

ST. JOHN'S MESSENGER

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Rector

Rev. Valerie T. Redpath

Deacon

Rev. Eve Chamberlain

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Sexton

Orinzo Martinez

Vestry

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Jr. Warden

John Davies

Kate Galbavy

Curt Goss

Paula Hayes

Eileen Kennedy

Chris Nalbandian

Tom Perez

Amy Thomas

Beverly Van Winkle

Reflections From the Rector

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

1 Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers,² but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night.³ That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—whatever they do prospers. Psalm 1:1-3

Early spring is one of my favorite times of the year. I love finding seedlings sprouting in my garden, “volunteers” from seeds dropped in the fall. This year Grandpa Ott morning glories prosper under our mailbox. Hostas, mountain pinks and clumps of day lilies that remained very small since I planted them a few years ago have finally taken root and appear to have spread. Actually I didn’t see any sign of them in the garden last summer or fall and thought they had died, so I was delighted to see that routinely feeding them—despite their minuscule size—finally paid off. Gardening experience has shown that once a plant has established a deep root structure they tend to flourish not just this year, but in years to come. Small plants become so big that I can divide them and beautify other gardens or share them with friends for their gardens. When a dear friend and avid gardener died, I dug six Lilly of the Valley roots (“pips”) from her garden to plant at our home. It took a few years for them to take root, but today an entire flower bed is filled with them. When roots go deep then they can spread and bring forth new life, new fruit. Our Christian lives are meant to be like that.

Jesus told us to “go and make disciples.” We are to bear fruit for God’s kingdom. “But how do we do that?” you ask. Jesus has the answer...Jesus IS the answer. He said, “I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.” (John 15:5) We need to cultivate deep roots in Jesus by studying the Bible, coming to worship, praying and obeying his commandments. In a world and culture that continually changes we need to be disciplined in cultivating our own spiritual roots. No one can do it for us.

Like any other discipline growing spiritually takes time. Schedule the time and start small. Perhaps you can spend ten minutes in the morning reading a meditation from the small Forward Day By Day booklet available (free) at the church. (Check the rack in the foyer. We now have some LARGE print copies available.) Take home the Sunday bulletin and pray for those on the Prayer List. Sit quietly for a few moments. Invite Jesus to sit with you. Throughout the day, offer up a short silent prayer of thanks or intercession. Prayer doesn’t need to be complicated or formal. Prayer is conversation with God. Share your trials, frustrations and your joys. Pray for insight and wisdom. Soon, what starts out as a discipline becomes a natural and enriching part of your daily life.

Life can strain and drain us in so many ways. Jesus knows that. When he was tired and thirsty and spoke to the woman at the well he said to her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.” (John 4:10)

When we are intentional in our relationship with Jesus, we soon find our hearts and minds refreshed and enlivened by the power of the Holy Spirit. Deep spiritual roots that seek to dwell in Jesus provide an anchor for us in the inevitable storms of life. Not only do we find stability, strength and renewed energy, we serve as powerful witnesses and produce fruit for God’s kingdom.

Throughout the past year we have focused on the diocesan theme: “Know Your Story. Live It Boldly.” I was delightfully surprised to see that on Saturday, May 6th, the continuing theme for the Bishop’s Spring Conference is: “I’m Rooted in God’s Story,” at Trinity Cathedral in Trenton. If you would like to attend, please contact the church office or Deacon Eve. Carpooling is a possibility. Bishop Stokes has a video about the conference which can be seen here: <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=Az9brujil8I&feature=youtu.be>

In Christ’s love,

Val+

Amazing roots! A visible testimony to the tenacity of life.

Have you ever noticed the beautiful flowering cherry tree on the front lawn of St John's by the parking lot? Yes, the flowers are colorful and delicate. But move closer and check out the trunk.

An old injury, damage from insects or physical impact has exposed a wound and what appears to be a number of 'roots' growing inside the trunk.



St. John's Book Club



Wednesday, May 10, at 7 p.m.

at Linda Rizzo's (281 Rumson Road, Little Silver)

We'll discuss Orphan Master's Son by Adam Johnson.



Spring Memorial Garden Planting

Saturday, May 20 at 10 a.m.

Join us as we prepare our memorial garden to bloom through the summer. All are welcome. Bring your gloves, your trowel and your green thumb. Questions?

Contact coordinator, Pat McTighe, at 732-870-6673 or pmmctighe@verizon.net.



Summer Worship Schedule

June 11 through Labor Day weekend

Saturday evenings at 5:30 p.m.

Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m.

Prayer Works



We invite you to pray for those in our parish family and our friends who need our prayers. Our prayer list in our bulletin is for you to take home and pray daily for those listed. The list is below. Please call our office to add anyone.

Kathleen Bachman, Mike Biehl,
Bruce & Lori Lynn, Lorraine Choma,

Sue Cox, Tom Cox, Michael, Amanda Edwards, Norman Erich, Karen Feeney, Daniel Gabourel, Sue Gutmann, Stuart Hall, Roberta Hansen, Alison Hayes, Emily Hayes, Paula Hayes, Cindy Hulse, Alvaro Jaramillo, Evelyn Kelly, Ken, Barbara Lauro, Harriet Luckenbill, Kym, Janice Lima, Michael Lima, Maria Madden, Michael, Mike & Laurie Ann, Liz Miltenberger, Merrily Morris, Rene O'Neil, Jean Otte, Andrew Pederson, Wendi Pederson, Jenny Perri, Mike Redpath, William Richardson, Ginger Raimann Roe, Grace Scott, Diane Steets, Elizabeth Taylor, Diane Tresente, Justin Tucker, Jen Tyne, Dennis Young

The Lord Be With You...Let Us Pray

Our prayer chain has been actively praying for individuals as the requests come in. If you are interested in being a pray-er, contact Hazel Kelly at hazelann0214@gmail.com. Praying is something that can be done at your convenience...no meetings involved!

If you know of anyone who needs prayer, let us know after getting their permission, and we will put that out on our confidential prayer chain. If you would like these individuals to be on our "public" weekly prayer list published in the bulletin, contact Mother Val or Janice Lima. Pray with expectation and in faith.

STEWARDSHIP

We at St. John's are the stewards of the resources, abilities and opportunities that God has entrusted to our care. For the past six months, we have successfully met the challenges of the Every Member Canvass and Mission Possible. We have, indeed, been good stewards of our treasure. But, we should never forget our year-round stewardship of time and talents. Please see stjohnsls.com, our new website for a detailed listing of the many ministries and opportunities for service that are available at St. John's. What a good time to try something new!

ST. JOHN'S MEN'S GROUP



The new St. John's men's group has been meeting to plan its activities and enjoy fellowship and discussion. The group's May meeting, date to be announced shortly, will include discussing what the coming church season of Pentecost means in the lives of the group members and to St. John's. The members will also plan for the group's support of the Sunday school honoring all women on Sunday, May 14, and providing hospitality following the 10 a.m. Mass on May 21.

The group welcomes men of all ages and there is no need to apply for membership or have attended prior meetings. It is a group dedicated to fellowship, growing in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, and serving St. John's and the surrounding community.

ADULT FORUM

There is an enjoyable opportunity for growing in your understanding of Scripture, the Episcopal Church, and living our faiths every Sunday following the 10 a.m. Mass. The informal Adult Forum meets in the Library once everyone has had a few minutes to check in with friends at Coffee Hour and pick up some snacks and beverages.

The Adult Forum does not follow a curriculum and each session is open to the guidance of those attending to determine what will be discussed. Topics have included the day's sermon, the Scripture lessons, what it is to be an Episcopalian, current events, and challenges in people's lives. Since there is not an ongoing curriculum, it is easy to fit into any session regardless of whether your schedule has allowed you to attend prior gatherings.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Adult Forum.



He who has been baptized into Christ has put on Christ

We are a culture of celebrations. Our calendars are filled with holidays, birthday celebrations, anniversaries, retirement parties, and similar events. In that environment, many people tend to treat baptism as yet another event. While baptism is to be celebrated, it is more than an event. Baptism is a commitment to a transforming way of life that is to be lived in accordance with the Baptismal Covenant, every moment of every day.

Throughout the liturgy for Holy Baptism (pp 299 in “The Book of Common Prayer” (BCP)), there are profound statements and covenants that are intended to be life changing. In “An Outline of the Faith” (Catechism, pp 858 in the BCP) we read “Holy Baptism is the sacrament by which God adopts us as his children and makes us members of Christ’s Body, the Church, and inheritors of the kingdom of God.”

During the liturgy of Holy Baptism, we renew our own Baptismal Covenant (pp 304, BCP) and conclude by welcoming the newly baptized. We declare as a community “We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood.” (pp 308, BCP)

This Easter season has been alive with baptisms and us renewing our own Baptismal Covenant. In the movement of the liturgy, there is little time for reflection on what this all means in our own lives. During this time alive with focus on baptisms, consider setting aside a few minutes, go through the pages identified above, and pray about what it means in your life to be “members of Christ’s Body, the Church, and inheritors of the kingdom of God.” How might you live your Baptismal Covenant more intentionally?

From the Deacon's Desk



Over the last few years I have found myself increasingly interested in the plight of victims of Human Trafficking. I'm not sure why. But my heart is drawn to their stories and more and more opportunities to become active in advocacy have come across my desk.

Has that ever happened to you? Something or someone shows up in your path – you know that presence is important but you're just not sure why. Well, for starters, it's a good time to pay attention! So that is what I'm trying to do now – pay attention.

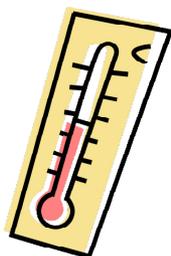
To that end much of what I've been reading lately are reports and statistics about the prevalence of Human Trafficking in our country. A very recent report identifies and defines 25 types of modern slavery – not just the sex and labor work that we first think of. Working to address and eradicate the various forms is a large and difficult problem. I'm not sure what I can do but I will do something!

I now serve on the Diocesan Task Force against Human Trafficking. Being a part of that group has led me to meetings at the Attorney General's office. In June, on behalf of the Diocese of NJ, I will attend a National Conference with internationally acclaimed leaders in the fight against modern day slavery. These are new arenas for me. I pray that I can keep my head clear and my heart open.

By the time this newsletter is out the Women's Sleep Out will be in the past! And I will have survived and raised more funds to add to our Mission Possible amount for Covenant House in Asbury Park. I thank all of you in your support of that effort! Getting homeless kids off the streets and away from predators is a first step in breaking a dis-heartening cycle of human trafficking.

If this is a cause that is important to you I'd welcome the opportunity to talk more about what we at St John's might do as advocates for victims. And, always, I welcome your prayers as these new diaconal ministries unfold.

- Eve



MISSION POSSIBLE UPDATE

Many thanks to all Parishioners who so generously pledged to Mission Possible during Lent this year. Once again, we met and surpassed our goal with a grand total of \$11,000, an amazing and humbling feat by a Parish who have historically sought to support the needs of those less fortunate than ourselves.

A reminder that payment of your pledge is due by Sunday, June 4, 2017. Checks should be identified for Mission Possible in the memo part of your check. You may send your check to the Parish Office or place it in the plate at any service.

We are looking forward to sending out the funds to our chosen organizations, Covenant House Asbury Park, Cristo Rey Episcopal Church Trenton and Thistle Farm (based in Nashville, TN) in a timely manner and appreciate your cooperation in sending in your pledge payments by June 4.

I wish to thank Mike Redpath for all his assistance with Mission Possible this year. He created a graphic specific for Mission Possible and sent out all the informative and graphically interesting notices keeping our timeline on track. Being that Mission Possible is a Parish and time driven project during Lent timely communication is of utmost importance.

Once more thank you to all of those who so generously supported this important Mission.

Eliza Biehl, Mission Possible Coordinator



Diocesan Baccalaureate Service

May 21, 4 - 6:00 pm

Trinity Cathedral, Trenton

Baccalaureate Service is a celebration which honors a graduating senior class from high school. Join the entire Diocese and choir of Trinity, Asbury Park in recognizing our graduating seniors. There will be a reception after the service for all in Synod Hall. The offering collection will go to the Van Duzer Scholarship Fund.

Welcome William Davies Kresge and Adam Jay Moczerniuk, baptized by Mother Val on April 23 into the household of God. William and Adam are the grandsons of John and Sharon Davies.



Episcopal Church Women - ECW

PARTY TIME! WEDNESDAY, MAY 3 ECW celebrates its faith and friendship with fun and fabulous food on MAY 3, at noon, in the parish hall. Our delicious sandwich luncheon will be catered by Sickles Market and assorted scrumptious desserts will be provided by members, followed by our hilarious, competitive auction and used book sale. Oh, so many treasures to win! All guests welcome. Please bring auction items and used books for our program and 2 cans of nonperishable food for St. James' Food Pantry. This luncheon is ECW's spring fun fund-raiser event as well as its last "official" Wednesday meeting until September 6. Luncheon-\$10. Please RSVP MaryAnn O'Connor or Linda Rizzo by April 30.

JULY, AUGUST DATES TBA: ECW will be making and decorating vintage-style and contemporary Christmas cards. This is one of our Outreach Projects. Watch for dates in the June Messenger and weekly bulletins.

In advance, ECW thanks all participants of St. John's for their generous donations of spring-summer clothes for Lunch Break of Red Bank, May 13-21.



SEMI-ANNUAL CLOTHING COLLECTION for Lunch Break of Red Bank: Please bring new and used spring/summer clothes for infants, children, women, and men in labeled bags into the back parish hall between May 13-May 21, and place bags in designated areas. Also please include business attire for the "Suited for Success" program and bag these separately. Special need for plus-size adult clothes. ECW thanks you in advance for your generous clothing donations. ECW will gather on Sunday, May 21, following coffee hour to