

THE FORERUNNER

The Newsletter of
St. John's Episcopal Church
January 2014



The Rector's Reflections



Happy New Year! The ball has dropped, the snacks have been tested, and I guess that all that remains are the football extravaganzas to fill the afternoon. I hope you were all able to welcome the New Year in warmth and safety.

In the year ahead we will be challenged by a number of tasks. The Annual Meeting, to be held on January 19th, requires that we fill positions for vestry (three), including positions for Senior Warden, Junior Warden, and appoint a Treasurer and a Clerk of the Vestry. All of the above-mentioned positions are required by our Articles of Incorporation. On the Diocesan level, we are to elect, or appoint, persons to represent the parish at both Diocesan Convention and Woodbury Convocation. Diocesan Convention will convene February 28th -March 1st, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Cherry Hill, New Jersey. It will be the first convention under our new Diocesan Bishop. The Convocation generally meets twice per year at a site selected by the Dean of Convocation. One event already in the planning stages is a Regional Confirmation to be held on Ascension Thursday, May 29th, at a site yet to be determined.

As the year progresses, we look to continue our various outreach projects (VBS, Samaritan Purse's Christmas Child, United Way Christmas Families, Book bags for Salem Middle School) and we are always looking for new ways to meet the needs of the community and expand the mission of the church.

Of course, the other New Year's activity involves the making of resolutions. These are always a struggle for me and I have come to realize that the changes I hope to make may take more than a single year. In his book, "The Jesuit Guide to Almost Everything", James Martin, SJ, speaking for Ignatius Loyola, cautions that we proceed with moderation in most things. Maybe my resolution will be to practice moderation as I seek to change some well-ingrained but detrimental habits. That is also my council to you.

On a lighter note, I would be remiss in not remembering the joyous wedding of Joel Churchmouse and Ms Ruth, which took place on January 1st. A good time was had by all. The new couple is settling into their new home in the old neighborhood, located in the Presbyterian Stone Garden behind our parking lot. Rumor has it that Mr. Churchmouse is intent on negotiating a new paying position at St. John's which he plans to present to the Vestry following the Annual Meeting.



With thanksgiving for the year just past, and in anticipation for the year to come, I extend to you my wishes for a joyous New Year.

Blessings,

Fr. Steve

Christian Symbols



Anchor Cross

The anchor is a symbol of the Christian's hope in Christ. "We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure" (Hebrews 6:19, NIV). The early Christians used this cross during the days of persecution. They saw hope in the anchor's cross, while non-Christians saw nothing but an anchor.

(from *The Newsletter Newsletter* January 2009)

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. You can also check it out at St. John's website: www.stjohnssalemnj.org. St. John's is also now on FACEBOOK. /rc



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- 1/2 Tammy Peterson
- 1/14 Eileen Miller
- 1/16 Joseph Peterson, Jr.
- 1/16 Mary Beth Chard
- 1/23 Joseph Peterson, Sr.
- 1/26 Charles Miller IV
- 1/26 Diane Wohlrab
- 1/27 Mary Miller
- 1/31 Celeste Willis
- 1/31 Rosie Carroll



- 1/6 John Jr and Wendy Laning



PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

- Captain Ryan Bailey, US Army
- Lance Corporal Cassandra 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

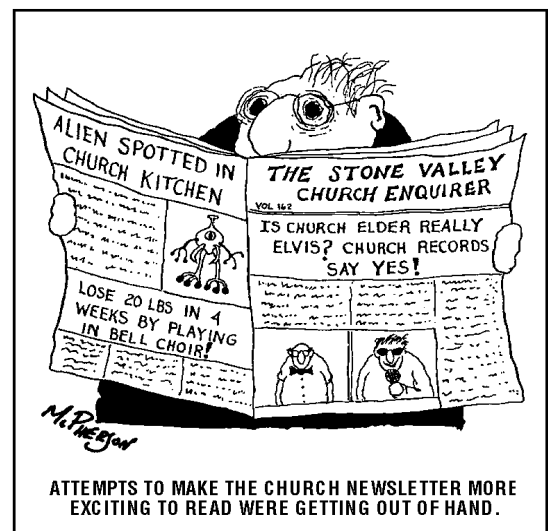
JANUARY 19TH ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Mark your calendars now and plan to attend St. John's Annual Congregational Meeting on January 19th, following the 10:30 a.m. service. Luncheon will be provided.

As Father Steve stated in his article on page 1 of this issue, "The Annual Meeting, to be held on January 19th, requires that we fill positions for vestry (three), including positions for Senior Warden, Junior Warden, and appoint a Treasurer and a Clerk of the Vestry. All of the above-mentioned positions are required by our Articles of Incorporation.

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Hello to all:



As everyone knows, Ms Ruth and I were married on January 1st. A new year and a new lifestyle! We are blissfully happy in

our new home, which, I believe I mentioned in a previous missive, is located in the old section of the Presbyterian Stone Garden. Ruth has done a wonderful job of decorating it and it is quite cozy! Our wedding was lovely too. My family was able to come and they have met Ruth's family, and also had a very nice visit with your good Fr. Steve too. So now everyone has gone home and the time has come to get down to "real-life" as Fr. Steve calls it...and that means I have to get a job! Fr. Steve and Aunt Rosie have been supporting me up until now and Ruth has been working part-time as a nurse's assistant, but now I must pull my own weight and find some gainful employment! But what?!

Fr. Steve suggested I ask Deacon Sally if she needed any help in her Nurse Practitioner job. He thought I might be able to make appointments for her or help her organize her day, or at the very least go visiting with her. I am very good at organization as you all know, but I felt that by visiting I might frighten more humans and thereby make even more work for Deacon Sally. No, I think I should find a job in the realm of my own species or at least with humans who already know me. But what?!

Then a great thought came to me...I would continue doing what I have been doing, and perhaps add more, but would ask wages rather than be volunteer labor! I would organize Fr. Steve's library and keep track of what he lends out and what gets returned;



I would patrol the parish house kitchen for cake and cookie crumbs that humans tend to miss and then point them out to Ms Beth for clean up; I could help Ms Marge kick the copier and otherwise support the church office; I could help Mr. Bye with small chores around the building and a myriad of other things too like sounding an alarm when predators like snakes and cats are lurking about the stone garden. My old room at One Credenza Lane could serve as my home base or point of contact. Brilliant! I have always served as an aide to Fr. Steve by reminding him to take his walking stick, and helping with his writing – I now know so many human words that I am a living thesaurus! I would be as great an asset to St. John's as I have always been, – maybe even greater – but now I would get paid for it!



I think I shall present this concept to Fr. Steve and your new Senior Warden after your Annual Meeting. I just pray they see the value of my remaining in this sometimes difficult and multifaceted role and provide enough of a salary to cover the rent! This being a grown-up can sure have its challenges!

Ecclesiastes 9:10
¹⁰ Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might;

New American Standard Bible (NASB)



Until next month, I remain your friend,
Joel Churchmouse



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

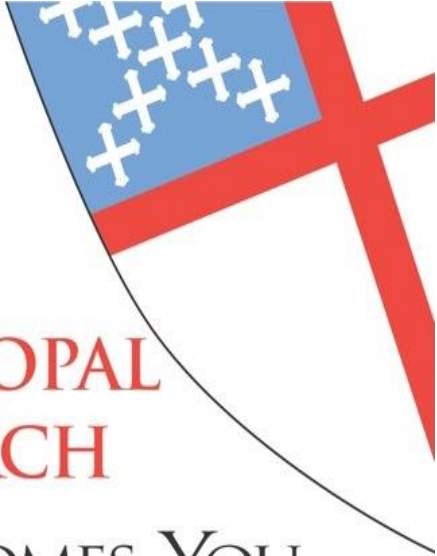
WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

Notes: CIACC: Children’s Inter-Agency Council YSC: Youth Services Commission FSO: Family Support Organization AA: Alcoholics Anonymous NA: Narcotics Anonymous IAC – Interagency Council			1 NEW YEAR’S DAY	2	3 Office Closed	4
5 8 a.m. H.E. Rite I 9 a.m. Choir Prac. 9:30-10:15 Christian Formation(adult/kids) 10:30 am HE Rite II-Fellowship Hour	6 Fr. Steve’s Day Off 4 pm Budget meeting EPIPHANY	7 9-11 am IAC 9 am-noon Quilters 5-6 pm Yoga 8 p.m. NA	8 10:30-noon CIAC Noon Eucharist 12:30-2 pm YSC 2-3 pm DAR-Lib 4-5 pm MAC -lib 5 pm FSO 8 pm AA	9 5-6 pm Yoga 6 pm Youth & Family Dinner/ Mtg	10 Office Closed	11
12 8 a.m. H.E. Rite I 9 a.m. Choir Prac. 9:30-10:15 Christian Formation(adult/kids) 10:30 am HE Rite II-Fellowship Hour VESTRY MTG	13 Fr. Steve’s Day Off	14 9 am-noon Quilters 5-6 pm Yoga 8 p.m. NA	15 Noon Eucharist 5 pm FSO 8 pm AA	16 5-6 pm Yoga	17 Office Closed	18
19 8 a.m. H.E. Rite I 9 a.m. Choir Prac. 9:30-10:15 Christian Formation(adult/kids) 10:30 am HE Rite II-Luncheon ANNUAL MEETING	20 Fr. Steve’s Day Off M.L KING JR BIRTHDAY	21 9 am-noon Quilters 5-6 pm Yoga 8 p.m. NA	22 Noon Eucharist 5 pm FSO 8 pm AA	23 5-6 pm Yoga FEB. NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	24 Office Closed	25
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**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. Christian Formation for Adults and Children
- 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

