

THE FORERUNNER

April 2019

St. John's Episcopal Church



From the
Rector

In Lent, we usually talk about the various aspects of our faith as a way of re-examining our own lives. There is so much about our faith that is beautiful and comforting and reassuring. To know that the very light that surrounds us is a sign of God's love constantly filling our lives with mercy and compassion and grace is something that gives us great joy. To believe that Jesus gave his life for us so that we can find new life is humbling and moving. To hold onto the hope that God is working to transform us all into people of compassion is encouraging during the struggle that life can be.

But when it comes to Easter, I think we run into a wall. Most people can accept that Jesus was born. And that Jesus was crucified on a Roman cross. But when it comes to Easter, it's a different matter altogether. If we are honest, all of us have a hard time really embracing faith in the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. That means Jesus was dead. He was really dead. He was so dead that he was buried. And somehow he was raised to life.

It's one of those aspects of our faith that moves us beyond the normal realm of our experience. For most of us, we live our lives based on what we can see and touch. But when you believe that all you must go on is what your eyes can see or what you can touch with your hands, you have not necessarily rejected faith; you've simply embraced a different kind of faith. It is a kind of faith that believes that our future rests entirely on what we can do for ourselves.

But the good news of Easter is that God does not operate within the limits of what we can see! Easter faith in the resurrection of Jesus from the dead points us in hope to the possibility that God really is working to make all things new. That sounds attractive, but it's still not easy. As Danish philosopher, Soren Kierkegaard says, our faith moves us beyond the realm in which we can understand and manage things. It moves us into "the sphere of the impossible," where "only the great passions of faith and love and hope will see us through."

I think, in part, that means that it's not enough just to "believe" our faith intellectually. Rather, the glorious impossible of Easter calls us to trust God with all that we are, to entrust ourselves and our actual everyday lives completely to something we cannot see. When I think about the great questions of faith, in the depth of my being, in that place where all pretense is stripped away, the hope and faith that there is a God who loves us all, who is working to restore and renew everything and everyone, simply rings true. From that perspective, everything makes sense; without it nothing makes sense.

For others, Easter faith not so automatic, like Mary Magdalene on the day of Resurrection. When she came face-to-face with the risen Christ, she thought she was talking to a gardener who may have removed Jesus' body. It was only when Jesus broke through her sorrow and her suspicion by calling her name, "Mary," that she recognized him. For some of us, it takes an experience like that to break through the walls we put up to protect our hearts. And there are many who have had such experiences—in one way or another, at one time or another in their lives, we have felt that we experienced the presence of God in our lives in a unique and profound way. I think many of us put our faith in Jesus because an experience like that puts us in touch with the

love and the hope and the joy and the life that is at the heart of all things, and therefore calls forth the best within us. But how do we encounter this presence of Christ? It's one thing for Mary to meet Jesus in the garden. It's another thing for you or me to encounter him now. I think there are many answers to this question. For me, I find myself experiencing God's love calling me by name through the presence of Christ in the community of faith, my church home, St John's. I experience the presence of Christ through the love and support and affirmation I receive from you. Because of my experience of love you have shown me, I am a new creation transformed by the unmerited favor of God.

Faith enables us to move beyond believing only what we can see to entrusting our lives to the God who raised Jesus Christ from the dead. It is a different path, a whole new way of life that sees the possibility of new life in every death, sees the light shining in the deepest darkness, and sees hope amid despair and grief. This walk of faith is not easy. At the end of the day, it takes something of a leap for all of us to really entrust our lives to hope; the same hope that God awakened in the resurrection of Jesus on that first Easter morning. When we take that leap of faith, it can be frightening, because we are taking a risk, and that makes us vulnerable. But that's how we open ourselves to the new life God brings. The leap is frightening, but when we make that leap, we find meaning to our existence and purpose to our lives. We discover being vulnerable within community unity and compassion bursting from the tomb of selfishness and division. Together our lives are shaped into the life of Jesus where God continually offers us grace and peace and mercy and love and life.

Blessed Easter,
Fr. Chuck



St. John's Holy Week Schedule

- April 14: Palm Sunday** 8:00 am-Rite I in Chapel
10:00 am-Salem Ministerium Palm Sunday Procession
10:30 am-Blessing of the Palms in Parish House, followed by procession to the Church.
- April 17: Wednesday** 7:00 pm-Service of Tenebrae-St. Luke's, Woodstown
- April 18: Holy Thursday** 7:00 pm Holy Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar
- April 19: Good Friday** 12 Noon-Liturgy in Chapel
7:00 pm-Liturgy in Church
- April 20: Easter Vigil** 6 pm Begins in Chapel
- April 21: Easter** 8 am Rite I in Chapel
10:15 Special Music 10:30 Festival Holy Eucharist-Church



From The Deacon's Bench

For our Lenten Study this year we are utilizing Lent 4.5 Christian Simplicity, a program that we used about 6 years ago and was well received. This 7 session program addresses protecting God's Creation and Embracing Gospel Justice in the following areas: living compassionately and simply, buying and eating food as moral actions, the over consumption of goods and the wastefulness of our society, conserving and protecting water, choosing efficient and clean energy, reducing carbon emissions and finally being grateful and generous with what we are so abundantly blessed with. We have had lively discussions and several of us have renewed our commitment to changing some of our 'ways'. In addition, we have found that the Episcopal Church created 'A Catechism of Creation' delineating in true catechismal fashion what the church's stance on creation and Christian responsibility are.

This is a timely and necessary discussion, one that I wish more people at St John's were engaged in. Hopefully the core group of attendees will have dialogues with other people in our faith community and begin to make significant changes, particularly in how we at St John's care for our environment.

Holy Week is coming and will be full of activities both here at ST John's and in Salem. Please note the following ministerium sponsored events in addition to our traditional activities:

Palm Sunday – gathering and procession around Salem at 10 am – First Presbyterian Church

Good Friday – Cross walk from Spirit Life Fellowship to First Baptist Church 5:30 pm

Easter Sunrise Service – 6:15 AM at the Old Oak Tree

Faithfully
Deacon Sally

Building & Grounds:



Spring has arrived! Time to clean up our grounds. I have contacted the Sherriff's Department to get an inmate crew to pick up sticks, rake the flower beds, trim the bushes, clean the walkways and some other items

leftover from the fall. The men do a good job. We will have them 3-5 days.

CPR AED Training: I am working on a Saturday date sometime in April/May for training in CPR/AED. The class takes 3 hours. Lunch will be provided. Keep a watch on the bulletin for date and time. A sign-up sheet will be posted in the Parish Hall. We have 3 AEDs on our campus. I would like to have members that attend the 8 am service, 10:30 am service and the choir to be trained.

*David Miller
Jr. Warden*



TERCENTENARY NOTES: April 2019 SALEM HIGH SCHOOL ART STUDENTS TO SKETCH ST. JOHN'S

St. John's 300th Anniversary seems a long way off, but our season of celebration -- September 2021 through St. John's Day, June 26, 2026 -- will be here before you know it! The Tercentenary Commission met on February 17, 2019, and approved an exciting plan involving the International Baccalaureate Art Students from Salem High School, headed by their teacher Elizabeth Acton Irvine. Mrs. Irvine's students will embark on sketching 3 seasons of St. John's Church, both interior and exterior, during the months of April, October and December over the next 2-1/2 years.

These field trips to St. Johns meet the International Baccalaureate Students' requirements for CAS, "Creative Activity Service" community projects beginning in the junior year of high school and continuing for a 2-year period. Students must have the required hours in both creativity and service in order to receive the IB Diploma. Participating in St. John's 300th Anniversary gives the opportunity for the art students to gain hours in both the creativity and community service components to their education. In addition, students are required to keep a journal of their experience with this long-term project. Mrs. Irvine's plan has been enthusiastically endorsed by the Principal at SHS and approved by the Board of Education.

On April 18th, a group of these students will spend their first day at St. John's sketching, photographing, and painting aspects of our church that inspire them. Their time here will also include a half-hour presentation by Fr. Chuck and lunch in the Parish Hall. Over the course of the next two years, we hope to incorporate the students' art into our parish life as we move toward a comprehensive exhibit of their work in June 2022.

Joanne Owen, Chair

Tercentenary Commission: Fr. Chuck Messer, Helen and Jim Acton, Gail Boyd, Curt Harker, Ron Magill, Ann Neff, Larry and Joanne Owen, David Miller



The Family of St. John's extends our sympathy to the family of Robert (Bob) Broughton at his passing. Bob is the husband of Robin Wilson-Broughton, who was formerly our lead soprano in the St. John's Choir and still performs with us from time to time. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.



**SPECIAL MUSICAL/LITURGICAL
EVENTS IN APRIL –
HOLY WEEK!**

- April 14 is Palm Sunday. Our 10:30 Holy Eucharist will begin in the Parish Hall with the Blessing of the Palms. We will then process, following guest bagpiper, Thom Moore, around the sidewalks to the front door of the main church, where we will enter to read the Passion story according to St. Luke and celebrate Holy Eucharist.
- On the Wednesday in Holy week, April 17, we will join the congregation at St. Luke’s Church in Woodstown at 7:00 PM to observe a Service of Tenebrae (Shadows/Darkness). If you have not participated in this service previously, please do so this year. It is a very moving liturgy.
- On Maundy Thursday, April 18, we will observe Jesus’ “mandatum” to love one another as He loves us. After the traditional foot-washing, following Jesus’ example, and at the conclusion of our Holy Eucharist we will strip the Altar and set an “Altar of Repose” in the Chapel. Come, pray, confess.
- On Good Friday, April 19, there will be two liturgies: a spoken liturgy at noon in the Chapel, then a sung liturgy at 7:00 PM in the main church. Next to Easter, Good Friday is the holiest day in Christianity. German Pastor and Theologian, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, said that “resurrection without the cross” is “cheap grace.” In fact, there is no resurrection without the cross.
- On Holy Saturday, April 20, we invite other near-by Episcopal Churches to join us at 6:00 PM for the Great Vigil of Easter, beginning in front of the Chapel, when we dedicate our Paschal Candles, then enter to hear the story of salvation interspersed with metrical Psalms sung by all, renew our Baptismal vows, and process to the main church for the First Easter Eucharist.
- On Easter Sunday, April 21 there will be the usual spoken Holy Eucharist Rite 1 at 8:00 AM. Then, music before the 10:30 Holy Eucharist for organ, brass quintet and choir, will begin at 10:15. The Brass Quintet will also accompany the hymns and two special Anthems for our Festival Eucharist. We will conclude our Easter service by singing—all of us—“Hallelujah” from *Messiah* by George Frederick Handel.

SPECIAL “DESIGNATED” MUSIC FUNDS

There are two important 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. The cost is normally \$200 per player (Bagpipers cost more.) The next major planned events are coming up soon ... April 14 is Palm Sunday and April 21 is Easter. Then in June, we hope to have a string quartet to accompany the choir and guest singers in a special musical liturgy, including the Schubert *Mass in G*. 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. Please do not make contributions to these funds in place of your pledge offerings.



Doug & Theresa VanSant are celebrating their 40th Wedding Anniversary with a 7-dsy cruise to the Caribbean. They were married March 31, 1979 at St. John’s by Father Fred Schultz. Congratulations Doug & Theresa!

Cassandra Moore, longtime member and former lead soprano for St. John’s Choir will be traveling to Prague, Czechoslovakia to teach in an international elementary school there. She will be there at least 1 year. What an adventure for her.



	4/3	Amy Vanderveer
	4/4	Jimmira Trinidad
	4/7	Tyler Van Sant
	4/8	Liam Dyer
	4/9	Laurie Bailey
4/11	Esther Weeks	
4/14	Lil Man Torres	
4/15	Suzanne Schultz-Maloney	
4/21	Carlos DeJesus	
4/24	Larry Owen	
4/26	Xavier Lewis	
4/30	Ayana Torres	



4/10	Bill Pankonien and Peggy Fittabile
4/11	David and Eileen Miller
4/19	Evelyn and Jimmy Trinidad
4/25	Joe and Judy Kimber



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 with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all." Acts of The Apostles 4:33 KJV or AV 1611

Our Pilgrim trail this Passiontide brings us to the war torn frontier between modern day Turkey & Syria. Here about us in these desert sands is the ancient site of Edessa. Close to the six sided battle front, which sadly witnesses the loss of thousands of human lives and many historic sites and artifacts of our history which may never be recovered, Edessa is one of our ancient Capitols of The Church.

A Tel city built on an earlier site by Seleucus I Nicator c. 300 BC, Edessa was also known as Antiochia on the Callirhoe from. It served as the capital of the kingdom of Osroene or Edessa before coming under direct Roman rule. It was then to become an important early centre of Christianity. It fell to Muslim conquest in 638, was briefly retaken by Byzantium in 1031 and became the causal factor & center of the Crusader County of Edessa from 1098 through 1144. Edessa became part of the Turkic Zengid dynasty in 1144, later to be absorbed by the Ottoman Empire in 1517. The modern name for the city is Urfa, situated in Şanlıurfa Province in the Southeast Anatolia Region of Modern Turkey.

Evangelized under Thaddeus, one of the Seventy-two disciples dispatched as missionaries by Our Lord, the city of Edessa is among the most ancient. Some Jews and Muslims share a traditional belief that Edessa is Ur of the Chaldees, home of Father Abraham or Ibrahim. The city's name is Greek: "Εδεσσα; Arabic: الرها ar-Ruhā; Turkish: Şanlıurfa; Kurdish: Riha.

Next month: we examine a relic of Edessa, The Holy Cloth with imprinted face of Our Lord which belonged to King Abgarus in first Century Edessa.

Thanks be to God for each of you, dear readers, until we meet again, Amen. With my warm regards,

Ryan Bailey, Sr.

Reflections by Ann by Ann Neff

And so how does my going to church each week have anything to do with God?

In my first two articles answering Fr. Messer's question, "Why do you come to church? I really would like to know", I talked about community and contribution, shared values and growing in my faith. However, the first commandment is "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and soul and mind." As I understand it, that involves some interaction with God, on our part. "Worship the Lord, in the beauty of holiness". As Father Laquintano has said, "To know God, you have to show up and pay attention."

Now, I do believe that God is everywhere. Even on the golf course! But God in the world often whispers, "Come on over to my place, where we will have a chat. It is a place to be still and now that I am God". And oh my, do we ever chat!

In our Episcopal tradition, which has been my tradition since 1977, we use The Book of Common Prayer. It gets revised and modernized from time to time, but it has been pretty standard, all over the Anglican world, for quite a few centuries. And where did those words come from? There are those who disparagingly say, "Episcopalians read to God!" Actually, in many cases, we are actually reading God's own words back to him; and the words of the prophets, the psalmist, the disciples and Jesus himself! (All of which God has heard before.)

Yet, there is a certain comfort in saying the same words, again and again, Feast Day after Feast Day, Sunday after Sunday, Liturgical year after every third Liturgical year. As someone said recently, "You know what you are going to get!" The routine of the Liturgy frees my mind to float, allowing time for introspection and listening to the Spirit in God's Word, and the Priest's message. I know the words of the Eucharist almost by heart now, but many a time, my heart and my soul hear something new, a perspective, an emphasis that provides new insight. These rites and readings have been on the Episcopal "hit parade" for centuries, for good reason! God does speak back, in many ways, when you pay attention.

Sometimes the messages from the Eucharist, the readings, the music and the sermon move me greatly, and I weep. All I want to do is lie face down on a cold stone floor and sob. ("But one mustn't cry in church, what would people think!" – Perhaps.) But one must not come to church for solace only, but for renewal and hope and courage. Therefore, many times, I get giddy. I am sure people think "Oh, Ann's ADHD is acting up, she's high again." If only!

So my final response to Fr. Chuck's question is: I come to church for spiritual time, again, with God. "I was glad when they said, come let us go to the House of the Lord."

Additional note: Attending corporate worship resets my internal "God clock", so that Monday is my best day of the week! But it often stops there. I am not good at private worship or daily devotions. As I end MY answer to why I come to church, I invite someone else to address the question, "How do you DO the daily office or prayers, at home, alone?"



As an extension of our Lenten Study on being more responsible with our Earthly resources, we introduce an occasional column on ways we can be good stewards of the world we have been given. This month's column comes from Episcopal Climate News

Living on God's Earth
By Episcopal Climate
News, [facebook.com/EpiscopalClimateNews](https://www.facebook.com/EpiscopalClimateNews)

This week's earth-friendly living tip: Use your own reusable bags at the grocery store

Maybe you've heard of the Great Pacific garbage patch -- an area of floating ocean garbage that weights more than 43,000 cars and is twice the size of Texas. The patch is a true tragedy: Every year, roughly one million birds, 100,000 turtles, and countless fish die each from eating plastic waste. Clearly, humans need to use less plastic to care for God's creation, and Christians can lead the way.

Using your own bags, especially at the grocery store, is a great way to reduce the amount of plastic you consume. You don't even to wait for the checkout line to use them -- you can also use your own bags for loose produce, instead of the single-use plastic the store provides. Be sure to store your bags in the trunk of your car so you don't forget them when it's to go shopping!

You can find lots of different colors and styles of canvas bags online, or your local grocery store might sell them too. (When possible, buying in a store is better for the environment, since it means less shipping.)

Episcopal Climate News quote of the week: The World Council of Churches

"The divine presence of the Spirit in creation binds us human beings together with all created life. We are accountable before God in and to the community of life, an accountability which has been imagined in various ways: as servants, stewards and trustees, as tillers and keepers, as priests of creation, as nurturers, as co-creators. This requires attitudes of compassion and humility, respect and reverence."

- The World Council of Churches, report of the 1991 General Assembly, "Come Holy Spirit - Renew the Whole Creation"

Ed Note: If you do find yourself with an excess of plastic bags, bring them to church. They can be used for the food pantry bags that we give out each week.

ECW Diocesan Quiet Day-Saturday, April 6 10 am-4 pm
St. Mary's-by-the-Sea, Point Pleasant Beach
Register by Tuesday, April 3rd at <https://tinyurl.com/WomensQuietDay04062019> or contact Mary Anne Clisham at 609 394-5281, Ext. 10.
Let Eileen know if you plan on going-we can arrange to carpool. We would have to leave St. John's by 8 am to get there in time.

UTO Ingathering-Sunday, May 5. This is when the ECW will collect the gray UTO boxes that were distributed earlier this year. We will take the total donated to the Diocesan Ingathering on May 25. The United Thank Offering addresses compelling human need through grants to projects that alleviate poverty, both domestically and internationally, within provinces, dioceses, and companion dioceses of the Anglican Communion.



Easter Flower Fund Request

To make a memorial donation for Easter flowers this year, please complete the form below. Place your completed form and donation in the Offering plate on Sunday or mail it to:

St. John's Episcopal Church
76 Market Street, Salem, NJ 08079

Please make you check payable to St. John's Episcopal Church.

Please write "Easter Flower Fund" on the memo line of your check.

Deadline: April 15th

Your Name: _____

Phone #: _____

Amount donated and attached: _____

In memory of _____

OR

In thanksgiving for _____

Thank you for your participation in St. John's tradition of
Easter Flower Memorials.

April 2019

	1	2 9:00 am-Noon IAC 9 am Quilters 12-2 pm Food Pantry 8 pm NA	3 10:30 am-3 pm CIACC/YSC 10:30 am Bible Study 12 Noon Holy Eucharist 7 pm Holy Eucharist 8 pm AA	4	5	6 10 am-4 pm ECW Lenten Quiet Day/Retreat St. Mary's-by-the- Sea, Point Pleasant Beach
7 8 am Rite I Chapel 9 am Choir Rehearsal 10:30 Rite II Church Birthday Sunday ECW Meeting	8 5:30 pm- Narcan Training, Sharptown UMC	9 9 am Quilters 12-2 pm Food Pantry 8 pm NA	10 10:30 am Bible Study 12 Noon Holy Eucharist in Chapel 8 pm AA	11 6:30 pm Potluck Supper followed by Bible Study	12	13
14 8 am Rite I Chapel 9 am Choir Rehearsal 10 am Procession 10:30 Rite Blessing of Palms-Parish House Sandwich Sunday Vestry Meeting	15 <i>Deadline for ordering Easter Flower</i>	16 9 am Quilters 12-2 pm Food Pantry 8 pm NA	17 10:30 am Bible Study 12 Noon Holy Eucharist in Chapel 7 pm Tenebrae-St. Luke's, Woodstown 8 pm AA	18 7 pm Holy Thursday Eucharist followed by Stripping of Altar	19 12 Noon Good Friday Liturgy- Chapel 7 pm Good Friday Liturgy-Church	20 6 pm Easter Vigil-Chapel followed by First Eucharist of Easter-Church
21 8 am Rite I Chapel 9 am Choir Rehearsal 10:15 am Music 10:30 Festival Holy Eucharist Church Fellowship Hour	22	23 9 am Quilters 12-2 pm Food Pantry 8 pm NA	24 10:30 am Bible Study 12 Noon Holy Eucharist in Chapel 8 pm AA	25 6:30 pm Potluck Supper followed by Bible Study	26	27
28 8 am Rite I Chapel 9 am Choir Rehearsal 10:30 Rite II Church Pie Sunday 12:30 Tercentenary Committee-Library	29	30 9 am Quilters 12-2 pm Food Pantry 8 pm NA				
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						<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 **April 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

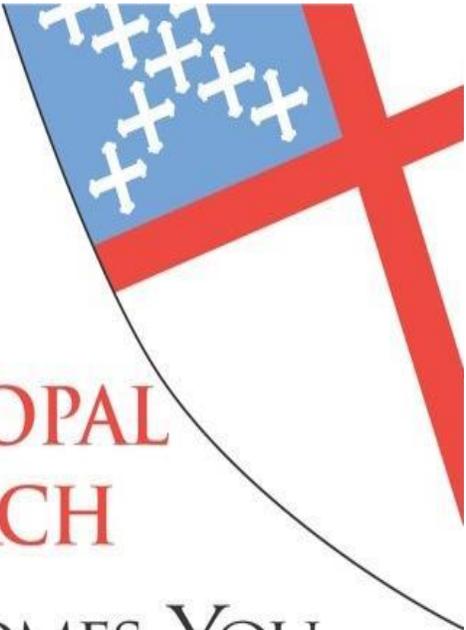
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Vestry Class of 2022 David Miller Ron Wohlrab
Class of 2021 Ryan Bailey Ron Magill Bill Mecum
Class of 2020 Sue Harker Gwen Norton Ann Neff (Clerk)
Recording Secretary: MaryAnne Clisham



**THE
EPISCOPAL
CHURCH**
WELCOMES YOU

Schedule of Services

Every Sunday

8 AM—Holy Eucharist Rite 1 in the Chapel
9:15 AM-Christian Formation
10:30 AM---Holy Eucharist Rite II in the Church followed by
Fellowship Hour

Every Wednesday

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

Every Thursday

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

Holy Week Schedule

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76 Market Street
Salem, NJ 08079

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

