

ST. JOHN'S MEMORIAL EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
*Seek + Serve + Celebrate*

# The Eagle

November 2020

## Worship This Month...

**October 4**

*Online worship at 10am*

*via Zoom*

**October 11**

*Online worship at 10am*

*via Zoom*

**October 18**

*Family Sunday*

*Online worship at 10am*

*via Zoom*

**October 25**

*Online worship at 10am*

*via Zoom*

Dear friends in Christ,

I pray you are enjoying your fall, made unusual and difficult by pandemic, social and racial injustice, and political division which are challenging our strength and perseverance. I pray you are finding time to connect with friends and family, as well as with God. Our Sunday morning and Wednesday evening services live on Zoom are an important part of my life with you. Together we share in the Cycle of Blessings, and I hope you are spiritually renewed.



2020 has been a challenging year, and yet we have found ways to share from our abundance of all the currencies to provide relationship and wellness to one another and to the wider community. I hope you have received and read the recently mailed Stewardship letter. Please read our true stories of thriving mission and ministry despite the fact that our physical building was closed. Our passions for justice and mercy have continued to offer our best efforts for healing and wholeness. We continue to be a shining beacon of hope. With physical distancing and wearing of masks, we answer God's call to love one another as Jesus loves us.

### **A Gracious Invitation to Enter into a Period of Stewardship Discernment**

In the midst of this turbulent fall we are invited to enter into a period of stewardship discernment for 2021 and to make a pledge to the ministries at St. John's. Since last year I've been writing and speaking to you about Holy Currencies: Stewardship365, a season of year-long stewardship. Through the Holy Currencies at work in our parish empowered by you we can more fully learn to live according to Jesus' commandment to love one another. This model invites us to think differently, leaving behind a mindset of scarcity for living into a spirituality and theology of abundance. Money is one of the currencies we pledge so that our ministries become sustainable, grow, and thrive.

The stewardship packet includes a pie chart that shows how we are flowing the currencies with our ministries. We tell our story with narrative and graphics rather than a financial spreadsheet. We see how we are becoming even more awesome stewards because what we give and receive will not be just money but

## 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

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

[meg.acer@](mailto:meg.acer@stjohnsramsey.org)

[stjohnsramsey.org](http://stjohnsramsey.org)

also relationship, truth, time & place, wellness and gracious leadership. In this discernment period

We will:

- build new and stronger relationships ☺
- learn to share God's abundance ☺
- learn to better realize God's love to bring wellness ☺
- value everyone's time ☺
- respect that everyone's relationship with God is personal to them
- invite you to consider how you will pledge your currencies



We will not: ☺

- judge your ideas as right or wrong ☺
- pressure you to overextend yourself ☺
- require you to pledge your currencies ☺

We are entering this period of Stewardship365 discernment to follow Jesus' commandment captured in John 13:34-35 to love one another. To better love one another we must pledge to get to know one another better, develop new relationships, and strengthen existing relationships. To love one another means pledging to learn the truth about those we interact with, and pledging to help bring wellness to their lives and allow them to bring wellness to our lives. As we pledge our gracious leadership skills to these currencies, we also pledge to use our time and place to reveal God's love for the world. And we pledge the currency of money, too, that ensures we are able to flow all our currencies. As we actively participate in God's Cycle of Blessings, lives are changed by allowing God to work in and through each of us.

The stewardship of our many blessings enables us to share 365 days a year the gifts that will help us be followers of The Way of Love and work towards Becoming Beloved Community. Let's pledge all of our currencies, letting them flow and co-create with God the wellness God made in the beginning when God said, "it is very good." Beloved, Paul says it this way in his Letter to the Romans, "because of God's mercies, I encourage you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice that is holy and pleasing to God. This is your appropriate priestly service. Don't be conformed to the patterns of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds so that you can figure out what God's will is—what is good and pleasing and mature." (Romans 12:1-2, CEB)

Peace - Bill+

# St. John's to Celebrate Diocesan Communion on November 8<sup>th</sup>



## *Communion under Special Circumstances*

St. John's Ramsey will join in unity with the diocese to offer Holy Communion to all who desire it. We will join other parishes and use a form adapted for use during pandemic since we cannot be physically present at our public celebration of the Eucharist.

In keeping with the provisions of The Book of Common Prayer (1979) and The Book of Occasional Services (2018), this form provides for members to be communicated from a service of Holy Eucharist, which will be celebrated from St. John's during our weekly service via Zoom at 10am that day. This form is authorized by Bishop Carlye Hughes for use in the Episcopal Diocese of Newark. It is Bishop Hughes' desire to make this form, or one similar to it, available on three occasions in this diocese, beginning on November 8, 2020.

## *How will people at St. John's receive Communion?*

To help us properly prepare, please use the [form](#) to let us know how many Communicants in your household desire to receive on this day. If you are unable to come to the church to pick up your Communion packet, let us know using the [form](#), and we will arrange for one to be delivered to your home. Someone must be home to receive the Communion packet.

The Communion Participation form is at

<https://stjohnschurch.breezechms.com/form/c114bc>

**Please respond no later than 12 noon on Friday 6 November.**

After our Service of Holy Communion, Lay Ministers will be with Fr. Bill in St. John's parking lot across from the church on E. Main Street. Our Communion Station will be available from 12 noon to 12:30pm. Please drive into the parking and slowly approach the Communion Station. Stay in your car, please wear a mask, and receive the Communion packet from the Minister. Once you are at home, gather those in your household who desire to receive, and use the prayer card included in the packet to partake of Communion from the parish.

*(cont'd next page)*

### *Special Circumstance: Our Theology*

St. Paul noted in I Corinthians 10:17, "We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread," a concept that took root quickly even in the very early church. We have in the sacrament of Holy Eucharist a powerful sign of our unity in Christ. We gather at the table of Jesus to be fed, to encounter the risen Christ, and to grow together in love, as one body. Holy Communion distributed after the service recognizes that there are more people who belong to the community of that table than those who are physically present. When we receive the bread of Communion distributed after the service, we are joining in that one meal, the one bread, the one community in Christ.

The Book of Common Prayer affirms the place of the Holy Eucharist as "the principal act of Christian worship on the Lord's Day and other major Feasts," and thus the foundation of the corporate prayer of the Church. As an act of the whole community of faith, the Eucharist is a summons to all the baptized to share in the table of the Lord. This form for the diocesan distribution of Holy Communion under Special Circumstances is intended to foster a corporate sense of the Eucharist among those who, by reason of pandemic, illness, or infirmity, are unable to be present in person in their church's assembly on Sunday or some other principal feast and for those congregations who are not currently able to celebrate the Eucharist in person at all, by reason of pandemic and public health.

We are invited to join Bp. Hughes "in praying that when we receive Communion, at all times, but especially when the entire diocese is receiving on November 8th, the Communion would resonate in us the way it is meant to. That the transforming presence of Jesus Christ in our lives, in our spirits, in our minds and in our hearts will go out with us into the world where we are able to share God's love and to share God's ministry of transformation and healing. That indeed will be a blessed effort." (*Carlye J. Hughes, 21 October 2020*)

## **Many Thanks!!**

A huge thank you to all our parishioners who continue to support our church by making your pledge payments. We are on budget to collect 98% of the pledge commitments made for this year. That is truly remarkable and a wonderful testament to the love and support that we all have for St. John's. Based on the steady attendance at our Sunday Zoom worship services, this really does not come as a surprise. Our church has faced difficult times in the past and has always managed to push through and land in a better place. No doubt we will overcome this pandemic and will all gather again in person to worship together.

God Bless.

John Greenberg, Treasurer/Property

# Red Cross Blood Drive Upcoming Event



BE THE LIFELINE PATIENTS NEED.  
*Give blood.*



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

Parish Hall  
301 E Main Street  
Ramsey, NJ 07446

**Wednesday, November 18, 2020**  
**2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

Appointments are encouraged. To schedule an appointment, please visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) and enter the sponsor keyword: Ramsey

For a limited time, the American Red Cross will test all blood, platelet and plasma donations for COVID-19 antibodies as an additional health service to our donors.

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](http://redcrossblood.org/RapidPass)

Give Something that Means Something® | [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) | 1-800-RED CROSS

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[343]-Order ID: 1107507 - Item ID: 480024 - Qty: 1 of 1 - 02052520 - APC2-211561

**Results from the October Blood Drive:** We were able to collect 26 pints of lifesaving blood on a goal of 23 pints. **3 PINTS OVER GOAL, that's 9 more lives saved!** That's a total of approximately 78 lives saved.

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

A House of Prayer for  
All People



301 East Main Street  
Ramsey, NJ 07446

Phone: 201-327-0703

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Check us out on the Web:  
[www.stjohnsramsey.org](http://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 Kreismer  
*Organist/Choirmaster*

Meg Acer  
*Parish Administrator*

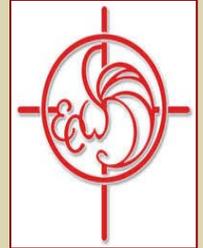
Megan Kendall  
*Youth Missioner*

John Yager  
*Sexton*

# 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.



## Annual Christmas Pageant!

This year's church school pageant WILL take place (mostly) LIVE via ZOOM during worship on Dec. 20. There are lots of parts for speakers. Nothing need be memorized. It will be on the screen as it happens. The St. John's Chamber Players, The Children's Choir (any children aged 3-10 are welcome to join ZOOM rehearsals each Monday at 4:30), and Senior choir will provide the (prerecorded) music. Children are making simple puppets (instructions provided) to represent the characters in the story.

Contact either:

**Drew Kreismer [dkreisme@optonline.net](mailto:dkreisme@optonline.net)**

or

**Renee Peters [reneebruce@optonline.net](mailto:reneebruce@optonline.net)**

to include you in the production. The script will be shared with those interested. There will be one ZOOM rehearsal to assemble the parts and practice speaking; time and day to be announced. Help us prepare for a unique Christmas!