

THE FORERUNNER



August 2018

St. John's Episcopal Church, Salem, NJ



From the
Rector

Each year, on August 6, I'm reminded of the strange convergence. In the liturgical calendar, August 6th is the Feast of the Transfiguration, where Jesus goes up Mt. Tabor with Peter, James, and John, and they see the manifestation of his glory, as he talks with Moses and Elijah (Mt. 17:1-8; Mk. 9:2-8; Lk. 9:28-36). This feast day and story reminds us of the power and glory that was Jesus' own, even as he came "in our midst as one who serves": teaching, healing, washing feet. And, to paraphrase Philippians 2, he did not cling to the glory that was his, but instead humbled himself, choosing to make his most striking statement of power on the Cross. Christ did not stay on Mt. Tabor, but moved forward to Calvary.

And yet it was on this day in 1945 that the US, led by President Truman, dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima in Japan. Three days later, we would drop another on Nagasaki. There were certainly reasons to do this, which of course came down to shortening the war, saving American lives, and showing American strength to our enemies and our uneasy alliances alike.

But there is no room at all in the just war tradition for truly justifying reasons to use a weapon which cannot discriminate between soldiers and non-combatants. In all our talk about the danger of rogue nations having weapons of mass destruction, we tend to forget that the two most devastating usages of weapons of mass destruction were our own.

The great Roman Catholic lay leader, Dorothy Day, published an article a few weeks after the bombing in the *Catholic Worker*. I think of the courage it must have taken to publish it, in the midst of all of the celebrations as the war was over and the troops were coming home, and America had proven its strength and won the victory. But she points out so powerfully that, as Christians, we have to look at not only the returning American troops but also the vaporized Japanese as our brothers and sisters. And in that light, jubilation is sorely out of place. Here is an excerpt of Day's words:

Mr. Truman was jubilant. President Truman. True man; what a strange name, come to think of it. We refer to Jesus Christ as true God and true Man. Truman is a true man of his time in that he was jubilant. He was not a son of God, brother of Christ, brother of the Japanese, jubilating as he did. He went from table to table on the cruiser which was bringing

him home from the Big Three conference, telling the great news; "jubilant" the newspapers said. Jubilate Deo. We have killed 318,000 Japanese.

That is, we hope we have killed them, the Associated Press, on page one, column one of the Herald Tribune, says. The effect is hoped for, not known. It is to be hoped they are vaporized, our Japanese brothers — scattered, men, women and babies, to the four winds, over the seven seas. Perhaps we will breathe their dust into our nostrils, feel them in the fog of New York on our faces, feel them in the rain on the hills of Easton.

Jubilate Deo. President Truman was jubilant. We have created. We have created destruction.

At a clergy conference last year, this article was read aloud and was received with mixed emotions, as it was 73 years ago. About half were horrified using the atomic bomb. They find it shocking to imagine it was ever considered. The other half, as uncomfortable as they are with it, end up saying something like, "But we HAD to use the bomb. If we hadn't, the war would have dragged on, we may have lost it, or we may have lost Europe to the Soviets while we were fighting in Japan." And, of course, they are right. All of those are possible outcomes of the choice to refuse to use a weapon of mass destruction.

But it seems to me that there is one definite outcome of the same decision. You become a person and a nation willing to let the end justify the means, willing to kill the innocent to secure the world as you think you want it to be. For Christians, especially, that is a deep betrayal of our most basic values, and of our trust in God's providential care of history. But even on American secular humanist terms, isn't the first betrayal there? If we kill the innocent to preserve our way of life, haven't we already betrayed the life we think is our goal?

Certainly, we won't all agree, but it is crucial to take anniversaries like this and consider the decisions that were made, and to consider deeply and carefully what they have come to mean for us, and whether we would make the same decision today. These are the discussions and the arguments which help us decide and determine who we are and who we want to be.

No matter our feelings or political persuasions, we are bound by an indissoluble bond of love signified by an indelible mark

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From the Rector continued

of baptism that unites us as family. Families argue and disagree all the time, but in times of need the family unites in order so that all its members are assured of their place and function. Your church home seeks to be such a place. With our Lord as our example, we imitate him by our actions toward each other and our neighbors. The world will know that we are disciples of our Lord Jesus by our love for each other and care for the world.

Faithfully,

Chuck+



The Deacon's Bench

It's Friday Morning. I'm exhausted. 4 nights of VBS and one to go. I'm glad I didn't have to work as a Nurse Practitioner this week. I feel like someone hit me with a sack of bricks. I'm sure everyone else is feeling that way this morning. One night to go and VBS 2018 will be in the books. For sure, we have learned a lot. I believe the children have also learned a lot.

To be sure, there are some wild children in the bunch. We don't know most of these kids. We don't know about their home environment. A few of them have even said out loud that there are unspeakable things happening in their homes. When addressing behavioral issues, a couple have asked us not to tell their parents for fear of repercussions.

What strikes me most are the stories that they feel 'safe' to share - stories of 'a baby daddy being murdered' of 'a child being mauled and killed by pit bulls' of 'daddy beats mommy' - stories that will make the hair stand up on the back of your neck. In addition, we feed them a full dinner and we've observed that they have voracious appetites. It makes me wonder what they had to eat at home.

When I ask them if they'd like to offer prayer, the most sincere, heartfelt prayers are spoken. I tear up everytime. They listen; they don't listen. They sit down for the story; they wiggle. They seem comfortable yet they seem restless. It has been a wild week.

It is the same story at all the other VBS in town. Spirit Life Fellowship had 100+ kids. I cannot imagine how

they handled that many wiggly, hyperactive, excited children! Other VBS had less children but report the same issues. I guess because it is summertime and they are out of school they are on 'play' mode.

So many parishioners are involved in this event - from registration to the kitchen to the marketplace, outdoor activities and story time, so many of you have volunteered to help. Everyone of you deserves all the kudos I can give you - I hope you can reflect (after tonight, and after the exhaustion is past) what a wonderful event St John's is capable of. I am so proud of this parish - you are a blessing to this community!

Deacon Sally



Prayers are requested for our Presiding Bishop, The Right Reverend Michael Curry. On July 25, Bishop Curry communicated that he had been diagnosed with prostate cancer. He had surgery to remove the prostate gland on Tuesday, July 21. According to the Episcopal News Service, The Presiding Bishop, his family, and his medical team, the surgery went well. He is resting comfortably, and a full recovery continues to be anticipated. Bishop Curry and his family are touched by the outpouring of prayers and well wishes but ask for privacy during his recovery.



A new air conditioner has been installed in the Parish Hall after the old one failed last year. Please see me to learn how to operate it.

The door closer on the front door of the church has been replaced at no cost to the church; it was still under warranty. It will now stay open.

2 small roofs on the Parish Hall have been replaced. 1 is over the side door, and a small shed next to the power & utility room door.

I will be placing anti-slip tape on the steps to the chapel and the church.

Have a safe summer!

David Miller
Building & Grounds Chair



"And Nebuzaradan captain of the guard took these and brought them to the king of Babylon to Riblah: And the king of Babylon smote them, and slew them at

Riblah in the land of Hamath. So Judah was carried away out of their land" II Kings 25: 20 & 21, Authorised Version of 1611.

This year our Vacation Bible School is set in Ancient Babylon. The captivity in that land is central to the story of the Jewish Nation & emblematic of the process of Divine judgment & pardon that it is the all-important first half of the story of Jesus Christ's redemption, the perfect offering or propitiation, fulfilled here in St. John's in the daily service and worship of the Church. By the time of the Exile of the Israelites, c. 598-538 B.C. Babylon was one of the most important world empires having vanquished the Egyptian and Assyrian armies at the Battle of Carchemish in 605 B.C. in which they were allied with the Medes, Persians, and Scythians.

Coming at a crossroads of empire in spiritual and geopolitical history, the events of the captivity are among the best documented of the ancient world. Confirmation of the factual basis of this historic episode is on record in II Chronicles 35:20-27, Antiquities of The Jews by Flavius Josephus and the Nebuchadnezzar Chronicle, a 500-450 B.C. tablet on display in the British Museum. Babylonian (also called Mesopotamian a more chronologically encompassing name) research was among the most important contributions by the Penn Museum and the Oriental Institute of The University of Chicago and is ongoing.

Babylon as well as several other key ancient kingdoms (Parthian or Asacid, Zangid, Mongol, Il Khanate, Persian, Greek, Roman, Ottoman & others through British), was in present-day Iraq where I had the pleasure of living in 2008-9. To be able to see certain of the Biblical sites is among the most spiritually fulfilling

memories of my travels. In the coming months we will survey some of the key archaeological work being done there & I pray that learning about these sites and histories will be an enrichment to your soul, as they are to mine.

"But when the emancipating springtide breathes wholesome, quickening airs, when the Sun of Love shines out with cordial fires, lo, the Soul of Israel bursts her cobweb sheath, and flies forth attired in the winged beauty of immortality" from *By The Waters of Babylo* nby Emma Lazarus

Next Month: The discovery of The Hanging Gardens of Babylon by Robert Koldewey

Ryan Bailey, Sr



As I write this, we are in the middle of VBS. Participants are involved in activities that are teaching them the story of Daniel and his courage in captivity. They are tasting foods that Daniel may have eaten, hearing the story of Daniel in the lions' den, and participating in crafts that help them learn about the culture and traditions in Babylon. Thank you to everyone who participated as a volunteer for VBS and/or provided donations of time, food, or money. A more detailed report will be in the September Forerunner.



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



Our first gathering will be a one-day Retreat ... a combination “fellowship” (including food and drink), rehearsal of music for the early fall, and an overview of some larger endeavors to transpire

during the year. That “Retreat” will take place on Saturday, September 8, at my home, 80 Hiles Ave. in Elk Terrace. It will begin at 9:30 AM and continuing until 5:00 PM (+/-). Light breakfast and a lunch will be provided and folders will be awaiting you. (If you did not sing with us last year and wish to join us this year, please contact me at least a week ahead of time, so that music can be prepared for you.) Lunch will be catered this year by Matthew O. Clisham of *The Square Grouper/My New Joint* in Cudjoe Key, Florida! I promise it will be good!

The choir’s first Choral Eucharist of the 2018-2019 season will be Sunday, September 9, with warm-up rehearsal at 9:00 AM, followed by the Liturgy at 10:30. Our anthem that day will be a familiar one for us: *O Savior of the World* by John Goss. There will also be the hymns, a Psalm, and other service music to rehearse and lead.

The new season will be another challenging and exciting one, with some exciting and interesting calendar additions and adjustments, including a celebration of the installation of The Rev. Charles Messer as our Rector on Sunday, October 14, at 4:00PM. But, in the mean-time, there will also be two Evensong Services; there will be Lessons & Carols in place of the Holy Eucharist on Advent IV, Sunday, December 23. On Christmas Eve we will sing another group of great pieces appropriate for the season prior to the 10:30 Christmas Eve Festival Eucharist. We will sing special liturgies on Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, the Saturday Easter Vigil—which has been a great success in recent years—and, of course, Easter Sunday (with brass quintet). We will also sing Schubert’s *Mass in G* with strings and organ as part of the liturgy on Sunday June 2, 2019. There will be challenging and beautiful new anthems; and, as always, there will be some old chestnuts.

**THE ST. JOHN’S HANDBELL RINGERS
(High School – Adults)**

Our handbell ensemble will resume regular rehearsals on Wednesday, September 19, 2018, 6:30 – 8:00 PM. But this will only happen if we have enough ringers. We are in desperate need of at least 3 more ringers, and could use as many as 7 more. This amazing group of people has dedicated themselves to meet, learn, and rehearse regularly at a very high level of musicianship. We are tentatively scheduled to perform during the 10:30 AM Sunday Eucharist several times throughout

the year, for Christmas Eve on December 24, and for the Salem Yuletide Open-house Tours.

VOLUNTEER HANDBELL RINGERS INVITATION

St. John’s Episcopal Church, 76 Market Street, Salem, NJ (at the corner of Market & Grant) extends a cordial invitation to interested volunteer Handbell Ringers with some ringing experience and music reading ability, who are not committed to another Church Bell Choir to join us in September, when our new season begins. Rehearsals are regularly held on Wednesday evenings 6:30 – 8:00 PM. The first Rehearsal of the new season will be Wednesday, September 19, 2018 in the main church. St. John’s Handbell Ringers play periodically for worship and for other special events, such as the Salem City Holly Tours. For additional information, or to inquire, you may contact me, Minister of Music, Bill Clisham, by e-mail wfclish@aol.com, or you may leave a phone message at the St. John’s Church office: (856) 935-1798.



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 8/03 Warren Bye
- 8/03 Ryan C. W. Bailey
- 8/05 Bill Clisham
- 8/05 Danielle Khairzada
- 8/07 Philip Correll
- 8/10 Lauren Miller Bowen
- 8/14 Joanne Owen
- 8/23 Julie Frieze
- 8/29 Mary Anne Clisham



AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

- 8/28 Diane and Ron Wohlrab



We welcome to the family of God Sean Vanderveer. Sean was baptised on June 23 at St. John’s. We are happy to have Sean and his parents, Amy and John join our family at St. John’s. Welcome!

Poetry Corner

How Can I Be Afraid?

By Emma Bailey



I am not afraid of the lions den,
for the Lord my God will go with me,
into the very heart of destruction,
and the very soul of fear.

I will not crumble,
when the doors close,
and it's too dark to see the light.

No I'll stand strong,
for God is my shield,
He shuts the mouths of the lions,
and makes them lay down
like sheep at my feet.

What awesome power
does the Lord wield!

How can I ever fear?



"Those of you who helped with Vacation Bible School –
you know who you are – deserve special thanks."

BUMBLE BEE BALLS

Make these yummy treats
as a summer snack.



What you need:

- 1 cup peanut butter
- 1½ oz. instant oats
- ¼ cup honey
- ½ cup instant milk powder
- ½ cup dark chocolate chips
- 40 mini chocolate chips
- 20 slivered almonds
- 40 sliced almonds
- Adult help



What you do:

1. In a bowl, mix peanut butter, oats, honey and instant milk powder into dough. If too dry, add more peanut butter or honey.
2. Roll dough into 20 long balls. Place them on a cookie sheet and refrigerate.
3. Melt the dark chocolate chips and place them in a zippered baggie. Cut a tiny bit off one corner.
4. Remove dough from refrigerator. Squeeze thin lines of chocolate as stripes onto the bee bodies.
5. Use two mini chocolate chips for eyes, a slivered almond for a stinger and two sliced almonds as wings. Enjoy!



August 2018

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

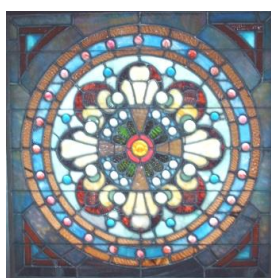
29	30	31	1 12 Noon Holy Eucharist in Church 5:30-8 pm VBS	2 5:30-8 pm VBS	3 5:30-8 pm VBS	4
5 8 am Rite I Chapel 10:30 Rite II Church Fellowship Hour Birthday Sunday	6	7 8 pm NA	8 12 Noon Holy Eucharist in Church 12-3 pm IAC 8 pm AA	9	10	11 Vestry Retreat
12 8 am Rite I Chapel 10:30 Rite II Church Fellowship Hour Sandwich Sunday Vestry Meeting	13	14 8 pm NA	15 12 Noon Holy Eucharist in Church 8 pm AA	16	17	18
19 8 am Rite I Chapel 10:30 Rite II Church Fellowship Hour Healthy Snacks	20	21 8 pm NA	22 12 Noon Holy Eucharist in Church 8 pm AA	23	24	25
26 8 am Rite I Chapel 10:30 Rite II Church Fellowship Hour Pie Sunday	27	28 8 pm NA	29 12 Noon Holy Eucharist in Church 8 pm AA	30	31	1
2	3 CIACC-Children's Inter-Agency Council YSC-Youth Services Council IAC-Inter-Agency Council NA-Narcotics Anonymous AA-Alcoholics Anonymous	4	5	6	7	8

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 FEBRUARY 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

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Established 1722

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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 in the Chapel



St. John's Episcopal Church

76 Market Street
Salem, NJ 08079

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

