

ST. JOHN'S MESSENGER

St. John's Episcopal Church • 325 Little Silver Point Road • Little Silver, NJ 07739

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www.stjohnsls.com



Rector

Rev. Valerie T. Redpath

Deacon

Rev. Eve Chamberlain

Parish Administrator

Janice Lima

Treasurer

Lyle Connor

Music Ministers

Karen Feeney

James Scavone

Sexton

Orinzo Martinez

Vestry

Paul Chalifour

Sr. Warden

Hazel Kelly

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,

I enjoy early mornings in summer. Eating breakfast outside on our deck provides me with opportunity to enjoy the beauty of nature: flowers, birds and butterflies. There are less mosquitos in our backyard in the morning hours so I am not distracted by slapping and scratching. Most of our neighbors are still asleep and construction workers repairing homes still marred by Superstorm Sandy have yet to start their work day. I try my best to consciously set aside time to be quiet; time to be alone with my observations, thoughts and prayers. It is a peaceful time.

Like most people I've learned the hard way how wearing the demands of daily life can be. Have you ever had a day that was supposed to be a 'day off' but by evening you looked back and thought: "where did the day go?" Depending upon our age, and whether or not we work outside the home, there are always the tasks of grocery shopping, doctor appointments, laundry, housekeeping, and cooking. (I'm sure you can add to the list, especially if you have small children at home or are recuperating from illness or surgery.) Even routine activities take up time, demand our attention, and yet are necessary for daily living. But they are the 'externals' of life.

Jesus' teachings challenge us to tend to our inward parts—our heart life—the important spiritual part of our lives as well.

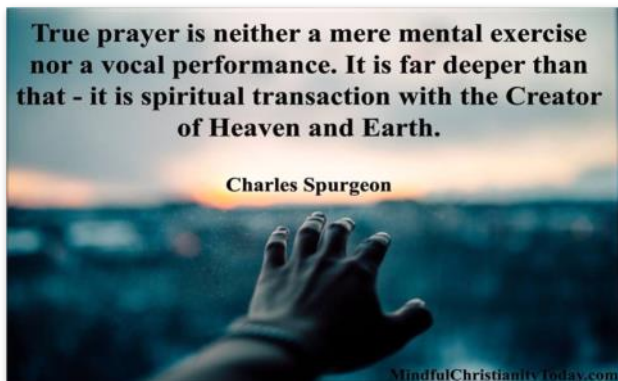
God desires to have a relationship with each of us. God desires for us to know that we are loved and cared for. God desires for us to have peace in our lives because even the tasks of daily life can challenge us as well as work to steal that peace from us. For our relationship with God to flourish we need to be intentional in cultivating times of prayer and *silence*.

One of my favorite authors, Sr. Joan D. Chittister, a Benedictine nun writes:
“Silence is a frightening thing. Silence leaves us at the mercy of the noise within us. We hear the fears that need to be faced. We hear, then, the angers that need to be cooled. We hear the emptiness that needs to be filled. We hear the cries for humility and reconciliation and centeredness. We hear ambition and arrogance and attitudes of uncaring awash in the shallows of the soul. Silence demands answers. Silence invites us to depth. Silence heals what hoarding and running will not touch.”— *Wisdom Distilled from the Daily: Living the Rule of St. Benedict Today*

“Silence invites us to depth.” Inner silence demands us to be honest and brave with ourselves. You never know what you will be asked to face and to deal with. It may be difficult. It may be painful. But it can be the path to inner peace...the path to inward growth. It is in that deep place within us that healing takes place by the power of the Holy Spirit; healing that spreads not just in our own lives but into our families and communities as well.

I wish you peace,

Val+





13th Annual Trinity Cathedral Community Day & Golf Outing

Monday, October 9, 2017, 10 AM

Mercer Oaks—West Golf Course

West Windsor, NJ

Join us for a great day and compete for the Bishop's Cup! Put this date on your calendar and get your foursome, threesome or twosome (singles are also welcomed) lined up.

Bishop "Chip" Stokes will sponsor the "Chip" shot challenge-whereby you can compete for the best "chip" to the hole on one of the practice greens before or after the event and win a special prize.

Your \$175 registration fee includes breakfast, lunch and dinner as well as prizes, drawings and a silent auction.



ECW: THURSDAY, JULY 20, 1 PM, IN THE UPPER ROOM

Try your hand at a fun, "crafty" experience with 100% guarantee of success! Join us as we make "Shaker" birthday cards and "Everyday Gracious Giftables" gift card holders. Keep one and help build our collection to sell extra cards in November as an ECW Appalachia fund-raiser. Please bring scissors, glue stick, and ballpoint or roller-ball black pen in a baggy with your name on it. Cards, sentiments, shaker pockets, overlays, envelopes, embellishments, and trimmings will be provided. Please contact Linda Rizzo with your interest to attend. Thank you.

Watch for information about making Christmas cards in mid-August.

Warden's Letter – June 2017

This "Warden's letter" is sent to cover the May and June Vestry meetings.

Hazel Kelly and Paul Chalifour are your Wardens and welcome any feedback that you may have on how to improve this letter as a form of communication.

Vestry minutes will continue to be freely available and copies of the latest minutes are posted on the bulletin board.

Adelaide's Garden was planted by the Sunday school children at the end of May. This was also their last meeting before the summer and the kids are very enthusiastic. The Memorial Garden was also planted at the end of May. Although not as young as the Sunday school class, and perhaps subject to more strained muscles, the group doing the planting was no less enthusiastic.

ECW delivered the results of their clothing drive to Lunch Break.

The final pledges came in for Mission Possible - \$11,550 was pledged. This will be split equally between the three chosen charities: Thistle Farms, Nashville; Covenant House, Asbury Park; and Christ Church-Cristo Rey, Trenton. Thank you to Eliza for all the work that she does in making this very important ministry happen.

Financials are doing well but the pledges are down. We would like to remind everyone to please send in your pledges over the summer – don't wait until the fall.

Mother Val will start Acolyte training for altar servers – please let her know if you have anyone who would be interested in this very special ministry.

Saturday night services may be held in the upper room if it is too hot in the church.

We have been able to provide AC services to the offices and library by using the same AC unit as the upper room – only one can be run at a time, but this gives welcome relief to Mother Val and Janice.

Our Deacon, Eve, has been doing a lot of work with Covenant House and issues with Human trafficking or Homeless youth. Please let her know if you would be interested to help. A representative of Covenant House will be at the church on Sunday, July 9th.

There is a lot of work going on in Buildings and Grounds – John Davies is the Vestry lead for this area. The major projects include re-doing the lobby which will be done the week of August 7th.

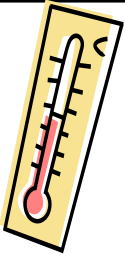
The furnace pipes need to be redone as well as the wiring. Many of the causes can be traced back to Sandy and the repairs done afterwards. This has resulted in the 2nd boiler not turning on when needed. The total costs will be somewhere around \$18,000. A special communication will be sent out as we get closer to doing the repairs.

The sump pump for the lower rooms also needs repairs.

Our Webpage is up and running – our thanks for Eileen Kennedy and Mike Redpath on the wonderful job done. If anyone has calendar items please send them to Eileen. The website address is www.stjohnsls.com

The Vestry had a very good discussion about the use of our space for profit organizations. There are some organizations that fit with our vision and goals which are for profit and, given our charter and our role as a church, we cannot charge these organizations for the use of this space. There are two organizations that have asked to use the space, one is the dance school (Peninsula Dance School) and the other is a Yoga class for children. These are closely affiliated with the Nursery school. A motion was made and approved to let these organizations use our space subject to having them sign an MOU, have liability insurance and that we are able to find a suitable time.

Hazel and Paul



MISSION POSSIBLE UPDATE

Thanks to your generosity, checks in the amount of \$3850 have been sent out to our three Mission Possible recipients:

Covenant House, Asbury Park

Thistle Farms, Nashville, TN

Cristo Rey Episcopal Church, Trenton



ST. JOHN'S MEN'S GROUP

St. John's Men's Group will meet Tuesday, July 18, 7:00 p.m., in the Library. This is open to all men. No need to join, sign-up, or register. This month we will explore how St. Barnabas' supporting St. Paul's work sets an example for us supporting each other in growing in our life in Christ.



BUDGET UPDATE

As of July 14:

Total income: \$128,281.31

Total expenditures: \$138,947.86

Summer worship and summer bills need summer congregants and summer funds. Your presence and support are essential all summer for our spiritual and financial health.

Thank you for your continuing stewardship.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

to host the “half” coffee hours on Sunday after Mass. We haven’t done sign-ups for the summer before, so this is something new. Coffee hour in the summer is held on the patio outside the parish hall (weather permitting) and is less involved. In fact, there is no coffee involved! Ice tea mix and pitchers are provided and found in the kitchen. All you need to provide are cookies or other small treats! Card tables can be found in the closet next to the choir room.



Please consider taking part in this ministry. The link below will connect you to an online signup sheet.

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090f45a9a72babfa7-summertime>

Or, please contact the church office if you are interested.



Summer Worship Schedule

June 11 through Labor Day
weekend

Saturday evenings at 5:30 p.m.

Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m.



St. John's Book Club

Wednesday, August 9, 7
p.m.

We'll discuss The
Physick Book of Deliverance

Dane

by Katherine Howe.

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.

Dick Balmer, Mike Biehl, Michael, Mitties, Barbara Lauro, Harriet Luckenbill, Michael Lima, Ann McClure, Pat Nelson, Loren Rabon, Mike Redpath, Diane Steets, Louise Stives, Elizabeth & Ray Taylor, Phyllis & Richard Tetley, and Wes Tyson.

PLEASE NOTE: The church bulletin prayers and the prayer warriors list will be purged three times a year in order to facilitate accuracy. (June, October and February). Please contact the church for Sunday bulletin listings or Hazel Kelly for the Prayer Warriors list with names that you wish to remain on the lists or new additions. You can request that anyone's name be posted in the weekly Sunday bulletin but only after asking permission from the prayee. Only first names will be used in worship during Prayers of the People. The Prayer Warrior list is a confidential list managed by the prayer warrior committee in which we know more details and can directly pray for the individual and their particular issue but again with permission from them or their family.



From the Deacon's Desk

This past Sunday, July 9, I went to Asbury Park to hear Tony Campolo speak. The event was a fundraiser for the Food Pantry at Trinity Church. Campolo's topic was advertised as: Food Justice, LGBTQ Rights, Love + The Gospel. Campolo is a powerful, dynamic and very personable speaker. He has been preaching and serving the poor and needy for well more than 50 years! And his message has never been anything but timely. He preaches one single focus and everything falls into place from that focus. That focus is Jesus. More specifically Jesus's message in Matthew 25:

[Paraphrasing] Jesus says, To follow me, what you need to do is follow this pattern:

I was hungry and you fed me, I was thirsty and you gave me a drink,
I was homeless and you gave me a room,
I was shivering and you gave me clothes,
I was sick and you stopped to visit, I was in prison and you came to me.

Tony is a great story teller and true to form he regaled the congregation with many great stories but they all pointed to the mission that Jesus had while on this earth And the mission he entrusted us with: take care of the poor, the oppressed, the marginalized.

Tony illustrated by saying that if anyone of us were to draw a line and place folks we 'approved' of one on side and those we didn't one the other...he would guarantee that Jesus would be on the 'other' side of the line! He didn't lecture about Food Justice, LGBTQ rights or any specific 'issues' but by the end of his talk it was very clear that anyone who declares themselves to be a follower of Jesus should be doing whatever they can to reach out to anyone who is marginalized. Anyone!

I found out after the talk that this message has had a personal cost to Tony Campolo. Over his career, he has started countless organizations across the globe to help those stuck in poverty. He has written more than 30 books. He has guided presidents and paupers. He has been a leader in the Evangelical community for many years. But now, as he has expanded his thinking and his message of following Jesus to include ALL the marginalized he has lost a huge number of his followers – those in the Evangelical community. He didn't talk about that. But I thought about it afterwards. And I thought about how it is possible to change and grow in one's understandings. Stay open to Love. Stay open to the Spirit. Stay open to Life.

And when you can, drop off some food for our Food Bank collection. Summer is the time for collections.

Blessings along the Way.

Eve

Why does God want my stuff?

Give...Help...Contribute...Volunteer. Hmph. Why does God always want my stuff? Good news! God doesn't want your stuff. It just sometimes seems that way. What God wants is your heart.

King David, the author of the Psalms, made God's desire for our hearts clear thousands of years ago "For you have no delight in sacrifice; if I were to give a burnt-offering, you would not be pleased. The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise." (Psalm 51:16,17) "Broken" here can be taken to suggest "humble."

God's ways are frequently beyond understanding. Regarding "our stuff," God has a plan for all of his creation. Most of what is needed to carry out that plan (money, time, abilities) God provides by entrusting it to us. He empowers us to be his hands and feet. God provides us the opportunity to show our gratitude for all of his blessings by using well, stewarding, all that he provides us.

When Saint John's encourages us to give our money and time, it is reminding us to apply the money and time that God entrusted to us in order for the work of his church, his work, to be carried out. And it is a reminder that God provides abundantly for us out of love and he cherishes us responding in loving appreciation.

Many people are uncomfortable with the concept of the tithe and the idea of contributing 10% of what they have. But, it is a bargain in the context of God's plan and economy. Every single thing that we have has been provided lovingly by God and all he asks is that we dedicate 10% of it to his purposes. That leaves us 90%.

In God's design, our giving is surrendering. We acknowledge that it is not we, but God, who is in charge. And he blesses us abundantly. Our human, consumer-oriented nature tends to want to keep it all. Instead, we surrender with humility and joy-full thanksgiving give as God desires.

***Thank you all** for your prayers, well wishes, and concerns as I had my spine surgery and now am in a long recovery period. I know that you have made a tremendous difference in my healing.- Mike Redpath*

A Summer Paradox

One of the paradoxes of summer is that we become so busy enjoying God's many blessings, such as leisure time, trips, and family, that we may lose awareness of how blessed we are and the source of those blessings. In that reduced awareness, our relationship with our Creator, who is the source of all those blessings, is diminished. No guilt trip intended. It's just what happens if we aren't vigilant. It's just human nature.

It would serve us well in the summer to give extra attention to how blessed we are and our response to those blessings. One helpful discipline would be to provide each member of the family, even little children, their own blessing journal. It doesn't have to be fancy, just a notebook. Everyone can decorate theirs however they like. At the end of each day, each person writes 10 blessings from the day in their journal. Then they offer a prayer of thanksgiving for each of the blessings.

We also have a tendency in the summer to schedule activities with friends and family while not scheduling time for the Creator who provides all of our blessings. It is not a major chunk out of your weekend to attend the 5:30 p.m. Saturday or 9 a.m. Sunday Mass when you make worship part of your schedule. And it is easy to set aside time for prayer at the beginning and end of each day and for grace at every meal.

Your contribution of a portion of God's financial provisions to you in thanksgiving for his loving generosity should not change if your church attendance in summer changes. Regardless of whether you drop your offering in the offering plate or you mail your offering to the church office, as you write the check pause to offer a prayer of thanksgiving. Thank God for both for the ability to make that offering to God's work through St. John's and for your finances generally.

Episcopal Church Women - ECW

Through our varied efforts, interests and activities, St. John's members touch the lives of almost everyone on this planet. ECW wants to continue to extend our hospitality by helping those in need and strengthening relationships, making a friendlier, healthier St. John's community and world. Communion does not happen only at our church's altar table with bread and wine. It also happens by in common activities. When people share an experience, they cultivate friendship and understanding, connection and unity. Please contact an ECW member when you know of people in need of assistance. We all are Christ's eyes, ears, hands and heart.

Thank you to the generous members of St. John's Church for their donations of spring/ summer clothes to Lunch Break of Red Bank: 35 bags of clothes and 67 "hangers" of Suited for Success business apparel. Extra gratitude for the men's career clothing and all plus-sized garments.

Also, your thoughtful, continuous contributions of nonperishable food for St. Brigit's/St. James Food Pantry, the toiletries for the Seamen's Church Institute and the new toys for Jason's Dreams for Kids are appreciated by all recipients. Plus, heartfelt thanks to the Monday Night Nifty Knitters, a remarkable group of nimble fingers and clicking needles, magically creating prayer shawls and prayer squares, hats, scarves, cowls, preemie caps and newborn hats.

ECW and Nifty Knitters have a special Appalachia clothing ministry. Please contact a member of either group if you can donate coats and jackets, especially children's winter wear. Thank you!

ECW's spring luncheon and fun fund-raiser was a huge, hilarious success! Thanks to all who attended, supported and participated in this event and also who received a special heartfelt Dorothy gift.

Mark your calendars: Mid-August TBA Christmas Card Craft Day
Wednesday, Sept. 6, noon, Welcome Back Luncheon
Wednesday, Oct. 4, noon-Auction and Used Book Sale