

THE FORERUNNER



September 2018

St. John's Episcopal Church



Birthdays are fun. Birthdays are times to celebrate the day those we love entered time and space. Celebrating a birth is a reminder of hope and the love that brought this special person into the world. September brings us a birthday we all should celebrate.

September 8th is the Feast Day of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Though Holy Scripture does not record her birth, the earliest known account is found in the Protoevangelium of James (152 C.E.), an apocryphal text from the late second century, with her parents known as Saint Anne and Saint Joachim. In the case of Saints, the Church commemorates their date of death; however, with Saints like John the Baptist and the Blessed Virgin Mary their birth dates are commemorated. The reason for this is found in the singular mission each had in salvation history and set aside at birth as holy.

Mary the mother of Jesus has been an object of veneration in the church since the days of the Apostles. She has been a favorite subject in art, music, and literature. Her humility and obedience to the message of God at the time of the Incarnation (John 1:1-11, Luke 1:22-55) have made her an example for all ages of Christians. The following events of her life are in the New Testament: her betrothal to Joseph; the annunciation by the angel that she would be the mother of the Messiah; her visit to Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist; the birth of Jesus; the visits of the shepherds and the wise men; the presentation of Jesus in the temple; the flight into Egypt; the visit to Jerusalem when Jesus was twelve years old; the wedding at Cana; an occasion when Mary and Jesus' brothers asked to speak to him while he was speaking to the people; the crucifixion when Jesus commended her to John; and the meeting with the apostles in the upper room after the Ascension.

Early in church history she was honored and esteemed. Early Church Fathers like Irenaeus called her the New Eve, Athanasius taught her perpetual virginity, and the Council of Ephesus in year 431 C.E. declared her Theotokos, Mother of God. The multiple churches that form the Anglican Communion and the Continuing Anglican movement have different views of Mary and her veneration that there is no single church with universal authority within the Anglican Communion and that the mother church (the Church of England) understands itself to be both "Catholic" and "Reformed". Thus, unlike the Protestant churches at large, the Anglican Communion (which includes the Episcopal

Church) includes segments which still retain veneration of our Lord's mother.

Mary's special position within God's purpose of salvation as "God-bearer" (Theotokos) is recognized in several ways by Anglican Christians. All the member churches of the Anglican Communion affirm in the historic creeds that Jesus was born of the Virgin Mary and celebrates the feast days of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Luke 2:22-40). This feast is called in older prayer books the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary on February 2. The Annunciation of our Lord to the Blessed Virgin on March 25 was from before the time of St. Bede (4th Century C.E.) until the 18th century New Year's Day in England. The Annunciation is called the "Annunciation of our Lady" in the 1662 Book of Common Prayer. Anglicans also celebrate in the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin on May. The feast of the St. Mary the Virgin is observed on the traditional day of the Assumption, August 15.

The Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is kept in the 1662 Book of Common Prayer, on December 8. In certain Anglo-Catholic parishes this feast is called the Immaculate Conception. Again, the Assumption of Mary is believed in by most Anglo-Catholics but is considered a pious opinion by moderate Anglicans. Protestant minded Anglicans reject the celebration of these feasts.

Prayers and veneration practices vary a great deal. For instance, as of the 19th century, following the Oxford Movement, Anglo-Catholics frequently pray the Rosary, the Angelus, Regina Caeli, and other litanies and anthems of Our Lady that are reminiscent of Catholic practices. On the other hand, Low-church Anglicans rarely invoke the Blessed Virgin except in certain hymns. The Anglican Society of Mary was formed in 1931 and maintains chapters around the world. The purpose of the society is to foster devotion to Mary among Anglicans. Certain Anglicans espouse doctrines that are closer to Roman Catholics, and retain veneration for Mary, e.g., official Anglican pilgrimages to Our Lady of Lourdes have taken place since 1963, and pilgrimages to Our Lady of Walsingham have gone on for hundreds of years. One of the east coast's largest chapter is found in Philadelphia at St Clements Episcopal where I served as a curate. Historically, there has been enough common ground between Roman Catholics and Anglicans on our Lord's mother that in 2005 a joint statement called Mary: grace and hope in Christ was produced through

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From the Rector, continued

ecumenical meetings of Anglicans and Roman Catholic theologians. This document, informally known as the "Seattle Statement", is not formally endorsed by either the Catholic Church or the Anglican Communion but is viewed by its authors as the beginning of a joint understanding of Mary.

It is, of course, essential that our devotion to our Lady is always anchored in our worship to Jesus Christ. Our Lord's mother's place in the Incarnation (God becoming human) and in the history of God's salvation (Mary as the God-bearer) the Church ensures that all generations shall call her blessed.

We can see every human birth as a call for new hope in the world. The love of two human beings has joined with God in his creative work. The loving parents have shown hope in a world filled with travail. The new child has the potential to be a channel of God's love and peace to the world. This is all true in a magnificent way in Mary. If Jesus is the perfect expression of God's love, Mary is the foreshadowing of that love. If Jesus has brought the fullness of salvation, Mary is its dawning. Next to the birth of Jesus, his mother's birth offers the greatest possible happiness to the world. Each September 8th, we can confidently hope for an increase of peace in our hearts and in the world at large.

Father Chuck

Adult Christian Formation Begins Sunday, September 9th at 9:15 AM



Jesus lived with the awareness that God is doing something, right here, right now, and anybody can be a part of it. He encouraged his listeners to search, to question, to wrestle with the implications of what he was saying and doing. Wherever he went, Jesus started discussions about what matters most, because for Jesus, God is always inviting us to open our eyes and join in. Our curriculum will be a video series called, *NOOMA*. Created by Rob Bell, *NOOMA* is a series of short films promoting spiritual reflections on individual life experiences. The name *NOOMA* comes from a phonetic spelling of the Greek word, pneuma, meaning "wind", "spirit", or "breath". Each film is about 10 to 14 minutes of Christian teaching related to real-life situations. Each short story covers a specific topic, usually by relating various experiences from a Christian perspective. Following the 8 AM worship service, we will gather in the parish house for thought provoking material and stimulating conversation. Coffee and light refreshments

will be provided. This is not your grandmother's Sunday School class, but a safe place where open and honest talk of God, the world and our place in it happen with love and care for one another.

Join us for Bible Study

Weekly Bible study with Fr Chuck begins September 26th. There will be a morning session each Wednesday beginning at 10:30 AM and an evening session each Thursday beginning at 6:30. Each session will have refreshments. A covered dish dinner will precede the Thursday night study. You will need to bring a Bible (any version – the more the better!). You will be given a participant guide, *Kerygma: Discovering the Bible*.



Kerygma: Discovering the Bible is a basic comprehensive introduction to the Bible as a whole. The phrase "The Bible as a Whole" is used to convey a concern for more than learning about each book and its contents. It seeks to underscore an interest in seeing the inter-connections among the many parts of the entire Bible, as it speaks to us of God and faith and people. Through a process of reading, reflection, discussion and creative expression you will discover people, events and places and encounter a variety of biblical ideas. Both the first-time learner and the lifelong student are invited to an engaging, rewarding encounter with Scripture that will greatly deepen their knowledge and understanding of the Bible.

To get the most out of this study of Holy Scripture a commitment is needed. Attendance is needed since each session builds upon the last. Active discussion while together and study in private opens opportunities for God to do profound within our lives and families. Our study will be fun (You bet!), interesting (I hope!), provocative (No doubt!) and, most of all, prayerful (I promise).

Many have already signed up for Bible study. If you have not, please see the sign-up sheet in the parish house. A count is needed so that we may have enough materials for all.

Celebration of New Ministry

On Sunday, October 14, 2018, at 4 pm, St. John's will host a Celebration of New Ministry for The Reverend Charles Messer. The Right Reverend William Stokes, 12th Bishop of the Diocese of NJ will preside. The Reverend Richard C. Alton, Rector of St. Clement's Episcopal Church, Philadelphia, will preach. A reception will follow in St. John's Parish Hall. Please join us for this official welcome for Father Chuck.



This month, several projects are in progress. In August, 2 downspouts were stolen off the church. A police report was filed. They were the last of the lower copper downspouts-only the high parts of the copper downspouts

now remain. An officer from Salem PD is willing to look at what we need in a security system and recommend a good system to cover the outside areas of our property. I will keep you posted.

At the Parish Hall, the 2 small roofs are being recoated. These were original from 1962.

Anti-slip tape is being installed on the steps to the chapel and church to prevent slips and falls.

And speaking of prevention-the organ will have a surge protector to prevent voltage spikes. This will protect our most valuable physical asset. Work should be done by August 30.

CPR/AED Training will be scheduled for this fall. Please consider attending this life-saving training and learn how to use our AEDs.

David Miller
Chair

ACOLYTES



A training session will be held for ALL acolytes on September 29 from 10-1. Lunch will be served. It is mandatory for anyone who wishes to serve (or continue to serve) as an acolyte. We have some special services coming up, including the Celebration of New Ministry in October. Lunch will be served

following the training for all attendees. Please contact Father Chuck or David Miller if you have questions or are interested in becoming part of the Acolyte Guild



START-UP THE NEW SEASON!

ST. JOHN'S CHOIR (High School – Adults)

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 new and special endeavors for later in the year. That "Retreat" will take place on Saturday, September 8, at the home of Bill & Mary Anne Clisham. It will begin 9:30AM and continuing until 5:00 PM. A light breakfast and a sumptuous catered lunch will be provided, and folders will be awaiting you.

The choir's first Choral Eucharist of the 2018-2019 season will be Sunday, September 9 ... warm-up rehearsal at 9:00 AM, followed by the Liturgy at 10:30. Our anthem that day will be *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 an exciting one. There will be a special Installation Service for Fr. Messer, with Bishop Stokes presiding, on Oct. 14. There will be two Evensong Services. There will be Lessons & Carols in place of the Sunday Eucharist on Advent IV, December 23. On Christmas Eve we will sing a 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 a liturgy in June. There will be several challenging and beautiful new anthems; and, as always, there will be a few old chestnuts. Call Bill Clisham to join.

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

Assuming we will have enough players (at present there are only 5 players signed on), our handbell ensemble will resume regular rehearsals on Wednesday, September 19, 2018, 6:30 – 8:00 PM. This amazing group of people has dedicated themselves in recent years to meet, learn, and rehearse regularly at a very high level of musicianship. We are 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 on Saturday, December 3.

VOLUNTEER HANDBELL RINGERS INVITATION

St. John's Episcopal Church 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. One need not be a confirmed parishioner of St. John's Church. For additional information, or to inquire, you may contact 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.



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



- 9/02 Lisa Sparks Berodin**
- 9/11 Kasey Laning Runkle**
- 9/23 Father Steve**
- 9/25 Jean Miller**
- 9/27 Avery Frieze Dunfee**



- 9/25 Jim and Helen Acton**
- 9/13 Louis (Joe) and Carla Buck**
- 9/15 Chuck and Daphne Miller**



"But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself" Daniel 1:8, King James Authorized Version of A.D. 1611



Our travels in Babylon now take us toward the historic site of the Hanging Gardens. Built in the Sixth Century Before Christ by **Nebuchadnezzar II** (Akkadian *Nabû-kudurri-uşur*, Hebrew נְבוּכַדְרֶצְצַר, meaning "O god Nabu preserve/defend my firstborn son", King of Babylon c. 605 BC – c. 562 BC, Neo-Babylonian empire), the gardens were a unique man-made jungle mountain. He reportedly constructed the one of a kind wonder of the ancient world to cure the home-sickness of his Median wife Queen Amytis.


The Glories of Babylon surpassed "in its splendor everything in the known world" according to Herodotus. Despite the ancient records in the Greeks, this was thought of as a myth. So were the places in the stories of Homer, and many Biblical accounts thought to be mythical and are being proven true by modern researchers of multiple disciplines.

Robert Johann Koldewey, 1855-1925 was a German Archaeologist who discovered Babylon and excavated many important sites there. His work on the hanging gardens was mostly between 1899 and 1917. Active in Asia Minor, Greece and Italy, he developed new techniques and followed previously doubted hypotheses based on literal readings of the scriptures and other ancient accounts. He also discovered and brought to light the **Marduk Ziggurat** and the **Ishtar Gate**, which is where we will pick up his trail again next month.

Pilgrimages to the Holy Land are now, as ever, among the most difficult travels in the world, particularly as the land is beset with constant conflicts. Several museums closer to home display some of the treasures of these lands in exhibits that you would certainly enjoy, particularly the Penn Museum, South Street in Philadelphia which is my favorite. Next month, continue your Holy Land travels with us here as we continue our Mesopotamian journeys.

Ryan Bailey Sr.











Activity Page



IT'S A MIRACLE!

Jesus performed many amazing miracles during his earthly ministry.

Directions: Match the words and pictures of different healings, from one column to the other. Then fit the word pairs in the blanks below to complete Matthew 11:5, NIV.

 blind	hear 
 leprosy	walk 
 lame	raised 
 deaf	sight 
 dead	cleansed 

The _____ receive _____, the _____, those
 who have _____ are _____, the _____
 _____, the _____ are _____ ...

MATTHEW 11:5, NIV

Answers: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised ... Matthew 11:5, NIV

Miracles happen!

Create this colorful reminder of God's wondrous works.



What you need:

- white cardstock
- white wax crayon
- paintbrush
- water
- watercolor paints

What you do:

1. Across the paper horizontally, write with the white crayon "Miracles happen!" (or a Bible verse such as Job 5:9; Psalm 77:14; Jeremiah 32:27; or Matthew 19:26).
2. Wet the paintbrush and paint over the words with different colors.
3. Let dry and then hang up.

September 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2 8 am Rite I Chapel 10:30 Rite II Church Fellowship Hour Birthday Sunday ECW Meeting	3	4 8:30 am-3 pm IAC 12-3 pm Food Pantry 8 pm NA	5 9 am-3 pm YSC/ CIACC 12 Noon Holy Eucharist in Chapel 8 pm AA	6	7	8 9:30-5 Choir Retreat
9 8 am Rite I Chapel 9 am Choir Season Begins 10:30 Rite II Church Sandwich Sunday Vestry Meeting	10	11 12-3 pm Food Pantry 8 pm NA	12 12 Noon Holy Eucharist in Chapel 8 pm AA	13	14	15
16 8 am Rite I Chapel 9 am Choir Season Begins 10:30 Rite II Church Fellowship Hour	17	18 12-2 pm Food Pantry 8 pm NA	19 12 Noon Holy Eucharist in Chapel 8 pm AA	20	21	22
23 8 am Rite I Chapel 9 am Choir Rehearsal 10:30 Rite II Church Pie Sunday	24	25 12-2 pm Food Pantry 8 pm NA	26 12 Noon Holy Eucharist in Chapel 8 pm AA	27	28	29 10-1 Acolyte Training with lunch 2 pm Evensong Honoring Older Parishioners Trinity Cathedral, Trenton
30 8 am Rite I Chapel 9 am Choir Rehearsal 10:30 Rite II Church Fellowship Hour	1	2 CIACC-Children's Inter-Agency Council YSC-Youth Services Council IAC-Inter-Agency Council NA-Narcotics Anonymous AA-Alcoholics Anonymous	3	4	5 <u>Office Hours</u> Monday: Closed Tuesday-Friday: 9 am-4 pm (Fr Chuck) 12 pm-3 pm (Office)	6



Artwork by Ryan Bailey, Jr.

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 SEPTEMBER 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 Wohrab	



**THE
EPISCOPAL
CHURCH**
WELCOMES YOU

Schedule of Services

Every Sunday

8 AM—Holy Eucharist Rite 1 in the Chapel

9:15 AM-Christian Formation-NOOMA in the Parish Hall

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

Every Wednesday

Noon---Holy Eucharist in the Chapel



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Salem, NJ 08079

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED