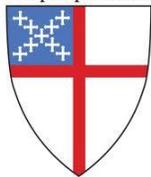


The Episcopal Church



THE FORERUNNER

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



The Rector's Reflections

It seems a little strange to be putting pen to paper in July. It is summer, after all, and a good many of us are either on vacation or anticipating being on vacation. There are a few things going on in July that deserve mention. First, there is Vacation Bible School (July 7-11), which means that for a number of weekday evenings the parish house will be a beehive of activity. The theme centers around being Agents of Truth – God's Truth. We will all be part of a "spy academy." It should be an interesting experience, with lots of puzzles, codes and gadgets, along with Bible verses and an explanation of how we might be agents of God. I invite you to come and participate and help. Lori Bailey is our contact person and she can place you where you are needed most.

Living in and with old buildings has, as a part of the relationship, almost constant care and attention. We are in the process of providing some of that care and attention with roof repairs and replastering and painting of the church interior. Fortunately, we have a chapel which we can use for Sunday and Wednesday worship. We will keep you posted as to the location of Sunday Services, the times, however, will remain the same – 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

In the meantime, be alert for scaffolding, roof climbing, and of course secret agents!

Blessings,
Fr. Steve



Vacation Bible School

July 7th through 11th - 6 pm - 8:30 pm

Ages 4 through 14

St. John's Parish House



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> NOTE: Church office hours may vary during July – Please phone ahead. </div>		9-11 am IAC 5-6 pm Yoga 8 p.m. NA CANADA DAY	Noon Eucharist 8 pm AA	5-6 pm Yoga	INDEPENDENCE DAY	
		Food Pantry distrib. Noon-2 p.m.				
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
8 a.m. H.E. Rite I 10:30 am HE Rite II- Fellowship Hour ECW MTG		5-6 pm Yoga 8 p.m. NA ?	Noon Eucharist 8 pm AA?	5-6 pm Yoga		
		Food Pantry distrib. Noon-2 p.m.				
	VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL – Evenings – July 7-11, 6 – 8:30 pm					
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
8 a.m. H.E. Rite I 10:30 am HE Rite II- Fellowship Hour VESTRY MTG		5-6 pm Yoga 8 p.m. NA	Noon Eucharist 8 pm AA	5-6 pm Yoga		
		Food Pantry distrib. Noon-2 p.m.				
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
8 a.m. H.E. Rite I 10:30 am HE Rite II- Fellowship Hour		5-6 pm Yoga 8 p.m. NA	Noon Eucharist 8 pm AA	5-6 pm Yoga		
		Food Pantry distrib. Noon-2 p.m.				
27	28	29	30	31		
8 a.m. H.E. Rite I 10:30 am HE Rite II- Fellowship Hour		5-6 pm Yoga 8 p.m. NA	Noon Eucharist 8 pm AA	5-6 pm Yoga		
		Food Pantry distrib. Noon-2 p.m.				

Notes:
 CIACC: Children’s Inter-Agency Council
 YSC: Youth Services Commission
 AA: Alcoholics Anonymous
 NA: Narcotics Anonymous
 IAC – Interagency Council

FALL SANCTUARY WORK

At the Vestry meeting on June 15, 2014, a unanimous decision was made to move forward with a proposal for plaster repair and/or replacement in the sanctuary. This proposal submitted by Ortega Consulting, of Media, Pennsylvania, followed multiple days of investigation by the firm's Principal Engineer, Richard Ortega, David Flaharty, a nationally known plaster expert, and Scott Sheldon, a plasterer who has worked throughout the east coast.

The Vestry was pleased with the team assembled and the credentials presented in advance of the initial investigation. Through various documenting motions, various aspects of this large project were put into place.

The initial action will be to find and secure several leaks that are now occurring at the church. In parallel, a vendor is being sought to cover and secure the organ from any plaster dust that will occur during the project.

Once work is about to commence, all worship services will be held in the chapel and throughout the balance of the project. Our Minister of Music, Bill Clisham, has secured an electric organ for the chapel and in the fall, the choir will be active in the alternate location. All small items will be removed from the sanctuary and those too large to be moved will be covered and secured.

The scope of work for the plaster project is not insignificant. Areas were found where delamination had occurred due to a loss of bond between one or more of the constituents of the plaster assembly. This may require full removal down to the brick or stone. Other areas consist of relatively shallow bubbling or puckering of the finish due to water intrusion. Yet another situation consists of cracking, horizontal, vertical, and diagonal. Some are superficial while others may penetrate through all layers of the plaster and undercoats.

During the initial investigation, it was revealed that the current top coat of plaster on the walls was an earlier repair and covers the original surface that was visible beginning at the time of construction in

the 1830s. This initial surface was plaster with a mixture of sand which was scored to resemble large, cut blocks of stone. Unfortunately, it has been deemed too costly to go back to this original finish. However, it is hoped that a small area may be left uncovered in the rear of the church to visibly document that first coating.

All this said... it all comes down to dollars and cents. It has been estimated that this project will cost between \$80,000 and \$100,000. The projected cost does not include peripheral expenses and the final cost of re-painting the entire sanctuary.

Fall will be a challenging time for all of us. Please be patient. We may try to schedule a time when the space can be safely available for parishioners to come in for a brief look at what is transpiring.

Ron Magill
Treasurer

OUR WONDERFUL WINDOWS

St. John's is home to some quite wonderful stained glass. In the months to come, I plan to write the stories of these windows – who made them, when were they installed, and who were they given in memory of. Another question raised was “what was there before the stained glass?” I believe that answer to be “quarry glass”

In a booklet titled: *“Gothic Revival and American Church Architecture”* the author compares St. John's with it's twin church in Easton, MD, and states “...*the shape of the windows is unchanged, though much of the original glass has been replaced. Where the old glass survives, the tall lancets are filled with quarries in abstract patterns, the central portion is opaque white patterned in black and the borders green, red and blue.*” Perhaps something like this picture shows.

So far my research has found three great glass makers of the day and I am anxious to share their stories as well as the stories of the families of St. John's. ...rosie carroll



FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

We have had some busy times around St John's since our Easter celebration! The first thing that comes to mind is the beautiful Confirmation ceremony on Ascension Thursday. We were blessed to have a visit from our new Bishop and his wife. Over a hundred visitors from several area churches participated in having their confirmands welcomed into our Episcopal faith. St Johns was honored to host this beautiful event. The church looked lovely, the music was beautiful and our guests enjoyed our hospitality at a reception following the service. It was also time to meet and greet old and new friends from neighboring parishes.

This year's St John's picnic was also a memorable event. Although sadly saying "Bon Voyage" to the Willis family as they head to Scotland, and goodbye for now to Cassandra Moore, as she relocates to a new home and job, we give thanks for the time we have been blessed to have them all with us. They leave with the thanks and best wishes of all of us.

A big thank you goes out to Laurie Bailey who has "stepped up to the plate", to head up this year's VBS. It looks like a fun time with a spy theme, and will run July 7th to 14th in the evening. In past years, we have had about 25 to 30 students participating. Volunteers are still welcome!

As of this writing, it looks like we will be worshipping in the chapel for about six months as the restoration work is done in the sanctuary. This is a big and costly job, but the vestry believes it is necessary to take care of this problem now to protect our beautiful and historic structure for those St Johns parishioners who are coming after us.

The food pantry is still very busy. We always need items to distribute, help with storage and packaging, and volunteers to distribute the items. Distribution times are 12 to 2, Tuesday and Wednesday. There is a sign-up sheet on the office door.

Last but not least, it has been good to have Father Steve back on a more regular basis as he recovers from surgery. Many thanks to Deacon Sally for her support during his absence.

Best wishes to all for a safe and happy summer,

Sue Harker
Senior Warden

FROM THE DEACON'S BENCH

Ahhhh, Summertime.....finally. After a long and difficult winter and a brief spring, we are blessed to begin another summer replete with barbeques, parades, patriotic bunting hung from houses, trips to the beach and kids out of school. Many of us will be taking vacations to new places or to visit family, our choir is resting their vocal chords for the fall, our regular Sunday school is on hold for a couple of months.

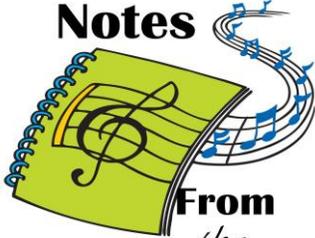
But now we get busy with other things. Vacation Bible School, under the direction this year of Laurie Bailey, will be held the week of July 7th each evening starting at 6:00 pm. We are excited about offering this for our neighborhood friends as well as our own regular children. Everyone's help is needed to make this a success.

And we continue to provide packaged food regularly to those who stop in on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Our revamping of the food pantry hours was much needed and many thanks to those of you who regularly staff the hours and help package food as well as continued thanks to those of you who donate food regularly. We are working with Kathy Smalley at the Family Enrichment Network to be considered a host sight for the summertime children's lunch program next summer, as well.

If you are looking for summer reading – don't forget about books about faith. It is a good time of year to catch up on reading without all the hustle-bustle of the rest of the year. If you haven't read them yet, I highly recommend Mark Schweizer's series of liturgical mysteries, lighthearted and definitely Episcopalian based, will make you laugh. They can be purchased very easily from Saint James Music Press on line. If you would like something deeper – pick up a CS Lewis book, such as The Screwtape Letters, or if you are adventurous or have young ones to read with, the Chronicles of Narnia.

Where ever you travel, I'll bet you can find an Episcopal Church. There are many seasonal chapels at the shore as well as elsewhere. Make a plan to visit one while you are away, I believe you will find this will enrich your faith and keep you close to God.

Have a great summer!
Deacon Sally



Notes
From
the
Minister of Music

CHOIR & HANDBELL HIATUS: The **St. John's Choir** and the **Salem Ringers** will take a summer break from rehearsals and service commitments during July and August. All groups have had a very successful year, though in very different ways. And all groups will resume their respective ministries of music in September ... specific dates and times to be determined and announced later. **All Singers & Ringers** should be alert for communications concerning September start up dates, first rehearsals, and other gatherings later in the Summer.

OPENINGS: Any person interested in participating in our choir or handbells, or supporting our Ministry of Music through financial contributions, publicity, or music library computer data entry should contact Bill Clisham at your earliest convenience. There is a place for you. There are no "audition" requirements for volunteers. And we give free tune-ups.

THE CHOIR has led liturgies throughout the season in an exemplary fashion, including numerous "special" events, the most recent being the performance of Franz Schubert's *Mass No. 2 in G Major*, as part of the Eucharistic liturgy on Sunday, June 9, with strings and guest organist Joanne Owen. The choir did a magnificent job, living up to Father Steve's claim that St. John's has "the finest choir in two counties." During the 2012-2013 season the following persons have contributed their time and talents to make the choir the vibrant and effective liturgical and musical leadership ensemble that we have come to know and love.

Gail Boyd	Mary Anne Clisham
Jeannie Miller	DeeAnn Harris
Eileen Miller	Cassandra Moore *
Ann Neff	Virginia Sisco
Gwen Norton *	Helen Acton
Jim Acton	Glen Clisham **
William Marshall**	Don Layton *
Nate Gable *	George Neff
John Lapetina**	Jerry Pinner **
Brittany Griffith**	Christopher Thomas **
Scott Garvin **	

(*) indicates paid chorister/section leader

(**) indicates occasional guest chorister

THE SALEM RINGERS is a growing and evolving handbell ensemble that in just a three years progressed dramatically both in musical facility and handbell ringing skills. Of the regular ringers in this ensemble, five had never rung handbells previously; yet they are ringing "level 3+" music, usually expected of ensembles with many years of experience. The members of this ensemble are:

Ted Bialy	Mary Anne Clisham
Ann Neff	Glen Clisham **
Sally Maurer	Gwen Norton
Stacy Kobasa	Joanne Owen
Jennifer Robinson	

(**) indicates guest "ringer"

In service to Christ and His Church,

Bill Clisham

Minister of Music

cell: 908-472-7597

e-mail: wfclish@aol.com



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
 2nd Lt. Tyler Patrick VanSant, USAF



BLESSINGS ON YOUR BIRTHDAY

- 07/01 Adali Rivera
- 07/01 Judy Kimber
- 07/07 Patrick Irvine
- 07/08 Oscar Maurer
- 07/10 Ron Magill
- 07/10 Sal DeGrotto
- 07/11 Brandy Kates
- 07/15 Sharon Moore
- 07/23 Dale Harris
- 07/25 Ray Stiles
- 07/25 Joe Kimber
- 07/25 Ron Wohrab
- 07/27 Rev. Sally Maurer, Deacon
- 07/31 Kevin Kates



- 07/03 Elizabeth and Andrew Irvine
- 07/10 DeeAnn and Dale Harris
- 07/10 Joanne and Larry Owen
- 07/12 Jennifer and Earle Robinson
- 07/15 Celeste and David Willis
- 07/21 Francine and Joseph Peterson, Sr.



THANK YOU to the Vestry for approving the purchase of a portable air conditioner for use on the second floor of the parish house. The quilters have been “verbally encouraging” such a purchase for some time and now those efforts have been successful. We will, however, have to wait until September to try it out as the quilters do not meet in the summer and the Sunday School concluded on St. John’s Day – and of course the air conditioner itself has yet to find its way up the stairs! (hint, hint)



..AND THE CHURCH BELLS RANG!

June 24th marked New Jersey’s 350th birthday and Salem City let the world know. At noon many churches, religious institutes, schools and other centers rang their bells or sounded their sirens at precisely noon to mark the milestone. Thanks go to Ron Magill who rang St. John’s bell right on the dot!

It was on June 24th, 1664, that Charles II of England signed the land grant to Lord John Berkeley and Sir George Carteret creating what is now known as New Jersey.



PUZZLE

God's Love

We can't measure God's love for us. It starts before we're born and continues for eternity.

Directions: Down the left-hand column, spell out the name of each number. Then write the circled letters on the blank lines in the right-hand column. Read the words on the right, from top to bottom, to see what Psalm 33:22 (NIV) says about God's love.

20	_____○	"M a ____
4	○ ○ ○	y _____
99	○ ○ _____ - ○ ○	u _ f a _ l _ _ g
7	_____ ○ ○	l o _____
1	_____ ○	b _
28	○ _____ - ○ _____ ○	_____ h
60	○ _____	u _____,
40	○ ○ _____	L _____ d,
70	○ ○ ○ ○ _____	_____
6	○ _____	a _
12	○ _____ ○	_____
64	_____ - _____ ○	p _ t
14	○ ○ ○ _____	_____
81	_____ ○ _____ - ○ ○	_____ p _
9	○ ○ _____	_____
24	_____ ○ - ○ ○	_____ ."

PSALM 33:22, NIV

Twenty "May
 Four your
 Ninety-nine unfailing
 Seven love
 One be
 Twenty-eight with
 Sixty us,
 Forty Lord,
 Seventy even
 Six as
 Twelve we
 Sixty-four put
 Fourteen our
 Eighty-one hope
 Nine in
 Twenty-four you."

Dear Friends at St. John's and Beyond:

Ms. Marge warned me that there will be lots of humans – especially of the small variety – about the parish house during the second week of July. I very much appreciated this warning, not only for my own safety, but because I would like to observe close-up just how full-size humans relate to the smaller varieties. I have a very special reason for this – my dear Ruth tells me that we may be having little ones about our home soon as well...and this is a very scary thing if you've never been around BABIES!!!! This is, she tells me, not definite as yet, but she will see the doctor next week and then we will know for certain if parenthood is in our immediate future or not. I am trying not to focus on the myriad of life-changes that a child, or children, will bring to my world, especially since I have just barely gotten accustomed to the changes involved with being married!

Fortunately, there has been much going on in St. John's to distract me. Of the most interest to me is the study of the walls of the worship space. To the ordinary eye, it merely looks like someone chipped off some plaster, but evidently there is more to it. It is all so scientific and technical, not to mention historical! From a safely hidden vantage point, I listened to all the discussions and watched all the testing which has been done over the past weeks. I have gained a great respect for Mr. Ortega, and his team of engineers and plaster experts, as they worked to determine the cause and possible cures for the situation our walls currently find themselves in.

I am certainly one of the newest members of St. John's, but I definitely feel like we are all merely custodians of a great heritage. This building has stood here for nearly 185 years and we must preserve it for the benefit of those who will follow us. It sounds a bit corny, but I mean it and wondered what I personally could do to be of service in this endeavor.

I decided to speak to Mr. Ortega. He impressed me with his knowledge and I heard that he has worked on a lot of really old, old buildings in his career. I thought perhaps he has had contact in these old buildings with other species that were given the gift of speech and he might not be too shocked with the likes of me. I took the chance and approached him one late afternoon when he was alone.

After his initial surprise, he told me that he felt I could be of great use to him by retrieving samples of old plaster from behind the surface of various areas. He would then study the samples so he could determine if all the areas suffered from the same problem. As I was significantly smaller than any of his tools, I could retrieve the needed samples and not cause further damage to the site. We talked about many things before parting that evening, and I am overjoyed to be part of the solution instead of being part of the problem.

I must be off now to deliver this flower to my sweet Ruth, and to find some mouse-sized safety glasses and perhaps a surgical mask before I begin this new undertaking. Fr. Steve has given me time-off from my patrol responsibilities for as long as Mr. Ortega feels he has need of me. It's a good feeling to be useful!

Have a good week ahead!



Until next month,
Joel Churchmouse

+Christian Symbol+



River

In the Bible, rivers (and other bodies of water) often represent deliverance, salvation, freedom and cleansing. The Jordan River is especially prominent: The Israelites crossed it to enter the Promised Land after God delivered them from slavery, and John baptized Jesus (and many other people) there. The image of crossing the Jordan River has long been a metaphor for death — crossing from earthly to heavenly life, from worldly struggles to the bliss of God's kingdom, from physical ailments to the wholeness of a resurrection body.

(from The Newsletter Newsletter July 2014)

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



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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
- Christian Formation begins again in September
- 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

