

The Eagle

July 2018

What's Happening this Summer...

July 1—September 2
Summer Breakfasts

Sunday, July 8
Kool Kids Summer
Church School
Begins

Sunday, July 15
Adult Christian
Formation

Sat., September 8
A Celebration of
Ministry for
The Rt. Rev.
Mark
Beckwith and
Marilyn Olsen
(invitation on back
page)



Greetings in the Power of Pentecost!

As we enter July, full summer, which brings with it longer days (albeit getting shorter since we're on the other side of the solstice) and for many of us vacations and travel to places of rest and refreshment – or activities that are not the usual, we can also take time to ask how this time that's different invites and encourages us to be the light and love of God in the world, locally and beyond.

As I said in my sermon a few Sundays ago, these are turbulent times in our nation and in the global community. The waves are crashing against our boat, the winds are tossing us about. We have discomfort. We have fear and concern. Well I do and perhaps you do as well. Events seem to push us to sides that separate. That's not what Jesus came to do. God sent Jesus to put us back on the track of love and repent of our brokenness. As Presiding Bishop Curry said, "If it's not about Love, it's not about God."

To share this love, this unambiguous love that God has for all people and all creation is hard work. Sometimes it requires us to join Jesus in telling the turbulent forces to "be muzzled" (shut up!) as the Greek of Mark 4:39 is better translated. If we follow Jesus, we will speak truth to injustice, we will question and challenge systems of oppression, and provide equitable leadership that truly defends the dignity of every person.

As I spend time traveling, being with others, sitting quietly in a favorite spot, I will be listening for the still small voice, for God's inspiration to guide me out of my fears and into ways of Love and community. This will most definitely present me with opportunities to encounter those persons and deeply held views that may differ.

continued on the next page

PRIEST IN RESIDENCE

The Rev. William Cruse

ST. JOHN'S WARDENS

Ken Bledsoe, Sr. Warden

Janice Hardy, Jr. Warden

VESTRY

Nancy Abbott

Kristin Canty

Jason Farrar

Carolyn Greenberg

Lynda Hammond

Kevin Haas

Barry Hardy

Pat Tarbutton

John Woods

CLERK OF THE VESTRY

Barry Hardy

FINANCE CHAIRPERSON

Nancy Abbott

TREASURER

John Greenberg

BOOKKEEPER

Ellen Joyce



The Eagle

Ellen Joyce, Editor

Articles can be submitted in
writing, or by E-Mail to:

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I invite you to do the same in your own way. Jesus provided us the example of being with and engaging everyone in the community. We will be strengthened both individually and as a diverse community to be God's light and love.

As we continue our many ministries within St. John's, from St. John's, and with people throughout the community, let us listen and be present, and find new ways to share the abundance of God's love to a broken and hurting world.

We are called to break down barriers and recklessly share love, and nurture all of Creation. A friend shared a song from the ensemble Brother Sun – "Love is the Water". The refrain is serving me as a mantra to find my way. Here's a portion of Pat Witcor's lyrics:

You say your heart's been turned to stone
You say you want to be left alone
You say love only made you weep and moan
Well, let me tell you something that you know in your bones

Love is the water that wears down the rock
Love is the water that wears down the rock
Love is the power that won't be stopped
Love is the water that wears down the rock

You say, waiting for love takes too long
It dulls a sharp mind, weakens the strong
Well, you may be right, but you may be wrong

Love is the water that wears down the rock
Love is the water that wears down the rock
Love is the power that won't be stopped
Love is the water that wears down the rock

Here's a link to the recording:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xr_aU0yuQJw

As we gather together for worship and ministry, and visit other faith communities in our travels, remember these moments are soul food to inspire us and strengthen us for the challenging work God calls you into. May the Spirit support and empower you to be the water of love to co-create, co-redeem, and co-sustain our community.

See you in church and ministry!

Fr. Bill

The 2018 David P. Hegg II Lifetime Achievement Awards

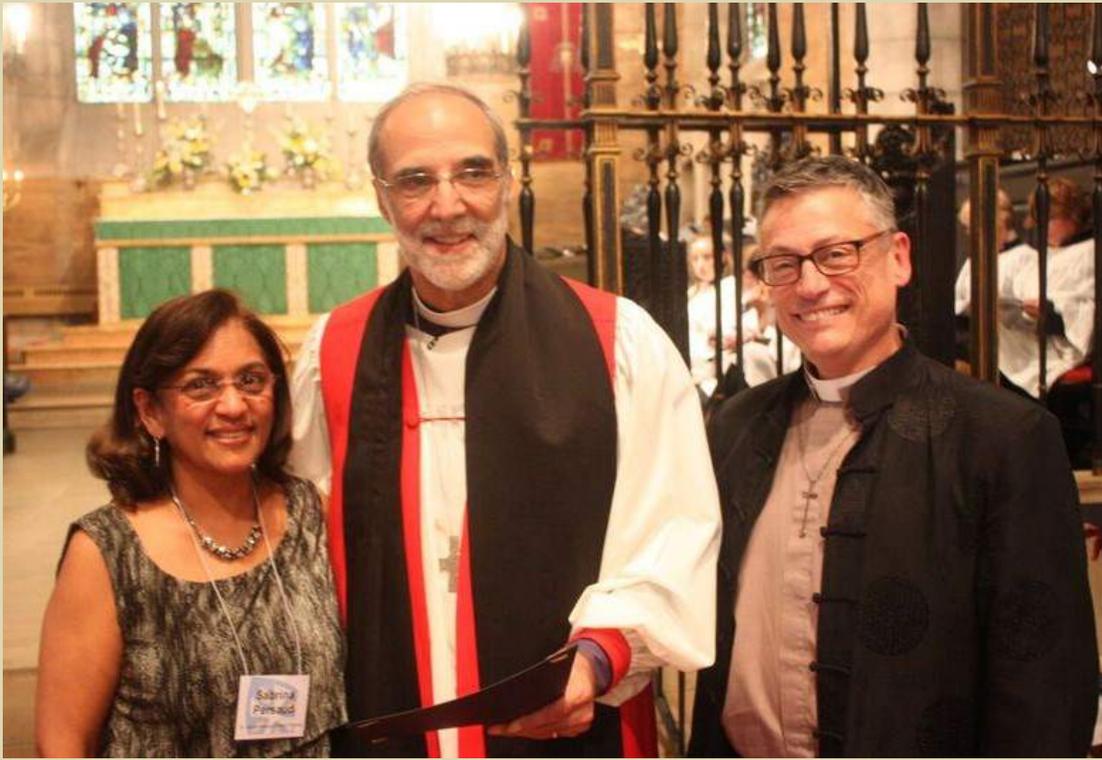


On Sunday June 10th a group of St. John's parishioners, along with several members of Sabrina Persaud's family, went to St. Peter's Church in Morristown for the annual David Paul Hegg II Lifetime Achievement Awards.

Sabrina is the 2018 honoree from St. John's, showing our heartfelt gratitude for her many years of volunteer service in numerous capacities to our church. The award program included the paragraph below which describes the uniqueness of Sabrina's many talents including the four priceless stained glass windows she made for us.

Our host church in Morristown is large, so about 600 people attended from the churches in the Diocese of Newark. Following a reception, the Evensong service (in the High Church tradition) was absolutely beautiful and the music of their large organ filled the church. This was Bishop Mark Beckwith's 12th and last Hegg Award ceremony. Before the final hymn the rector of St. Peter's (the Rev. Janet Broderick) invited our Bishop to come forward and asked the congregation to stand and raise a hand to bless Mark while the choir sang a very beautiful blessing. I suspect that most people, including the bishop, teared up at this unexpected and moving action.

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Sabrina Persaud is known at St. John's for her stained glass artistry, her generosity, her enthusiasm, and her warm smile. The exquisite four foot by six foot Good Shepherd window that Sabrina designed, created, and installed in the Children's Chapel captivates parishioners with its ever-changing colors as the day progresses. When she noticed that two Church School classrooms needed light-filtering window coverings, Sabrina promptly designed and created two more windows. A blank interior wall in the kitchenette is now graced with a loaves and fishes window installed with a light box.



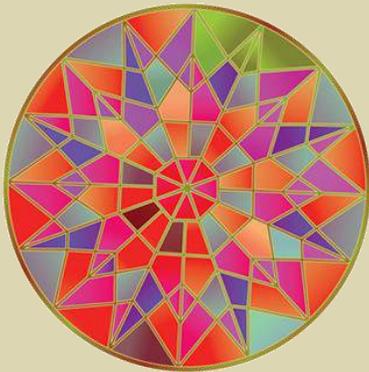
St. John's Summer Breakfasts



Breakfast is served between the 8 and 10 o'clock services from July 1st to September 2nd. We may face some logistical challenges this year as work is done in the Parish Hall area but we plan to hold the breakfasts "rain or shine!"

Please do join us while helping the Center for Food Action feed hungry New Jersey children, who may otherwise think no one really cares about them.

Adult Christian Formation Continues Sunday, July 15! Kaleidoscope Bible Sharing!



St. John's Adult Christian Formation gathered on Sunday, June 17 at 11:45AM. We discussed Henri Nouwen's "Life of the Beloved". We added to our individual reading and inspirations from the book with discussion about things that challenged us and inspired us. We realized that one 45 minute session wasn't enough to fully engage the entire book. Still, we were blessed by our time together.

The next gathering of St. John's Adult Christian Formation will be Sunday, July 15 at 11:45AM. We will use a process called Kaleidoscope Bible Sharing to explore an upcoming scripture passage from our lectionary cycle. This is a process Fr. Bill uses in his congregational consulting work. We each discovered new insights for ourselves, and hear perspectives from others that inform our faith life. In the coming weeks, we'll also be pondering our next book to read. Everyone is welcome to attend whenever you're able to join the conversation.

Christian Formation is focused on discovering through a variety of sources ways we can apply our faith and live a life that helps us reveal God in our own lives and in our relationships with people at work, in the community, and wherever we engage with God's creation. We hope you'll join in reading "Life of the Beloved" even if you can't attend on June 17 th. We'll be talking about and pondering Nouwen's wisdom together and discovering how the Spirit is inspiring each of us.

On June 8th and June 9th
St. John's Most Talented Presented:
"Coming to America"
A Musical Road Trip Across the USA!!!



Beka Farrar (right) and Julie Moya (left) portrayed **Gina and Marie**, two Jersey girls who first appeared in a Bon Jovi number from last year's show "It's a Jersey Thing." In this year's production, Gina and Marie decide to broaden their horizons and take off on a cross country road trip that takes them first down the East coast and later out Route 66 to the West coast. They meet lots of interesting characters and have many musical adventures in the states they visit along the way.



*Thank you for ALL who
made the Spring
Musical a joyful,
community event !!*



St. John's Church School Kids Preparing a Meal for St. Paul's Men's Shelter



Kool Kids Summer Church School

The St. John's *Kool Kids* summer program is a wonderful opportunity to interact with our young members of the congregation. The sessions begin at 10:00 AM in the Parish Hall, with the children joining their parents to celebrate the Eucharist at 10:35 AM. *Kool Kids* summer sessions - July 8th, July 22nd, July 29th, August 5th, 12th, and 26th - offer involvement in different activities, such as a "Read to Feed" activity for Heifer International, creating fleece scarves for children in St. Paul's Child Development Center, packaging summer bag lunches for the Center for Food Action, Christmas crafts for St. John's Annual Holiday Fair, and promoting *Acts of Kindness* initiatives. For further details, contact Lynda Hammond at 201-788-0433.

Mark your calendars: Opening Day of St. John's Church School is Sunday, September 9th at 9:45 AM. Church School classes will be held in the classrooms on level one in the building. Parents will meet in the Parish Hall to review/update Church School registration forms and "Photo Release" documents. An email with further Church School details will be sent to all St. John's families by September 2nd. Please email any changes in home or email addresses to our Parish Administrator, Ellen Joyce, so that the files can be updated before the beginning of the Church School year.

St. John's Kool Kids Summer Church School Program

July and August 2018

Volunteer Leaders of Summer Sessions

-
July 8th: _____

July 15th: Family Service Sunday

July 22nd: Fleece Scarves for Christmas

July 29th: _____

August 5th: _____

August 12th: _____

August 19^h: Family Service Sunday

August 26th: _____

Projects could include: *Acts of Kindness, Bag Lunches for Children at the Center for Food Action, Preparing a Meal for St. Paul's Men's Shelter, Gardening Adventures, Christmas Crafts for the St. John's Holiday Fair, Chiku Awali Children's Book Collection, "Make Your Own Instrument" for a Sing-Along, Yoga, Heifer International "Read-a-Thon" Sunday, Fleece Scarves for Children (CDC Christmas Project)...or one of you own ideas!*

Community Thrift Shop

Are your kids off to camp? Are you finally getting around to cleaning out your closet? If you have summer clothes that you no longer want, donate them to the Community Thrift Shop.

The shop which is located in Midland Park accepts in-season women's, men's and children's clothing, clean and in good condition, in addition to household items.

They cannot take electronics, men's suits (sport coats OK) or car seats.

Donations are accepted at the shop on the first Saturday of the month and each Monday from 10-2. Items may also be left in the basket in our parish hall foyer, and they will be taken for you. Items are sold, and St. John's receives a percentage of what the item sells for. Our account number is 21.

Our liaison with the shop is Mary Welton (mhswelton@yahoo.com). Contact her for more information.

Center for Food Action

Don't forget the hungry this summer. This time of year many families face a food crisis. School is out, and their children no longer are enrolled in breakfast or lunch programs. Collection baskets are located in the church narthex and the parish hall foyer.

Here is a list of items that are always needed and appreciated;

- * Protein items such as canned tuna, chicken and soups. Canned spaghetti and stew.
- * Cereal (low sugar)
- * Canned fruit without added sugar or fruit in individual portions. Please, no applesauce right now.
- * Items that children can prepare such as boxed macaroni and cheese.
- * Also, laundry detergent and personal grooming supplies are needed.

Never too Hot for the Holiday Fair!

It may be officially summer, but your Holiday Fair committee is already planning to make this year's Holiday Fair better than ever. Scheduled for Nov. 30 – Dec 1, we will be bringing back several Fair favorites such as the Famous Cookies by the Pound and adding some new crafts and displays.

YOU CAN HELP NOW! How?

- During your summer travels, take a PICTURE of any item, (Christmas'y or not!) that you think would be popular at our Fair and text it to Amy Lynch at 973-216-9742. She will create a bulletin board of the fun and interesting things from around the world.
- TEAM up with a friend to gather items for a themed BASKET over the summer. We have several ideas ready for you to choose.
- Collect new and/or almost new items for the Silent Auction and/or Attic Treasures.
- Let us know - What would bring YOU to the Holiday Fair? What would YOU and/or YOUR FRIENDS hope to buy there?

If you'd like to get more involved, or have any feedback, please contact Amy Lynch at 973-216-9742 or alynch710@yahoo.com.

Halloween Treats!

Do you love Halloween as much as we do? Starting in late September, we are going to have a sale of new and / or gently used Halloween items on Sunday mornings to parish family and friends. Donate any items to the sale by leaving them clearly marked in the Parish Hall and they will be spirited away. Questions, or excited to volunteer, please contact Amy Lynch 973-216-9742 (alynch710@yahoo.com).

Welcome Newcomer's

John & Claire Speer



John and Claire have been married for 55 years;
and have 5 children and 6 grandchildren.

“We are both retired and enjoy traveling,
especially to Florida in the winter.
We moved here in October and are enjoying
our time here at St. John’s.”

We’re happy to have you here!

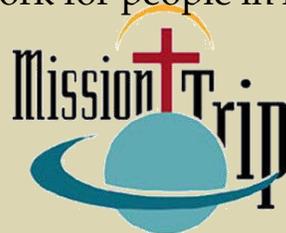
Youth Group's 6th Annual "Making A Difference for Christ" Summer Mission Trip!!

For All Youth entering 6th through 12th Grade in September 2018 (and graduates) This is a week where we spend making a difference in the world for others in need and serving in Christ's name while also gathering together daily to reflect on how this impacts us in our daily lives and what it means to be people of faith.

We stay at the Crossroads Retreat Center in Port Murray NJ and each day travel to a different site where we participate in various missions to help those in need. In the evening we have a "reflection time" when we read passages from the bible which relate to the particular mission we participated in that day so that we can discuss how these passages relate to our lives today. We have daily access to all the camp activities such as the pool, rock climbing, archery, low ropes and plenty of fields for group games and nightly manhunt! We will be staying from the afternoon of Sunday, July 22nd at 3PM thru the late afternoon of Thursday July 26th at 5PM

This year will be assisting Manna House Soup Kitchen, North Porch Women and Infant's Center in Dover, Tilly's Kids who provides opportunities for children living in Newark and the inner cities to enjoy some outside activities in the NJ countryside - we will be spending a day with them at Swartswood State Park, Haven of Hope, which houses a family whose child has been diagnosed with a life threatening disease and gives them some respite from their daily stresses which comes with their situations and, as always, helping with a Crossroads Clean Up day to give back to the camp that does so much for so many throughout the Diocese throughout the year.

This week is ALWAYS my favorite experience with this wonderful group!! Thank you for the opportunity to get to know them even better and share special memories, enlightening conversations and FUN!! I look forward to another GREAT week where we can spend quality time together building our relationships with each other through meaningful and fun experiences while enhancing our faith in doing Christ's work for people in need!



Thank you and BLESSINGS~ Megan

Science and Religion:

Did God “Fine Tune” the Universe?



Thank you Ken Silber,

who shared from his background in science journalism to facilitate a conversation about developments in physics and astronomy and their possible theological implications.

We met on 24 June and only scratched the surface of a debate among scientists, theologians and others, about whether their findings provide scientific reinforcement for belief in God. We also spoke from our own personal experience and knowledge. We didn't come away with final answers - and that's a good thing - and we came away with a desire to continue our dialogue and exploration.

Fr. Bill suggests reading the works of Jesuit priest and theologian, as well and paleontologist (he was one of the people to discover Peking Man), Pierre Teilhard de Chardin.

We'll keep you posted about our next scheduled science and theology forum.

**ST. JOHN'S
MEMORIAL
EPISCOPAL
CHURCH**

A House of Prayer for
All People



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Ramsey, NJ 07446

Phone: 201-327-0703

Email:

ellen.joyce@stjohnsramsey.org

Check us out on the Web:
www.stjohnsramsey.org

Worship Schedule

Sunday Services

Holy Eucharist
8 AM & 10 AM

Church School

9:45AM Infant & Child Care

Celtic Prayer

Wednesdays at 7:30 PM



The Rev. William Cruse
Priest in Residence

The Rev. Richard Louis
Rector Emeritus

Drew Kreismer
Organist/Choirmaster

Ellen Joyce
Parish Administrator

Megan Kendall
Youth Missioner

A Celebration of Ministry

The Rt. Rev. Mark M. Beckwith and Marilyn Olson

Saturday, September 8th at

The Skylands Event & Conference Center

In recognition of their 11 years of service to the people of the Diocese of Newark, the Transition Committee is holding a luncheon honoring the Rt. Rev. Mark M. Beckwith and Marilyn Olson on September 8, 2018 at the Skylands Event & Conference Center in Randolph.

The gathering begins at 11 AM. At 11:30 AM there will be a short liturgy, followed by the luncheon.

The cost to attend is \$50 per person. The choice of meals are:

Beef filet with mushroom gravy
Stuffed chicken with vegetables
Eggplant parmesan

The luncheon will include a cash bar.

How to sign up:

Go to e-payment.dioceseofnewark.org and look for Luncheon honoring Bishop Mark Beckwith & Marilyn Olson.

Enter number of attendees in the "Quantity" field.

Click the "Continue" button at the bottom of the page.

On the second page, enter up to four attendee names and meal choices.

If paying for more than four attendees, or if an attendee has dietary restrictions, check the appropriate box(es) and then email this information to bishopparty@aol.com.

Sign-up deadline: Wednesday, August 15.