

THE FORERUNNER



July 2018

St. John's Episcopal Church, Salem, NJ



From the
Rector

We have all heard the proverb, "Pride comes before a fall." This is a short-hand version of Proverbs 16:18, "Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall." This kind of pride is not the same as "taking pride in your appearance", i.e. taking care that you look nice and are neat and clean. Pride is an attitude and outlook on life as it relates to others. Pride is a puffed-up sense of superiority in one's confidence. The proverb, outside of a faith context, can apply to many situations where we see, more often in others than in ourselves, how overconfidence leads to mistakes. However, viewed through the lense of faith, pride is an idol that gives us false security and well-being.

No one likes being called on their pride. As soon as we are called on our pride, we become defensive. Once we are defensive we feel compelled to retort with a litany of just how humble we are; thus proving the point that we think way too much of ourselves.

I am guilty of pride. Before you and God I confess that I am guilty of pride through and through. I want to be in control. I want to be well-liked and respected; I love to hear myself talk and I want you all to know just how smart I am. I want to impress and jockey for position up the ecclesial ladder, imagining myself in a purple shirt. I am guilty of choosing pageantry over purpose, form over substance. Simply put: I think way too much of me!

The desire to lift up and exalt ourselves beyond our place as God's creature lies at the heart of pride. Pride can be summarized as an attitude of self-sufficiency, self-importance, and self-exaltation in relation to God. Toward others, it is an attitude of contempt and indifference. C. S. Lewis called pride a spiritual cancer that "eats up the very possibility of love, or contentment, or even common sense." Throughout the Bible pride is a recurring theme: God will not suffer the creature to exalt itself against the Creator. Pride provokes God's displeasure. God is committed to opposing pride. Period.

The only antidote to the infection of pride is humility.

Humility is the most essential characteristic of authentic, faithful Christianity. "Have this mind among yourselves which is yours in Christ Jesus," the Apostle Paul says in Philippians 2:4-6, "who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of us. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."

To put on the mind of Christ, we must choose, meditate, understand, and adopt the way our Lord's way of thinking; his values, his attitudes must become ours. Humility and meekness and his example must take hold of our understanding and behavior: what we do, what we say and how we say it very much matters to God. We must call upon the Holy Spirit to do only what God can do, for it is impossible to do it in our own strength. If pride is an exalted sense of whom we are in relation to God and others, humility is a realistic sense of who we are before God and others.

We are creations of the Creator: small, finite, dependent, limited in intelligence and ability, prone to sin, and soon to die. But we are also children of God: created, loved, and redeemed by special favor, not by anything in or of ourselves; we are gifted by our Creator with certain unique gifts, abilities, resources, and advantages. As Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians 4:7, "What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?"

Humility has a profound effect on our relationships with others because it draws us to others who also are humbled. As Paul says in Romans 12:16, "Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly." Again, Philippians 2:3, "Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others."

The humility of God refuses to let our preoccupation with ourselves and our own importance become our focus. Humility is our tangible example of how to love and serve others. Humility is our hope that a human being can live a life that is empowered by the love and the unmerited favor of God.

Trappist monk, Thomas Merton once said, "Pride makes us artificial and humility makes us real." Real life lived by real people know that nothing is assured in life; that the next breath we draw is a gift and all that we have are signs of God's unmerited favor. The wake of destruction pride brings upon other human beings is being played out before us. Its curse so nefarious, human beings often do not realize it is the evil of pride they are inflicting on one another until it is too late.

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From The Rector Continued from p. 1

In order to break the curse of pride we must be broken and contrite (Ps.51:17). Genuine empathy for the weak, the poor, the stranger is birthed out of our own experience of weakness, of being vulnerable and for everything to be foreign. This experience is a work of The Holy Spirit. "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me," Jesus says in Matthew. "For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it.(Mt 16:24-25). As we are led by The Spirit, pride dies. In its place love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control take over. (Gal.5:22)

Faithfully,

+Fr. Chuck

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From The Deacon's Bench



Day 21: I'm sitting across the room from Oscar and he is sleeping. For the first time he ate real food, albeit chopped, and ate quite a bit. His color looks good and he is much more alert today than before.

It has been a long month. June 2018 will go down in our family history books as one of the worst. Yet I'm sure there are many lessons that I have yet to unpack from this experience. Clearly your prayers have sustained Oscar and me. Sometimes I'm pretty sure your prayers were the only thing keeping me afloat. I have to spend some more time contemplating this and maybe talking to someone about it but I assure you that I experienced moments of complete despair and despondency that I could not even verbalize to anyone. Yet I knew that we were being kept in prayer and I also knew that God had everything under control.

Somehow (we know how) I have had the strength to keep my regular job, keep up my home and yet be at my husband's bedside daily. It has been hot outside and cold in the hospital; it has been hot in the hospital (as it is right now as I am writing this) and cooler outside (blessedly). It has poured rain; it has been daytime, nighttime, wee hours of the morning time. My 'temporary car' is making all kinds of strange noises, almost daily something new pops up - randomly. I forgot to check the gas one day and probably rode around on E all day seeing patients, the check engine light came on and then, just as mysteriously, went off.

The food at the hospital is surprisingly good and healthy - the nurse inside me urges self care (the candy bars try to lure me). I eat salads and yogurt and I stay healthy. My biggest worry has been my husband's diet. It has been pitiful. He hasn't wanted to eat. They started him on thickened liquids and pureed foods - he wouldn't eat it. I'm going to get some so everyone can try that wallpaper paste. Tonight, just tonight, he ate real food and he ate most of it! A ray of hope dare I say.

Sometimes I have found I do not even have the words to pray. Fear, sadness, anger, fatigue, so many complications have rendered me at times unable to pray, no words. Sometimes just 'Help me, God'. "Help Oscar, God". "Why". But you prayed. You lifted me, and Oscar, up continuously. You called, wrote, texted, contacted me in so many ways. This is the Body of Christ. When I couldn't you could. God is Able, all the time. He is in charge and He has the 'master plan'. Too hard for me to see at this point, but I am able to cling to that knowing that I am surrounded by His Love as expressed through you.

God Bless all of you,

Deacon Sally



This month, the chapel had termite spraying and injections into the ground outside the chapel. We had some damage on the windowsills of the St. David's and St. Patrick's windows. One beam had some damage, but it is structurally sound. Also, in my travels in the basement of the chapel, a section of the wall has large granite blocks piled up. These are left over from the construction of either the church or chapel.

Finally, the floors on the first floor of the Parish Hall were cleaned and waxed. The roof over the side door at the Parish House and the small shed roof replacement will happen at the end of June/beginning of July. The air conditioner will be replaced before VBS this summer

Have a safe summer!

David Miller

Buildings & Grounds Chair



We pray for those who serve in our military, especially:



Major Ryan Bailey, US Army
Pvt. Nick DeMascio US Army
PFC Justin Francisco, US Army
Lt. Col. Peter Larrabee, USAF
Senior Master Sgt. David John Milne, USAF

Captain Tyler Patrick VanSant, USAF
Lt. Joseph Flescher III, USAF
2nd Lt. Marlene Flescher, USAF Academy
2nd Lt. Michael McCormick, US Army
PFC Jessica Armstrong, US Marine Corps



- 7/1 Adali Rivera
- 7/1 Judy Kimber
- 7/4 Father Scott Trull
- 7/7 Patrick Irvine
- 7/8 Oscar Maurer
- 7/10 Ron Magill
- 7/10 Sal DeGrotto
- 7/11 Brandy Kates
- 7/15 Sharon Moore
- 7/23 Dale Harris
- 7/25 Ray Stiles
- 7/25 Joe Kimber
- 7/25 Ron Wohlrab
- 7/27 Rev. Sally Maurer, Deacon
- 7/31 Kevin Kates



- 7/3 Elizabeth and Andrew Irvine
- 7/10 DeeAnn and Dale Harris
- 7/10 Joanne and Larry Owen

- 7/10 Laurie and Ryan Bailey
- 7/12 Jennifer and Earle Robinson
- 7/15 Celeste and David Willis
- 7/21 Francine and Joseph Peterson, Sr.



It's time again to plan our VBS for July 30th to August 3rd. This year we will be visiting Babylon and learning about Daniel and his courage in the Lion's Den. Volunteers are

needed to help as group leaders, station leaders, kitchen helpers and set up and clean up crews. If you can help in any way, please let Laurie Bailey, Deacon Sally, or Marge in the church office know. Also, we will be asking for donations of food again this year—the list will be published in the bulletin.

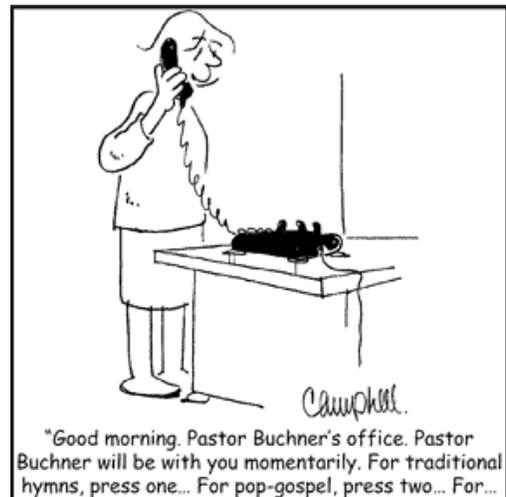


THANK YOU to Father Chuck and the Vestry for the wonderful surprises during worship on Sunday, June 17 (blessings and pectoral crosses) and a fantastic reception after worship. All of us associated with the music ministry are honored and appreciative.

CHOIR & HANDBELL HIATUS: The **St. John's Choir** and the **St. John's Ringers** will take a summer break from rehearsals and service commitments during July and August. Both groups will resume their respective ministries of music in September ... specific dates and times to be announced later. **All Singers & Ringers** should be alert for communications concerning September start up dates, first rehearsals, and other fun & fellowship gatherings later in the Summer.

POST-SEASON MUSIC PARTY: Our annual post-season music party will be held on Sunday, July 15, beginning at 1:00 PM at the home of Bill & Mary Anne Clisham, 80 Hiles Avenue in Elk Terrace. Clergy and families are invited. Bell ringers should determine what you would sing if you did sing, because Bases will provide appetizers. Tenors will provide main dishes. Altos will provide side dishes. Sopranos will bring desserts. The Clishams will provide the venue, a large garden salad, and libations/potations. We will eat drink and have great fellowship; we will NOT rehearse!

OPENINGS: Any person interested in participating in our choir or handbells—especially handbells—or supporting our Ministry of Music through financial contributions or publicity 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.



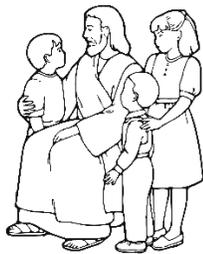
I AM SPECIAL

By Emma Bailey

I am human and I am flawed,
I disobey orders and obey wrong,
sometimes I please God,
and sometimes Satan.
Why would God die for me?
Why would he save,
a sinful and wretched,
being like me?
I eat and I drink,
and have earthly parents,
What makes me different
from the wild beasts of the field?

What makes me different is that I am God's.
I belong to Him
but am given a choice,
a choice to do wrong,
or do what is right,
a choice that isn't even given
to the giant blue whale.
It doesn't matter if you're yellow,
red, black, or green or white,

We have an opportunity to follow God
and be His child.
We each must make our own decision,
for we are given free will,
a gift from God,
that shows He wants us to love Him,
And that He,
very truly loves us.
And I'd rather have free will
than be like the beasts of the field.



Christians make up approximately 10% of the population of Syria and are under severe threat of martyrdom for the Faith of our fathers, as we recall to mind in the prayers of the people here at Saint John's Salem each Sunday. The extremist faction IS/DAESH is actively massacring Christians as well as Muslims who oppose them.. At dear Azur they killed 700 Muslims of the Sheitat tribe during the 2014 fighting season (source NPR.org). ADF International reports that Christians in Syria suffered a population decrease between 2011 & 2016 from 1.25 million to less than 500,000; this despite the apparent lack of Christians among the refugees presently flying to Europe via the Balkan route and otherwise. This leads me to fear that as in Iraq following the demise of Saddam Hussein, previously unknown mass graves may be uncovered. Um Al-Zennar Syriac Orthodox Church in Homs has found itself repeatedly at the epicenter of the atrocities. One of the most visited sites in Syria for Christians it contains a Marian relic, continues Aramaic worship and displays remarkable architecture of the first century. The structure dates to AD 59 and is built of black volcanic stone. Seven Roman Popes were Syrian including Pope Saint Gregory III who died in 741, the last non European pontiff until Pope Francis' 2013 election. Non nobis, Domine, non nobis, sed nomini tuo de gloriam. "Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but to thy name give the glory, PS 113.

By Ryan Bailey, Sr.

Activity Page



Puzzle

Wonders of creation

Our Creator is in control of the entire universe!

Directions: Beginning with column 1, go down each column until you come to a dot. Write the letter that's found to the left of the dot on the blank below to complete Psalm 147:4, NIV. (Some columns have more than one letter.)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
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PSALM 147:4, NIV

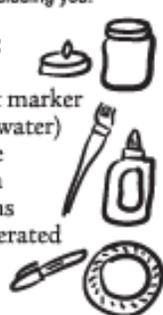
Answer: He determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name. Psalm 147:4, NIV

A STARRY LIGHT

Summer is the perfect time to gaze at the wonders in the sky. Make this craft as a reminder of God's handwork — including you!

What you need:

- Glass jar
- Permanent marker
- Glue (and water)
- Paper plate
- Paintbrush
- Star sequins
- Battery-operated tea light



What you do:

1. Around the jar's opening, write in permanent marker: Shine ... like stars in the sky. Philippians 2:15
2. Pour some glue on the plate. Thin with some water.
3. "Paint" the outside of the jar with glue and then sprinkle on some sequins. Let dry.
4. Add the tea light and give your bedroom a starry glow at nighttime.

JULY 2018

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

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

01

8 am Rite I Chapel
 10:30 am Rite II
 Birthday Sunday

02

03

8 pm NA

04

12 noon Holy Eucharist & Prayers for Healing
 8 pm AA

05

06

07

08

8 am Rite I Chapel
 10:30 am Rite II
 Sandwich Sunday
 Vestry Meeting

09

10

8 pm NA

11

12 noon Holy Eucharist & Prayers for Healing
 8 pm AA

12

13

14

15

8 am Rite I Chapel
 10:30 am Rite II
 Healthy Sunday

16

Mission Trip
 Housing

17

Mission Trip
 Housing

18

12 noon Holy Eucharist & Healing
 Mission Trip
 Housing

19

Mission Trip
 Housing

20

Mission Trip
 Housing

21

22

8 am Rite I Chapel
 10:30 am Rite II
 Pie Sunday

23

24

8 pm NA

25

12 noon Holy Eucharist & Prayers for Healing
 8 pm AA

26

27

28

29

8 am Rite I Chapel
 10:30 am Rite II
 Salad Sunday
 Set up for VBS

30

5-8 pm VBS

31

5:30-8 pm VBS

5:30-8 pm VBS

5:30-8 pm VBS

5:30-8 pm VBS

Office Hours:

**Tues-Fri
 12-3**

Call for other hours

From The Editor: Do you want to change how 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 out St. John's website: www.stjohnssalemnj.org. The most recent Sunday Bulletin is on the website, as well as current and past issues of the Forerunner and special announcements. St. John's is also on Facebook (St. John's Salem)

Please have any information you would like printed in the next Forerunner to me by JULY 25. Family news, articles, information, articles, recipes, book or movie reviews, or anything you think would be of interest to our church family. Items can be emailed to ecmiller114@gmail.com.

Special request: We are always looking for family news, articles, stories, poems, recipes, and other items of interest. Email them to me or leave them in the office.



St. John's Episcopal Church

76 Market Street, Salem, NJ 08079

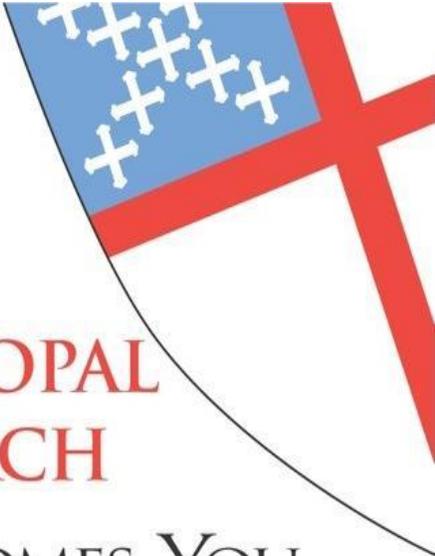
Established 1722

Parish Office: 856-935-1798 Fax at office: 856-279-2121

E-Mail: stjohnssalemnj@comcast.net Website: www.stjohnssalemnj.org

[FACEBOOK](#)

Rector:	The Rev'd Charles Messer	856-935-1798 (office)	cell: (610) 800-8795 frchuckmesser@gmail.com	
Deacon:	The Rev'd Sally Maurer	856-769-1409 (h)	cell: 856-297-2385 slarrabee@comcast.net	
Senior Warden:	Ron Magill	856-935-5398	local_art@comcast.net	
Junior Warden:	David Miller	cell: 609-202-7197	rrdmiller@yahoo.com	
Treasurer:	Ann Neff	856-358-9610	gwneff@mac.com	
Admin. Assistant:	Marjorie Warren	856-935-1798	stjohnssalemnj@comcast.net	
Minister of Music	William F. Clisham, Jr.	cell: 908-472-7597	wfclish@aol.com	
Forerunner Editor:	Eileen Miller	609-202-7220	ecmiller114@gmail.com	
Vestry Class of 2021	Ryan Bailey	Ron Magill	Bill Mecum	Recording Secretary: MaryAnne
Class of 2020	Sue Harker	Gwen Norton	Ann Neff (Clerk)	Clisham
Class of 2019	David Miller	Jean Miller	Ron Wohlrab	



**THE
EPISCOPAL
CHURCH**
WELCOMES YOU

Schedule of Services

Every Sunday

8 AM—Holy Eucharist Rite 1 in the Chapel

10:30 AM---Holy Eucharist Rite II in the Church followed by Fellowship Hour

Every Wednesday

Noon---Holy Eucharist Rite II and Healing-Chapel



St. John's Episcopal Church

76 Market Street
Salem, NJ 08079

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

