliski

Don Martel

Dot Blindenbacher

Chris Goodman

Linda Meinel

Mary Wonderlin

Delegates to Convention

Bob Goodman

Judy McGrath

Judy Vaughn-Sterling

Dot Blindenbacher (Alternate)

Delegates to Convocation

Bob Goodman

Pat Bosch

Dot Blindenbacher

Altar Guild/Flowers/Memorials

Phyllis Sowers

Church School

Mary Wonderlin

Churchyard

Ernie Jones

ECW

Bernie Brown

Publicity

Bob Goodman

Ushers

Shirley Mullen

Acolytes/Readers/Servers Scheduling

Steve DeBaun



Coffee Hour

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

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 Yeh, Julian Yeh, Sean Santos, Steve Montgomery, Maria Grace, John Kuchler, Jean Perkins, Ann Roney, Harry Smith, Maria Velez, Jared Callen, Hadley Benfield, Phyllis Mancuso, William Mayer, Sr., Joseph Mancuso, Nicole Youngs, Nancy Klobnak, the Haughton Family, Ann Waller, Andrew Hermann, Gemma Hermann, Finn Hermann, Joseph Reily, Joe Waller, Nick Giambri, Dot Lutz, Brad Siracuse, Lisa Green, Atwood Shupp, James Wagner, John Ervin, Frances Ash, Ken Timms, Michael Bieg, Barbara Rigney, Nancy Hosey, Joanne Van Patton, Betty Bidinger, Bud Bidinger, Terry and her grandchildren, Karlene Gray, Helen Shupp, Sal Aversa, Margie Arches, Ann Masker, Marc Lilley, Thomas Caruso, John Davidson, Luiz Hernandez, Marissa Rocco, Ken Sweeten, Garrett Bogdan, and Anna.

Pray for our Shut-In and Home-Bound

Kay Taylor, Anna Scalise, Barbara Houghton, and Karen Street.

Pray for those serving or entering the military, police, and fire departments

Samantha Sanders, Matthew Sanders, Adam Miller, Henry Yang, Amanda Collazzo, Frank Vanore Jr., Steven Barhmaier, Anthony Moss, Michael Truszkowski, Abbey Wilkins, Janet Prince, Ken Sweeten, Andy Misinkavitach, Nigel P. Shockley, Catherine Marie Wilson, Mike Millisky, Derek Walton, Colin Mair, and Ryan Mair.

