

The Forerunner

The Newsletter of St. John's Episcopal Church
MAY 2013



The Rector's Reflections

There is a song by Bob Dylan entitled "I Will Be Released". I am not sure of the verses but the title and chorus seem to speak to my situation. "Any day now, any day now, I will be released!" It has been an interesting 3+ months. I have spent my time reading, resting, and working to walk first with a walker, and graduating to a cane. The recovery process is taking longer than expected, and I have missed being a part of parish life.

The last visit to the surgeon brought some welcomed news when he cleared me to return to work on a very part-time basis, beginning May 8th. For the next month or two I am allowed to work 10 hours per week with an eye toward negotiating an increase as we move along. It is a short tether, but it is also a good test. I will probably see most of you on Sunday, May 12th, unless I sneak in as a congregant before then.

I want to thank all of you for your cards and remembrances and for just keeping in touch. It meant a lot to be "in the loop" and kept the recovery time from being in exile. I am most thankful for the clergy who did such a wonderful job during the busiest season of the church year, and to the Rev. Deacon Sally Maurer for her work and clergy presence. She has been a real blessing, and I am sure you will agree with me that St. John's is fortunate to have her with us. God surely was looking out for us!

So what happens next? Well, I am still recovering. I have been told that the muscle and nerve healing may take as long as a year, so I will be returning to "normal" slowly. During the next 2-3 months, my time will be limited to 10 hours per week. I will be in the office on Wednesdays and Sundays and will pick up the worship services on those days. Unfortunately I will remain unable to do home visiting until I am able to handle stairs and move about with more balance. We will work to make sure that visitations are continued making use of Deacon Sally and trained lay people. At the same time I will continue my work with physical therapy to build up my core muscles, strengthening the spinal area, which will allow me to stand, walk and move about without a walker. It remains challenging and somewhat painful but nowhere near the pain level that I experienced pre-surgery. I will be moving about slowly and I ask your patience along with your prayers as this recovery continues.

I am looking forward to returning to what I love and to what God has called me to be – a parish priest at St. John's. Bishop Cancell often uses the phrase: "God is good all the time. All the time God is good," and as Martin Luther would say: "This is most certainly true."

Thanks to you all for being such a blessing and I will see you soon.
Fr. Steve

+ Christian Symbol +

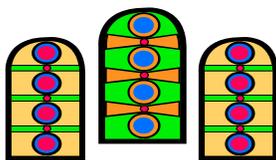


Butterfly

The butterfly symbolizes resurrection, Easter and the new life we have in Christ Jesus. As a caterpillar disappears into a chrysalis, so Jesus' dead body was hidden in a tomb. The emergence of the butterfly, rising into the sky in its beautiful new body, reminds us of Christ's resurrection — and ours.

(from *The Newsletter Newsletter*-May 2013)

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.
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From The Deacon's Bench:

Jesus Christ is Risen, Alleluia!

What a wonderful rich liturgical church we are! I've said it before and I guess I'll say it till I die, I love the rhythm of our church year. I never get tired of it, even now as a deacon, with the additional responsibilities I have learned. Our Lenten journey prepared our hearts, made us more thoughtful, perhaps challenged us in new ways. Each week brought us closer to the great week we call Holy Week.

Since this was my first Lent and Holy Week with you, I needed to have a lot of help. We had a great planning meeting with Father Steve which cleared up a lot of holy mysteries for me and helped greatly with the preparations for each of the unique services to come.

Palm Sunday started with its grand procession around Grant and Market Streets led superbly by Aiden and David Willis on drums and bagpipe, the choir waving broad palms, the young ones sparring with their palms. I noted cars stopping to watch our procession, even a couple of camera phones aimed at our grand presence.

Tenebrae, held at Our Merciful Saviour, was a profoundly centering service. Unique to any other service, Tenebrae is an ancient rite that gradually extinguishes our hope, our light, our direction. At the end, only one candle remains, reminding us that Jesus is the light of the world. And then that is extinguished reminding us in a dramatic way what life would be like without Him. A loud noise to waken our souls and the light, the single light, returns. We departed in reverent silence.

Maunday Thursday, the great celebration of the Lord's Supper – our joy, our sustenance, the holiest of sacraments. Once celebrated, reserved Blessed Sacrament is removed from the sanctuary and taken to a safe place. This year, a beautiful Altar of Repose was built by Amy Schwarz to surround the Reserve Sacrament. After the stripping of the altar, everyone just seemed to

gravitate towards the chapel and spend some time there. How beautiful was that!

Good Friday is a very solemn, traditional service. At noon, in the chapel, still with the lovely garden surrounding us, we contemplated the sacrifice of our Lord and thankfully received His Body and Blood. In the evening, the choir and I, along with my husband, had the most intimate of services together, all dressed in black cassocks, we felt like a monastic society on this most holy of days.

My favorite service of the entire year is the Easter Vigil. This lovely two part service is the most authentic and historic service that the church celebrates. We bring back the Light of Christ, we recount the goodness of God, we renew our baptismal vows and we celebrate the first Eucharist of Easter. The service was lovely and well attended.

We capped this very full week off with a grand celebration on Easter Sunday. Wonderful music, well planned with handbells, organ and brass. The Choir was outstanding as usual. Attendance was marvelous with lots of young ones in attendance. This year we started a new tradition, the flowering of the cross which was very well received. Thanks to the hard work of Amy and David we had a lovely flower filled cross to place out front after the service for the world to see.

While the postlude was still going on, the children were excused to hunt Easter Eggs among the ancestors. I had a chance to peek out at the very well organized event. Even some local young children were present – a pleasant sight to see that they felt welcome to come and participate.

All of these fantastic services required a lot of people behind the scenes – Bill Clisham and all his hard work and organization, the choirs, the altar guild, the acolytes, our thurifer extraordinaire, Amy Schwarz and her decorating prowess, David Miller who did anything I asked, Warren and crew hanging from their toes

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CONTINUATION OF "From The Deacon's Bench"

changing the lightbulb in the chapel so readers could see during the Vigil, Celeste and all her crew for the egg hunt, Marge for her dedication to all those tiny details for the service leaflets.

Father Hartt told me that if we had the need of a supply priest again for Holy Week to put him at the top of the list – he truly enjoyed his time with us.

Easter is not over – Easter is 50 days long. We continue to celebrate our Lord's resurrection in our worship each Sunday right up to Ascension day. All of our scriptures relate to Jesus appearances to His disciples AFTER his resurrection. Continue to celebrate the season – continue to proclaim our resurrected Lord to the world. Jesus is the Good News! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Dcn Sally Maurer

Water, water everywhere,
nor any drop to drink!

By Virginia Sisco

The Lent 4.5 series included the topic of water and its use in the sacraments was discussed. Water is vital to our lives both spiritually and physically. We can't live without the Living Water or the chemical H2O.

We take for granted (here in suburbia) that water is always available. Of what use is water down the drain while I wait for it to get hot, or to let it run continuously while I brush my teeth? Do I let it run through the hose without shutting it off while I wash my car? How many gallons a minute flow through the pipes and down the drain to no purpose? Do we rinse dishes before washing them or do we use a scraper? How can we prevent waste of so vital a commodity?

" You never miss the water til the well runs dry!"



**BLESSINGS
ON YOUR
BIRTHDAY
AND ANNIVERSARY**

Happy Birthday

05/01 Barbara Sweeney
05/02 Christopher Gray
05/04 Bill Pankonien
05/08 Carla Buck
05/10 Caitlin Murphy
05/11 Andrew Wang
05/13 Debra Ann Gralley
05/16 Jan Peterson
05/19 Chris Sorenson
05/21 Rachael Cagle
05/26 Phyllis Little
05/29 Jeffrey Buck
05/29 Lars Runkle
05/30 Helen Acton
05/30 Jennifer Buck
05/31 James A. Irvine

Happy Anniversary

05/17 Curt and Sue Harker
05/18 Joe III and Jan Peterson
05/26 Fr. Steve and Rosie Carroll



PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

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

News from St. John's Buildings and Grounds

Mischief afoot or on ladders. Six copper downspouts have been taken from the property. They will be replaced with something less tempting. Where does one fence copper anyway?

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.

SPECIAL MUSIC EVENTS IN MAY

Horns & Pipes

May 4, 3:00 PM.

At St. John's

The Salem County Brass with organists: Bill Clisham and Joanne Owen, will perform a concert of music for brass and organ on Saturday, **May 4**. It promises to be an exciting program, including music for brass and/or organ by Copeland, Saint-Saens, Bach, Locklair, Gigout, Moussorgsky, and local composer John Kraybill. It is part of the "Music Around the County" series, and is free and open to the public.

SPECIAL "DESIGNATED" MUSIC FUNDS

There are two important non-budget music funds to which friends and supporters of the Music Ministry at St. John's can contribute. These funds carry over and accumulate from year to year, so you may be assured that your donation will be used for its intended purpose and not be transferred to the general ledger.

The first of these funds is the **Special Music Fund**. This is intended to provide for guest instrumentalists and supplemental musicians not covered by the current music budget. The cost is normally \$200 per player. The next major planned event is coming up very soon ... **June 7**, when we hope to have a string quartet to accompany the choir and guest singers in a special musical liturgy, including the Schubert *Mass No. 2 in G Major*. If you cannot afford to cover the entire cost of a player, that is not a cause for concern ... every little bit helps.



The second fund is the **Organ Enhancement Fund**.

There are actually some envelopes in your box of pledge envelopes specifically for this fund (but donations need not be confined to those envelopes). This fund is intended to provide for extraordinary repairs and enhancements to St. John's pipe organ—the best organ in Salem County. Within this month we plan to replace the pedal off-set reservoir that has served us since 1937, but can no longer be repaired. The next project may be cleaning (paint, calk & plaster debris), replacing difficult tuning slides, and regulating volume of some exposed chest and pipes.

When making a donation to either of these designated funds, please be sure your check (or envelope) is clearly marked for that specific fund so that it will be deposited and used correctly as intended.

Bill Clisham

Minister of Music

cell: 908-472-7597

e-mail: wfclish@aol.com

Dear Friends at St. John's and Beyond:

Hello and Happy Eastertide! Guess what I just heard – Fr. Steve walked short distances without his walker! I was just hanging out in Ms Marge's room when folks came in and were talking about him, so I had no option but to listen and heard such encouraging news! He is going to therapy and walking in the swimming pool three times per week which helps make him stronger. I think it may not be too much longer before he is back in his office! And I hope I am correct in that assessment because I have soooo much to ask him.



Ms Ruth (my very special friend from the Stone Garden) and I are officially "engaged" now, and I need to

know just what that means and just exactly what that requires of me. I should have waited to discuss this with Fr. Steve, but Ruth seemed to think it was an important thing to do right away, so I agreed. It made her very happy and her family was pleased too, so I certainly hope I did not promise something I did not mean to!

I did have a very exciting Easter Sunday though. There were a lot of your very young humans running about the Stone Garden around lunch time and making

such a ruckus – especially when one of them found an egg-like container full of candy! When they had all finally abandoned their hunt, Ruth and I took a stroll about the grounds and found one "egg" the little humans



had missed. We finally got it open, with the help of Ruth's brother, and the whole family enjoyed a really wonderful dinner of the finest chocolates ever!

I don't know why exactly but over our dinner, Ruth's father kept talking to me about places to live that have become available in the adjoining Presbyterian Stone Garden. I asked him if he was planning to move his family there, and he just chuckled. I don't even know what a "Presbyterian" is! And does he want me to be one?! Then Ruth's mother changed the subject back to the weather and I was able to relax a little. Like I said, I need to discuss several issues with your good Fr. Steve.....soooooon!

Romans 8.25:

"But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience."

Until next month, I remain your very impatient friend,

Joel Churchmouse



Volunteers are needed for this years' Vacation Bible School! The dates are June 24th -28th, from 5pm until 8pm. As was the case last year, there are many different jobs to be done and we need help with them all. There are even lots of behind the scenes jobs for people who do not wish to be here during the actual dates.

The list of help needed includes:

- Cleaning Crew
- Crafts Crew
- Decorating Crew
- Kitchen Crew
- Games Crew
- Teachers
- Music Crew

Please sign up in the parish hall or see Celeste Willis. Our next VBS staff meeting will be held in the parish hall after church on the 5th of May.

GOT A GRADUATE IN THE FAMILY?

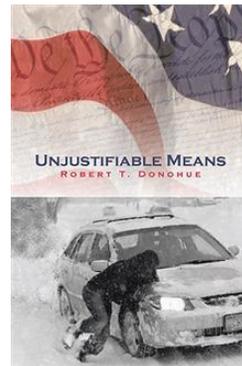
Is someone you know graduating this spring? Please give the church office a call and leave their name and what it is they are graduating from with Ms Marge, or on the tape machine, so we can recognize and congratulate them.



The next novel you read is....

Our own Robert T. Donohue (known also as Donna's husband) has published a book! It is called "Unjustifiable Means" and is available in hardcover, paperback and e-books. Below is an overview of the book, as printed on the Xlibris.com web site:

"Unjustifiable Means is an inspirational, political, thriller for our times. The author brings to bear a progressive and Judeo-Christian perspective on today's political news. Stultifying, divisive partisanship in congress, pro-life verses pro-choice, senate filibuster reform, civil rights, gay rights, class warfare, all come under the author's discerning scrutiny. As our story begins, the U.S. Senate is evenly split, fifty Republicans and fifty Democrats. Both camps are engaged in a civil war



of words and polarized ideologies over President Warner's nomination of right-wing leaning John Cameron to the Supreme Court. The future of American democracy is at stake. The democrats have filibustered against Cameron for weeks. Nothing, nothing is getting done in Washington. A well-

planned right-wing conspiracy to assure Cameron's confirmation is hatched. Deadly consequences follow in this fast-paced twenty-four hour saga that includes mystery, suspense, and romance as it calls for tolerance, inclusiveness, compromise, courage, and faith in American politics and life."

Congrats Bob! Sounds like a Bestseller!



PENTECOST SUNDAY
- MAY 19 -
WEAR RED TO
CHURCH



LOOKING INTO THE SKY

As Jesus ascended into heaven, two angels had a message for his disciples.

Directions: Underline the word in each group that doesn't belong. Then write it on the line below to complete the angels' message in Acts 1:11, NIV.

- | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. strange
same
odd | 2. Lazarus
Jesus
Martha | 3. who
then
there | 4. pear
been
apple | 5. taken
cat
dog |
| 6. sky
from
earth | 7. you
work
toil | 8. desk
chair
into | 9. house
hallway
heaven | 10. can't
will
won't |
| 11. breakfast
come
lunch | 12. nose
back
mouth | 13. see
the
hear | 14. oval
round
same | 15. way
girl
boy |
| 16. his
her
you | 17. white
have
black | 18. one
seen
two | 19. go
low
high | 20. sea
heaven
ocean |

“ This _____ 1 _____ 2 _____ , _____ 3 _____ has _____ 4 _____
 _____ 5 _____ _____ 6 _____ _____ 7 _____ _____ 8 _____ _____ 9 _____ ,
 _____ 10 _____ _____ 11 _____ _____ 12 _____ in _____ 13 _____
 _____ 14 _____ _____ 15 _____ _____ 16 _____ _____ 17 _____
 _____ 18 _____ him _____ 19 _____ into _____ 20 _____ .”

Acts 1:11, NIV

“This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.” Acts 1:11, NIV



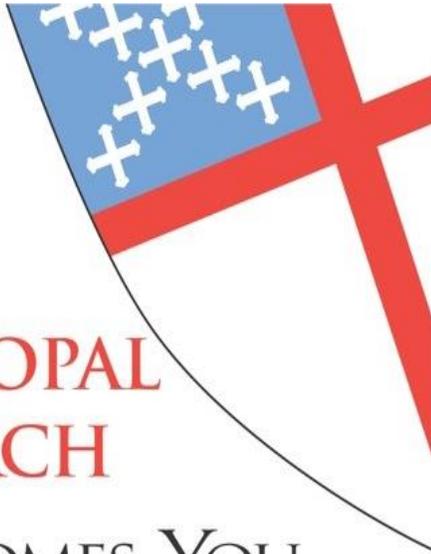
SPECIAL DATES

May 4: Horns and Pipes Concert (in Church)
 May 9: Ascension Day
 May 12: Mother's Day
 May 12: Fr. Steve's 1st Sunday back
 May 19: Pentecost Sunday
 May 27: Memorial Day

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY		
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Notes: CIACC: Children's Inter-Agency Council YSC: Youth Services Commission FSO: Family Support Organization AA: Alcoholics Anonymous NA: Narcotics Anonymous</p> </div>			<p>1 NOONDAY PRAYER 12:30-2 pm YSC 9-12 CIACC 12:30-2 YSC 5-7 pm FSO 8 pm AA</p>	<p>2 NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER 5-6 pm Yoga</p>	<p>3 CHURCH WOMEN UNITED FRIENDSHIP DAY-NOON LUNCHEON BROADWAY UNITED METH.CH.</p>	<p>4 3 pm Horns and Pipes – free – open to public – in the Church</p>		
<p>5 8 am HE-Rite I 9 am Choir rehearsal 10:30 am HE Rite II Fellowship Hour ECW Meeting</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7 9-noon-Quilters 9-12 IAC 5-6 pm Yoga 8 pm NA</p>	<p>8 Noon Holy Eucharist 4 pm MAC 5-7 pm FSO 8 pm AA</p>	<p>9 ASCENSION OF THE LORD 5-6 pm Yoga</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>		
<p>12 MOTHER'S DAY 8 am HE-Rite I 9 am Choir rehearsal 10:30 am HE Rite II Fellowship Hour VESTRY MTG</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 9-noon-Quilters 5-6 pm Yoga 8 pm NA</p>	<p>15 Noon Holy Eucharist 5-7 pm FSO 8 pm AA</p>	<p>16 5-6 pm Yoga</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 ARMED FORCES DAY</p>		
<p>19 PENTECOST 8 am HE-Rite I 9 am Choir rehearsal 10:30 am HE Rite II Fellowship Hour</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 9-noon-Quilters 5-6 pm Yoga 8 pm NA</p>	<p>22 Noon Holy Eucharist 5-7 pm FSO 8 pm AA</p>	<p>23 5-6 pm Yoga Salem Co.Retired Educators Mtg.</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>		
<p>26 8 am HE-Rite I 9 am Choir rehearsal 10:30 am HE Rite II Fellowship Hour</p>	<p>27 MEMORIAL DAY</p>	<p>28 9-noon-Quilters 5-6 pm Yoga 8 pm NA</p>	<p>29 Noon Holy Eucharist 5-7 pm FSO 8 pm AA</p>	<p>30 5-6 pm Yoga</p>	<p>31</p>			

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 for children begins again in the Fall.
- 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
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Dated Material –
Please Deliver Promptly

