

The Salem County Episcopalian

June 2023



In my last article for the May Newsletter, I asked the question "How do we train ourselves to recognize Jesus?" I followed this up with a

simple answer which was "Ask the Holy Spirit to calm your mind so you can hear His voice." But who is this Holy Spirit and what role does He play in our lives?



There are a number of verses mentioning the Holy Spirit in both the Old and New Testaments. There are also various books written about the Holy Spirit. I am in no

way an expert when it comes to this Third Person of the Trinity, but my heart has a hunger to learn more about the Holy Spirit and what role He plays in guiding my life.

Each year we celebrate the Day of Pentecost and wear red as a symbol of fire remembering when Peter and the other apostles and disciples received the Holy Spirit. The events of Pentecost were to fulfill the promise Jesus made to His apostles. "But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate (Comforter, Helper) will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you." (John 16:7)

We read how the Holy Spirit dramatically transformed Peter from the apostle who denied Jesus, not once, not twice, but three times, cowardly hid behind locked doors in the fear of being persecuted, and then boldly preached to the crowd of fellow Jews and accused them of crucifying Christ. In Acts 2:23 Peter tells them "This man was handed over to you by God's deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross." What a powerful transformation this was in the life of Peter.

When we open our Bible to Genesis we first read about God's marvelous and beautiful creation. "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now

the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters." (Genesis 1:1-2) When I think of hovering, an image of a bird gliding in the deep blue sky comes to mind. And that bird is none other than the dove. In Luke 3:22 we read "and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." This is one of those extraordinary events is the ministry of Jesus that appears in all four gospels.

As we continue our reading in Genesis we find "Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness. (1:26) Who is this "us"? No other than the three Persons of God; God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

We also read about the role the Spirit of God played in the lives of Samson who the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon him so that he tore the lion apart with his bare hands (Judges 14:6), Joshua who was full of the Spirit of wisdom (Deuteronomy 34:9), Gideon who the Spirit of the Lord came upon (Judges 6:34) and the last words of David who spoke the Spirit of the Lord (2 Samuel 23:1-2). These are just a few examples of how God uses the power of the Holy Spirit to carry out His master plan to redeem us and the whole world from our sinful lives.

It wasn't until the Holy Spirit came upon Jesus that He began His ministry of preaching and performing miracles. In Acts 10:38 Peter tells us how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.

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(Warden's Words cont)

How do we know if the Holy Spirit is with us and leading us throughout our journey here on earth? In Ephesians 1:13-14 we read "And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory."

Just what is this Gospel Paul is referring to and what do we believe? In 1 Corinthians 15:1-4 Paul tells us "Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures". And how do we believe? This belief Paul is referring to is not just an intellectual matter of the brain. Paul is referring to something deeper, a belief with all of our heart, soul and mind where we place our full faith and trust in our Lord.

Have we done our spring cleaning of our homes this year? If so, did we remember to do the spring cleaning of God's house within us? Paul teaches us that when we truly believe in the Gospel that the Holy Spirit lives within us. In 1 Corinthians 3:16 Paul says "Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst?" And also, in 1 Corinthians 6:19 "Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own."

Do you truly believe in the Gospel of grace? Can you hear that soft gentle whisper of the Holy Spirit talking to you? If so, are you listening to Him and becoming more obedient to His Word?

Each and every day I ask God to allow His Spirit to grow in me and direct my every step so I can become a more faithful and loving servant. I encourage you to read more about the Holy Spirit and further enrich your spiritual journey and learn how He can transform your life to become more like Jesus, obedient to His calling and be more of a blessing to others. In Romans 12:2

Paul tell us "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. (2 Corinthians 13:14)

Henry Herrera



Summer is here. Many of you will be going away on vacation, making weekend trips the Shore, and enjoying the slower pace this time of year. Trinity Sunday begins

the long season of the time after the Day of Pentecost. This season of the church calendar, is commonly called "Ordinary Time." This season between the Day of Pentecost and Christ the King Sunday signifies a numbered list of Sundays that anchor our daily lives as disciples of Jesus Christ. After 50 days of white for the Easter season, green returns which symbolize the hope of things to come, the perseverance of faith, and the experience of new life and growth in our love for God and for one another.

Ordinary Time is when the lessons we hear on Sunday focus on what it means to be a disciple. After all of the anticipation of Advent, after the joy of Christmas, after the forty days of Lent, and the elation of Easter, Ordinary Time gives us space to mature as Christians and prepare to start the year all over again. However, what we do throughout the Church year is remain together, bound by love within Christian community. An authentic Christian community supports the dignity of each person, practices hospitality and proclaims its values through word and action. Having a family of believers that we surround ourselves with can strengthen our walk with our Lord and allow people to walk alongside us in becoming more like Jesus. Within a Christian community, God is seen and known at a different depth through our experiences. different testimonies, and gifts,

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(Rector's Desk continued)

The congregations of St John's, St. Luke's, and St George's provides a platform for our spiritual growth. This involves the whole community being present¹ in worship, united in prayer, and study of the Scriptures which all aim to deepen our relationship with God and understanding of their faith. In community, people can also learn from the spiritual journeys and experiences of others.

These Episcopal congregations of Salem County offer a sense of belonging and a support system in a time when the world is bereft of deep connections with others. We further our Lord's mission by offering comfort, support, and compassion in times of need, reflecting the love and care Jesus has shown us. Authentic Christian community encourages one another to live according to the values and morals found within the teachings of our Lord. When challenges arise, we are there to offer wisdom and inspiration to persevere.

Above all, exemplifying the love of Jesus to those within our congregations, but especially to our neighbors is our commission. Our three congregations are meant to be a tangible representation of the love of Jesus to others. The relationships we have for one another demonstrate the love, forgiveness, and grace that our Lord offers to the world.

Sharing fellowship with those who are not part of the community is critical to answering the call of The Great Commission². Going out of our way to share the good news of Christ's love, compassion, generosity, and salvation is the purpose of our discipleship. It models the inclusive love of Jesus, who welcomed all people, including those marginalized or rejected by society. It allows our congregations to enact practical expressions of God's love, such as charitable giving, volunteering, or providing for those in need. Sharing fellowship with others helps us to build bridges between different people, that reflects the unity³ Jesus prayed for among his first disciples.

As Christians, we are called to be agents of change who are not blind to the needs of others, but responds as seeking to assist, encourage, and generously meet needs of others. This is what we focus on, as a community, during the season of Ordinary Time.

As we go this summer to recharge from hectic schedules and relax by going to places that feed us physically and mentally, let us not neglect our church communities. You are missed when you are not here. Your place among us, with your own spiritual gifts, brings our congregation joy when all of us are gathered in one place. Jesus says that when two or three of us come together, he is there among us. When Jesus is present, we come into the fullness of God whose being is love. God's love is perfect love which casts away from us all fear.

Happy Summer!

Fr. Chuck

From St. Luke's Vicar "Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them." (John 14:23b)

Feast of the Holy Trinity, also called Trinity Sunday, is a Christian feast in honour of the Trinity, celebrated in Western liturgical churches on the Sunday following Pentecost (the 50th day after Easter). It is known that the feast was celebrated on this day from as early as the 10th century. Celebration of the feast gradually spread in the churches of northern Europe, and in 1334, Pope John XXII approved it for the entire church. In the church year, Anglican and Lutheran churches date the Sundays that follow this feast "after Trinity", the Roman liturgy dates these Sundays "after Pentecost".

Whoever invokes a blessing in the land shall bless by the God of faithfulness. — Isaiah 65:16

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¹ In person or virtually

² Matthew 20:16-20

³ John 17:20-23

(St. Luke's continued)

"Blessed are you, Lord God, ruler of the universe, who created everything for your glory!" This classic blessing in Jewish tradition sets the tone for any theological reflection on what it means to bless and to receive a blessing. Rather than ourselves, other people, animals, places, or things, God's people first and foremost bless God, the giver of life and creator of all. Discerning and giving thanks for the countless reasons that we can and should bless God are, therefore, at the heart of the Church's work in the world. Indeed, at the heart of Christian worship is the eucharist, or "thanksgiving," in which we lift up the "cup of blessing" (1 Corinthians 10:16).

In Anglican contexts, the Church's work in the world is shaped by common prayer and worship. In addition to reading the Scriptures and prayerful meditation, Anglicans have always relied on our shared liturgical life for discerning where God is present and how God is calling us to live in the world as witnesses to the gospel of Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit. While God is active always and everywhere, the community of faith gathers to discern God's activity and make it ever more visible.

The Church's participation in divine blessing can help each of us in various ways to be open to God's abundant goodness. The Church's liturgical life, that is, our practice of common prayer and worship, can create space for God's people to open their hearts and minds to receiving the blessing God offers. Scripture bears witness to the relational character of blessing: being in relationship with God is not only a blessing for us but becomes a blessing to others as well. God's covenant with Israel becomes a blessing not for Israel alone but for "all the nations." This is the very promise made to Abraham: "in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed" (Genesis 12:3b).

Bless God with hearts and lives marked by gratitude and praise.

Candles by Barbara Ranshausen

Why do we have two candlesticks on the altar? Many congregations use two candles on the altar to point out

that Jesus was both human and divine. But It is said that having the two candle tradition started so the priest could see!

At the beginning of the service the Epistle candle is lighted first. It's the one on the right as you face the altar, and then the Gospel candle is next. They are extinguished in the opposite order so that the Gospel candle never burns alone.

During the period of Easter, the Pascal candle is also lighted, and is lighted first, and extinguished last. In some churches at the end of the service, the acolyte extinguishes the altar candles and then carries a candle lighter with the flame burning, out of the church and symbolically into the world to show that Jesus Christ is everywhere. After Pentecost, the Pascal Candle is place by the baptismal font where it stays the rest of the year.

Lighting the candles with a match is considered irreverent. Blowing them out with puffs of air, even more so. The person who lights the candles should be suitably vested.

Above the credence table you may note that there is another candle called the sanctuary lamp, which is always lit. In some churches the glass is red, while ours is clear. Some are suspended from a rope or chain, while others like ours are set in a nook or on a shelf. This candle honors the presence of Christ in the reserved sacrament, which means that the communion wafers have been blessed and are now in the tabernacle or Aumbry (that small "closet" above the credence table).

Candlemas: Celebrated on February 2nd, Candlemas is the day when ALL the candles which are to be used for the whole year are blessed. That day is also called the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus Christ, in the temple.

Odd bits of St. Luke's History (Rerun from last year) by Katie Chrysler

If anyone wonders what St. Luke's looked like in the 1960s---the walls of the church were concrete block painted white, the roof and the arching supports were

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(St. Luke's cont) the same as now. When I first saw the inside of St. Luke's, it reminded me of the Ayrshire barn at Penn State in the 1950s! Where the welcoming Jesus is now was a gold damask reredos with the cross that is now on the right front wall of the worship space in the center of the damask hanging. The altar was against the reredos at the back of the sanctuary, so that the congregation only saw the back of the priest as he consecrated the sacrament. The pews were a dark wood with gothic points on the ends. They came from a church that was up-grading and I think that when we got the pews we use now, the dark ones went to another church that needed pews.

The Sacristy that the Altar Guild uses now was a powder room. This was before the Parish Hall was built or the Breezeway turned into the kitchen. The Altar Guild used an enamel topped table in the sacristy on the left. If the priest wasn't careful when he spread the linens out, we had rust stains from the chipped enamel. That's when I learned that linen can be boiled – carefully - in water with cream of tartar and that will remove the rust stains. It only works with linen, not blends or other fabrics. Since there was no running water in the sacristy, we used a basin of water and emptied it out the back door. Maybe that's why we used to have all those confederate violets out there!

St. Luke's was not an historic church (Trinity in Swedesboro) or a gorgeous one (St. John's in Salem) but we were and are a vibrant, joyful one.

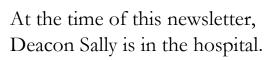
I thought of this because David Vallee (a former member) told me on May 13th that it was a great idea to cover up the cement blocks and improve the inside of the church. [Any mistakes, misspellings and faulty remembering is the problem of the author.]

Thanks to our parishioners for offering stories that we all will enjoy. Anyone is welcome to send in an article, joke, cartoon, or interesting bit of news or history of St. Luke's or Woodstown for St. Luke's Newsletter!

"This is a wonderful day. I've never seen this one before." Maya Angelou

Mother Antoinette

From The Deacon's Bench



We ask for your continued prayers for healing for her.



St. John's will be hosting a Watch Party for the Consecration and Installation of Bishop-Elect Rev. Canon Dr. Sally French on Saturday, June 24. The Service starts at 10 am, so the Parish Hall will be open at 9:30 for some food and fellowship before the service starts. After the service, we will have lunch available. We will be able to celebrate this historic occasion together!



Picnic Time!

St. John's will hold our annual St. John's Day Picnic on Sunday, June 25, 2023. We invite our brothers and sisters from St. Luke's and St. George's to join us! It will follow the 10:30 service, beginning about 11:45 am. Chicken, pulled pork, macaroni & cheese and baked beans will be provided. Families are asked to bring a side dish or dessert to share.

St. Quke's News

Sundays: Holy Communion---10 a.m. Wednesdays: Holy Communion---10 a.m.

June 2023 Special Days

Some of the special days celebrated in June are:

- Trinity Sunday June 4, 2023
- Flag Day June 14, 2023
- Father's Day June 18, 2023
- Summer Begins June 21, 2023

Our May Yard Sale was very successful. We gained a little over \$400!!!!



June 4 RJ Owles

Why didn't they play cards on the Ark???

Because Noah was always standing on the deck!

St. John's News



St. John's Vestry will meet on Sunday, June 18 following the 10:30 am service. Sandwiches will be available before the meeting

during coffee hour. Please let Fr. Chuck or Eileen know if you will be attending.



On May 13, 2023, at Trinity Cathedral, Kelly Freno and Robert (Bobby) Oliver were confirmed as members of St. John's and the

Episcopal Church. Congratulations!



6/2 Nina Rodriquez 6/4 Francine Peterson

6/6 Tatiana Trinidad

6/8 Ida Brennan

6/10	Christopher Willis
6/10	Nathan Willis
6/11	David Miller
6/11	Erin Gralley
6/11	John Milton Laning IV
6/11	Karter Sassi
6/13	Pasha Chard
6/17	Virginia Sisco
6/20	Rick Holmstrom
6/25	Sue Harker
6/27	Jimmy Trinidad (son)
(/27	Ma 1711

6/27 Mary Elizabeth Laning
6/28 Austin Schwarz
6/29 Hollis Irvine III
6/29 Peggy Fittabile
6/29 Joel Norton
6/30 DeeAnn Harris



6/18 George and Ann Neff

6/20 Chuck and Diane Messer

6/22 Lauren and Nicholas Bowen

6/26 Irv and Pasha Chard

6/29 John III and Jen Laning



Altar Flowers-Many Sundays are currently open if you would like to present Altar Flowers in memory of someone or in thanksgiving for something, please call or email the office to let us know. Cost is \$50 for the 2 arrangements at the altar.



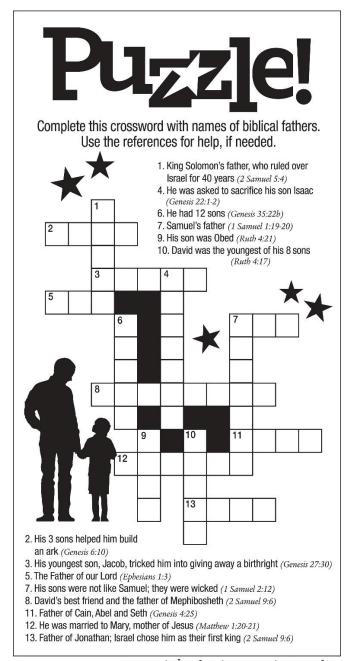
St. John's is in need of people to step up and help set up (before) and clean up (after) coffee hour each week. You would be responsible for arranging for the

items to serve, setting things up, and cleaning up after. For more information and to volunteer, please see Eileen Miller or Father Chuck.



It's time to honor our graduates! If you have a graduate in your family (elementary, middle, or high school, college or

graduate studies) please let Eileen know ASAP. We will be honoring them at the service on June 18.



Answer: DOWM I. David, 4. Abraham, 6. Jacob, 7. Elkanah, 9. Boaz. 10. Jesse; ACROSS 2. Noah, 3. Isaac, 5. God, 7. Eli, 8. Jonathan, 11. Adam, 12. Joseph, 13. Saul



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

Lt. Col. Peter Larrabee, USAF, son of Deacon Sally Maurer, has officially retired as an active-duty member of the US Air Force. His ceremony was held on Friday, May 12 at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, AKA the Punchbowl National Cemetery, where he was commissioned 23 years ago. Congratulations Pete and best wishes!

St. John's Prayer List

June 2023

Joel Norton

Helen & Jim Acton Frances Ames Beth T. Bill Clisham Steph Miller Karen Shuler Margaret Hancock Peggy Fittable Mother Antoinette Tackkett Amy Schwarz Mary Ellen Chambers Robbie & Stan Trudy O'Hare Liz Ferris Deacon Naomi Suzanne Pankonian George Neff Ianice Anna Hiller Carol Bacon Gail Boyd Pat Major Sally Maurer Francine Peterson George Joseph Peterson, Jr. Joseph Bill Fox Michele Pfeffer Jim Elaine Pfeffer Brenda & Bill Gaunt Rich Frieze Eric Kates Susan Ewan The Kamera Family

Emma Messer

Andrew & Judy



Activities are held in the following churches: SG-St. George's SL-St. Luke's SJ-St. John's	5	6	7	8 am Yoga- Parish Hall SJ	9	8 am Yoga-Parish Hall SJ
Holy Eucharist 8 am St. John's 9 am St. George's 10 am St. Luke's 10:30 am St. John's	12:30-3:30 pm SCOOA Parish Hall SJ	8 am Yoga- Parish Hall SJ 7 pm NA SJ	10 am Holy Eucharist SL Noon Noonday Prayers SJ 8 pm AA SJ	8 am Yoga- Parish Hall SJ		8 am Yoga-Parish Hall SJ
Holy Eucharist 8 am St. John's 9 am St. George's 10 am St. Luke's 10:30 am St. John's	12	8 am Yoga- Parish Hall SJ 9 am Quilters SJ 7 pm NA SJ	10 am Holy Eucharist SL Noon Noonday Prayers SJ 8 pm AA SJ	8 am Yoga- Parish Hall SJ 6:30 Bible Study with Potluck Dinner SJ	16	8 am Yoga-Parish Hall SJ
Holy Eucharist 8 am St. John's 9 am St. George's 10 am St. Luke's 10:30 am St. John's	Articles due for July Newsletter	8 am Yoga- Parish Hall SJ 7 pm NA SJ	10 am Holy Eucharist SL Noon Holy Eucharist SJ 8 pm AA SJ	8 am Yoga- Parish Hall SJ 6:30 Bible Study with Potluck Dinner SJ	23	8 am Yoga-Parish Hall SJ 9:30 am Watch Party: Consecration and Installation of Bishop-Elect Rev. Canon Dr. Sally French SJ
Holy Eucharist 8 am St. John's 9 am St. George's 10 am St. Luke's 10:30 am St. John's St. John's Day Picnic SJ	26	8 am Yoga- Parish Hall SJ 9 am Quilters SJ 7 pm NA SJ	10 am Holy Eucharist SL Noon Holy Eucharist SJ 8 pm AA SJ	8 am Yoga- Parish Hall SJ 6:30 Bible Study with Potluck Dinner SJ	30	SCOOA-Salem County Office on Aging

St. John's Episcopal Church

76 Market Street, Salem, NJ 08079 Wednesday Noon

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

Rector: The Rev'd Charles Messer 856-935-1798 (office) 610-800-8795 (cell) <u>frchuckmesser@gmail.com</u>

Services

Sunday 8 am & 10:30 am

Deacon: The Rev'd Sally Maurer 856-769-1409 (h) 856-297-2385 (cell) <u>slarrabee@comcast.net</u>

Facebook: <u>St. John's Salem</u> Website: <u>St. John's Salem</u>

St. Luke's Episcopal Church Services Sunday 10 am

37-39 E. Grant Street, Woodstown, NJ 08098 Wednesday 10 am

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

Vicar: The Rev'd Antoinette Tackkett 856-472-1501 (office) stlukessupply@gmail.com

Facebook: <u>St. Luke's Woodstown</u> Website: <u>St. Luke's Woodstown</u>

St. George's Episcopal Church Services Sunday 9 am

3 Church Landing Road, Pennsville, NJ 08070

Parish Off ice: (856) 678-7979

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



The Salem County Episcopalian c/o St. John's Episcopal Church 76 Market Street Salem, NJ 08079

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