



The Forerunner

The Newsletter of St. John's Episcopal Church

September 2012

Website: www.stjohnssalemnj.org

THE DEADLINE for the October issue of The Forerunner is Sept. 24th



The Pastor's Ponderings

It is hard to believe that we are entering into the fall season. It marks another time of beginning. If you are in school, then you are beginning another year of organized learning; maybe you are entering a new school or a middle school, high school or university. Each new place calls us into new relationships, new expectations and new rules of engagement. It is a very exciting time. In the church we are entering into a new "program year." We have many opportunities to begin anew – the fall, the seasons of Advent and Lent, and the new calendar year.

Beginnings are often catalysts for change. In the weeks ahead I invite your involvement in new ministries. I invite your openness to a new understanding of who we are in relation to our world and to God, through adult and children's Christian formation, confirmation or inquirer's instruction, and other opportunities for outreach and growth.

On the 16th of September we return to our regular 2-service schedule of 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. We will hold a "Ministry Fair" following each service, and a Sundae Sunday following the 10:30 service. September 23rd marks the return of the choir and resumption of Christian Formation, beginning at 9:30 a.m. and ending at 10:15 a.m.

Finally, I want to thank all of you for a wonderful summer. Your response to our request for the "Nets for Life" project, and book bags for the students at Salem Middle School was magnificent! We were able to contribute 27 book bags filled with supplies as well as other supplies to spare! The "Nets for Life" project will continue through September and to-date we have raised \$310 and some change. The Vacation Bible School was once again a smash! Fifteen plus members of St. John's congregation participated in making the week come alive. Your help in keeping the food pantry stocked for those in need has also been outstanding - so much so that we have been able to expand the space requirements of the pantry and keep it filled.

It has indeed been a busy summer and I look forward to an eventful fall.

Blessings,

fa Steve

Sunday service times return to 8 am and 10:30 a.m. on September 16th with choir returning September 23rd.

Sing to the Lord!

The hymn “Earth and All Stars,” based on Psalm 148, invites all creation to praise the Lord. Some people love Pastor Herbert Brokering’s all-encompassing lyrics; others appreciate calling earth, stars, plant life and weather to sing to the Lord but find it far-fetched to urge engines, steel and hammers to do so.

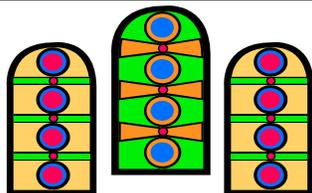
The song’s fifth verse and part of the sixth make it especially popular for school-year kickoffs:

Classrooms and labs, loud boiling test tubes,
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Athlete and band, loud cheering people,
Sing to the Lord a new song! ...
Knowledge and truth, loud sounding wisdom,
Sing to the Lord a new song!

Whether or not you find the hymn poetic, it reminds us that God gives us the ability to learn. Factual knowledge and critical thinking need not impair faith but can strengthen it.

(From The Newsletter Newsletter Sept. 2012)

FROM THE EDITOR: Do you currently receive this newsletter via the U. S. Post Office – an actual paper copy? Wouldn’t you rather see it in color? Save a tree? Save a stamp? Save copier toner? If so, then please phone the church office with your current email address and get instant delivery!



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...from the Senior Warden:

As I sat in church recently, it had been a rainy morning and suddenly the sun broke through. The window over the alter was illuminated beautifully. It's light brightened the sanctuary but even more it seemed to bring some inner light to me.

Too often I hear people say, I don't need to go to church to worship; God is all around me. And, yes, this is true. Yet being in an environment that is conducive to worship does make a difference and it does make you look within.

Worship can mean different things to different people. While it can be prayerful; it can be uplifting; it can allow you to find forgiveness. It can bring you into the presence of God.

How fortunate we are at St. John's to have a wonderful sanctuary and chapel in which to worship. To enter into these places helps you leave the stresses of daily life behind and refocus, perhaps realign your priorities about life.

Throughout the week, the parish gets a number of visitors in need, searching for food and sometimes answers. Some may come because they see us as an easy touch for a handout or a meal. The hope is that they may want a bit more or will remember us when they do realize they want a place to worship.

This year's Vacation Bible School was a similar tool for those youth who attended from the community at large but do not have a church home. We are always optimistic that they may see St. John's as that place where they enjoyed themselves and the people seemed friendly. We would like to think that we made a difference in their lives and in doing so, the parish participants often grow as well. A special thank you goes out to all those who did so much to make our V.B.S. a success in 2012.

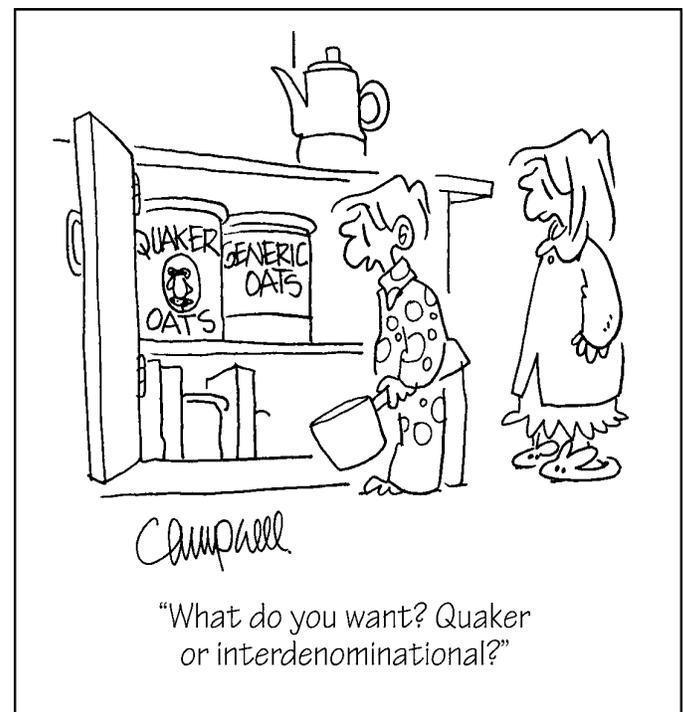
An important part of church life is more than just Sunday worship. It is also fellowship. As we move into fall, mark your calendars for Saturday

evening, October 27, to come together for dinner and time together. I am asking the men of the church to cook! The men will make dinner for the parish and especially for the church women who continually do so much to keep things running and the coffee perking. I hope it will be a fun, family evening of our church family. There will be a sign up sheet if you plan to attend (so we have enough food!) or you call Marge at the church office.

Ron Magill
Sr. Warden

...from the Deacon's Bench

Deacon Sally Maurer and her husband are on vacation in Hawaii. The "Deacon's Bench" will be filled again in the next issue of the Forerunner.



MUSIC NOTES: START-UP THE NEW SEASON!

ST. JOHN'S CHOIR (High School – Adults) will begin with the annual Fall Choir Retreat: 10:30 AM – 5:00 PM on Saturday, September 22, at the home of Minister of Music, Bill Clisham: 80 Hiles Ave. The choir will sing its first Choral Eucharist of the season at 10:30 AM on Sunday, September 23, with a warm-up rehearsal at 9 AM.

Our first gathering will be a one-day Retreat ... a combination “fellowship” (including food and drink), rehearsal of music for the early fall, and an overview of some larger endeavors to transpire during the year. That “Retreat” will take place on Saturday, September 22, at the home of Bill & Mary Anne Clisham: 80 Hiles Avenue, Quinton, beginning at 10:30 AM and continuing until 5:00 PM. Lunch will be provided and folders will be awaiting you. Please bring your own beverage and a small dessert to share.

The choir's first Choral Eucharist of the 2012-2013 season will be Sunday, September 23 ... warm-up rehearsal at 9:00 AM, followed by the Liturgy at 10:30. Our anthem that day will be *Bless the Lord, o My Soul* by WMickail Ippolitof-Ivanof. There will also be the hymns, a Psalm, and other service music to rehearse and lead.

The new season will be another challenging and exciting one. There will be Lessons & Carols in place of the Sunday Eucharist on Advent IV, Sunday, December 23. On Christmas Eve we will sing another group of great pieces appropriate for the season prior to the 10:30 Christmas Eve Festival Eucharist. We will sing special liturgies on Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, the Saturday Easter Vigil—which was a great success last year—and, of course, Easter Sunday (with brass); and on June 9 we will sing Schubert's *Mass No. 2 in G* (with strings and organ) as part of the Sunday morning Eucharist. There will be a few challenging and beautiful new anthems; look especially for the Hovland *Saul* and a repeat of the *Agnus Dei* from the Rutter *Requiem* and Pail Fedak's *The Acceptable Year*. And, as always, there will be many old chestnuts.

THE SALEM RINGERS: Our fabulous hand-bell ensemble will resume regular rehearsals on Tuesday, September 18, 2012, 6:30 – 7:45 PM. This amazing group of people has dedicated themselves to meet, learn, and rehearse regularly at a very high level of musicianship. We anticipate two additional ringers this season, and an expanded repertoire. This season will provide greater opportunity to perform both in church and for community events. They are scheduled to perform an “All Handbells Liturgy” on Sunday, October 21st. And, as always, for Christmas Eve, and for the Salem Yuletide Open-house Tours on December 1. There is a very real possibility they may perform a solo concert sometime in the Spring.

THE JUNIOR CHORISTERS (Grades 3-8) will begin regular rehearsals in the Chancel on Sunday, September 30, 2012, (12:00 - 12:40 PM), following the 10:30 Eucharist. Parents are invited and encouraged to attend this first rehearsal. We hope to have a few more singers in this group this year than last. In anticipation of that, we plan to sing an “All Junior Choristers” liturgy on November 11, as well as the 5:00 PM Christmas Eve liturgy, and several other services during the year. This year we will begin to use a new Junior Choir Curriculum from St. James Music Press: “Viva Voce”, which includes musical, theological, and liturgical elements.

INTERESTED NEW PARTICIPANTS: Anyone who was not active last season, but is interested in joining any of these ensembles should contact Bill Clisham at your earliest convenience. Auditions are not required, but a “get-acquainted meeting” is necessary for placement and planning purposes. See the back of the service bulletin for contact information, or come to the organ console and introduce yourself following the Organ Postlude.

In service to Christ and His Church,
Bill Clisham
Minister of Music
(cell) 908-472-7597 (e-mail) wfclish@aol.com

MINISTRY FAIR

It seems just about everyone at St. John's does something; usher, reader, oblationer, and so forth, but did you ever want to try something different; to try on a new hat so to speak? Here's an opportunity for an usher to be a reader and a reader to be an usher or work with the altar guild. Maybe you've never tried any of these ministries and would like to be an acolyte? How about a Monday Daisy? **On Sunday, September 16th, our Ministry Fair** will be held in the parish hall. There will be a table with a sign-up-sheet for each ministry along with a page describing the responsibilities of that ministry.

Take some time and think about what hat you would like to wear for the coming year and then come join the fair!



WOMEN'S MINISTRIES BREAKFAST

The Women's Ministries Breakfast will be held at 1st Presbyterian Church in Salem on Saturday, September 8, 2012, 9-11 a.m. The topic is "Rock Solid." Bring a friend and join us! Good food! Good fellowship! Good teaching! Child care is provided. (There is no cost.)

SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL AND ADULT FORUM RESUME

Vacation is over and St. John's church school and adult forum resume on Sept. 23rd, beginning at 9:30 a.m. and ending at 10:15. Plan to bring the whole family! Nursery care will also be available. The Adult Forum will begin with discussion of the book "*Embracing a Life of Meaning*" by Kathleen Norris. It will be divided into five sessions as follows: Belief Matters; The Bible Matters; Community Matters; Place Matters & We Matter.



PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

2nd Lt. Tyler Patrick VanSant, USAF
PFC Cassandra Carroll, US Marines
Captain Ryan Bailey, US Army
PFC Gage Mason, 82nd Airborne, US Army
Senior Master Sergeant David John Milne, USAF
Nick DeMascio, US Army.
Major Peter Larrabee, USAF

Happy Birthday

09/02 Lisa Sparks Berrodin
09/11 Kasey Laning
09/13 Marion Finlaw
09/19 Joseph Boon
09/23 Father Steve
09/25 Jean Miller
09/27 Avery Frieze-Dunfee

Happy Anniversary

09/25 Jim and Helen Acton
09/13 Louis (Joe) and Carla Buck



BLESSINGS
ON YOUR
BIRTHDAY
AND ANNIVERSARY



LOOKING AHEAD

The Blessing of the Animals

will take place again this year.

The date has been set for

October 7th, following each

service, and the place will be on

the grounds outside the parish house. Note: pets *must be in carriers, or leashed*, for the safety of pets and humans (and especially for the safety of Joel Churchmouse!).

Saturday, October 13th has been set for **ECW's JUMBLE SALE** which will be held outside on the church grounds. Cost for a sale spot has been set at \$10 and you price and sell your own items. Of course, a 10% donation to ECW would be most graciously accepted, but it is not required. The sale is currently set to run from 8 am until 2 pm, with a hot dog lunch available for purchase, and there was some talk about the rental of a popcorn machine too! There will be free games and activities for children.

October 27 – An evening of dinner and fellowship with dinner being prepared by the men of the church, headed up by our Senior Warden, Ron Magill.

There are plans for a **hand bell liturgy** on **October 21st**. Further details will be forthcoming. Also watch for a **Junior Chorister liturgy** on **November 11th**, as well as at the 5 pm Christmas Eve service.

HELP NEEDED – ACOLYTE GUILD

The Acolyte Guild needs YOU! We need boys, girls, men and women ages 7 and up to serve at the altar during the 10:30 services. Training is provided and new acolytes are helped by veteran acolytes during their first few services. Please see Father Steve or David or Eileen Miller as soon as possible or sign up at the Ministry Fair on Sept. 16th.

VBS REFLECTIONS

By Virginia Sisco

The first day

you feel your way.

The kids are new

and so are you.

You've looked at the lessons and cogitate

How can I help the stories relate?

When we tend to groan and fuss

Even then God loves us.

We want to learn from God above

That he comes to earth to show us love.

That where we are or hope to be

God is here for you and me.

Overnight French Toast

Eileen Miller

This was served at VBS 2012 and was a popular dinner. Here is the recipe cut down for 6-8 servings

1 loaf French Bread, cut in 1 inch slices

6 eggs

1 1/2 cups milk

1/4 cup sugar

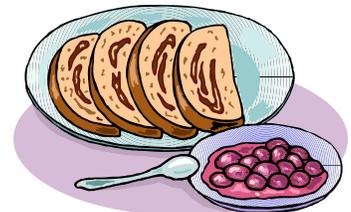
1 tsp vanilla

pinch salt

1/2 tsp cinnamon

10x sugar (garnish)

Fresh berries (optional)



Spray a 9x13 pan with cooking spray. Arrange bread in pan.

Whisk eggs, milk, 3 tbsp sugar, vanilla and salt together. Pour over bread. Cover and refrigerate at least 1 hour or overnight.

Mix 1 Tbsp sugar and cinnamon. Sprinkle on top. Bake at 350° for 30 minutes. Sprinkle with 10x sugar and serve with berries or syrup.



St. John's Episcopal Church
Market & Grant Street, Salem

Jumble Sale

Saturday, October 13, 2012

Raindate: Saturday, October 20, 2012

8:00 am-2:00 pm

Space Available: \$10

Bring your own table

Crafters, yard sale items

Food for sale, FREE kids activities

For more information, call

856-935-1798

To benefit programs of the ECW

Dear Friends at St. John's and Beyond:

Thank goodness August is over! I was enjoying the month for several weeks when all of a sudden your church hall was overrun with zillions of those brave small humans! Well, maybe not zillions exactly, but there were lots of them and they were everywhere!! Fr. Steve told me later that they were all here for something called Vacation Bible School or "VBS." I was not certain as to what this "VBS" was but I know I spent that week dashing about, trying to hide from those eager participants who might think I was a toy for them to squeeze!

Late at night I made several exploratory rounds. I found that this VBS comes with lots and lots of goodies, the leftovers of which filled my pantry to the brim, Ruth and her family are stocked up, and we even gave a great deal to the neighborhood mice. We will all get through the winter just fine now, thanks to this VBS!

I later asked your good Fr. Steve what purpose the humans had for VBS. He said that the "vacation" part of the name referred to the fact that the children are out of regular school for the summer so that is when this is scheduled, the "Bible" part of the name referred to the subject being taught and the "school" part, well, school is school, but in this case it is fun too. The parish hall had been transformed into what looked like the sky! There was an airplane and the sun and clouds everywhere! I had seen various Bible verses about and apparently these were memorized by the small humans in exchange for recognition of some sort. Being the incredibly brilliant mouse that I am, I memorized them all in one day, thereby justifying my "liberation" of all the goodies in my pantry!.

There was some pretty wonderful music too (and it was loud enough to hear from my room in Fr. Steve's office!). I still find myself humming a tune or two now and then, and VBS has been over for two weeks now! There was a song on the sample record that was not used in your VBS. I heard it when Fr.



Steve was practicing along with the record. It was a song called "Choices." The words to it were simple and the tune catchy, but the thought was deep! The chorus of the song spelled out the word "C-H-O-I-C-E-S". I don't know about you but I just love to spell things! We all, humans and mice, make choices every day. We choose to walk or run, to be good or difficult, to share or not to share, to eat donuts or vegetables, and so on. Yep, we all make choices all the time. Fr. Steve said that he sometimes



feels I should re-think my choices because he does not always agree with the ones I make. I told him that choices are our very own personal things and no one else can make them for us – because then it is not a choice but a command – and right or wrong, we are responsible for the things that result from our own choices. See what I mean – deep!

Until next month I remain your friend,
Joel Churchmouse

SEPTEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 9 am HE-Rite I Fellowship Hour ECW MEETING	3 LABOR DAY	4 9-noon-Quilters 5-6 pm Yoga 8:30-11pm IAC 8 pm NA	5 10-12 CIACC Noon- HE & Healing Chapel 12:30 -2 YSC 5-7 pm FSO 8 pm AA	6 5-6 pm Yoga	7 6-11- kitchen in use	8 9-11 am Women's Ministries Breakfast at the 1 st Presbyterian Church
9 National Grandparents Day 9 am HE-Rite I Fellowship Hour VESTRY MEETS	10	11 PATRIOT DAY 9-noon-Quilters 5-6 Yoga 8 pm NA 11 am – Dean's Mtg – Trenton	12 Noon- HE & Healing in Chapel 5-7 pm FSO 8 pm AA	13 5-6 pm Yoga 9 am-2 pm : Clergy Day at Trinity Cathedral in Trenton	14	15 11-12:30 pm Young People's Confirmation Class
16 8 am HE-Rite I 10:30 am HE Rite II Fellowship Hour Ministry Fair 1-2:30 pm Adult Inquirer's Class	17	18 9-noon-Quilters 5-6 pm Yoga 6:40-7:45 pm Handbell choir rehearsal 8 pm NA	19 Noon- HE & Healing in Chapel 5-7 pm FSO 8 pm AA	20 5-6 pm Yoga	21 ST MATTHEW 9-4 Senior Circle Party	22 FIRST DAY OF AUTUMN 10:30 am-5 pm Choir retreat at Clisham home.
23 8 am HE-Rite I 9 am Choir rehearsal Sunday School and Adult forum 10:30 am HE Rite II – Choir returns! Fellowship Hour	24 6-8:30 pm SODAT Strengthening Family Program	25 9-noon-Quilters 5-6 pm Yoga 6:40-7:45 pm Handbell choir rehearsal 8 pm NA	26 Noon- HE & Healing in Chapel 5-7 pm FSO 8 pm AA	27 5-6 pm Yoga	28	29 9-3 pm Parish Leadership Day at Trinity Cathedral in Trenton
30 8 am HE-Rite I 9 am Choir rehearsal Sunday School and Adult Forum 10:30 am HE Rite II 12-12:40 pm Jr. Choir Rehearsal Fellowship Hour	<p>Notes:</p> <p>CIACC: Children's Inter-Agency Council YSC: Youth Services Commission FSO: Family Support Organization AA: Alcoholics Anonymous NA: Narcotics Anonymous</p> <p>Bring the Family to Church!</p>					



THE
EPISCOPAL
CHURCH

WELCOMES YOU

**St. John's Episcopal Church
Summer Schedule**

Sunday:

- 9 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I,
in the Church

**NOTE: on September 16th the Service
times return to 8 am Rite I and 10:30 am
Rite II with Church School and Adult
Forum between services.**

Wednesday:

- Noon Holy Eucharist, Rite II,
in the Church chancel.



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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Dated Material –
Please Deliver Promptly

