

GOOD NEWS



A warm welcome to our St. John's congregation and all who come to worship and celebrate with us today! Imagine that this congregation has endured through 2 fires, 3 major wars, one king, all 44 United States presidents, 9 diocesan bishops and 33 rectors! Our historically Anglican church even predates the formation of the Protestant Episcopal Church of the United States of America, now known as the Episcopal Church, our national denomination.

Perhaps it is that our mission of faith serving the community in the name of Jesus Christ has existed throughout our history. Once known as the "neat stone church" located away from the center of town, we are now known as the "big stone church in the park"—right in the very center of Johnstown. Ministries such as our NOAH feeding program, and the Johnstown Food Pantry housed in our basement continue to draw record numbers of people. Elizabeth and Eileen's Closet, run by the Elizabeth Cady Stanton Hometown Association, allows young ladies to try on and borrow prom dresses at a very low cost. And our Sunday services are alive with music, children's voices, laughter and a deep-rooted sense of community. What a privilege to serve in a parish that has so much vibrancy!

Special thanks to our Bishop, the Rt. Rev William H. Love, for being our celebrant today, and thank you also to our guest preacher, the Rev. Thomas Pettigrew, Rector of the Church of the Holy Cross in Warrensburg, NY, a local re-enactor and history student of our area. We also thank our staff; our vestry and those who have helped us celebrate 250th commemorative events for the past year. And we thank all of you in attendance. If you are 'regulars' we are blessed to share this day with you as we move into the next 250 years of ministry. And if you are visiting, we invite you to be a part of the St. John's family. You are always welcome to worship and minister with us.

In closing, I end with words of prayer used fifty years ago by the Rev. Robert H. Brock, 29th Rector of this parish, as he welcomed people to the 200th anniversary of St. John's Fr. Brock wrote:

"Let us pray for each other and ask God's blessings upon our efforts to labor and build upon the foundation already laid for the Glory of God and the advancement of His Kingdom."

May we continue to love, to pray, to worship, to work, to minister and to heal in the name of Christ for the next 250 years!

Many blessings,
Mother Laurie
Rector, St. John's Church

**Note: This letter was in our bulletin for the September 8th 250th Celebration Service, but I feel it is appropriate to re-publish as we move forward at St. John's*



Winfield, West Virginia

June 29 - July 6, 2013

By Pam Miller

REACH work camp originated in Madisonville Kentucky June of 1992. Today the weeklong mission can be found in 13 states and it is open to junior and senior students along with adult sponsors. Some of you may know about REACH. Well I have known about REACH for many years and I sure found out it was much more than what I had imagined.



Once we arrived in Eleanor West Virginia it was not long before we found out what type of

work and how much work we had ahead of us! We were each assigned a crew and a work assignment for the week. All I thought about at this point was I am tired, I have so much work to do at home, I miss my husband, I got a headache. And now build a porch; redo a deck and a bathroom with a bunch of kids. I thought oh no my 14-year-old daughter was about to kill me since she had a similar work assignment. **Oh God please help us!** The next day we meet our

homeowner and my heart just dropped. She was a lovely woman dealing with a serious disability and was unable to make the changes to her home. The changes needed on her home were not for cosmetic reasons they were necessities. I was concerned we would not be done by Friday. Each day we worked diligently to get as much work done as we could. Proverbs 16:3 - "Commit your work to the Lord, and then your plans will succeed." Our homeowner was a recent widow and enjoyed our visits

and she looked forward to our daily devotions. As time passed it became clear that God's hand was in this. It was truly amazing to see our youth give so much to others and commit themselves to Christ. What a beautiful transformation and not just the woman's home.

This experience for each of us has been very spiritual and life changing. How wonderful to share the love of God with such freedom. We inspired each other to become closer to God and truly let him lead us in the right direction in life. I thank God for allowing me this opportunity. Our youth are currently planning a 2014 Reach mission trip. Please keep this in your prayers. This could be your opportunity as well.



Our very special Participants: Whitney and Noah Western, James Hannahs, Jenna Christensen, Marissa Miller, McKenzie Bellen, Pam Miller, Roger Rhodes, and Mother Laurie.

Blessings

COUNT THEM ONE BY ONE

Fifty Year Members recognized as cornerstones of St. John's



Richard W. Brown

- Married in St. John's on December 29, 1957
- Instrumental in

convincing the Bishop to let Fr. Small come to St. John's

- Served as Treasurer for over 20 years
- Served on the Vestry as Junior Warden & Senior Warden multiple times
- Was a chalice bearer for many years
- On several Capital Campaign committees
- Worked with the "Kitchen crew" for all the musical shows.
- 2 of his 3 children were married at St. John's
- All 9 of his grandchildren were baptized at St. John's
- His eldest grandchild, Jessica, was married at St. John's on January 1, 2011
- Hardly ever misses a Sunday worship service – only if ill or out of town



Ann Underwood

- Joined St. John's when she was 14 (by herself) after her family relocated to Johnstown
- Sang in Junior Choir and Adult choir for over 30 years
- Sunday School teacher for many years and also Sunday School Superintendent
- Member of the Altar Guild for over 60 years
- Directress of Altar Guild for 30 years
- Active member of the Women of St. John's for over 60 years
- President of WOSJ for many years
- Chair of the Rummage Sale for 27 years
- Instrumental in starting the designing and the caring for the gardens of St. John's
- Served as Eucharistic Minister
- Served on the Vestry



One of St. John's treasured family members turned 90 years old on September 15th. Arlene Sitterly was surrounded by a large number of friends and family that God has blessed her life with. She is an amazing lady!

2013 Martha Ross Small Scholarship

The recipients of this year's scholarship awards went to Alexis Swatt from Johnstown High School and Ryan E. Bumpus from Mayfield High School. A reception was held in the Hawkins room to honor them.

The Commission on Ministry has approved *Margaret Teetz*, currently serving her diaconal internship at Christ Church, Schenectady for ordination as a Vocational Deacon in the Episcopal Church. Paperwork goes to the Diocesan Standing Committee for approval in October, and the Bishop will then determine an ordination date to follow. Our church will be notified. Continue to keep Margaret in your prayers.

In Remembrance

William Roosa 2/16/1936 - 6/24/2013

Eleanor Brownell - Mother of Carol McGrattan

Wilbur Wessing - Father of Sheila Thomas

Dr. Richard L. Sayer 2/5/1932 - 6/30/2013

Mildred Cenzano - Mother of Kathy Cenzano

Grant to them eternal rest - Let light perpetual shine upon them. May their souls and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

“Make It Simple”

Stewardship is a lifelong journey, but it doesn't have to be complicated. In fact the roadmap that we are using is called “Make it Simple”. These are the four themes that will guide us on our journey together:

1. Following Jesus - Jesus comes to us in the midst of our fears and announces— “Do not worry! God has provided for all of your needs!” What does it mean for us to live in relationship with Jesus? How might our daily discipleship help us to live more simply, trusting in God's abundance?

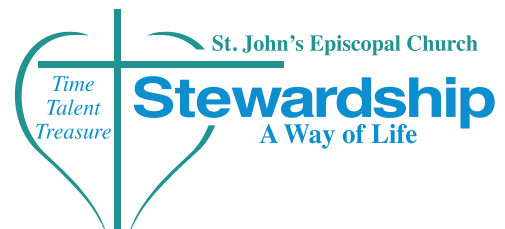
2. Facing the Truth - Imagine being one of the disciples in the boat. When you decide to wake Jesus up, what would you expect of him? What do you need from Jesus in the midst of the storms of your life? Can you hear Jesus' question in the moments of calm in your life? “Why are you afraid? Have you no faith?”

Jesus' question can lead us to hear the words of the psalmist, “Create in me, O God...put a new and right spirit within me...Do not cast me away...do not take away...Restore to me...sustain in me...” Look at all that God does in our lives. Where do we focus? On the wind and waves? Can we focus instead on what God provides? And how do our choices matter for what we see?

3. Acting Together - Jesus commands us to love one another—he calls us into relationships, he calls us into his community. His command is to love one another “as he has loved us!” In this community we move into relationship with Jesus and one another.

This truly is a radical command—in our culture of individualism, none of us has enough. We all are driven to get more. But in this community of Jesus' disciples, we begin to see that God provides us with more than enough!

4. Enough to Share - If we focus on the scarcity, we never have enough. When we focus on God's abundant blessings, there is more than we can ever imagine. Recognizing God's abundant blessings we experience Paul's message to the Philippians in our own lives. We can be content with what we have because we know that we are blessed and can “do all things through him who strengthens us.”



-- Reprinted from “Make it Simple,” a program of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Look for more information about our journey into stewardship. We hope you will find these materials to be thought provoking and helpful. And we hope you will pray about the way God is calling you to share your time, treasure and talent with your St. John's family.

Take 3 minutes...Pray for the continued mission of St. John's

Lord, we lift up our St. John's family and our entire community to you. Give us ears to hear what Your Spirit is saying to your church. Give us eyes to see the things you need us to see in order to make changes. Give us compassionate hearts and willing hands to do the work you would have us do. Make us partners in your mission of spreading the gospel of your Son, a gospel of love, of joy, of peace, of healing and of reconciliation. Help us open ourselves to your Word so that the teachings of Jesus will encourage new life, new meaning and new possibilities for mission in our lives and in our church.



Fall Prayer for Changing Times

Lord, There is so much happening in our world right now, In the midst of it all, it's so good to know You're in control, Your love is never-ending, and You provide for us. As the trees turn colors, and the nights grow cooler, may we be reminded that every season of our lives is a part of Your loving plan.



A glimpse back of our celebration

St. John's Episcopal Church
250 Years of Faith Serving the Community

250th Celebration
May 8, 2013



Cricket Game at church picnic



St. John's today

Food Pantry is in Need of pasta, chunky soups, fruit, canned meals (ravioli and spaghetti-o's), canned meats (tuna, chicken), breakfast cereal, and instant oatmeal. Please consider donating. There is a collection box in the Narthex. If you can't get it to the church call the church office for help.

Color Me RAD 5K
St. John's team!



9 AM Coffee Hour: The first Sunday of each month we will be having a 9 am Coffee Hour where we welcome both the 8 am and 10 am parishioners to attend for fellowship

J-Time: Our special Sunday school time each Sunday for children up to fourth grade is held during the 10 a.m. worship service.

Wednesdays:

10:30 a.m. Bad Girls of the Bible – Bible study
12:05 p.m. Holy Eucharist

Teen Bible Study: Held on Sunday evenings





A Special Service
September 8, 2013





Wine and Chocolate Tasting -- November 1st

St. John's annual Wine and Chocolate Tasting event is scheduled for November 1st at the Masonic Lodge in Johnstown. Ticket prices are \$25 for admission to the Main Tasting Room, which will include many tasting tables, chocolate pairings and a bidding table for special items. Our impressive theme baskets are also in the Main Tasting Room for raffle that night. Tickets to specialty wine and spirits rooms will also be offered for \$50. As the November 1st date approaches, we will have additional announcements and some surprises that will be included this year!

Our Wine and Chocolate Tasting is the primary fundraising event for the NOAH Free Community Meal. The NOAH meal feeds hundreds of people weekly by generous volunteers. But the quality of the food we serve, equipment we use and overhead expenses are all dependent on the financial support of the Wine & Chocolate Tasting fundraiser. Previous Wine and Chocolate nights have raised \$10,000 for this much-needed program.

Each year we ask for help with the Wine and Chocolate Tasting from our church family and friends. We encourage all of you to design a fun and unusual theme basket to donate for the raffle at the event. This is your chance to be innovative! If you'd like suggestions for themes or if you just need to know how to get started, feel free to contact Holly Chamberlin or Bonnie Valachovic through the church office.

WE ESPECIALLY NEED EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU TO SELL A FEW ADMISSION TICKETS FOR THE EVENT!

In addition, people are needed to help with marketing for the event, obtain chocolatiers and other in-kind donors for food and drinks, assistance with yard signs and banners and organizing volunteers to help on the night of November 1st. We have small jobs for the uninitiated and larger ones for those experienced in the orchestration of parties like this. Please help!

For more information or to volunteer, please call the church office (762-9210) or email Holly Chamberlin at hollycny@nycap.rr.com. Thanks!



Diane L., Chris N., Donald G., Ron H., Evie Z., Carter B., Margaret T., Our NOAH Participants, Danny, Jared, Amy & Josh, Emily C., Joe, Bishop Ball, Dave M., Amy & Andrew, Barb M., Nicholas M., T.S., Christopher, Rita, Betsy P., Mandi, Margie G., Dorothy S., Denise, Kyle, Connie B., Robert & Pat R., Elinor B., Sandy M., Luis D., Antoinette G., Ralph C., Liz, Sarah W., Carol C., Jeff F., Mike, Elacqua Family, Betsy, Owen M., Cori S., Isabella E., Veronica N., Julie C., Gretchen J. Kendall E., Holly A., Sue I., Eleanor J., Tim C.

In the Military: Ryan R. Christopher J. Connor W. Matt B. Meg K. Ethan L. Andrea H. Guy H. Brian M. Ian S. Nicole B.

The Women of St. John's ask that you remember those who cannot attend our services with a card or note. They include:

Steven Datz
Valley Health Services
690 W. German St.
Room 107
Herkimer, NY 13350

Gladys Simek
Palatine Nursing Home
154 Lafayette St.
Room 113B
Palatine Bridge NY 13428

Audrey Baird
Wells House
201 W. Madison Ave.
Johnstown, NY 12095



Church Office

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Office Hours: 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Monday – Friday

www.stjohnsjohnstown.org

VESTRY

Kelly Lawlor, *Sr. Warden*

Sandra VanSlyke, *Jr. Warden*

Leslie Buggeln-Bosworth

Nancy Brown

Jeff Fonda

James Hannahs

Nancy Marucci

Roger Rhodes

Bonnie Valachovic

The Rt. Rev. William H. Love, Bishop

The Rev. Laurie Garramone, Rector

Robert C. Hallenbeck, Minister of Music

Lindsay Hinkle, Parish Administrative Assistant & Clerk of the Vestry

James L. D'Amore, Sexton

The Rev. Canon William D. Small, Rector Emeritus

Ecclesiastes 3:1 - To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven

St. John's Episcopal Church

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