

THE FORERUNNER



March 2019

St. John's Episcopal Church



From the
Rector

Welcome to Lent. "Happy Lent," or "Merry Lent," is awkward and doesn't roll off the tongue smoothly. As the seasons of the year bring about changes in the weather, so do the seasons of the church year. Lent, like Advent, is a season of preparation. As Advent anticipates Christmas, Lent prepares us for Easter.

On Ash Wednesday we are invited on behalf of the Church to the observance of a Holy Lent. Not successful or productive or guilt-ridden or dour Lent, but a holy Lent. This rolls off the tongue easier than wishing one another a "Happy Lent," or "Be Miserable Lent." This season of Lent is often misunderstood, and our confusion about how to greet one another at its start reflects the fact that we don't always know how to approach it

Many of us see Lent as grim and depressing. Having ashes imposed on one's forehead and a reminder of death, "Remember you are dust and to dust shall you return" isn't warm and fuzzy or comforting. The next 40 days are specifically set aside to grow closer to Jesus. Lent is a very personal time of reflection and introspection; taking a hard look at how we have fallen short of God's glory, how our own actions and attitudes and the actions and attitudes of others enacted on our behalf hurt and destroy other creatures of God. We experience Lent most fully together. In community, we enter this season holding on and bearing up one another.

Lent is not meant to be the Church's season of depression or when we walk around with sad faces. Sometimes we equate holiness with misery: the more miserable we are, the more holy we must be. But often that desire for misery is a way of making Lent self-centered narcissism, which cheapens the meaning of holiness.

To be holy means to be set apart in a special way. A holy Lent is joyful Lent because it draws us closer to the heart of God. It sets us apart, keeping us focused on the spiritual priorities of our lives and our single most important relationship – our relationship with God. It is not a time to be overly grim but an opportunity to be drawn into ever-deepening relationship with the resurrected Lord. Introspection is never easy and may be painful, but in our inadequacy and weakness, God's grace shines brighter than ever.

One of the ways we make personal the walk of Lent is through daily prayer and meditation on scripture. Another way is to take on a spiritual discipline that is known only between you and God. Acts of charity done in secret, repairing a broken relationship or committing for the next 40 days to be intentionally and explicitly Christian – making love for our neighbor a reality. This is also a time of sacrifice and discipline. This is often done through giving things up for Lent. Some people find that giving up

Diet Coke, chocolate or certain swear words for the next 40 days does produce spiritual growth. For some, this is enough. Lent gives back as much as we give into Lent. Doing without is an ancient spiritual practice that produces deeper faith through self-denial. However, considering our Lord's self-denial for us and the world, giving up candy seems to pale in comparison.

Lent is also a time when we, as his disciples, walk with our Lord towards Good Friday, "As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem" (Lk.9:5). We follow our Lord with a cross before us. As Lent gives way to Holy Week, the demands on us are greater; our time and participation in active remembrance brings into focus the tension we live in between God's will and our desires. Being told you are dust before an ashen cross is embossed on your forehead is not a pick-me-up, but our call is to follow Jesus. Washing feet on Maundy Thursday is awkward for many, but the call to follow Jesus remains. Good Friday observance, next to Maundy Thursday, is the least attended service of the year. This day is called good because without the cross there is no empty tomb, without crucifixion no resurrection, without Good Friday there is no Easter.

I invite you to a holy Lent. Come and join Christians all over the world seeking a deeper walk with God and a deeper relationship with our neighbor.

All of us go down to the dust, yet even at the grave we make our song: alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

Your brother,
Fr. Chuck



Our prayers are with Father Chuck, Diane and the entire Messer family at the passing of his father, David Messer. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.



SHROVE TUESDAY

Plans are under way for our annual pancake & sausage dinner on **Tuesday, March 6**. It will be held from 6:00-7:00 PM in the Parish Hall. Volunteers are

needed to help set up, mix pancake batter, flip pancakes (we've got the grills), cook sausages, serve, and clean up. Contact Bill Clisham to volunteer for any of those jobs. Many hands make light work, so please try to help out in one of these areas.



From The Deacon's Bench

Our discussion this week at our Sunday Morning Adult Forum centered around hospitality...Christian Hospitality. The Nooma video that we watched spoke of the biblical principal of gleaning, or leaving the '2nd pass' fruits of the harvest for the poor, the widows and those in need. We had a lively discussion about our time, our talents, our abilities, and how we answer the call to help others. We had a guest, a frequent coffee hour visitor, who actively participated in the discussion, telling us what is needed and how we could go about helping. It was interesting to listen to her thoughts on what is needed. It was interesting that someone who I thought would not get anything out of such a discussion actually had many good thoughts. It was even more interesting that she wasn't talking about her own needs but those of others. This reminded me of some community trainings that I have attended where it has been stressed that the people in need must be involved in planning for change. You see, we may think we know what people need but they may have an entirely different idea about what would be the most help for them. We need to step out and develop relationships with our neighbors, make them feel welcome and help them to teach us what works best for them.

We know that there are basic needs - food, water, housing, clothing. As a church, we provide a vital resource with our food pantry. Trust me when I tell you, the community and other community agencies are well aware of our pantry. Our scarf event has contributors from many other churches and agencies now. We are a centralized and hospitable location for many organizations to hold their meetings. What else can we do? How can we utilize our facilities in a meaningful way further for this community? What can we support in an ongoing way that will benefit some of our neighbors?

One idea I'd like to explore is an after school program a couple of days a week. We have noticed that some of our local children like to sit outside our building to use our wi-fi. These are 'our kids', regular members, who do not have internet access at home. I noticed this this past summer at VBS and floated the idea to a couple parishioners and Fr Chuck about formalizing a time that the kids could relax at the church to do homework principally and utilize the internet. I'd like to reopen that discussion - what interest is there in providing 'staffing' for about 2 hours (3-5pm) a couple of days a week? Some simple rules - homework first, no roughhousing, permission slips from parents, sign in and sign out procedures. Maybe a snack could be provided. I'm thinking that even though many of the kids utilize their phones for school work, we could purchase a couple Google chrome books that can only be used in our parish hall that would provide an ability for the children to do work that they cannot do at home.

Let me know what you think - based on our conversation this morning, there are several parishioners 'interested' but more are needed. We should plan on 2 volunteers each session.

This is just one thought that I have and we really need to invite the community to tell us what would be helpful.

Deacon Sally

Meet Our Senior Warden

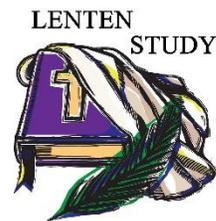
Dr. Larry Owen began attending St. John's in 1990 when his wife Joanne was the interim organist and choir director. She became Minister of Music that year and joined St. John's in 1991. Larry joined in 1992 following his confirmation by Bishop Mellick Belshaw. A former

Vestryman and Treasurer, he also assisted Joanne when she directed the "Music and the Arts at St. John's" series from 1992 through 2001. He has been a member of the Vestry budget committee for the past seven years.

Larry grew up in Woodstown, graduated from Swarthmore College and Hahnemann (now Drexel) University College of Medicine, served on active duty as a physician in the U.S. Navy Medical Corps and completed Residency and Fellowship training in Radiology at Hahnemann University Hospital in Philadelphia. After certification by the American Board of Radiology, he spent a year on the medical staff at Crozier-Chester Medical Center, then joined the staff at the Memorial Hospital of Salem County where he was Chief of Radiology and elected for a term as Chief of Staff. He has been an active volunteer at the Salem County Historical Society since 1997 where he has been a member of the Library Committee for over twenty years and also filled an unexpired term as Trustee. He and Joanne are 'retired' boaters who have traveled extensively on the waters of the Chesapeake Bay.

"As Senior Warden, my responsibilities include supporting and advising the Rector and serving as Vestry liaison with the congregation. If you have questions, comments or suggestions that you'd like to have addressed by the Vestry or if you just want to talk, please see me after church, call me at 856-769-3212 or send e-mail to lbjkowen1982@comcast.net."

Ed. Note: Larry has also provided many articles for the Forerunner on the history of various aspects of our church.



LENTEN STUDY
Hamilton: A Lenten Reflection - March 15, from 7-9 pm Join us as selections from Hamilton the Musical are used with prayers and readings to spark discussion about Lenten themes of sin, reconciliation and forgiveness. This study will be led by Courtenay Reece. Due to the adult themes, supervised activities will be planned for those under 18. Light refreshments will be served. Please sign up in the parish hall for planning purposes.



LENTEN LITURGIES & MUSIC

The first week of March this year will be a very busy end of the "Epiphany Season" and the beginning of Lent.

Sunday March 3 is the Last Sunday after Epiphany. The lessons for this Sunday always focus on Jesus' Transfiguration on the Mount of Olives. Our music will certainly reflect that. We also will "bury the alleluias" at the conclusion of that liturgy, to be resurrected at the first Easter Eucharist: April 20 - Easter Vigil, April 21 - Easter Day.

March 5 is Shrove Tuesday ("Fat Tuesday" or "Mardi gras", if you prefer). Plans are under way for our annual pancake

& sausage dinner 6:00-7:00 PM in the Parish Hall. Volunteers are desperately needed to help set up, mix pancake batter, flip pancakes (we've got the grills), cook sausages, serve, and clean up. Contact Bill Clisham to volunteer for any of those jobs. (FYI - Narcotics Anonymous meet in the Parish Hall at 8:00 PM!)

March 6 is Ash Wednesday. There will be a spoken service at 12:00 Noon in the chapel, including the imposition of ashes. There will be a full Ash Wednesday liturgy at 7:00 PM in the main church with choir, organ, Holy Eucharist and, of course, imposition of ashes. At this liturgy we will begin to use Eucharistic Prayer "A" for the duration of the Lenten season.

Sunday, March 10 is the First Sunday in Lent. We will begin our 10:30 Holy Eucharist singing the Great Litany in Solemn Procession in the main church. Remember also: Daylight Savings Time begins on March 10; "Spring forward!"

VOLUNTEER CHORISTERS

Over the past year or two we have lost a couple volunteer **sopranos** and **baritones** who have either moved away (Think Virginia Sisco, Glen Clisham) or encountered work/school schedule conflicts. If you are interested in singing in our fine choir, or know someone who might be interested, please contact Bill Clisham at your convenience. Bill usually hangs around the organ console after the Postlude to collect his music. This would be a good time to chat with him, as would coffee hour.

HANDBELLS

One of our handbell ringers said she awoke from a nap recently and wondered if she was missing handbell rehearsal. Then, when her mind cleared, she remembered that handbells have been inactive this year due to there being not enough ringers. It is not too early to consider next fall and the 2019-2020 handbell season. If you read music a bit, are High School age or older, and are willing and able to learn ringing techniques and commit to a weekly bell rehearsal, please see Bill Clisham to sign up. (Sorry about ending that sentence with a preposition.)

SPECIAL "DESIGNATED" MUSIC FUNDS

Here we go again.... There are two non-budget music funds to which friends and supporters of the Music Ministry at St. John's can contribute. These funds carry over and accumulate from year to year, so you may be assured that your donation will be used for its intended purpose and not be transferred to the general ledger.

The first of these funds is the **Special Music Fund**. This is intended to provide for guest instrumentalists and supplemental musicians not covered by the current music budget, including Brass Quintet players for Easter Sunday (April 21). The cost is normally \$200 per player. If you cannot afford to cover the entire cost of a player, that is not a cause for concern ... every little bit helps.

The second fund is the **Organ Enhancement Fund**. There are actually some envelopes in your box of pledge envelopes specifically for this fund (but donations need not be confined to those envelopes). This fund is intended to provide for extraordinary repairs and enhancements to St. John's pipe organ—the best organ in Salem County

When making a donation to either of these designated funds, please be sure your check (or envelop) is clearly marked for that specific fund so that it will be deposited and used correctly as intended. (Counters, please take note.)

Reflections by Ann

Three more answers to "why I come to church".

Last month I shared that I come to church to use my skills and talents, to keep in touch with what was happening here, and because I belong to this community.

A little story: Back in 2004, I wasn't very happy at St. John's. So George and I stayed away. We "went to church" with our neighbors, family and friends – Methodists, Lutherans and even Presbyterians! We also tried geographically closer Episcopal churches, and frankly, did "sleep in" occasionally, of a Sunday morning. Then Ron LeHew died, and we came back to St. John's for his funeral. At the repast, we were chastised for leaving, but welcomed back. As we were thus acknowledged as members of the St. John's family, George and I realized that our history at St. John's was also very much a part of US. We were "home", and we were present that Sunday.

That was ten years ago. Why have we kept on coming to church at St. John's? Last month I mentioned that we are known, understood and cared about here. It is reciprocal! George and I know, understand (mostly!) and care about the people of St. John's. Although we are not genetic "family" or even close neighbors, we are fellow travelers on this "Christian Journey". We may not agree on all things ("You want your worship without music?!?"), but we can respect each other and our differences within that common ground of the search for a life in Christ.

That brings me to my second point – I come to church because here, I do not have to apologize for my Christian values. 'Nother story - an incident when I was young, working at the telephone company: I remember asking a supervisor about the impacts of firing a fellow worker. I was told, "We are running a business here, not a social service agency." It was troubling. Shortly afterward, I happened to stumble into a nearby Episcopal church (I had NOT been going to any church in those years!) I paid attention, listened and found similar values. Wow! All those years of going to church when I was younger, hearing the Bible and listening to sermons, had "took". I was thinking and acting like a Christian, in spite of my cynicism!

Thirdly, I keep coming because I continue to hear and absorb and learn "how to do that Christian stuff"! I watch my fellow Christians also struggle with "real life" and a life in Christ. We confront the everyday, and the world's reactions, against the backdrop of the Scriptures; the words and example Jesus has given. The learning continues in the readings, the sermons and the prayers, even beyond Sundays! At church I can see the example set by more seasoned or wiser followers of our faith. To my amazement, I continue to learn and grow.

So this month's answers to "why I come to church" are that I come to be with other folks who are Christian, where I don't have to apologize for my values, so I can continue to learn and grow in my faith and practice. But you may ask, "Doesn't going to church have anything to do with God?" Aaah, that will be my third article! See you in the April Forerunner, and at church, of course.

Ann Neff



March 3, 2019 3 PM
 Davidow Theater, SCC
 Symphony in C
 Celebrating 10 years of Free
 Concerts!

March 31, 2019
 First Presbyterian Church, Salem
 Fort Delaware Concert Band
 Music From the Victorian Era

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

Major Ryan Bailey, US Army
 PFC Justin Francisco, US Army
 Lt. Col. Peter Larrabee, USAF
 Senior Master Sgt. David John Milne, USAF
 Captain Tyler Patrick VanSant, USAF
 Captain Joseph Flescher III, USAF
 2nd Lt. Marlene Flescher, USAF Academy
 2nd Lt. Michael McCormick, US Army
 LCpl Jessica Armstrong, US Marine Corps



"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." Paul's Epistle to the Romans Chapter Eight, Verse Twenty-eight A.V. 1611

As part of our Lenten Preparations this year, we follow Bp. Michael through the book of Romans. It is a blessing to our Wednesday morning Bible Studies with Fr. Chuck to reconnect with St. Paul's timeless messages for the good of Christ's Church. It is there in Rome that studies of the ancient collections in the Vatican Library are helping shed more light on the Sacred Scriptures. As Islamism spread and destroyed all of the ancient Christian Capitols except Rome, many of the surviving texts and artifacts were hastily assembled and deposited there for posterity. Unfortunately the cataloguing and inventorying was never exactly a priority as many of the monastics of the day considered the texts to be impure if they were from a competing order or discipline of Christianity, heresy being widespread in this the 8th-9th Centuries A.D. I am happy to see that enlightened scholarship is occurring now and that Archaeologists are following the works of the Vatican Library as a road map. What shall we find?

A discovery in Israel may be among the most ancient references to Biblical characters. To we who believe the claims of factuality and truth made by the Bible and the 4th Century A.D. Bishops who compiled it, this discovery is yet another proof. Archaeologists have brought to light a clay seal mark that may hold imprinted the signature of the Prophet Isaiah. The clay artifact dated c. 700s B.C. was excavated at the foot of the southern wall of Jerusalem's Temple Mount. Clay seals were common marks of authenticity or ownership much like modern seals and trademarks. "We found the eighth-century B.C. seal

mark that may have been made by the prophet Isaiah himself only 10 feet away from where we earlier discovered the highly-publicized bulla of King Hezekiah of Judah," -Dr. Eilat Mazar of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. The artifact was uncovered among ancient Iron Age ruins near a royal bakery excavation from King Hezekiah's time. The half-inch width oval clay is inscribed with the name ישעיהו Yesha'yah[u] (Isaiah) in ancient Hebrew script. This is followed by the word נבי, the end of which is slightly damaged. The subsequent characters may indicate the title of Prophet or "would have resulted in the Hebrew word for 'prophet' and would have definitively identified the seal as the signature of the prophet Isaiah," explained Dr. Mazar. "The name of Isaiah, however, is clear," Isaiah's role in the court of King Hezekiah is detailed in II Kings. "If it is the case that this *bulla* is indeed that of the prophet Isaiah, then it should not come as a surprise to discover this *bulla* next to one bearing King Hezekiah's name given the symbiotic relationship of the prophet Isaiah and King Hezekiah described in the Bible," said Dr. Mazar.



According to a Reuters report filed by James Rogers, "The seal mark is just the latest fascinating archaeological in Israel. Earlier this month, for example, experts revealed that they had uncovered a rare multicolored Roman mosaic featuring three toga-wearing figures during excavations in the ancient city of Caesarea. In January, archaeologists announced the discovery of a large 1,500-year-old pool and elaborate fountain at the site of an ancient church near Jerusalem. Last November, new evidence dated Christ's tomb in Jerusalem's Church of the Holy Sepulchre to the Roman era, matching historical records. Archaeologists also uncovered a stunning 1,500-year-old Christian mosaic in the ancient Mediterranean coastal city of Ashdod-Yam, now part of the modern city of Ashdod. Other finds include a skeleton, dating back 3,200 years, in Israel's Timna Valley, at a place once called King Solomon's Mines. In October 2017, archaeologists in Jerusalem announced that they have uncovered a new section of the Western Wall that has been hidden for 1,700 years. Also in 2017 an ancient Greek inscription was found on a 1,500-year-old mosaic floor near the Damascus Gate in the Old City of Jerusalem. Some experts also believe they have found the lost Roman city of Julias, formerly the village of Bethsaida, which was the home of Jesus' apostles Peter, Andrew and Philip. A paper describing the discovery of the ancient seal that may be linked to the Prophet Isaiah has been published in the Biblical Archaeology Review."

And so as we enter Lent and prepare for Eastertide with prayer and fasting, I am happy to report that the state of Archaeological research within the Holy Land is strong and we have every reason to be excited about the discovery of new artifacts, ever shedding new light on The Faith.

"Non nobis Domine, non nobis, sed nomini tvo da gloriam."

"Not to us Lord, not to us, but to Your Name give the glory."

Ryan Bailey, Sr.



3/5 Kalynn Kernan
 3/10 Douglas VanSant, Jr.
 3/10 Joseph F. Peterson III

3/13 John Sweeney
 3/14 Ron Ewen
 3/15 David Willis
 3/17 John Laning, Jr.
 3/19 Bill Mecum
 3/21 Ted Paras
 3/22 Arlene Kober
 3/28 Margaret Heller
 3/30 Chuck Miller
 3/30 Kayla Ann Peterson



3/31 Douglas & Theresa VanSant

ECW News

On March 17, St. John's will be hosting the Woodbury Convocation ECW meeting. It will be at 2 PM in our Parish Hall. We encourage all women of the church to attend this event. It will start with refreshments and a short program (to be announced), followed by the business meeting. We need people to provide refreshments: cheese & crackers, baked goods, or other types of snack type items. Please let me know if you can provide something for this meeting. Also, let me know if you plan on attending.

On Saturday, April 6, from 10-4, our Diocesan ECW is holding a Lenten Quiet Day/Retreat at St. Mary's by the Sea in Point Pleasant. More information will be forthcoming, but if you are interested in attending, please let Deacon Sally or I know-we can set up a carpool. It takes about 1 3/4 hours to get there so we should leave by 8 am to get there on time. There is a charge for this program-we will let you know what it is when we know.



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Stilian Kirov ◆ Music Director

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March 3rd 2019 ◆ 3 PM

Davidow Theatre
 Salem Community College
 460 Hollywood Avenue, Carneys Point, NJ

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The Fort Delaware Coronet Band

Music of the Victorian Era

March 31,
 2019
 3PM

First Presbyterian Church
 88 Market Street
 Salem, NJ



Enjoy a FREE concert of recently discovered Victorian music. Brought to you by the volunteers & sponsors of Music Around the County.

VisitSalemCountyNJ.com

March 2019

CIACC-Children's Inter-Agency Council YSC-Youth Services Council IAC-Inter-Agency Council NA-Narcotics Anonymous AA-Alcoholics Anonymous MAC-Music Around the County SCC-Salem Community College					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
8 am Rite I Chapel 9 am Choir Rehearsal 10:30 Rite II Church Birthday Sunday ECW Meeting 3 PM MAC Symphony in C, SCC		9:00 am-3 pm IAC/YSC 9 am Quilters 12-2 pm Food Pantry 6 PM Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper 8 pm NA	Ashes to Go 9:30 am-3 pm CIACC/YSC 10:30 am Bible Study 12 Noon Holy Eucharist imposition of Ashes-Chapel 7 pm Holy Eucharist imposition of Ashes-church 8 pm AA	6:30 pm Potluck Supper followed by Bible Study		9 am-12 Salem Co. Commission on Women-Parish Hall 
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
8 am Rite I Chapel 9 am Choir Rehearsal 10:30 Rite II Church Sandwich Sunday Vestry Meeting		9 am Quilters 12-2 pm Food Pantry 8 pm NA	10:30 am Bible Study 12 Noon Holy Eucharist in Chapel 8 pm AA	6:30 pm Potluck Supper followed by Bible Study		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
8 am Rite I Chapel 9 am Choir Rehearsal 10:30 Rite II Church Fellowship Hour 2 pm District ECW Meeting-Parish Hall		9 am Quilters 12-2 pm Food Pantry 8 pm NA	10:30 am Bible Study 12 Noon Holy Eucharist in Chapel 8 pm AA	6:30 pm Potluck Supper followed by Bible Study		
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8 am Rite I Chapel 9 am Choir Rehearsal 10:30 Rite II Church Pie Sunday		9 am Quilters 12-2 pm Food Pantry 8 pm NA	10:30 am Bible Study 12 Noon Holy Eucharist in Chapel 8 pm AA	6:30 pm Potluck Supper followed by Bible Study		
31						<u>Office Hours</u> Monday: Closed Tuesday-Friday: 9 am-4 pm (Fr Chuck) 12 pm-3 pm (Office)

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

76 Market Street, Salem, NJ 08079

Established 1722

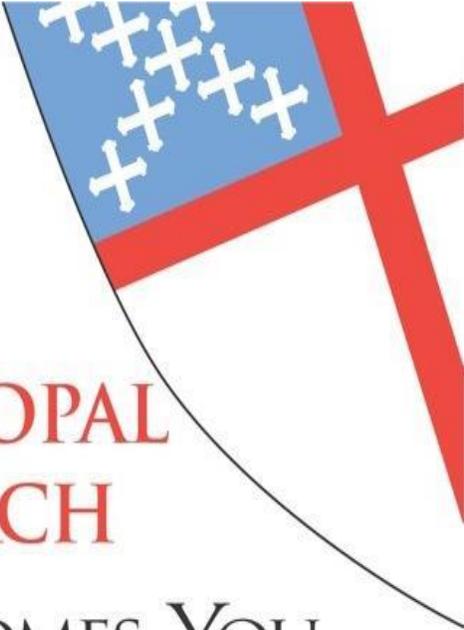
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Vestry Class of 2022 David Miller Ron Wohrab
Class of 2021 Ryan Bailey Ron Magill Bill Mecum
Class of 2020 Sue Harker Gwen Norton Ann Neff (Clerk)
Recording Secretary: MaryAnne Clisham



**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

10:30 AM Kerygma Bible Study in the Parish Hall
Noon---Holy Eucharist in the Chapel

Every Thursday

6:30 PM Kerygma Bible Study in the Parish Hall with Potluck Dinner

Lenten Schedule

Wednesday, March 6-Ash Wednesday
Noon-Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes-Chapel
7 PM-Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes-Church



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Salem, NJ 08079

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