

The Forerunner

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



The Rector's Reflections

June is a month that heralds summer vacations, weddings and outdoor events, and we plan to include all of these in our offerings.

We will begin with a Family Fun Day at Camp Crockett Park on June 2nd, 1 to 4 p.m. We will celebrate with the Miller and Bowen families at the marriage of their children, Lauren and Nicholas on June 22nd. There will be a celebration and picnic in honor of St. John's Day, as the 291st year of our church's ministry on June 23rd. Our VBS offering, Kingdom Rock, will take place June 24th through 28th, 5 to 8 pm. I am sure that there will be well-deserved, and anticipated vacations as the summer continues.

Keep in mind the admonition from Hebrews which calls us to hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering and encourages us not to neglect to meet together as is the habit of some, but to continue in the encouragement of one another. While I am not sure when the day that is referenced in Hebrews is coming, I am sure of our need to worship together as a faith community. While golf courses, the shore, and the beauty of sunrises and sunsets can be awe-inspiring, we are specifically called to gather together in worship, praise, contemplation and renewal as a community of faith, even in the summer. I urge you to embrace that practice whether you are at home or away. We will maintain our regular schedule of 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services, as well as visiting those who are homebound or hospitalized. On Sunday, June 9, the St. John's Choir will sing the *Mass No. 2 in G* by Franz Schubert within the framework of the 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

I wish you an eventful and restful summer, and will look to see you on the Sundays you are in residence. Don't forget to visit a church while on vacation. Bring back a bulletin as everyplace offers a good idea or practice to share.

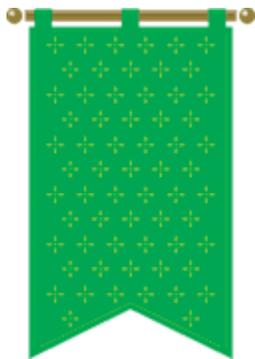
Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Steve".

Fr. Steve



+ Christian Symbol +

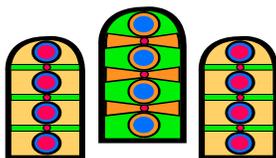


Green

Green is the traditional liturgical color for the weeks after Pentecost (as well as the season of Epiphany). The Pentecost season largely overlaps with spring and summer, which is fitting because green symbolizes growth: growth of plant life and crops, and growth of the church in discipleship and faith.

(from *The Newsletter Newsletter* June 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. Also, if you want to see it in color, check out St. John's website: www.stjohnssalemnj.org/rc



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From The Deacon's Bench:

Our Epistle this past Sunday was Romans 5:1-5 in which we heard the words that that we “boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character...”, words that can be comforting to those of us whose lives include suffering that makes no sense to us. Father Steve quipped that he was going to become quite a character in light of his recent suffering from his back troubles and indeed his sense of humor seems to be sharper these days!

Sometimes the suffering in this world overwhelms me. Everyday there is another disaster, dozens of people killed, homes destroyed, and people displaced. Just as we are starting to see some recovery from Super Storm Sandy, a powerful tornado whips through a town and its schools killing more than 2 dozen people, including several children. We haven't even recovered from the massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School and we are seeing coverage of crying children traumatized by the tornado. This morning I heard on the news that wildfires in California are threatening a whole neighborhood, burning out of control, thankfully with enough advance warning that human lives are not at risk but still, suffering, suffering everywhere and no relief in sight.

Our addiction to media doesn't help, hours and hours of endless coverage with nothing else to focus on. I remember that during Hurricane Sandy, we were very fortunate at my house never to lose electricity, therefore the television remained on for hours, wearying hours of coverage. It was mesmerizing as reports and pictures came in, so close to home, of the gradual devastation of the shoreline, of heroic rescues, of displaced New Jerseyans, of dignitaries' visits to the towns that had been destroyed. I have a friend who lives in Lavallette and I was even able to go onto a website and see google earth pictures of blocks of houses before and after. It became overwhelming and I had to stop. I felt so powerless. The same thing is now happening with the tornado victims in Oklahoma.

I became a deacon because I felt called to help the poor, the needy, the disenfranchised, those who had been more or less abandoned by the world. One of my favorite images of a deacon from a book I read early in the process is that of the deacon standing on the threshold of the church door with one foot in the church and one foot outside of the church. I always planned to do that after church each Sunday as a reminder to myself and others of my role but St. John's doesn't exactly greet at the back of the church after services.

What I'm learning is that as a deacon it is very hard to be in the world and maintain my spirituality. Like most of you, I work full time. My Nurse Practitioner career has always been rewarding and I have always felt that God called me to do what I do, a ministry if you will. I know that I have been a helpful medical resource to many patients and their families and I hope to continue that for many more years. Except for the occasional icy road day or the stinking hot blistering day, I have never minded getting on the road and seeing my patients. So, I should be on top of the world right now with my job. However, life came to a grinding halt on Good Friday when I learned that my boss, a doctor, had pled guilty to medicare fraud. Since then, in two short months, gradually everything that I have helped build up has deteriorated, my good name has been connected to her crime, vendors with whom we had close relationships in caring for these patients ditched us, Insurance companies decertified us, patients left us in fear and finally, this past Friday, the doctor abruptly closed the practice without any warning. In fact, she has not even formally notified the eight other providers who were out seeing patients. The day before we learned that Medicare has suspended our group number, which was in her name, and that basically we have worked for free for the month of May. So, I find myself jobless and payless all of a sudden.

But suffering produces endurance, endurance produces character and character produces hope,

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“From the Deacon’s Bench” CONTINUED:

and hope never disappoints us because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. I’d like to think that my own personal suffering of the past couple of months is changing me, first by sheer will power to slog through the day to day detritus left in the doctor’s wake. Each week something new would surface, a new challenge to overcome, a new obstacle to climb over. It took endurance to get through the demands thrown at us. What it has produced is strength and poise and creativity. This new character in all 8 of us has given us the ability to create a new business with assuredness that we know enough to handle whatever we need to handle to keep caring for our patients. We have had to tell our patients over and over the sordid story of the fall of a bright, energetic entrepreneur into a greedy self serving criminal. We have had to reassure countless people that we would continue to care for them, even without pay, to prevent panic in others. Now, a new house call practice, Phoenix house calls, is rising from the ashes of greed and we are full of hope. Many of us are active, practicing Christians so you can well imagine how much prayer has gone into this.

I am not saying that this process hasn’t been without fear and self-doubt. Indeed, each new obstacle, for me, produced a state of shock or inertia for a time, particularly this weekend after she abruptly closed the practice. There have been times when I couldn’t even think straight let alone act on the latest problem. However, the one constant in my life throughout all of this, has been my faith in God and our corporate worship. For me, being part of the fabric of St. John’s worship life, has been the anchor that has kept me focused and charged. I understand a little better I think that saying that a deacon must have one foot in the church and one foot in the world because now I understand that the foot in the church has kept me rooted and upright. I thank God everyday for placing me at St. John’s and with you. I needed to be here and I thank all of you for your love and support.

Deacon Sally Maurer

CONGRATS TO THE GRADUATES!

KASSANDRA (Kasey) LANING graduated Cum Laude earning her Bachelor’s Degree from Fairleigh Dickinson University. Kasey plans to continue her education working toward a Master’s Degree in special education.



CASSANDRA MOORE graduated on May 17th, with a Bachelor of Music: Vocal Performance from Rowan University.

MICHAEL GOVERNA (son of Bob and Donna Donohue) graduated May 12th, with a BA in International Politics from American University in Washington DC.



PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

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

FAMILY FUN DAY

SUNDAY, JUNE 2ND, 1 to 4 pm, St. John’s will be part of a group hosting a FAMILY FUN DAY at **CAMP CROCKETT**. There will be activities to promote good, wholesome fun for the whole family. Everyone is invited and it is FREE! Bring a friend and we will see you there!

SENIOR WARDEN'S COLUMN

There is always something that needs doing. Similar to our own homes, St. John's has projects, repairs, clean-up, things that just need doing! Have you thought about how you may be able to help?

We all have God-given talents. These are things that each of us know, even within ourselves, that we excel. Perhaps modesty prohibits you stepping forward or maybe it is a lack of time. I'm sure, however, that you have a skill or talent that could be useful. It isn't boastful to speak up and let it be known that you wish to put your talents to work.

Think about it... Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, crafts, ECW, in the kitchen, in the worship service. It doesn't have to be an every week commitment. It can be a project that is brought to fruition over time, even months. It can be one day. St. John's needs you and wants you to be involved. Let Fr .Steve, Marge Warren or me know; we can talk about how YOU can be involved.

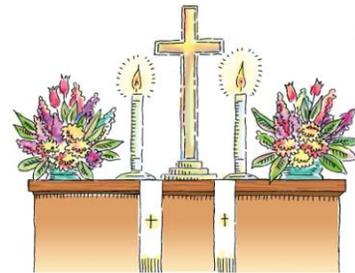
As we get close to the halfway mark for 2013, I have been looking at the budget vs. actual for our income and expense. I notice that our expected income is down by over 12.25%. That can hurt as we look at expenses for the year. While it is wonderful to give to restricted items within the parish, it isn't good when it is at the expense of the general giving that keeps the heat and lights on!

The women of St. John's are a force to be reckoned with! The ECW is active with Diane Wohlrab at the helm. Our coffee hour each Sunday has truly stepped up a notch in the last year with Laurie Bailey and her "crew" doing a super job. Celeste Willis is extremely active with the youth both in Christian Education and upcoming Vacation Bible School. I have named a few key figures but there are so many more working with them and behind the scenes. Thank you!!!

Our choir has continued to be an amazing part of the 10:30 Eucharist. It always makes me sad to know that they will be off for the summer. Perhaps absence makes the heart grow fonder and I am SO joyful once fall arrives and they return. Many thanks for all members of St. John's choir and to Bill Clisham for all he does to make our services wonderful.

SEE YOU IN CHURCH...

Ron Magill



There are still "Open Dates" in the Altar Flowers Schedule. If anyone is interested in the following dates, please contact DeeAnn Harris @ 935-3214.

July 7
July 21
October 6
November 3
December 1
December 8

Dear Father,
Each moment that I face
Lets me thank you for your grace
Show this day the plan for me
Part of the big picture only You can see.

(Submitted by Virginia Sisco)

MUSIC MINISTRY NOTES

UP-COMING SPECIAL MUSIC LITURGY:

On Sunday, June 9, the St. John's Choir will sing the *Mass No. 2 in G* by Franz Schubert within the framework of the 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist. This is one of Schubert's most beautiful and best known sacred works. You are encouraged to come out in force, and bring as many guests as possible with you. You won't be disappointed. The Schubert *Mass* will feature three soloists: our own Cassandra Moore, Soprano and Nate Gable, Tenor, with guest Baritone, Dr. Christopher Thomas (Director of Choral Activities at Rowan University), with the full St. John's Choir, accompanied by string quartet and organ. The Choir will be under the direction of Bill Clisham, Minister of Music. Joanne Owen, Minister of Music Emerita, will be the organ accompanist for the service. The guest string players are made possible by the generosity of all those who have contributed to the "Special Music Fund", a non-budgeted fund which supports guest musicians (instrumentalists or vocalists) for special events such as this.

ST. JOHN'S CHOIR: will continue to lead the Choral Eucharist at 10:30 AM each Sunday through June 23, 2013. Our final liturgy of the season will be a festive celebration of The Birth of St. John the Baptist. This date is the 291st anniversary of the founding of St. John's Church! Our musical offerings on that day will focus on the nativity and ministry St. John the Baptist and, therefore, will have a decided "Advent" flavor.

FUTURE SINGERS & RINGERS: If you have not sung in the St. John's Choir in recent years, or the Junior Choristers (unchanged voices in grades 3 through 8), or played hand-bells in the Salem Ringers, but are interested in the challenges and satisfactions of participating in one of these ensembles, please contact Minister of Music, Bill Clisham to discuss details about next season (September 2013 – June 2014): voice placement, bell position assignments, music folders, vestment, etc.

Bill Clisham can be contacted in person following the Postlude for the 10:30 Holy Eucharist any Sunday, on his cell phone (908-472-7597), or by e-mail wfclich@aol.com

MORE FROM "LENT 4.5"

(And you were thinking it was over!)

Water of life...some thoughts generated from the Arbor Day Foundation.

Water is not something that will be around forever if we don't take care of it. Most of us can turn on the faucet in our homes and get water clean enough to drink (unless "Sandy-like" events occur). We seldom think of the distance the water may have to travel to get to us. Often it originates in a watershed hundreds of miles from our faucets where it undergoes a miraculous natural process of capture, storage and purification. Trees do the job of filtering rain water in their canopies, making soil around them absorb slowly instead of all at once in a deluge.

Reforestation is of vital importance to maintain our water supply. Millions of trees need to be planted in burned over forests (anyone remember the forest fires in Northern New Jersey decades ago?) Moreover, developers, land owners and agencies must be educated about the importance of planting trees, managing forests (the local "woods") and conservation buffers. New York City does have some of the purest, unfiltered drinking water in the world, due in part to its promotion of healthy forestry in the upstate watershed areas. We cannot replace water, but we can replace trees.

Trees are nature's air and water conditioners. Over decades of growing from seed to shade, they help to clean our air and water and protect the soil from erosion. But darn! Leaves have to be raked and they clog gutters and downspouts, so cut them down! Make sense? And who needs shade when we have air conditioners?

(Submitted by Virginia Sisco)



Dear Friends at St. John's and Beyond:

Hello to all! I am one very happy mouse! Your good Fr. Steve was back at his desk this week – for a very short time granted, but back is back! I had the opportunity to monopolize his time one Wednesday morning, before the noon Eucharist, and we had a wonderful long conversation. I was glad that he very much approved of the commitment Ms Ruth and I made to each other and we talked about what it meant to be responsible for a family. He also said that Ruth's father was probably right in suggesting Ruth and I find our home, at least our first home, close enough and far enough to them. Close enough for Ruth to be able to see her mother as much as she needed to –at least for the first year– and far enough away for her and me to have some privacy as we get used to accommodating each other's ways.

Fr. Steve helped me telephone my family back in Ohio and share the news with them. Sometimes I think Fr. Steve is a psychic – he said my mom would cry and she did; he said my dad would begin to lecture me, and he did; my sisters giggled and my brother teased...just like he said they would! Amazing!

Fr. Steve said to let him know when we would like the wedding to take place, and that he would like to speak with Ms Ruth before the wedding also. He said that pre-marriage interviews and conversations are

required in the Episcopal Church. I was not even sure if Ms Ruth's family was Episcopalian or not...it just never came up! He said if we were planning to spend our lives together it was more than time for it to come up and that we should talk to each other about more than that. He started to list discussion topics for us:

Religion– which denomination?

Children– to have and how many?

Home location?

Who will handle finances?

What brand of laundry soap to use?

And to roll or not to roll the

toothpaste!

Toothpaste? Really? He said you would be surprised to know what newlyweds argue over, and toothpaste is right up there in the top 10! Well, not in *MY* house I told him as he chuckled all the way out the door!

I'll keep you informed as this wedding project progresses. It seems there is a lot

more to this than I had originally imagined. Please pray that both the wedding and the marriage go smoothly for us! I am just beginning to worry a bit.



Your slightly nervous friend,
Joel Churchmouse



Happy Birthday

- 06/04 Francine Peteerson
- 06/08 Ida Brennan
- 06/10 Christopher Willis
- 06/10 Nathan Willis
- 06/11 David Miller
- 06/11 Erin Gralley
- 06/13 Pasha Chard
- 06/14 Elva Paras
- 06/17 Virginia Sisco
- 06/25 Sue Harker
- 06/28 Austin Schwarz
- 06/29 Hollis Irvine III
- 06/29 Peggy Fittabile
- 06/30 DeeAnn Harris

Celebrating an Anniversary

- 06/11 Dcn Sally and Oscar Maurer
- 06/18 George and Ann Neff
- 06/26 Irv and Pasha Chard

THANK YOU TO THE HONOR GUARD

On May 26th, Ryan Bailey arranged for the procession at the 10:30 a.m. Eucharist to include an Honor Guard which consisted of Sir Knights from Olivet Commandery # 10 of Knights Templar, Vineland NJ. They marched to honor our country's war dead from all generations, and we thank them for taking the time to join our service.

This information was received too late to be included in that Sunday's bulletin, and so it is printed here with our thanks also to Ryan Bailey for making those arrangements.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Volunteers are still needed for this year's VBS. Anyone over 14 years of age can volunteer for one of a variety of "jobs" by signing up on the list posted in the parish hall. We are also collecting boxes – shoe box size and a bit above that – to help build our "castle."

This year's program is from Group and you can read all about it at their web site :

<http://www.group.com/vbs/kingdom-rock>



Dates are: June 24th – 28th
5 p.m. until 8 p.m.

Kingdom Rock is filled with incredible Bible-learning experiences kids see, hear, touch, and even taste. Parents, grandparents and friends are invited to join in "The Royal Courtyard" section each day at 7:50 pm when there will be a Fanfare Finale – a celebration of God's love you won't want to miss.



FAMILY PROMISE of SALEM COUNTY

Family Promise of Salem County (FPSC) will be holding their 3rd Annual Golf Outing and Barbecue at Wild Oaks Golf Club on **June 7th**. Deadline for tickets and registration is **June 2nd**. The golf outing begins at noon and followed at 5 pm with a Fun Raffle and a Tasty BBQ of brisket, grilled chicken, strawberry garden salad, green beans, potato salad, iced tea and dessert. Dinner tickets are \$25, call for golf pricing.

Wild Oaks Golf Club: 856-275-1398

or

George at 856-679-FPSC

Proceeds help FPSC aid homeless families of Salem County get back on track to self-sufficiency.



Notes:

CIACC: Children's Inter-Agency Council
 YSC: Youth Services Commission
 FSO: Family Support Organization
 AA: Alcoholics Anonymous
 NA: Narcotics Anonymous
 VBS: Vacation Bible School

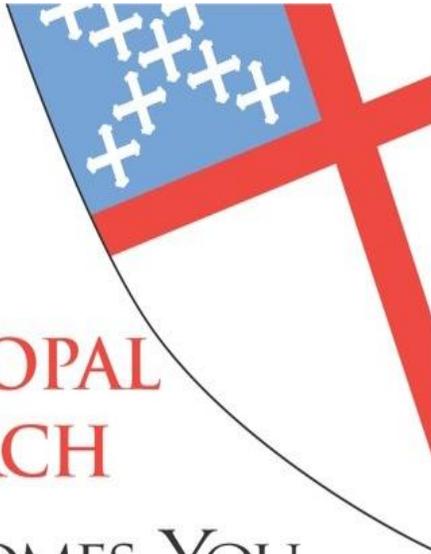
Y FRIDAY SATURDAY

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2 8 am HE-Rite I 9 am Choir rehearsal 10:30 am HE Rite II Fellowship Hour ECW Meeting 1-4 pm FAMILY FUN DAY AT CAMP CROCKETT	3	4 6-8 am Election set-up 5-6 Yoga 6 pm VBS Decorating Comm Mtg. 8 pm- NA	5 12:30-3pm YSC roundtable 5-7 pm FSG 8 pm AA	6 5-6 Yoga D-DAY	7 Family Promise Golf and Barbecue at Wild Oakes Golf Club see article	8
9 8 am HE-Rite I 9 am Choir rehearsal 10:30 am HE Rite II Fellowship Hour VBS Teachers Mtg VESTRY MTG	10	11 5-6 Yoga 6 pm VBS Decorating Comm Mtg 8 pm- NA	12 5-7 pm FSG 8 pm AA	13 5-6 Yoga	14 FLAG DAY	15
16 8 am HE-Rite I 9 am Choir rehearsal 10:30 am HE Rite II Fellowship Hour VBS Teachers Mtg	17	18 5-6 Yoga 8 pm- NA	19 5-7 pm FSG 8 pm AA	20 5-6 Yoga	21 SUMMER BEGINS	22
23 8 am HE-Rite I 9 am Choir rehearsal 10:30 am HE Rite II ST JOHN'S DAY PICNIC	24	25 5-6 Yoga 8 pm- NA	26 5-7 pm FSG ? 8 pm AA	27 5-6 Yoga	28	29
VBS: 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. – Kingdom Rock!						
30 8 am HE-Rite I 10:30 am HE Rite II Fellowship Hour	<p>ST. JOHN'S DAY PICNIC: June 23rd, following the 10: 30 Eucharist. Hot dogs, hamburgers, and beverages will be provided. You are asked to bring your favorite side. We will dine indoors but if you prefer being outdoors, please feel free to move your table to the church yard.</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
76 Market Street
Salem, NJ 08079

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Please Deliver Promptly

