



A NOTE FROM REV. JILL

Dear St. John's Family,

Once again, we are at the close of another summer. For many, it seems the summer days go by way too fast – trips to visit family and friends who live across the country, vacations spent at the beach or in the cool of the mountains. The same is true for me: what I expected as a long, quiet summer slipped by all too quickly (and wasn't as quiet as I thought it'd be!). Summer highlights here at St. John's include the energy and laughter of our youth at our lock-in, as well as the little boy who, at the end of his first ever church/VBS experience, exclaimed, **"This was the best day of my life!"**

September weather alerts us to the change in seasons: not simply Autumn, but we are at the start of the Back-to-School season (the most wonderful time of the year for parents). We're also days way from another important season...football season! Though we root for different teams, know that I check the Eagles' schedule when I plan the events we'll do at St. John's.

And we have many fun events planned for the Fall: fellowship over a cup of coffee (Thursday Morning Café) or dressed up in costume (Halloween Party); opportunities to nurture your spirit (Faith by the Fire) and to grow your faith (our *Living Generously* adult education forums); there's something for everyone here at St. John's.

Much that is exciting is happening here at St. John's. This fall, look for us to reach more young people with our new *Club 54*; join us as we strengthen our commitment to our ministry partner, *Chester Eastside*; and trust in God's Spirit once we call a new Music Director (the search is ongoing, yet hopeful).

I hope to see you on Kickoff Sunday, September 18th! Rooted in Christ and growing God's Kingdom, may we go forth into the world being God's hands and feet in loving service.

Grace and peace, *Rev. Jill*



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NEW WELCOME STATEMENT

At the July Vestry meeting, members voted to accept our new welcome statement—in the box below. We want our church to be a welcoming place for everyone. Our welcome statement adds to our mission and vision.

Our Mission is to be a welcoming community committed to seeking, serving, and growing in Christ.

Our vision is to grow with intent. We will maintain intimacy by gathering in groups; reach all generations through fellowship; advance our mission through a vital program of outreach; nurture spiritual growth through worship, music, education, and pastoral care; encourage commitment to effective ministry; and support the church through stewardship.

*Episcopalians believe in a loving, liberating, and life-giving God.
St. John's welcomes all to our diverse, inclusive, and affirming community.*

REGISTER FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL

Use the QR code below to register your child for Sunday School. Hard copies will also be available on Kick Off Sunday.



RALLY SUNDAY EVENTS

Kick Off Sunday - September 18th

Welcome back to St. John's after a long hot summer filled with vacations, friends, and family. Our Kick Off Sunday will be September 18th and we have some FUN in store for our St. John's family!

Starting at 9:30 AM we'll have a Coffee Hour Connections Fair: learn more about altar guild, helping with Sunday services, outreach opportunities, and more! Miss Margie has a great activity planned for our first day of Sunday School (begins at 9:45 AM).

Following our second service, we will have a Bounce House and Pizza Party!

Reconnect with your friends at St. John's: you are always welcome here, because here you are home.



UNDERWEAR COLLECTION

Boxers, Bloomers and Briefs:

One of the most requested items from people in need is clean, fresh, new underwear. Really, why should anyone be without? Recognizing this need, along with the fact that many are too shy to ask, the DIOPA deacons will be organizing an underwear drive as our annual Diocesan Convention outreach program.



Next time you are out shopping, consider purchasing an extra package of underwear for someone experiencing need. ANY AND ALL SIZES ARE WELCOME! Donations can be placed in the box in the Parish Hall through October 16. THANK YOU!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION THIS FALL

Fall Adult Ed Series: Theme "Living Generously"

God has abundantly blessed our lives, from the beauty of God's created world to the joyful relationships we have with each other. Join Rev. Jill for a 4 week series as we look into how we can live generously. Sundays Oct 2, 9, 16, and 23 from 9:45 - 10:20 in the Battin Room.

Sunday School Theme: "In God's Image"

Sunday School is for kids in preschool—5th grade and meets in the lower level classroom at 9:45 on Sunday mornings

We are all created in God's image, but we don't always treat each other that way. Bullying behavior is on the rise, both in classrooms and in public. Learning about Joseph (of the many colored coats), David, Ruth and Naomi, our children will explore what it truly means to be created in God's image. Scan (or click) the QR code on page 2 to learn more and register your child for Sunday School.

We are so excited to welcome our children back to Sunday School here at St. John's! On Rally Sunday, Children will have the opportunity to meet and learn about each other by playing games and then will begin to design their own shield to describe themselves.



WOMEN'S EVENTS

WOMEN'S POTLUCK DINNERS

Please join us this fall for a potluck dinner on the third Thursday of the month @ 6 PM:

September 15

October 20

November 17

LITERARY LADIES

We will meet on the 2nd Sunday of the month at St. John's Church Hall. Our start time will be 12:30-2 PM.

Fall 2022 Schedule:

September 11

Book: "Dear Mrs. Bird"
by AJ Pearce
Presenter: Trish Young

October 9

November 13

We are always looking for new members and presenters.

Please let Trish Young (trishay1@comcast.net) know if you would like to present a book this fall or if you have any questions.

HAVE YOU CHECKED OUT OUR UPDATED WEBSITE?

If you haven't visited the [church's website](#) for a while, you will be happy to find that it has been updated by Jen Troutman with some new pages. You will find many useful pages including:

- Updated Giving
- Fellowship
- Life Events
- I'm New Here
- Virtual Worship
- Christian Formation
- Leadership
- Building Rental
- Cemetery
- Annual Report

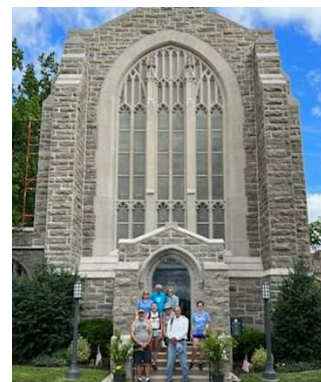
It is a great resource to share with your friends or via social media.

HOLY HIKERS: 3RD SATURDAYS

This Spring saw the return of our popular new small group activity, the Holy Hikers. Once a month parishioners gather at a local hiking spot for exercise and fellowship in God's glorious creation. Hikes are generally around 3 miles long and are on the "easy" end of the hiking spectrum (no steep hills to climb).

We visited Valley Forge National Park, hiking the Chapel Trail – which leads to Washington Memorial Chapel, an Episcopal Church that Washington *did not* worship in, since it was built between 1903 and 1917. Holy Hikers heard a delightful tale from the Revolutionary War at the Storytellers Bench at Washington Headquarters. Another popular hike we took was to N.C. Wyeth's studio right here in Chadds Ford.

Two great hikes are planned for this autumn. On September 17th join the Holy Hikers at Ridley Creek State Park (main parking lot) at 9:00. Our October hike is a little less local as we visit Wolf's Hollow Park in Atglen (1399 Schoff Rd). After this hike, the group will have lunch at Victory Brewing in Parkesburg (you can come just for the lunch; meet us at 11:15).



WWJB

WWJB Returns – Our next "What Jesus Would Brew" will **Tuesday, September 20** at 6:30 p.m. in the Father Battin Room. WWJB is an opportunity to gather and learn about a particular beer style and some theology at the same time. Since it's nearing the start of the fall season, **hard ciders** are the "beer" for this session, so bring a four or six pack of hard ciders and **a friend**. Looking ahead, the October WWJB session will be **Tuesday, October 18** at 6:30 p.m. **Pumpkin beers** will be October's beer. Hint, while you're picking out your hard ciders, get your pumpkin beer at the same time. For the time being, there is good selection of pumpkin beers at Wegmans. No doubt, Acme and Brewer's Outlet, are also stocked with this seasonal beer. Any questions, contact John Pachkowski.



MEN'S BREAKFAST

The next men's Breakfast is Sat. Sept. 10th, at 8:30am, in the Parish Hall. All are welcome. We try to have these events on the first or second Saturday of each month. Please watch your bulletin and the website for updates. Hope to see you there!



SAVE THE DATE: FALL FUNDRAISER NOVEMBER 12

St. John's Station Soiree

Join us on Saturday, November 12 from 5-7pm as the Giving Train arrives at our first annual *St. John's Station Soiree*! We'll enjoy live music from the awesome Crooked Rose Band, delectable food from Dos Gringos Food Truck and an open wine & beer bar. Peruse the stops on the giving train and scan a QR code to donate or do so beforehand and just enjoy the night.



Tickets are \$30 in advance or \$40 at the door. Don't wait - [reserve your tickets here](#) or at saintjohnsconcord.com/fallfundraiser (Please note: This is an adults-only event.)

Join us the 2nd & 4th Thursdays of the month. Café starts at 10 AM and our Healing Eucharist Worship begins at 11:30 AM.

OUTREACH UPDATE

Sharing Our Abundance

On August 23, 2022, Burt Blackburn delivered the school supplies that we collected to Chester Eastside. His car was filled with 35 backpacks, bags and bags of school supplies, and 8 gift cards with a value of \$25 each. He met the new Executive Director, Rev. Andy Jacob who expressed his gratitude for the school supplies and looks forward to working with us. Burt reports that Rev. Andy is very enthusiastic and that there is the potential to expand our relationship with them. The Chester Eastside After School Program will begin on September 12th. Volunteer mentors are always needed; please contact Burt or Martha Pearlman if you are interested in working with their students.



We will be delivering items to the St Mary's Food Cupboard beginning on September 7.

Please remember to bring nonperishable food items and personal care items with you on Sundays. There is a collection box on the Outreach table in the Parish Hall. THANK YOU!

OUTDOOR MOVIE NIGHT

Friday, September 23 @ 7:15 PM—*Encanto*

Save the date!

Our parking lot movie theater returns with Disney's *Encanto*!

Bring a chair, a blanket and a friend.

(Movie will be shown in the Parish Hall if weather does not cooperate.)



FALL CAMPOUT

Saturday, October 1 – Sunday, October 2
Put up your tent in our big field. There will be games, a scavenger hunt, and camp songs. Enjoy sitting around the campfire with friends. We'll provide S'mores, hot dogs, and a simple breakfast; you provide your drinks. The Parish Hall will be open for bathroom access. We'll end with a morning worship celebration in the field. Your friends are welcome to camp out with us!

Oct. 1 —Arrive between 4-6pm
—6-8pm Games, songs, s'mores & hotdogs
— 8-9pm Fellowship at the campfire

Oct. 2 —Breakfast at 7am
—Worship at 7:30am in the field



ST. FRANCIS DAY CELEBRATION

Sunday, 10/2 at 10:30 - **Outside Eucharist with Pet Blessing** & Children's Message. Bring your furry family to this outdoor worship service; Rev. Jill will bless pets (and stuffed animals) following the *Peace*. Our 8:30 service will worship in the church.



RENOVATIONS UPDATE

Update on Parish Hall Renovation Project

The current Phase 3 and final phase of the Parish Hall Renovation Project is almost complete. Final trim work is all that is needed to complete this phase. The total scope of the project includes the following:

- Construction of an ADA compliant and handicap accessible walkway that extends across the front of the Parish Hall.
- Replacement of the original wall of windows across the front of the building with new energy efficient and attractive windows.
- Reconfiguration and enlargement of the clergy office with private direct outside access.
- Reconfiguration and enlargement of the administrative assistant's office providing direct access to a new reception area and improved functionality.
- Installation of new energy efficient HVAC to the office area.
- New ADA compliant front doors to the Parish Hall.
- A new wall and attractive landscaping for the front of the building complementing the

new walkway and entrances.

A new dish storage room, part of Phase 2, was also completed and a new dish trolley was purchased that adds storage and convenience.

This work was completed at an approximate cost of \$200,000. Approximately \$175,000 of this cost came from pledges from individuals in the parish. If you would like to make a donation to close the gap, please speak with Rev. Jill or Paul Costello. The remaining funds will come from church accounts.

This will complete the final work of the Parish Hall Renovation begun back in 2016. During that time, the Parish Hall has undergone a complete upgrade with new HVAC, handicap accessible restrooms, upgraded windows, new rooms, and upgraded floors, ceilings and lighting in much of the building. This work was completed at a total cost of approximately \$1,000,000. Almost all of this money came from donations from individuals in the parish and bequests. Our church has truly been blessed to be able to accomplish this work without having to borrow money. Thank you to all who have contributed to make this a success.

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

The Youth Group has been busy this summer and we have great plans for the Fall. On August 10th, 14 of us volunteered at the Brandywine SPCA. On August 19th, St. John's held a lock-in for our youth. The Lynams hosted swimming in the afternoon and then we went to the Parish Hall for games and food. Playing Grogg in the dark basement of the Parish Hall was a hit! The youth started cleaning and painting the Youth Room this month, too. While the painting is not quite finished, the room looks great so far.



This year, our Youth Group will meet the 2nd and 4th Sundays of month and will volunteer with other organizations throughout the year. We have plans to feed the homeless, pack Thanksgiving dinners at Chester Eastside, bake cookies for our home-bound parishioners, and distribute blankets in the winter. We also plan to begin fundraising for a future trip to Guatemala; look out for news about car washes, bake sales and more.

TALES OF A 4TH OR 5TH GRADE KID: CLUB 54

Being a 4th or 5th grader is not always easy: they feel too old for “little kids’ stuff,” but they aren’t quite ready for the social world of preteen or high school life. Youth Leader Jacqui Dunn and Rev. Jill have created a unique ministry that reaches kids as they transition from childhood to adolescence: Club 54. Meeting several times during the school year, Club 54 will be a fun, service-oriented opportunity for kids who are not quite teens. Events will include a pizza/movie gathering, volunteering at the Brandywine SPCA, and more! Speak with Rev. Jill to sign your 4th or 5th grader up for Club 54.

HALLOWEEN PARTY & OUTDOOR MOVIE

Ghouls & Games! Mayhem & Movies!

Come to our St. John's Halloween Party on
Friday, October 28th
dressed in your costume!

Games and food at 5:30 pm.

Outdoor movie *The Spiderwick Chronicles* begins at 7 pm.



FAITH BY THE FIRE

Friday,
October 14
7 pm

Worship outdoors!

Hang out
by the firepit
in our
big field.

Bring your chair
and beverages
and enjoy
an evening of
fellowship
and faith
with your
St. John's
friends.

ALL are welcome!





Saint John's Episcopal Church



Sunday Eucharist Worship
8:30 AM— Rite I
10:30 AM— Rite II with
Music

Healing Eucharist Service:
2nd & 4th Thursdays
11:30 AM

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Talking about us on social media?

Be sure to use our hashtag
#SJConcord

STEWARDSHIP

“Growing God’s Kingdom”

Our fall Stewardship Campaign for 2023 is about to kick off with the theme of *Growing God’s Kingdom*. We believe that we are a parish that offers so much to our community – but we can grow more fully into the people God calls us to be.

One bountiful area where Stewardship has allowed us to *Grow God’s Kingdom* is in the renewed growth of our Youth Group and its activities, reaching more than a dozen preteens and teens in our parish. Looking forward, Rev. Jill and parishioner Jacqui Dunn will plant a new youth program for children in grades 4 and 5 (see “Club 54” p. 7 for more information). Christian Ed Director Margie Hatcher and our Sunday School volunteers sow seeds of God’s love every Sunday with Children’s Chapel and Sunday School teachings which root the message of God’s belovedness deep in our children’s hearts.

Much growth will happen this coming year as we reimagine our music program, enhance our live stream capabilities, host various fellowship and education programs, and continue enhancing our spiritual and fellowship opportunities to our entire congregation.

The recent renovations that have taken place at St. John’s has created much fertile space to *Grow God’s Kingdom*. We’ve renewed our facilities with completely new offices and enhanced meeting rooms in our parish hall, and, of course, a remodeled rectory for Rev. Jill and her family. We have received many compliments on our new facilities from the Diocese as well as the community groups who use our space, such as AA, NA, the Girl Scouts and the Boy Scouts; our plan is to continue to grow these assets to meet both the spiritual and social needs of our parish.

It takes over \$300,000 annually to operate our parish at its current level. Your individual pledges fund most of that income and are used to support our activities such as Sunday services, Sunday School, pastoral care, as well as our outreach programs for Chester Eastside and Guatemala. Your contributions provide for salaries of our Rector and staff, pay for insurance, taxes (yes, we do pay property taxes), utilities, office expenses and equipment. Running St. John’s is just like a business. These expenses are detailed in the Annual Report so you can see how your financial contributions are used. (*Contact the Parish Office for a copy of the 2021 Annual Report or view it now on the website under the ‘Growing’ tab.*)

Stewardship also involves a considerable number of gardeners who are willing to sow seeds for God’s Kingdom. Last year we estimated that 4400 individual hours were spent by parishioners who are actively involved in our parish life including fellowship opportunities, outreach, property management, treasury/finance, Vestry, administration and many others. And, we can always use more gardeners: consider what time and talent you may be able to provide.

Our 2023 Stewardship Campaign will begin this September. Think about what St. John’s means to you and your family. Your annual pledge is critical to our planning for the upcoming year. Also please consider a pledge increase: a 5% addition to your annual financial commitment will go a long way in *Growing God’s Kingdom*.