



The Forerunner

The Newsletter of St. John's Episcopal Church

March 2012

Website: www.stjohnssalemnj.org



The Pastor's Ponderings

How is your Lenten Discipline going? I'll bet that the makes of Tasty Cakes and Twinkies are feeling the pinch! I can assure you, however, that temptations still lurk about. I have it on good authority that the frozen custard shops are now open!

One of the things I try to do in Lent is to spend some time reading "Lenten Devotionals." At the moment, I am beginning a short offering called "A Practical Christianity" by Jane Shaw. I find that I am already a week behind. But, there in

the introduction of the book is a kernel of wisdom by Evelyn Underhill that I would like to share. She is writing in response to a question of one of her readers, concerning a Lenten practice. She responds: "As to your Lent – no physical hardships beyond what normal life provides – but take each one of these as serenely and gratefully as you can and make of them your humble offering to God...Be especially patient with those who irritate you..."

Sometimes we seek to do something special during Lent, when all God is asking of us is that we make room in our busy lives for His presence, and that we see the image of God in ourselves and each other. We cannot perfect ourselves, only God can accomplish that in us. Such a work is made all the more difficult when we refuse to accept the opportunities of grace that God offers. Maybe our Lenten discipline is that we be patient with ourselves, remembering that God is not finished with us yet. We remain a work in progress.

Rosie is home from the hospital and is already at work with the newsletter. Her Lenten discipline will include keeping silent while I am driving, and of course, being patient with her limitations and my hearing, or lack thereof. Thanks for all your prayers and remembrances.

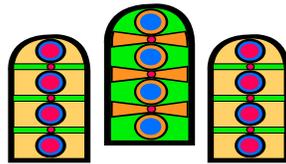
Faithfully,

Fr. Steve



An Irish blessing

May God grant you always
A sunbeam to warm you.
A moonbeam to charm you,
A sheltering angel
So nothing can harm you,
Laughter to cheer you,
Faithful friends near you —
And whenever you pray,
Heaven to hear you.



St. John's Episcopal Church – Salem, NJ – Established 1722

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THE DEADLINE for the April issue of the Forerunner is March 21st



FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

Greetings!

For those of you who were unable to attend the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper on February 21... You Missed Out! The parish hall was full! It was a really pleasant evening with members and friends from our parish and Our Merciful Savior in Carney's Point. And, if you think pancakes are boring... WRONG – we had them with banana, chocolate chips, blueberries, strawberries and toffee! Combine that with Niblock's sausage and we were one content lot! Better mark your calendar for next year!

I am pleased to inform you that your Vestry listens and is making decisions for the good of the parish and in consideration of your comments. At the January Vestry meeting, in response to comments made at the annual meeting and additional communication I received, the 2012 budget was amended. The Finance Committee met in advance of the January Vestry meeting. The committee recommended cuts that would reduce 2012 budgeted expenses by \$30,850, or 53% of the proposed shortfall. In addition, the Vestry voted to remove an additional \$7,000, further reducing the shortfall by another 12%.

What this means to you, our members and friends is that 2012 will be a tight year for St. John's in the same way it is for many of us in our personal budgets. Each committee will be asked to stay strictly within their budget or perhaps spend below their budgeted expenses. Going over budget will not be tolerated without a clear explanation and approval by the Vestry.

Because of the approved reductions, Vestry has approved a method to keep our excellent music program moving forward by the creation of a "Music Fund." This is similar to the Organ Fund and the Stephen fund; a fund to which you may give above your offering. The Music Fund will be dedicated to St. John's music programs, accompaniments, etc.

Ending on a lighter note... here is a history tidbit... Most of us know that John Fenwick founded his colony, now Salem County in 1675. But did you know that it was his grandson, Samuel Fenwick Hedge, who gave the ground in 1727 upon which our church is built? Thank you Mr. Hedge!

Ron Magill
Senior Warden



MUSIC MINISTRY NOTES

As I write this article, I am emotionally overwhelmed by the Ash Wednesday liturgy from which I have just returned home. It was a very fine service indeed. And it bodes well for a special Lenten season. In the mean-time, I have a few informational items and up-dates for those of you who have been so supportive of the Music Ministry at St. John's over the years.

Many of you are aware that the old Steinway Grand Piano (formerly a "player" grand) that was in the Chapel ceased to be serviceable some time ago. That piano has been taken away, at our request, by the Jacob's Music Company. They will use it to train apprentice piano technicians. The cost to re-build it would have been prohibitive (\$40,000 plus). And so we have put it to a noble use.

Most of you are also aware that the organ is silent at present. The blower motor—the original 1934 blower motor—caused the fire alarm to go off on Friday, February 17; so the motor has been hauled away to be repaired ... lots of perspiration was invested in that venture. While this will not be an inexpensive undertaking, it will be much less expensive than purchasing a newly built custom blower motor. We will be without the use of the organ for two or three weeks until such time as the motor has been repaired and re-installed. Keep the "Organ Enhancement Fund" in your thoughts as you make contributions to St. John's financial support.

Also—and unfortunately another financial consideration—because many of the line items in the church's 2012 budget have had to be trimmed in order to come closer to a non-deficit operating budget, we find that the line item for guest musicians does not permit hiring brass players for Easter or a string trio for the Mozart *Missa Brevis* scheduled for June 17. In the past, each of those musicians have been paid \$200 (for rehearsal and performance combined). The Vestry had consented to permit friends of the music program to contribute to a special music fund—apart from the annual budget—to permit the hiring of four brass players and three string players. If you are interested, please consider paying for a trombone player ... or a half a violinist ... or whatever you are able to afford for this cause. The Music Ministry at St. John's has been one of the hall-marks of this parish's liturgical and outreach ministries. It is important that continue.

Lastly, if you have not sung in the St. John's Choir in recent years, or played handbells in the Salem Ringers, but are interested in the challenges and satisfactions of participating, please contact Minister of Music, Bill Clisham to discuss details, voice placement, bell position assignments, music folders, vestment, etc. He can be contacted on his cell phone (908-472-7597) or by e-mail wfclish@aol.com

In service to Christ and His church,

Bill Clisham

Minister of Music
(cell) 908-472-7597
(e-mail) wfclish@aol.com



- Did you see the photo and article of the Quilters in the Monday, Feb. 13th issue of Today's Sunbeam? If you missed it, you can check it out online in their archive: http://www.nj.com/salem/towns/index.ssf/2012/02/st_johns_quilters_quilt_for_a_cause.html The quilters also received a wonderful "Thank-you" letter from the executive director of the Camden Ronald McDonald House, Teddy Thomas. It is posted on the bulletin board outside the church office.
- THANK YOU! To all who helped with our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, especially Ron Magill, Bill Clisham and Julian Hasshien who served up the hot cakes, Mary Anne Mecum-Bryant for cooking all those sausages and Marcie Frame for yet another cup of coffee! Well Done! The folks who brought the sides and helped with the clean up are heroes too! About 35 people enjoyed the supper.
- The WMS Select Choir will be singing the National Anthem at a Phillies game this summer. Carpool anyone? Jean Miller sings this with this choir. They will also be singing at a Wilmington Blue Rocks game. Dates to be announced. Watch this space for more information.
- Jean Miller also made the WMS honor roll for both first and second marking period this year. Keep up the good work!
- And finally, Rosie sends a super big hug and THANK YOU to everyone for taking care of Fr. Steve during her recent "incapacitaton." She underwent a double bypass graft and is doing well. By the time you read this, she will have been home for a week and facing six weeks of rehab... but very much "on-this-side-of the sod!" Thanks also to everyone for all the prayers, well-wishes and concerns - they were all **very much appreciated !**



- 03/01 Phyllis Kates
- 03/05 Kalynn Kernan
- 03/05 Jim Paras
- 03/10 Douglas Van Sant, Jr.
- 03/10 Joseph F. Peterson III
- 03/13 John Sweeney
- 03/15 David Willis
- 03/17 John Laning, Jr.
- 03/19 Bill Mecum
- 03/21 Ted Paras
- 03/22 Arlene Kober
- 03/30 Chuck Miller
- 03/30 Kayla Ann Peterson



03/31/1979 Theresa and Douglas Van Sant

from THE DIOCESE'S WEBSITE

Mr. Charlie Nakash, a parishioner (and vestry member) of Christ Church, Toms River, will be serving as a missionary in the Episcopal Diocese of the Dominican Republic. Before he sets out, Charlie created a blog so he'll be able to keep everyone in Jersey up to date on information about his mission, ministry, projects and progress. The blog is found at:

<http://drmissionary.blogspot.com/> Do keep Charlie in your prayers. And bookmark his blog!



The Salem Area Ministerium has set its Lenten Program for 2012 and it is as follows:

Wednesday evenings
6 pm soup and bread supper
7 pm worship service

Lent 1, 2/29: Haven United Methodist Church
Lent 2, 3/7: Spirit Life Fellowship Church
Lent 3, 3/14: Emanuel Lutheran Church
Lent 4, 3/21: Mt. Hope United Methodist
Lent 5, 3/28: Walnut Street Bible OR 1st Baptist

April 6th Good Friday: 12 to 3 pm at Haven United Methodist Church

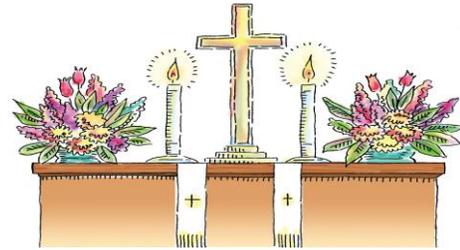
April 8th – Easter – 6:30 AM – under the Oak at the Friends Cemetery (bring your own chair).

ST. JOHN'S ADULT FORUM

Beginning on Sunday, February 29th, Lent I, we will begin a series called "Embracing the Prophets in Contemporary Culture," by Dr. Walter Brueggemann, a UCC minister and noted Old Testament scholar.

- Session I: Moses, Pharoah, The Prophets and us.
- Session II: The Prophets as uncredentialed purveyors of the Covenant.
- Session III: Moral Coherence in a world of power, money and violence.
- Session IV: The shrill rhetoric that breaks denial.
- Session V: The grief of loss as divine judgement
- Session VI: The promissory language that breaks despair.

Bring your favorite Bible and explore how the Prophets confront not only issues in a long ago time, but in our own time.



2012 Altar Flowers

Thank you to everyone who is currently participating in St. John's tradition of requesting flowers "in memory of loved ones" or "in thanksgiving for a special occasion."

There are still several Sundays open in 2012. If any of the dates listed below have a special significance for you, please call DeeAnn Harris (935-3214) or the Parish Office (935-1798) to sign-up with your dedication.

Open Dates:

April 15 & 22

May 6

July 1, 15 & 29

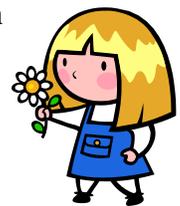
Aug 12

Sept 23 & 30

Oct 7 & 14

HELP IS NEEDED

Men, Women, Couples or Singles - our "Monday Daisies" needs YOU! Mr. Jim Paras delivers our altar flowers to the homebound on Mondays and currently is working alone. Helping hands would be most welcome! All that is required is that you pick up the flowers from the parish hall kitchen and deliver them as designated. Talk with Mr. Paras for more details.



A NOTE OF THANKS

A note of thanks has been received from the Rev. Patrina Pyatt, on behalf of the congregation of Our Merciful Savior, for the invitation to the recent Pancake Supper held here at St. John's. The card is posted on the board opposite the church office.



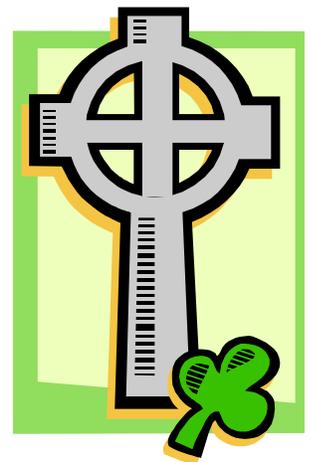
Dear Friends at St. John's and beyond:

I asked Fr. Steve to take my picture in my "Irish" costume so you could see how great I look in it. I had tagged along with Fr. Steve and Aunt Rosie to the Dollar Store and they very kindly purchased the outfit for me. There were so many festive-looking things in the store and I was wondering what the occasion was. I know that at Christmastime the store has a lot of Santa-related things, and at Halloween there are a lot of other costumes about, but I did not know what all the clovers and green things celebrated. Do you know? Fr. Steve said he would explain it all to me when we got back to the church, and he did. I learned all about St. Patrick and that there is a special Day – St. Patrick's Day – celebrated on March 17th – to honor the good man who lived so long ago. He was a Christian missionary to Ireland in the 5th century, and by the 7th century he was known as the Patron Saint of Ireland.

There are many legends about him too. I know that legends may not always be true, but they are interesting and sometimes have a kernel of truth in them. I like the one about St. Patrick driving all the snakes of Ireland into the sea to their destruction. Anything that does away with snakes is fine by me! There is also a legend that explains all the clovers. It seems that St. Patrick explained the concept of the Holy Trinity by using a 3-leaf clover... a three leaved plant on one stalk. The clover – or shamrock as it is also called – is the national flower of Ireland and so humans oftentimes wear shamrocks on St. Patrick's Day, when everything Irish is celebrated.

Fr. Steve said St. Patrick's Day is also a special day to remember and to pray for Christian missionaries all over the world. I wonder if the missionaries will participate in the "wearin' o' the green" that day, and if any will look near as fine as I do in my new costume!

Until next month I remain your friend,
Joel O'Churchmouse



March 2012

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

				1 5-9 pm CASA	2 WORLD DAY OF PRAYER	3
				Diocesan Convention		
4 8am H.E. Chapel-Rt I 9:15-10:15 Church School & Adult Forum 10:30 am HE-Rt II Birthday Cake Sun. 2ND SUNDAY IN LENT	5 5-9 pm CASA	6 9 – noon Quilters 6:45-8 pm Salem Ringers 8 pm NA	7 9-2 pm YAC Noon HE & Healing 10:30-12 CIACC 5-7 pm FSG 8 pm AA	8 5-9 CASA	9	10 CHANGE CLOCKS
11 Daylight Savings Time Begins 8am H.E. Chapel-Rt I 9:15-10:15 Church School & Adult Forum 10:30 am HE-Rt II ECW Sandwich Sun. 12:30 Vestry Mtg 3 RD 3RD SUNDAY IN LENT	12	13 9 – noon Quilters 6:45-8 pm Salem Ringers 8 pm NA	14 Noon HE & Healing 5-7 pm FSG 8 pm AA	15	16	17 Happy  St. Patrick's Day 
18 8am H.E. Chapel-Rt I 9:15-10:15 Church School & Adult Forum 10:30 am HE-Rt II Donut Sunday 4TH SUNDAY IN LENT	19	20 9 – noon Quilters 6:45-8 pm Salem Ringers 8 pm NA FIRST DAY OF SPRING	21 Noon HE & Healing 5-7 pm FSG 8 pm AA	22	23	24
25 8am H.E. Chapel-Rt I 9:15-10:15 Church School & Adult Forum 10:30 am HE-Rt II Pie Sunday 5TH SUNDAY IN LENT	26	27 9 – noon Quilters 6:45-8 pm Salem Ringers 8 pm NA	28 Noon HE & Healing 5-7 pm FSG 8 pm AA	29	30	31





Easter Flower Fund Request

To make a memorial donation for Easter flowers this year, please complete the form below. Place your completed form and donation in the Offering plate on Sunday

or mail it to:

St. John's Episcopal Church

76 Market Street, Salem, NJ 08079

Please make you **check payable to St. John's Episcopal Church.**

Please **write "Easter Flower Fund"** on the memo line of your check.

Deadline April 1st

Your Name: _____

Phone #: _____

Amount donated and attached: _____

In memory of _____

OR

In thanksgiving for _____

Thank you for your participation in St. John's tradition of
Easter Flower Memorials.



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

WELCOMES YOU

St. John's Episcopal Church Schedule

Sunday:

- 8 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I, in the Chapel
- 9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Forum in Parish House
- 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II, in the Church

Wednesday:

- Noon Holy Eucharist, Rite II, in the Chapel



St. John's Episcopal Church
76 Market Street
Salem, NJ 08079

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Dated Material –
Please Deliver Promptly

