

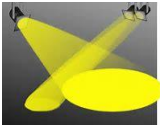
The Messenger

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

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

Volume MMXVIII - Issue IV

August 2018



Spotlight on our Youth:



On June 10th the last day of Sunday School parishioners were serenaded by the children during coffee hour! (photo courtesy Stefanie DeKraft Torpey)

Evensong to honor Older Adults

The annual Evensong to Honor Older Adults will be held 2:30 pm September 30 at Trinity Cathedral in Trenton. Each year every parish is invited to nominate two individuals who have contributed much to the church during their lifetime.

Bernie Brown and Betty Mantzell who have done and continue to do much for St. John's, have been nominated from our parish to be honored at that Evensong. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend this Evensong. Bring your friends.

Carpooling will be a good idea as it is a very popular service!

Coach Bag Bingo Returns

The Evening ECW is sponsoring a Coach Bag Bingo on Friday, September 22nd. The bags are beautiful. The doors open at 6:00 pm and the Bingo starts promptly at 7:00 pm. The cost is \$30.00. Tickets go on sale this weekend and may be bought from Lisa Cooper, Diane Chando, Peggy Cardone, or Mary Wonderlin.

End of Summer Picnic September 16th

Once again, our vestry will kick off our Fall season with St. John's annual "End of Summer Picnic" on September 16 immediately following the 10:00 am service. This is the day the choir resumes singing during the 10:00 am service as well as the start date of Sunday School. Everyone is invited; no matter what service you normally attend. Please bring a covered dish. There is a sign-up on the bulletin board in the parish hall, however, please join us whether you sign up to bring a dish or not. We will have plenty of fun so mark your calendar, dress comfortably, and come have a great picnic. Invite your friends and neighbors and let them enjoy the fellowship of St. John's.

Discernment News

The committee has been very busy preparing the discernment documents for posting on the diocesan websites and those that have been posted on our website. We have completed the first phase of the process and are now preparing to receive names of applicants. We are beginning this more intense phase by developing our course of action for the interview process. Please pray for God's guidance for us.

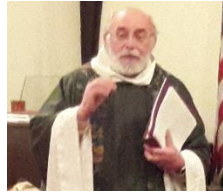
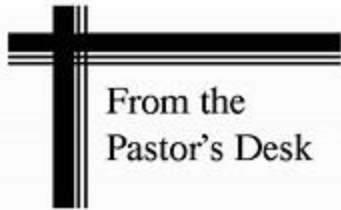
Wishing you blessings,

Linda Ambler

for the Discernment Committee

St. Paul's Feeding the Hungry Outreach

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



Belonging

You would think that knowing who is and who is not a member of a church would be a fairly simple thing, but, alas, it is not. Regulations for determining the various categories of membership can be found in the Canons of the Episcopal Church, but these were written in a time when people were much less mobile than we are today. St. John the Evangelist Church maintains a whole series of formal Registers, and in the archives of the church, some of the records go back as far as the days of the formation of the parish. In addition to those registers, we maintain a data base called "The Realm." The Realm is, in part, a directory of our current membership, with the names, addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses of members. We also use parts of the Realm program to keep track of donations. The Realm is the way we hope to be able to communicate more effectively with all members, especially through email. But there is a problem: records in the Realm have not been updated.

The Canons state that the most common way a person becomes a member of the Episcopal Church and your local parish is by being baptized in that local church. When that happens, the baptized person becomes a member of the church, and at age sixteen, they become adult members of the church. It is also taken for granted that baptized members will be confirmed by an Episcopal bishop when they reach the proper age.

That worked well for the "good old days," but in today's church things are not so simple. Many Episcopalian adults came to this church from some other denomination. The Episcopal Church recognizes the validity of the baptism of other denominations if it was done with water in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The canons state that the status of those persons as Episcopalians and members of their new Episcopal parish is achieved through "Reception," by the laying on of hands by a Episcopal bishop, or through confirmation for those who have not previously been confirmed in some other denomination that has bishops in Apostolic succession (like Catholic and Orthodox). This would result in a member being recorded as baptized and confirmed.

Anyone who has received communion in an Episcopal church at least three (3) times during the course of a year are considered to be a

"Communicant" and if over sixteen, an "Adult Communicant."

Persons who have been faithful in attending worship (unless there is a good reason, like poor health), who have "been faithful in working, praying, and giving [money] for the spread of the Kingdom of God" are considered to be "Communicants in Good Standing."

In today's world, people move much more frequently than in the days when the Canons were crafted. For people who have moved, membership in a local parish is accomplished through a certificate of membership. The canons say that when you want to become a member of a new parish, you must get a certificate of membership from the parish you are leaving. This certificate will have information about your sacramental records and your status in your old parish. This information will be entered into the record of your new parish, and the new parish will notify the old parish when the records have been entered. That will result in your membership in your old parish to end. If you have been attending St. John's and never had a Certificate sent from your old church, you might be surprised to know that you are not officially a member here.

St. John's preserves a record even after you move away. We are aware that people sometimes seek to trace records for genealogical or other purposes, so we keep records that can be accessed when there is an inquiry. If you have become a member of another Episcopal church, we will categorize you in our records as a transferred member. If we don't see or hear from you over a protracted time we will categorize you as an inactive member.

All that having been said, with all the changes of address, phone number and email address, the Realm is not up to date. This time of transition is a wonderful opportunity to bring things up to date. We intend to send out to each household a copy of the information as we have it in our data base. We will also be setting up stations in the parish hall to allow you to update that information and to register to have access to the Realm, so that you can use it as an on-line directory to contact other members (A password is required.) We also hope to have photographs of members in the Realm so that the new priest can use it to get to know the people in the parish.

If you have any questions or concerns about membership status or information, please feel free to talk to Fr. Don or a member of the Vestry.

Book Club Coming

I am thinking about a book club beginning a couple of weeks before Advent, but I have a lot of work to do on details, so I can't pin it down right now. Details will be soon to come.

Political Issues and the Gospel

Dear People of St. John's,

I have been advised that preaching at St. John's should avoid being political. I am aware that preaching on politics can create divisions between members, and even jeopardize the tax-exempt status of the church if it crosses certain lines. Preaching on political issues can also create a burden on parishioners who might feel torn about what to do in response. On the other hand, it seems to me that the Gospel sometimes addresses social issues and concerns itself with the needs of people in various situations.

I came across the article below that raises some interesting points regarding to preaching and political issues. I send it along to you for your consideration, and please feel free to disagree with what it says. My main goal is to get people thinking about being Christian in today's world.

Fr. Don

Called to love one another

By the Rev. Amy Long

Posted Jul 14, 2018 at 1:01 AM

What is the role of the Church in today's politically-charged society? To many, the Church and politics do not (or should not) mix. After all, Jesus did not use his ministry as a platform to campaign for those desiring positions of authority. Jesus did not give impassioned speeches for or against secular laws or policies. For all intents and purposes, Jesus provides an example of a life that is entirely devoid of politics – right? I'm not so sure.

It is true that Jesus did not concern himself with partisan politics. But then the society in which Jesus lived was vastly different from our own. And so we cannot use the absence of modern political engagement in the Gospels as an excuse to take the easy way out. Instead, we must consider what Jesus did do, and discern how we might faithfully apply the Gospel lessons to our modern lives.

Jesus was passionate about the marginalized, the poor, and the vulnerable. He did not let anything stand in his way when it came to loving others – not religious leaders, not traditions and norms of the day, not the opinions of those around him. Jesus loved with abandon and calls us to do the same.

How do we love with abandon in a nation that fails to treat each person as a beloved child of God? I believe that the most faithful response is to speak up, to advocate for compassion, and to work for change. And if the only way to be a voice of love is

to speak out against leaders and lawmakers and policies, then so be it.

Should the Church be political simply for the sake of being political? No. But nor should the Church remain silent when all of creation is crying out. Besides, I am fairly certain that remaining silent in this political climate is a political statement in and of itself.

And so I will continue to reject the notion that demeaning, belittling, and assaulting women is acceptable. I will continue to speak out when racial and ethnic minorities are silenced. I will continue to correct those who spread misinformation intended to make us fear "the other." I will continue to advocate for the refugees, the oppressed, the poor, and the imprisoned. I will continue to oppose those in positions of authority who exploit their power for personal gain.

I will "be political" in public and in private, and in the exercise of my ministry as a religious leader. I will do so not in spite of my faith, but because of it. My faith does not allow me to turn a blind eye to those in need simply because bringing a difficult conversation into my community of faith might make people uncomfortable. How can we lift up our whole hearts to God in worship if we have hardened our hearts against those whom God loves?

The life and ministry of Jesus Christ has called us to love one another. How far are you willing to go?

The Rev. Amy Long is an associate priest at Grace Episcopal Church, Hutchinson.

Words of Wisdom

from Patricia Bosch, Sr Warden

My fellow parishioners:

I would like to thank the Vestry, Discernment Committee, and all the Parishioners for their hard work at St John's. No matter what the task is, we as a group get it done.

Some up-coming events:

First day of Sunday School is September 16th

Our next feeding at St Paul's is September 23rd

We have a committee working on another r5K Run

We have a committee also working on the Spaghetti Dinner

May God Bless all of you.

Patricia A. Bosch,

Sr. Warden

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

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



St. John's to Host 2nd Founders Day 5K Run/Walk November 18th

Preparations are being made to host the second 5K Run/Walk November 18th to commemorate anniversary of the founding of St. John's. Please mark your calendar and consider either participating in the 'Run/Walk' or be a volunteer to assist with the event. Proceeds will benefit the Church of Saint John the Evangelist. Get out the word, and let your friends know about this event.



"With a Voice of Singing..."

Choir Notes from Our Music Director Dan Nelson



Calling all singers, we are always looking for more voices. You need not have to be able to read music, just enjoy singing. Choir will have its first Sunday the same Day Sunday School begins, and we'll begin rehearsals several weeks before that. Rehearsals are held Wednesday evenings from 7:30 pm until 9:00 pm.

At Father Don's suggestion, we might be doing a few new musical items in the service this summer.

Stewardship Corner

by Dot Blindenbacher

We are so grateful to all of you in our parish family for keeping up with your contributions over the summer, allowing us to pay our bills and do what has to be done. Keep it up! And if you pay your bills online, look into the simplicity of having your bank's bill payer send in your contributions automatically. It is so simple.

Fall approaches and along with all the other excitement (our Fall picnic, the return of the choir, ongoing search for a new pastor, and of course Sunday school), we will begin our annual stewardship campaign. Search your heart and ask what St. John's means to you and your family; then let your love for Christ and for our parish mission continue to be shown in your offerings of time, talent and treasure.

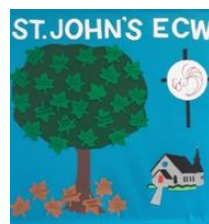
Have a wonderful August!

**Deadline for the August/September Messenger
Monday, September 24, 2018**

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

The ECW Page

ECW News from Bernie Brown & Mary Wonderlin



The next ECW meeting will be 10:00 am Tuesday, Sept. 5th, and the evening group will also meet that same day at 7:00 pm.

All women, please join us for our annual ECW dinner on Tuesday, October 2nd, 7:00 at Filomena's on Blackwood-Clementon Rd. Let Bernie Brown or Mary Wonderlin know if you plan to attend so we may make reservations.

There is a penny jar on the table at the back of the church. Donations go to the diocese and are used by less fortunate churches to purchase educational supplies. Please consider putting in a penny or 25.

Please keep in mind. all Episcopal women are members of We meet the first Monday of the month at 10:00 am and the first Tuesday at 7pm. Please join us!

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

August 14:	Vestry 7:00 pm
September 5:	ECW, Parish Hall 10:00 am
September 5:	Evening ECW 7:00 pm
September 11:	Vestry 7:00 pm
September 16:	Sunday School and Choir Start Up/Picnic
September 22:	Coach Bag Bingo
October 2:	ECW Annual Dinner

Remember to mark your calendars



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.



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.

Wawa Shorti 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.



Please consider supporting St. John's in your online shopping on Amazon.com! The Church receives .05% of all eligible 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.



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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 Millisky

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

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

Wednesdays

11:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist