



The Eagle

July 2020

Worship This Month...

July 5

Online worship at 10am
via Zoom

July 12

Online worship at 10am
via Zoom

July 19

Online worship at 10am
via Zoom

July 26

Online worship at 10am
via Zoom

Dear friends in Christ,

My what a season of change I'm experiencing now! Maybe you are, too. This season of Pentecost might be more like what the early disciples and people felt with the noise and rush of wind, the confusion when the Holy Spirit came down like tongues of fire.

Today, our world and society present new awareness and challenge that make me uncomfortable, invite me to think differently about myself and my relationship to God's people, creation ... and God! Me and you, we're called by God's Word, Jesus's example, and the Holy Spirit's guidance to change. That happens every day in small and maybe unnoticed ways. Right now we're challenged to change in big ways.

I'm happy to be back in our apartment in Jersey City, and it was very hard for me to let go and leave behind. I didn't want to leave my siblings, the comfort of a house that held memories and things. I didn't want to leave; like a baby suckling its mother's breast, or a toddler holding its father's hand on the first day of pre-school. I didn't want to let go. I've been shaken up by so many changes. As a friend said to me recently about her discomfort in this time, she feels like she's in a snow globe that's being shaken vigorously. And still there is the knowledge of Love.

My mom held on to a lot of things. We helped purge our family "stuff" 12 years ago when the home we grew up in was sold and our parents downsized. So much came with them to the new house, too. Cleaning out cupboards I discovered some items that were held onto since the 70's. In dad's desk we found Elmer's glue, hard and dried up in the



PRIEST IN CHARGE

The Rev. William Cruse

ST. JOHN'S WARDENS

Ken Bledsoe, Sr. Warden

Janice Hardy, Jr. Warden

VESTRY

Jason Farrar

John Greenberg

Kathy Lathrop

Amy Lynch

Renee Peters

Ken Silber

Pat Tarbutton

JoEllen Wall

John Woods

CLERK OF THE VESTRY

Pat Tarbutton

FINANCE CHAIRPERSON

Nancy Abbott

TREASURER

John Greenberg



The Eagle

Meg Acer, Editor

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stjohnsramsey.org

bottles, also from the 70's! Why did they keep these things? Why did they hold on to them?

That question made me reflect on my own life and spiritual journey. It made me wonder about the things I've been holding on to, and why. A little more than a year ago John and I sold our large house and purged all the stuff we'd been collecting. That was hard and it also felt good. In this time and season of pandemics, I'm wondering about the things in my heart – known and unknown, that I am holding on to – and why.

I don't recall a time in my life that seemed to take so much of what I thought I knew and turn it upside down. Both the stirring of the Holy Spirit and the context of our time are shaking me. I have the opportunity to live into the discomfort, so that I can be changed, reshaped, and live more closely to God. Spring and summer are seasons of growth and so is this time in my life.

This time might even be part of a new Great Awakening for all of us, a rediscovery and deepening of our spiritual connection to God, one another, and all of creation. We have the opportunity to receive the words of prophets in our time, and from scripture, to hear the warnings *and* hear the Good News. This season of Pentecost, this summer of continued stay-at-home or at least close to home, is a time to look into our hearts and find out what we're holding onto that prevents us from co-creating with God the beloved community. A Great Awakening requires us to trust in God, let go of old ways, and challenge the status quo – both our individual comfort and security, and the societal status quo. This season may also be a moment in which we can more clearly differentiate the Gospel from either Right or Left politics, to great effect.

Through all of this one thing is constant – God's love for each and every one of us. As you read, as you pray, as you listen to your heart and discover what is difficult and make room for what is good, remember that God loves you and is holding you close. Jesus is our companion on this pilgrim journey, beside us in our trials, when our hearts are breaking, when in trouble and when our heads are bowed with sorrow. Jesus is there. God's love surrounds us.

May God grant us grace and help us be at peace within ourselves in this turbulent time.

Peace - Bill+

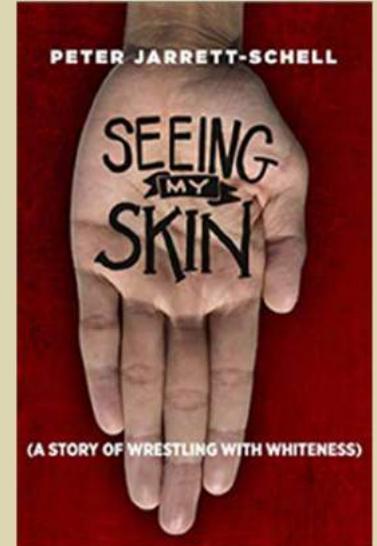
In the Author's Corner

"Seeing My Skin": A personal journey of a priest's understanding of his Whiteness widens into an invitation to wrestle with larger cultural issues of race and belonging.

We are fortunate to be able to host a discussion with the author, Peter Jarret-Schell and his wife, Rondesia Jarret-Schell on Saturday 25 July at 2:00pm. The discussion will last 90 minutes. The Zoom Meeting invite will be emailed the day before this event. The Rev. Rondesia Jarrett-Schell will be our Guest Preacher on Sunday 26 July at 10am.

Copies of the book are available at St. John's for \$0-20.

Please contact the Main Office to get your copy.



Community Thrift Shop

During the early weeks of the COVID 19 pandemic many of us decided to clean and organize our closets. Unfortunately, places to donate our items became almost non-existent as rummage sales were canceled and thrift shops closed, some permanently. Locally, our large Goodwill Industries store in Paramus will not reopen.

Some good news is that the Community Thrift shop will reopen for shopping on **July 14** and will begin accepting donations on **Monday, July 20**. Donations are limited to two white (13 gallon) bags or two shopping bags for the time being. Please make sure items are clean and in good condition. Clothing must be in season. The thrift shop does not take men's suits, textbooks, out of date travel guides or car seats. St. John's receives a percentage of what the items sell for. Donations are accepted each **Monday from 10-2 and the first Saturday of every month from 10-2. Please mark your bags with our account number #21.**

Under normal circumstances donations may be left at church which are then delivered to the shop. Currently the church is closed so donations may not be left there. The shop is located in the lower level of the Midland Park Shopping Center at the corner of Godwin Ave. and Goffle Road.

Alternate places to donate items are Goodwill Industries in Elmwood Park (201-794-4670) which is due to reopen on June 19 and Value Village in Hawthorne (973-423-3444).

Rectory Update

Our tenant moved out on June 15th and new tenant moves in on June 28th. We are very busy preparing the house.

Huge thanks to Mary and Jim Welton who have completed a laundry list of repairs and cleaning. They trimmed all the bushes and planted flowers in the front yard beds. Cleaned the fireplace, oven and stove. Swept out the garage and basement. Sanded and painted the light post and mailbox. Installed new shower rod and curtain. Installed new light bulbs where needed. Installed new filter for the air conditioner system. Replaced batteries in the thermostats. I'm sure I am forgetting some items.

Our vendors changed the locks, painted many rooms and bathrooms, ripped out the upstairs hallway and bedroom carpet and sanded and refinished the beautiful hardwood floors underneath.

This was all completed without missing any months for rent payment.

God Bless

John Greenberg

Property

Center For Food Action News

As you may know the Center is not accepting food donations from individuals at this time. This is mostly due to lack of volunteers to sort incoming goods.

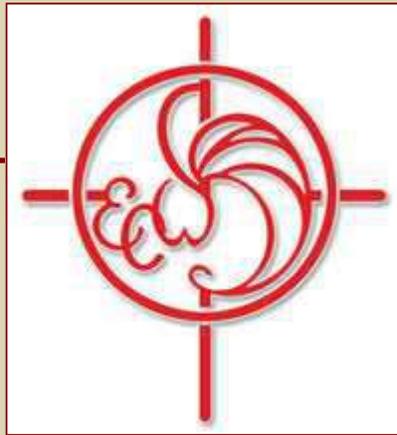
However, the desperate need for food continues. The CFA is gratefully accepting supermarket gift cards and monetary donations. This will allow them to purchase food items in bulk. You may donate on line (cfanj.org) or send checks or gift cards to CFA, 192 W. Demarest Ave., Englewood, NJ 07631.

If you are not in a high-risk group and would like to volunteer, there is a place to do this on their website.

ECW

Episcopal Church Women

St. John's ECW will continue our weekly Zoom get-togethers on Mondays from 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM. If you are interested in having an informal chat with other women, just join us whenever you are able. There is no program or agenda. All women of the parish are warmly invited. The Zoom link is in This Week at St. John's, which you receive by email every Friday.



Need a facemask?

St. John's parishioners have you covered! Donna Rann (rannd511@gmail.com) and Kathy Lathrop (lathropkathleen@gmail.com) would like to provide hand-made facemasks to anyone who is interested. Please email them with your requests.



Built By Love Update

Phase II is now 100% completed and paid for. The new doors in the Parish Hall look beautiful. Our contractor, MMC Construction, also replaced the lower level flooring which had buckled and leaking adhesive issues. This was done at no cost to the church.

The replacement floor is a snap together floating floor with a moisture barrier. It looks great and will last a long time.

Many thanks to all the people who took part in the designing, planning, organizing and implementation of Built By Love. Most of all thank you, our parishioners, for your generous donations that funded this project.

It feels wonderful knowing that we did our part, like so many others have done in the past, to improve our place of worship for future generations to enjoy.

God bless.

John Greenberg

Property



Built



by
Love



Church School

St. John's Church School

July 2020

Summer is a great time of year for Faith Formation. What?

"Summer's for picnics, and weekend trips, late nights, vacations, and unscheduled days!"

"Church School is over for the year."

"Between vacations, ball games and family commitments, it's hard to get to church in the summer."

While the pattern of regular worship attendance is vital, the honest truth is that faith formation is not confined to the walls of the church, or even to Sundays. Formation happens everywhere, and summer is a great time to make connections with our faith in our everyday world. Summers are spent outdoors – camping, taking walks in the neighborhood, picnics, barbecues, playing on the beach, hiking in the mountains or your own backyard. Take time throughout the summer to notice the wonders of creation, and make connections with the vastness and closeness of God.

One of the joys of summer is the long days, filled with warmth and light. Begin a practice of noticing the light. Talk about ways in which we experience God as light, ways in which we let our light shine, ways in which we can practice being conscious of living as a child of light. Especially at this time, sightings of neighbors are a daily occurrence--- everyone's out! Long evenings give us ample opportunity to "see" or meet "at a distance" with friends, family and neighbors. Use these opportunities to explore the notion of fellowship and relationship. Practice as a family during one of your meals together, talking about where you "saw" God, or experienced grace, forgiveness, joy or illumination during the day. Share meals with others, perhaps by volunteering to prepare a meal for St. Paul's Men's Shelter. Practice hospitality through "phone call" visits with friends, or family members you don't see often. Summer affords us the opportunity to build relationships with not only your children, but with relatives and friends that you may not have had time to connect with during the academic school year.

Summer Faith Formation Activities

Pray "When do you pray? What do you say when you talk to God?" What is prayer for you? Try one or more of these activities:

1. Create a prayer corner, a table, or even a tray to provide a space for being with God. Find or make a cross for it. Add a candle, something from nature, a Bible or prayer book.

Church School

2. Write down or draw your prayers whenever you think of something or someone and place them in a bowl or basket. Once a day, pray the contents of the bowl. Once a week, as a family, pray all the requests. Then empty the bowl and start again.
3. Did you know a hymn is a prayer? Which is your favorite song about God? Sing a hymn together, or make up your own prayer song.
4. Create a family worship service using a favorite Bible story. Sing songs and prayers to go with the story.

Connect with Others

1. Draw a picture, or write a letter showing the ways you are thankful for others in your life and mail it to them. Be a good listener and call someone special. Ask them how they are doing, and share with them what you have been doing.
2. Can you think of a way to serve others from home? [Doing Good Together](https://www.doinggoodtogether.org/covid19-response) has some great suggestions (<https://www.doinggoodtogether.org/covid19-response>). Try one! Bake or make a snack for a neighbor. Doing something for someone who does not have family close by is especially thoughtful. Make a card to go with it. Then deliver it to their door. Decorate your driveway or sidewalk with colorful chalk pictures and encouraging messages. Be sure to write a big **“Thank you!”** to delivery people and other workers who pass by.
3. Make a fleece blanket for [Project Linus](https://www.projectlinus.org/about/) for “children in need.” Each summer, St. John’s Kool Kids program hand-ties pieces of fleece to create blankets to provide love, a sense of security, warmth and comfort to children who are seriously ill or need comforting in times of trauma.

(<https://www.projectlinus.org/about/>)

Check out [Vibrant Faith at Home](#) , which has an app available, as well as a website full of great, simple suggestions for exploring faith at all ages. Candle Press offers a great set of “Family Vacation” cards which fit in a glovebox, offering boredom relief on long trips while fostering family interactions around faith and everyday life. The “To-Go” modules “Summertime” and “Our Family Scrapbook” are also fun for families.

[The Very Best Day: The Way of Love for Children](#) introduces the practices for a Jesus-centered life for children ages 3–10 and their families. Through accessible language and age-appropriate themes, it specifically addresses children and the importance of rhythm and practice in their lives as Christians, accompanied by Roger Hutchison's familiar and vibrant artwork. Through a cadence of words and colorful images, children will see how to Turn, Learn, Pray, Worship, Bless, Go, and Rest in daily life as a follower of Jesus.

Acquiring such wisdom at an early age will benefit children to learn these practices for a lifetime. <https://www.churchpublishing.org/verybestday>

Support resources for families during this time in our lives:

<https://network.crcna.org/childrens-ministry/childrens-ministry-and-covid-19>

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

A House of Prayer for
All People



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Phone: 201-327-0703

Email:

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

Worship Schedule

Join us online via Zoom
(contact the office for
details)

Sundays at 10:00am
Morning Prayer &
Monthly Holy
Communion

Wednesdays at 7:30pm
Celtic Contemplative
Prayer

Sunday School & Youth
Group
as announced



The Rev. William Cruse
Priest in Charge

The Rev. Richard Louis
Rector Emeritus

Drew Kreisler
Organist/Choirmaster

Meg Acer
Parish Administrator

Megan Kendall
Youth Missioner

John Yager
Sexton

Red Cross Blood Drive

**WE'RE ALL
IN THIS
Together**



St. John's Episcopal Church **Blood Drive**

Parish Hall

301 E Main Street, Ramsey, NJ 07446

Wednesday, July 22, 2020

2:00pm – 7:00pm

NEW DONORS NEEDED. YOUR DONATION WILL GO TO SAVE 3 LIVES.

Appointments are required. To schedule an appointment, please visit
redcrossblood.org and enter the sponsor keyword: **Ramsey**

COVID-19 Antibody Testing Now Available For All Donations

On day of donation eat a healthy meal a few hours before, drink extra water and bring
your ID!

Use Rapid Pass to save 15 minutes on the day of the drive, go to
redcrossblood.org/RapidPass

Schedule a blood donation appointment today:

Download the Blood Donor App | RedCrossBlood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767

*Offers and items are non-transferable and are not redeemable for cash. Items are available while supplies last. ©2020 The American National Red Cross | 287501 W