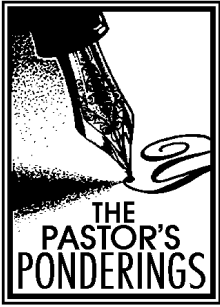


# The Forerunner

The Newsletter of St. John's Episcopal Church  
January 2013 - Website: [www.stjohnssalemnj.org](http://www.stjohnssalemnj.org)



Things are quiet now. The presents have all been opened and the New Year awaits. 2013! It will take me a while to get used to writing (or typing) that!

As we enter into the first month of the new year, I want to remind you of some upcoming events.

**On January 6<sup>th</sup>, Bishop Cuncell will visit St. John's.** While his visit is important, he will also confirm and receive a number of people from local parishes into Christ's "...One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church...". It is also **the Feast of the Epiphany,**

the season of "God made manifest." I invite you to make a special effort to be present on that day at the 10:30 a.m. Eucharist. There will be an 8 a.m. service, as per usual, but I hope that most of you will celebrate both the sacrament of Confirmation and the Bishop's Visit at 10:30 a.m.

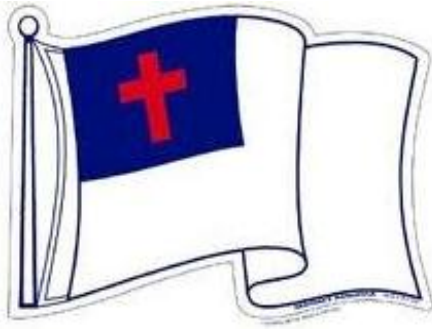
**The other January event is the Annual Congregational Meeting, which will take place on January 20<sup>th</sup>,** following the 10:30 a.m. Eucharist. It is a time when the annual budget is presented to the congregation, along with ministerial reports and the election of delegates to Diocesan Convention and Woodbury Convocation. This year, the delegates elected for convention will also serve as electors for the new Bishop at a special convention in May. Please note that the budget is approved by the vestry and *presented* at the Annual Meeting.

- The congregation is presented with an already-approved budget for 2013. The finance committee and vestry have been working hard to present a workable and balanced budget for the year. We are open to questions and will provide explanations.
- We will also elect members to the Vestry to serve 3-year terms (3 positions), and to serve an unexpired term of one year (1 position).
- The Vestry will also need to elect a clerk of the vestry and a treasurer.

It is my hope that you will consider serving in the open positions mentioned above and that you will come to the meeting prepared to elect the needed delegates and vestry members. As usual, lunch will be provided.

Finally (and I hope *finally*), my surgery is scheduled for January 21<sup>st</sup>, at Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia. The Rothman Institute Surgeons feel confident they can help ease my pain. I am grateful for your support during these past few weeks and ask your prayers during my recovery. I look forward to being back to "normal" soon, with a target date of Easter or thereabouts.

I wish for you all a joyous new year.  
Fr. Steve

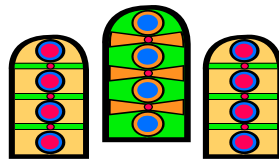


## Christian Flag

Dating to the early 20th century, the Christian flag represents all of Christianity, though it's been used primarily in the Americas and Africa. The red Latin cross symbolizes Jesus' blood shed on Calvary to grant us eternal life. The blue background represents Christ's faithfulness even unto death, as well as our baptism into Christ. The white field signifies Jesus' purity, nonviolence and surrender to God's will, plus the peace we gain by surrendering ourselves to Christ.

(from The Newsletter Newsletter – Dec.2012)

***FROM THE EDITOR: Do you wish to change the way you receive The Forerunner? Simply leave a message with the church office and it will be rerouted with the next issue. The Forerunner is also available to you on our Web Page –and looks great in COLOR! Thanks to Nate Gable – at : [www.stjohnssalemnj.org](http://www.stjohnssalemnj.org) /rc***



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## From The Deacon's Bench:

### The Five Marks of Mission – cont'd To Respond to Human Need With Loving Service

Hurricane Sandy blew through our area with devastating results. Today, there are still thousands of displaced shore residents and New Jersey, New York and parts of other nearby states are facing a long hard winter. The weekend before, my four siblings and I flew to Florida to be with our father as he celebrated his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. We felt the tail end winds of the Hurricane as it departed Florida in our direction and waited nervously at the Tampa airport to see if our flight would be cancelled into Philadelphia. In fact, our flight was the last one to land at Philadelphia before they closed the airport for the duration of the storm. As we disembarked the plane, the crew was very disgruntled to learn that they would be grounded, and stranded, in Philadelphia for the next couple of days. I felt bad for them but none of us knew what was coming. In fact, my family stayed safe and warm inside our homes never experiencing the devastation so many others experienced.

It was very humbling for me as I began to realize that whole towns were wiped out, that life at 'the beach' as we knew it had changed. What didn't make much news was that even along the Delaware River there was much devastation, including one of our own families who was displaced for weeks and had thousands of dollars of damage. They lost all their food, they had to have all their flooring and carpeting replaced and they are still dealing with mold damage. I again was humbled to learn that other churches reached out and helped them. While I was gathering coats for St. John's Elizabeth, an elderly member of this parish had no food and no check until the first of the month. While Salem County was sending busloads of supplies to Ocean and Monmouth County, little to no effort was made to help local residents with damage.

I have learned now through a series of programs I attended that most churches are not 'in the loop'

with the Emergency Response System. There are actually two tracks that occur – one is the Voluntary Organization Active in Disaster (VOAD) and the Office of Emergency Management (OEM). Born after 9/11, this system is designed to coordinate the response to an emergency of any kind. In our diocese, Deacon Carmen Viola is designated as the liaison between the VOAD and the diocese. Since Hurricane Sandy, our diocese has begun creating a response system of our own to coordinate efforts. Our first efforts as a diocese were wonderful. For example, several Episcopal Churches in the immediate vicinity of the worst hit areas took an early lead in providing shelter, food and supplies. For example, Christ Church, Toms River, has become a distribution center for much needed cleaning supplies. Through their hard work and calls, they received a donation of 1,000 mold cleanup kits. All they needed were trucks to transport these kits to the church. A couple of phone calls and a little coordination and they had all the trucks they needed. St. Marks, Keansburg and St Mary's-by-the-Sea in Point Pleasant Beach served countless hot meals. As people from all over the country arrived to help, many churches stayed open just to be warm, lit, power stations for displaced people and house volunteers. The list goes on and on. And the work continues. But one of the lessons the churches learned was that if they had been tied into VOAD, many of their needs would have been met immediately. One church, for example, needed blankets. They just couldn't seem to get enough by sorting through bags of donated clothing, most of it unwearable. When the need was made known to Deacon Viola, he made one phone call to the Red Cross and the church had all the blankets that they needed.

This prompted me to ask some questions about our own involvement in our community emergency

CONTINUES PAGE 4 ...

## CONTINUATION OF

“From the Deacon’s Bench”

response system. From the information I’ve gathered, it appears we need to update our participation in the community. We are not ‘official’ members of the Salem City OEM or the Salem County OEM, even though it appears that we are somehow a designated ‘shelter’ for the County. We don’t have an ‘emergency phone tree’ of parishioners that we could use to check in on parishioners, particularly shut ins. As a parish we don’t have an emergency plan should something devastating happen in our area. Now is the time for us to talk and develop some parish wide goals to care for each other and our community in times of disaster.

I have already spoken to a few people who are interested in being part of a planning team but everyone is welcome. We have a loving and caring church family here at St. John’s who has already shown that they are willing to help others in so many ways, and by forming a plan, we will be better able to respond and tie into community programs officially. The Diocese has learned this through Hurricane Sandy and we will be better prepared for anything that might come our way. I sit in my warm home tonight on the Feast of Stephen as the winds and rains whip around me. I hear on the news that these same communities are facing more flooding, more oceanfront breaching, and more devastation. Let’s get started!

Deacon Sally Maurer

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## The Year

The Year is closed, the record made,  
The last deed done, the last word said.  
The memory alone remains  
Of all its joys, its griefs, its gains.  
And now with purpose full and clear,  
We turn to meet another year.

—Robert Browning



## Anniversaries and Birthdays

### Happy Birthday

01/02 Tammy Peterson  
01/14 Eileen Miller  
01/16 Joseph Peterson, Jr.  
01/16 Mary Beth Chard  
01/23 Joseph Peterson, Sr.  
01/26 Charles Miller IV  
01/26 Diane Wohlrab  
01/27 Mary Miller  
01/31 Celeste Willis  
01/31 Rosie Carroll

### Celebrating an Anniversary

01/06 John Jr. and Wendy Laning

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## MUSIC NOTES:

*We have, without question, one of the finest—if not THE finest—liturgical ministries around. We are rich in talent: excellent choir, fine organ, profound and challenging preaching. We are rich in liturgy and rich in history. Our facilities host a multitude of ministries to the community at large. Good things are happening at St. John's. Let's spread the word. Invite your friends and neighbors to come and see for themselves.*

### JUNIOR CHORISTERS

The Junior Choristers, having worked hard for Advent and Christmas Eve, will take a few weeks to rest during the Bishop's visit and through the Congregational Meeting. Our next Junior Choristers Rehearsal will be on Sunday, January 27, following the 10:30 liturgy (12:00–12:40 PM). We will continue to use the choir curriculum "Viva Voce", and will prepare immediately for our next participation in the liturgy, on the Last Sunday before Lent, February 10, when we will conclude the service, singing "A Farewell to Alleluia".

### HANDBELLS

Our Salem ringers had a very busy Advent and Christmas season, including two concerts on Saturday, December 1 for the Salem Yuletide Open House, the Prelude for the Advent I liturgy on December 2, a concert for the residents of Merion Gardens on December 3, and Christmas Eve. The Ringers will take a few weeks off to ice down sore arms. Our next regular rehearsal will be Tuesday, January 22, 6:30-8:00 PM, when we will begin work on music for the spring and for our next Prelude Music, scheduled for Sunday, March 10, 2013.

### ST. JOHN'S CHOIR

The Choir has been extremely busy the Christmas season. Every once in a while it seems to be true that "there is no rest for the weary". We will lead a very special liturgy on the Feast of The Epiphany, January 6, when the Bishop will visit and we will celebrate confirmation. In January we will also begin rehearsing music for Lent, Easter, Pentecost and the Schubert *Mass No. 2 in G* for inclusion in the liturgy in June. We are actively seeking a volunteer Tenor (or two) ... Sopranos, Altos, and Basses will not be turned away.

### INTERESTED NEW PARTICIPANTS:

If you are interested in joining any of these ensembles, please contact Bill Clisham at your earliest convenience. We still have an opening for one bell ringer (that's why Bill Clisham had to play and conduct on Christmas Eve.) And there is always room for more singers in Junior Choristers and the St. John's Choir. 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.

### FRIENDS OF MUSIC AT ST. JOHN'S

A small group of music supporters will begin to meet in January, 2013, with the goal of enhancing the music ministry program's resources and scope of outreach. Among the aspects to be considered are financial support for additional non-budgeted singers and instrumentalists for special liturgies (Easter brass, Schubert *Mass* strings and soloists, etc.) and a re-activated Concert Series of Sacred Music in a Sacred Space (ex: Evensongs, recitals, visiting choirs, etc.). If you are interested in participating in this venture, please see Bill Clisham, Minister of Music, at your earliest convenience.

*Bill Clisham*

Minister of Music - cell: 908-472-7597 - e-mail: [wflash@aol.com](mailto:wflash@aol.com)



Dear Friends at St. John's and Beyond:


I am writing this letter on the morning of Christmas Eve. I know that by the time you get to read it Christmas will be all over for another year, but I just had an amazing thought today and had to write it down to share with you before I forget it. Let me tell you what happened.

I was wandering through your church, checking out all the wonderful red flowers some humans had placed in every nook and cranny, blocking some of my favorite hiding places I might add, when I spied an absolutely beautiful shed with hay and a little bed which I could only imagine was just for me! After all, who in your world was small enough to use it?! I was thrilled and rushed to tell your good Father Steve that it was so thoughtful of you humans to put such a wonderful structure in your church and although I like my bed at One Credenza Lane, this bed was something special and was inside a little house-like structure right out in the open! I would no longer have to hide when I visit the church!

I started telling Fr. Steve to send my thanks to everyone who had a hand in setting this new home up for me, when he stopped me abruptly. He turned red and stammered: "You did not mess it up did you? You did not chew on anything there did you? Please tell me you did not carry anything off from that "house"!" He was about to have a fit! I assured him I had just looked it over and tried out the bed, but did not destroy anything. It was all too beautiful! He calmed down and began to explain to me that the "house" was absolutely NOT for me! I was shocked! He said it was part of what you call a "Nativity Set" or "crèche." It is a display of what humans think the place where Jesus was born looked like – a sort of stable for animals. It seems the inn for humans was filled up and very crowded and so Jesus' earthly parents camped out with the animals in the stable. The place I thought was a bed was a manger from which the animals ate their food. All in all it gave Mary and Joseph more privacy than the inn would have afforded them and so they placed the newborn Jesus in the food trough – my imagined bed was actually Jesus' very first bed! He added that later tonight the children of St. John's will place figurines in and near the stable which will represent Mary and Joseph, and some of the animals.

So, Jesus's very first "home" was shared with some of the animal kingdom! Who knew? I know some of my relatives back in Ohio live in barns, which are similar to stables, and it is kind of nice to imagine that perhaps some of my really, really long-ago ancestors were in that stable too, watching a miracle happen! And that is the thought that got me all excited! I will have to get back to work on my family tree and see if I have a connection to the mice that most certainly must have lived in that special stable that miraculous night. I'll let you know what I find out!




Joel's Possible  Ancestor

Until next month, I remain,  
Joel Churchmouse



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<b>1</b> 8 pm NA No Yoga	<b>2</b> Noon – HE & Healing 5-7 pm FSG 8 pm NA	<b>3</b> No Yoga	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> EPIPHANY - BISHOP'S VISIT  8am HE Rite I 9 am Choir Rehearsal 10:30 am HE Rite II & Confirmation Fellowship Hour	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 9-12 Quilting 5-6 pm Yoga 8 pm NA	<b>9</b> Noon – HE & Healing 5-7 pm FSG 8 pm NA	<b>10</b> 5-6 pm Yoga	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> BAPTISM OF OUR LORD 8 am HE Rite I 9 am Choir Rehearsal 9:30-10:15 Sunday school -Children 10:30 am HE Rite II Fellowship Hour ECW Sandwich Sun VESTRY MTG	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 9-12 Quilting 5-6 pm Yoga 8 pm NA	<b>16</b> Noon – HE & Healing 5-7 pm FSG 8 pm NA	<b>17</b> 5-6 pm Yoga	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> 8 am HE Rite I 9 am Choir Rehearsal 9:30-10:15 Sunday school -Children 10:30 am HE Rite II Fellowship Hour ANNUAL MEETING	<b>21</b> Dr. Martin Luther King's Birthday	<b>22</b> 9-12 Quilting 5-6 pm Yoga 6:30-8 pm Salem Ringers 8 pm NA	<b>23</b> Noon – HE & Healing 5-7 pm FSG 8 pm NA	<b>24</b> 5-6 pm Yoga	<b>25</b> NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 8 am HE Rite I 9 am Choir Rehearsal 9:30-10:15 Sunday school -Children 10:30 am HE Rite II Fellowship Hour 12-12:40 Jr. Choir Rehearsal	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 9-12 Quilting 5-6 pm Yoga 6:30-8 pm Salem Ringers 8 pm NA	<b>30</b> Noon – HE & Healing 5-7 pm FSG 8 pm NA	<b>31</b> 5-6 pm Yoga	<b>Notes:</b> CIACC: Children's Inter-Agency Council YSC: Youth Services Commission FSG: Family Support Group AA: Alcoholics Anonymous NA: Narcotics Anonymous	



**THE  
EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH**

WELCOMES YOU

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

**Sunday:**

- 8 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I, in the Chapel
- 9:30 – 10:15 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II, in the Church.

**Wednesday:**

- Noon: Holy Eucharist, Rite II, and Healing Service in the Chapel



**St. John's Episcopal Church**  
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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