



The Salem County Episcopalian

March 2023



Time is on My Side (Or Is It?)

Joette and I just recently renewed our wedding vows for our Silver Anniversary. As we took a moment to reflect on the past wonderful twenty-five years, we both had the same question. Where has the time gone? This got me thinking about time and how valuable it is to me.

Most of us may be familiar with the hit song "*Time is on My Side*" by The Rolling Stones. There was a time in my early life when I thought I had all the time in the world and I would never run out of it. Funny how time changes our way of thinking.

It was Ernest Hemingway who once said, "Time is the least thing we have of." And he was right. How quickly time passes—and how often we lament this. If only we could tack an extra twenty-five or thirty healthy years on to the usual span. There is so much more we want to see, to celebrate, and to do. So many places to go, so much to enjoy, to feel, to read, to talk about, to participate in, to encounter. Yet, for each of us, this thing called time is in such short supply."

As part of my Lenten journey, I decided to spend more time studying the Word of God.

[Psalm 90:10-12](#) says "Our days may come to seventy years, or eighty, if our strength endures; yet the best of them are but trouble and sorrow, for they quickly pass, and we fly away. ¹¹If only we knew the power of your anger! Your wrath is as great as the fear that is your due. ¹²Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom."

When I think about time, I realize how much it controls my life. When I look at a typical day, I see how

time plays a major role in it. Oh look, it is time to get up and go to the doctors. it is time to eat, it is time to do some chores, it is time to exercise (Again, didn't we just do that last week?) it is time to take my medication, it is time to run some errands, it is time to eat again, it is time for the news on TV. What, it is time to go to bed already. Where has the day gone? Now it's time to go to church. Where has the week gone?

We say we have good times, bad times, happy times, sad times, we are running out of time and it's time to get together. Other songs have been written about time. Just to mention a few, there are "Time in a Bottle" by Jim Croce, "If I Could Turn Back Time" by Cher. How many of us at one time or another wished we could go back when life seemed much simpler and not as crazy? Then there's "Time of the Season" by the Zombies which contains the line "It's the time of the season for loving." How prophetic and relevant is this line today. With all of the chaos we see in the world today now is that time for loving. *Ecclesiastes 3:1* says "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven."

When we study the Bible, we read about those who had hard times and times of trouble. There was a time of testing for many. We also read about how God was their stronghold and refuge and took care of His children who walked in faith. The time for building our Christian character and strengthening our faith in God is now.

One of the hardest things to do is be patient and wait on God. We have the tendency to want things done according to our timetable rather than in God's time.

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(Warden's Writings cont.) We need to stop trying to work things out before their times have come and accept the limitations of living one day at a time. *Ecclesiastes 8:6-7* says "For there is a proper time and procedure for every matter, though a man's misery weighs heavily upon him. Since no man knows the future, who can tell him what is to come?"

Since "time is the least thing we have of" are we going to take the time we've got left and spend it wisely with our priorities in the right order? Are we developing ourselves to be good and faithful disciples of Jesus and pursuing activities that will yield eternal dividends?

Now is the perfect time for us to reflect upon the many wonderful gifts God has given us and ask ourselves what God is calling us to do with those gifts to glorify His name. Are we recognizing God and giving Him the well-deserved credit while in the midst of our activities? Do not waste time. It is too precious. **James 1:17** says *Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.*

"Today is memory in the making, a deposit in the bank of eternal time. Let's make it a good one."

Henry Herrera

Sr. Warden, St. George's



We are sad to report the death of longtime St. John's (and St. George's) church member Glenn (Doug) Hancock. He was the son of Margaret Hancock and the late Glendon B.

Hancock. His funeral and burial was held at St. John's on February 28, 2023. May he rest in peace and rise in glory!

We also have learned of the death of Jean Marden Cole, mother of Bishop William Stokes, after a long illness. May she rest in peace and rise in glory! Please remember the Stokes family in prayer.



Many of us celebrate St. Patrick's Day on March 17. We hang pictures of shamrocks and leprechauns and wear green. How many of us know who St. Patrick was? Why do we celebrate his life? Why is he important to our faith?

Patrick was born in Britain, in the fourth century A.D., during the time when the Roman Empire began to dissolve. The legions that once protected Britain from barbaric invaders were called away to defend themselves in other regions of the Roman Empire. Therefore, Britain was left vulnerable to attacks.

Just before Patrick turned 16 years old when Irish pirates attacked his village on the west coast of England. Although Patrick's family escaped, Patrick did not; and soon he bound for Ireland, where he was sold as a slave to Miliuc, a Druid tribal chieftain. There he herded sheep and cattle.

Patrick was raised in a Christian home. His father, Calpornius, was a church deacon. However, Patrick was not a pious Christian in his youth, but came to faith while he was a slave. In his autobiography, Confessions, Patrick wrote, "...the Lord opened my senses to my unbelief,' so that, though late in the day, I might remember my many sins; and accordingly 'I might turn to the Lord my God with all my heart.'" He also wrote about how his faith in God grew as he prayed to Him while he shepherded the flocks: "But after I had come to Ireland, it was then that I was made to shepherd the flocks day after day, and, as I did so, I would pray all the time, right through the day. More and more the love of God and fear of Him grew strong within me, and as my faith grew, so the Spirit became more and more active ... In snow, in frost, in rain, I would hardly notice any discomfort, and I was never slack but always full of energy. It is clear to me now, that this was due to ... the Spirit within me."

At age 22, Patrick had a dream. In it he heard a voice say, "Soon you will be returning to your own country." The next night, in another dream he received a

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(Rector's Desk cont.)

response to the first dream, being told, "Come and see where your ship is waiting for you." Soon after, Patrick escaped and traveled 200 miles to the coast of Ireland.

Of his long journey across Ireland, Patrick wrote: "I turned on my heel and ran away, leaving behind the man to whom I had been bound for six years. Yet I came away from him in the power of God, for it was He who was guiding my every step for the best. And so I felt not the least anxiety until I reached the ship."

Patrick finally made it home and into the arms of his parents who pleaded with him never to leave them again. Patrick began to settle back into his life in Britain and studied to become a priest and a bishop. Like before, one night, Patrick had a dream. He saw a man carrying a letter with the words "The Voice of the Irish." As Patrick began to read the words, he seemed to hear the voice shouting, "Holy man, we beg you, come back and walk once more among us."

Patrick's parents fiercely opposed his plans to return to Ireland. The church wanted him to stay and work among his own people. They did not think the Druids were worth it. However, Patrick trusted this was God calling him to leave the comforts of home and security to share with the Irish the love of Jesus. Patrick left nobility to be the "slave of Christ serving the barbaric nation."

While in Ireland, Patrick shared the gospel with his former slave owner, Miliuc the Druid. But instead of turning his back on his pagan gods, the Druid locked himself in his house and set it on fire while Patrick stood outside and pleaded with him to turn to Christ.

Patrick preached at bars, gambling joints, and other places of "worldly indulgences," seeing many people come to know Jesus. However, Patrick was not always welcomed. The Irish hated this outsider at first. The Druids often tried to poison him. One time a barbarian warrior speared Patrick's chariot driver to death to kill Patrick. He was enslaved again for a short time. In Confessions, he wrote, "As every day arrives, I expect either sudden death or deception, or being

taken back as a slave or some such other misfortune. But I fear none of these, since I look to the promise of heaven and have flung myself into the hands of the all-powerful God, who rules as Lord everywhere."

As a missionary, Patrick preached Good News throughout Ireland, sharing the love of Jesus until his death on March 17, around the year 461 A.D. He is credited with bringing Christianity to parts of Ireland and was probably partly responsible for the Christianization of the Picts and Anglo-Saxons.

Later Irish mythological creatures known as leprechauns would creep into the holiday celebrations, as well as the symbol of the shamrock, believed to have been used by Patrick to illustrate the Trinity as he preached and taught. Some legends have circulated stating Patrick drove all the snakes out of Ireland. (There are no snakes native to Ireland. He may be referring to the Druids)

Enslavement, torture, imprisonment, and death for one's faith in Christ were not confined to Patrick's lifetime. Today, Christians in Asia, the Middle East, and parts of Africa face persecution sharing their faith with others. Like Patrick, these persecuted Christians stand firm in their conviction that the love of Jesus breaks the chains of bondage, dissolves barriers between people, and changes our lives through our service to others.

Celebrating St Patrick's Day is a long tradition going back centuries; however, it did not become a national holiday in Ireland until 1903. Usually occurring during Lent, Roman Catholics in Ireland petitioned the Pope to free them from their Lenten fast to enjoy meat, treats, and alcohol.

We plan to celebrate St Patrick's Day at St. John's on Friday, March 17th at 6:30 PM. We will enjoy a meal of Corned Beef and Cabbage. So, come dressed in green for a fun time of fellowship and fun.

Fr. Chuck

From St. Luke's
Vicar



It's looking a lot like Spring! Daffodils are blooming, the weather is changing, and people are getting out more.

Here at St. Luke's, we began Lent with two Ash Wednesday services and we will continue Stations of the Cross every Friday in Lent at 6:30 p.m. We also will have our Wednesday morning services at 10 a.m. and Sundays at 10 a.m. The third Sunday of the month we will have a Eucharist at Friends Village at 1:30 p.m. We started in February.

Birthdays for the month of March: Emily Mills, March 26.

We are continuing our Bible study of the book of Genesis after the Sunday service. Everyone is welcome. We have gotten to chapters 15-16 and will continue until we finish the book. We have a lively discussion and, using our study books as guides, we answer some really hard questions, such as: Where is the sin in this instance? and How do you see God's grace displayed in this event? Here's an example for you to try:

Genesis 17:1-8

¹When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. ²And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." ³Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, ⁴"As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁵No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. ⁸And I will give to you, and to your offspring after you, the land where you are now an alien, all the land of Canaan, for a perpetual holding; and I will be their God."

Where is the in this passage? Where do you see God's grace?

"In his infinite mercy and grace, God prepared a plan to redeem his lost creation. As a part of that redemptive plan, he chose one faithful man. Through that one man, he would build a nation, a nation to become the channel for his message of forgiveness and salvation. That man was Abraham.

Abraham, by any standard, is almost certain to be included among the favorite men of the Scriptures. He is probably not the greatest of Bible characters, but we need to remember that he was one of the very earliest; in passing any judgment upon him, we need to recall the times in which he lived.

The name, Abraham, literally means "father of many nations" or "father of a multitude." And today this outstanding person is revered by followers of the three great monotheistic religions of the world - by practically everybody who professes a belief in one supreme god. Christianity, Judaism, and Islam all trace their roots back to the same man - Abraham.

By no means was he perfect, As we follow his pathway, we see his faults and are forced to acknowledge his weaknesses. The Bible, with its glaring spotlight of truth, reveals his flaws. It tells the whole truth about its people: the base along with the noble, the weaknesses along with the strengths, the failures along with the successes.

God informed Abraham that a son was soon to be born to him and Sarah.

Then it was that Abraham laughed at God, saying that such an event was physically impossible: "How can I father a son when I'm 99 years old, and how can Sarah possibly conceive when she is over ninety?" He laughed so heartily that he fell to the ground.

Here was a man of faith showing a failure of faith. With all his virtues and assets, Abraham was a human being. He did possess his faults and defects; he did

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(from St. Luke's Vicar cont.)

express his weaknesses and shortcomings; he did make his mistakes and errors.

So many of the Bible people are like this; they are not gods to be worshiped, angels to be venerated, nor paragons of perfection to be slavishly emulated. They are real persons. They are like us: mixtures of good and evil; a constant conflict between the higher and lower natures: earthly passions struggling with heavenly aspirations. No wonder we can easily identify with so many of the biblical personalities." (an excerpt from a sermon by R. Blaine Detrick)

Remember those on our prayer list: Bishop Chip's mother, Jean; Becky Foster; Sally; Ella Stone; Megan; the Licardello family; Mike; Joy; Donna; Alena; Marian; George; Allisandra; Chris; Cynthia; Joe; Robin

Mother Antoinette



From The Deacon's Bench

From the Deacon's Bench.....

This month (Feb 26th to March 26th) we are collecting shoes at all three parishes in Salem County. The organization that we are donating these to is 'Soles4Souls' and here is what they have to say about their mission through the simple resources of collecting old shoes:

The World Bank estimates that 736 million live on less than \$1.90 per day. 385 million are children.¹ Many don't have access to a sustainable job or resources to provide for themselves. Meanwhile many simply can't afford adequate shoes and clothing and are left vulnerable to disease. Children often don't meet uniform requirements in order to attend school and are at

risk of falling behind and unable to receive an education.

On average, Americans throw away 70 pounds of textiles (shoes and clothing) per person, per year.² That adds up to 21 billion pounds of unnecessary waste added to our landfills. The EPA estimates that only 15% of clothing and footwear in the U.S., is recycled, leaving the remaining 85% in our landfills.³ More than 1.5 million students K-12 in the United States experience homelessness.

Soles4Souls turns shoes and clothing into educational and economic opportunities. Our programs, 4Opportunity, 4Relief, and 4EveryKid, aim to make a positive difference on the planet and in people's economic, educational, physical, and psychosocial well-being. Since 2006, more than 83 million pairs of shoes and pieces of clothing have helped create opportunities for people across 129 countries. Soles4Souls is headquartered in Nashville, Tennessee, with Regional Donation Centers and warehouse locations around the world. Visit soles4souls.org for more information.

Together with our supporters and partners, we've gotten 83 million pairs of shoes and pieces of clothing to people in 129 countries and all 50 US states since 2006.

4Opportunity

- Entrepreneurs have been able to increase their household income by more than 200%, which equates to, on average, more than 3 times above the national poverty line and 5 times above the international poverty line.
- Nearly 90% of entrepreneurs report that their children are more regularly attending school and receiving a higher quality education.
- The life of a used pair of shoes is extended by at least 15 months, on average.

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(Deacon's Bench cont.)

- 1 in 4 entrepreneurs have been able to purchase a home through selling shoes, with nearly 70% saving for a home.

4Relief

- New shoes and clothing help individuals gain employment opportunities, with 1 in 2 returning to work and 1 in 5 securing new employment.
- 4 in 5 have improved overall health and wellbeing, including less injuries, more physical movement, and improved mental health.
- More than 90% of our nonprofit partners say that our donations are crucial to their programming efforts and operations budget.

4EveryKid

- Our partners report that more than 90% of students increased school attendance and engagement, and over time, 2 in 3 improved their grades.
- 98% of students say they feel more confident after receiving their shoes, and 4 in 5 felt more equal to their peers.
- 3 in 4 students increased their participation in sports and other extracurricular activities.

This project is very simple but has a high impact – donation boxes are located at each church and all you have to do is bring me your shoes – please tie them or rubber band them together and please nothing sharp – cleats or ice skates for example. Once collected, we will get them to a donation box and they will be on their way. On March 26th, we will have ‘Barefoot Sunday’ in each church and we will pray for the lives of those who will be impacted by your generous donations.

Deacon Sally Maurer



Don't forget! Set your clocks ahead one hour before you go to bed on Saturday, March 11. Don't be late to church!



March 1 (Wed) - First Presbyterian Church
88

Broadway, Salem

Join with fellow Christians for a “meager meal” followed by short message and music.

6:00 pm Rev. Dr. Gary Cecil

March 8 (Wed) - St. John's Pentecostal
22 New Market Street, Salem

Holy Eucharist; served on the grounds of St. John's Pentecostal Outreach

Noon Pastor Sonita Johnson and Father Chuck Messer

March 16 (Thurs) - St. John's Episcopal Church
76 Market Street, Salem

Potluck and message on Refugees

Time: 6:30 – 8 pm Father Chuck Messer

March 22 (Wed) - Broadway United Methodist
115 ½ W. Broadway, Salem

Soup and Bread supper

“Life Interrupted” a drama presentation

6:00 pm for supper and 7:00 for presentation

Rev. Marikay Green

March 29 (Wed) - Soul Saving Center
234 Johnson Street, Salem

Easter Music Concert and Sing Along

6:30 pm Pastor Michele Kornegay and Glenn Kornegay



Again this year, St. John's, St. Luke's and St. George's will be collecting gently used footwear to be donated to Soles for Souls. The donated items are given to help people in developing countries launch and sustain their own small businesses

selling donated shoes and clothing. This gives them the opportunity to break free from the cycle of poverty. Bring your shoes to church anytime from February 26-March 26 and drop them in the box. NO footwear with sharp parts (ice skates, cleats, etc). For more information, contact Deacon Sally.

Tenebrae April 5, 6:30 pm. **(St. Luke's)**

Maundy Thursday April 6, 6:30 p.m.

Good Friday April 7, Cross Walk with Community churches, noon **(St. Luke's)**
April 7, Noon **(St. George's)**

Vigil of Easter April 8, 6 pm. **(St. John's)**

Easter Sunday April 9, 8 am **(St. John's)**

April 9, 9:00 am. **(St. George's)**

April 9, 10:00 a.m. **(St. Luke's)**

with Easter Egg Hunt following

April 9, 10:30 am **(St. John's)**

with Easter Egg Hunt following



St. Patrick's Day Dinner

Friday, March 17, 2023

St. John's Parish Hall

6:30 pm

RSVP by March 13

You are invited to join us at St. John's for a Corned Beef & Cabbage dinner in celebration of St. Patrick's Day. Corned Beef &

Cabbage will be supplied-attendees are asked to bring a side dish or dessert to share. Please RSVP (stjohnssalemnj@gmail.com or 856-935-1798) so we know how much to make. Wear your green!

Lenten Services

Stations of the Cross 6:30 pm every Friday evening from 2/24-3/31 **(St. Luke's)**

Palm Sunday April 2, 8:00 am. **(St. John's)**

April 2, 9:00 am. **(St. George's)**

April 2, 10:00 am. **(St. Luke's)**

April 2, 10:30 am. **(St. John's)**

St. John's News



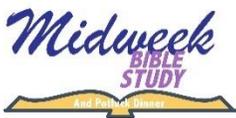
MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 3/5 Kalynn Kernan
- 3/10 Douglas Van Sant, Jr.
- 3/10 Joseph F. Peterson III
- 3/13 John Sweeney
- 3/14 Ron Ewen
- 3/15 David Willis
- 3/17 John Laning, Jr.
- 3/19 Bill Mecum
- 3/21 Ted Paras
- 3/22 Arlene Kober
- 3/30 Chuck Miller
- 3/30 Kayla Ann Peterson



We pray for those who serve in our military, especially:

- Christine Canino, US Navy
- Lt. Col. Peter Larrabee, USAF
- Senior Master Sgt. David John Milne, USAF
- Major Tyler Patrick VanSant, USAF
- Captain Joseph Flescher III, USAF
- Captain Marlene (Flescher) Myers, USAF
- 2nd Lt. Michael McCormick, US Army
- George (Bud) May, US Army
- Christopher Phifer, Captain, USMC



Every Thursday night at 6:30 pm, we gather for a potluck dinner and Bible Study. Our Lenten Study is a Biblical survey on displacement.

using the book Dinner each week during lent will be soup and donations will be accepted for refugee relief.



St. John's Prayer List

March 2023

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Helen & Jim Acton | Frances Ames |
| Suzanne Pankonian | George Neff Janice |
| Anna Hiller | Carol Bacon Gail Boyd |
| Pat Major | Sally Maurer Francine Peterson |
| George | Joseph Peterson, Jr. Joseph |
| Jim | Bill Fox Michele Pfeffer |
| Elaine Pfeffer | Brenda & Bill Gaunt Rich Frieze |
| Eric Kates | John Ensslen Susan Ewan |
| The Kamera Family | Joel Norton |
| Emma Messer | Andrew & Judy Bill Clisham |
| Beth T. | Steph Miller Karen Shuler |
| Margaret Hancock | |
| Family & Friends of Glenn (Doug) Hancock | |
| Family & Friends of Jean Marden Cole (mother of Bishop Stokes) | |



March



			1 Holy Eucharist 10 am Holy Eucharist SL Noon Holy Eucharist SJ 8 pm AA SJ	2 8 am Yoga-Parish Hall SJ 6:30 Bible Study with Potluck Dinner SJ	3 6:30 pm Stations of the Cross SL	4
5 Holy Eucharist <i>Second Sunday in Lent</i> 8 am St. John's 9 am St. George's 10 am St. Lukes 10:30 am St. John's	6	7 8 am Yoga-Parish Hall SJ 9 am Quilters SJ 7 pm NA SJ	8 Holy Eucharist 10 am Holy Eucharist SL Noon Holy Eucharist SJ 8 pm AA SJ	9 8 am Yoga-Parish Hall SJ 6:30 Bible Study with Potluck Dinner SJ	10 6:30 pm Stations of the Cross SL	11 <i>Don't forget!</i> 
12 Holy Eucharist <i>Third Sunday in Lent</i> 8 am St. John's 9 am St. George's 10 am St. Lukes 10:30 am St. John's	13	14 8 am Yoga-Parish Hall SJ 7 pm NA SJ	15 Holy Eucharist 10 am Holy Eucharist SL Noon Holy Eucharist SJ 8 pm AA SJ	16 8 am Yoga-Parish Hall SJ 6:30 Bible Study with Potluck Dinner SJ	17 6:30 pm Stations of the Cross SL St. Patrick's Day Dinner	18
19 Holy Eucharist <i>Fourth Sunday in Lent</i> 8 am St. John's 9 am St. George's 10 am St. Lukes 10:30 am St. John's	20 Deadline for articles for April Newsletter	21 8 am Yoga-Parish Hall SJ 9 am Quilters SJ 7 pm NA SJ	22 10 am Holy Eucharist SL Noon Holy Eucharist SJ 8 pm AA SJ	23 8 am Yoga-Parish Hall SJ 6:30 Bible Study with Potluck Dinner SJ	24 6:30 pm Stations of the Cross SL	
26 Holy Eucharist <i>Fifth Sunday in Lent</i> 8 am St. John's 9 am St. George's 10 am St. Lukes 10:30 am St. John's	27	28 8 am Yoga-Parish Hall SJ 7 pm NA SJ	29 10 am Holy Eucharist SL Noon Holy Eucharist SJ 8 pm AA SJ	30 8 am Yoga-Parish Hall SJ 6:30 Bible Study with Potluck Dinner SJ	31 6:30 pm Stations of the Cross SL	<i>Activities are held in the following churches:</i> SG -St. George's SL -St. Luke's SJ -St. John's

St. John's Episcopal Church

76 Market Street, Salem, NJ 08079

Parish Office: 856-935-1798 E-Mail: stjohnssalemnj@comcast.net

Services

Sunday 8 am & 10:30 am

Wednesday Noon

Rector: The Rev'd Charles Messer 856-935-1798 (office) 610-800-8795 (cell) frchuckmesser@gmail.com
Deacon: The Rev'd Sally Maurer 856-769-1409 (h) 856-297-2385 (cell) slarrabee@comcast.net
Facebook: [St. John's Salem](#) Website: [St. John's Salem](#)

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

37-39 E. Grant Street, Woodstown, NJ 08098

Parish Office: 856-472-1501 E-Mail: stlukeswoodstownnj@gmail.com

Services

Sunday 10 am

Wednesday 10 am

Vicar: The Rev'd Antoinette Tackett 856-472-1501 (office) stlukessupply@gmail.com
Facebook: [St. Luke's Woodstown](#) Website: [St. Luke's Woodstown](#)

St. George's Episcopal Church

3 Church Landing Road, Pennsville, NJ 08070

Parish Office: (856) 678-7979

Services

Sunday 9 am

Deacon: The Rev'd Sally Maurer 856-769-1409 (h) 856-297-2385 (cell) slarrabee@comcast.net
Facebook: [St. George's, Pennsville](#) Website: [St. George's, Pennsville](#)



St. John's Episcopal Church

76 Market Street
Salem, NJ 08079

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