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# On Eagles' Wings

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A Communication From  
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## A Message from Fr. Matthew

Dear Friends,

In a couple weeks, I will have been your rector for one year. This has been a great year for me. Now that I have been here for this time, I feel like I have become a part of this community. You really have welcomed me into your family. Gearing up for my second year, hopefully, will be a time of being settled. Having spent one liturgical year here, I have a feel for the services, and the annual traditions. We have even come up with new traditions in my time here. Now is a time to continue in those traditions.

Having said that, there are always new plans; life is never stagnant. If nothing else, entering a new spring where we see the yearly renewal of life, should remind us of that. This is not something that need cause anxiety. Evolution is just a part of life, after all. Nonetheless, it is something that should be entered into very intentionally, and not just something that happens to us.

There are things in the life of the church that must be done, like entering into a capital campaign. There are things that should be done, like continued discernment of God's will for our community. Moreover, there are things that could be done, like new social activities. All of

these things can be fun, but all of them need to reflect, first, God's glory.

As we prepare for Easter, let us remember the renewal of life, not just in Christ's resurrection or the return of the flowers and birds, but let us remember that even though we are very established in some ways, that we are always turning a new leaf, and we are always renewing ourselves. The more we continue to grow in our relationship, let us also continue to grow personally, and as a community.

Blessings and Peace,  
*Fr. Matthew+*

## Vestry News

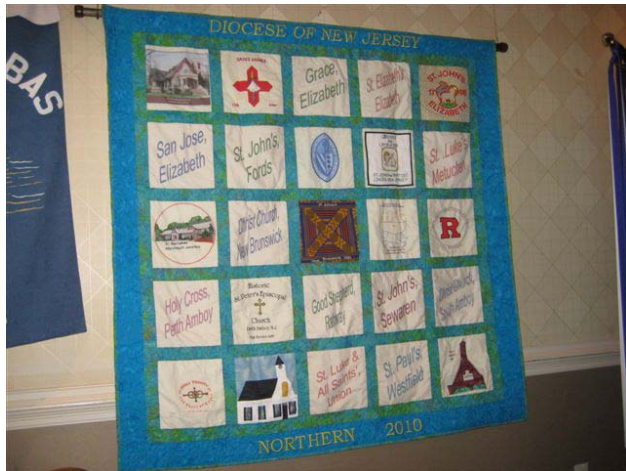
On January 31, during St. John's **2010 Annual Meeting**, Vestry members **Gene Pillar** and **Dick Engle** were each re-elected to serve an additional 3-year term. **Lynn Pilanen**, the third member completing her 3-year vestry term, chose not to run for re-election. Also of note, **Martha Godfrey** was elected to serve a further term as Junior Warden. Our grateful thanks are extended to Gene, Dick, Lynn, and Martha for all their hard work and devotion to St. John's leadership.

**Dick Engle**, **Marge Koleser**, and **Martha Godfrey** were elected to serve as St. John's deputies at both the 2010 National Convention and Convocation meetings. We are equally

appreciative of these individuals' time and devotion to this special ministry. Thank you, Dick, Marge, and Martha.

## Convocation Quilts

Did you know that St. John's contributed to one of eight beautiful convocation quilts that were made to celebrate the 225<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Diocese of New Jersey? Our "patch" appears in the quilt (shown below) that represents the Northern Convocation. You should be able to spot it between the center square and the square on the far right with the red "R".



Here is a close up of St. John's patch. Marge Koleser lovingly stitched this design.



All eight quilts are currently on display at the Cathedral in Trenton.

## Capital Campaign Kick-off Event

Please plan to join us in the parish hall on Saturday, April 17, between 5:30 – 7:30 PM for our **Capital Campaign Kick-off Event**. The Capital Campaign has been instituted to raise money from a variety of sources – individual pledges, donations from local businesses, and grants – to enable us to replace our aging slate roof and boiler. At the kick-off event, the Capital Campaign Committee will present a program describing its goals. Refreshments will be provided.

You should have recently received your invitation to the kick-off. If you have not already returned your RSVP card, we would appreciate your doing so by April 3. For more information about the event, or to request an invitation, contact **Fr. Matthew, George Koleser, or Eugene Pillar, Jr.** If you would like to help prepare "finger foods" for the reception, please speak to **Marge Koleser** or **any other member of the Women's Guild**. You are also welcome to join The Guild for a meeting following church on April 11 when the women plan to finalize their plans for the reception.

## Women's Guild Events

The Women's Guild-sponsored **Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner** on March 13 was a *curious* event. Following a day of drenching rain and billowing winds, the electricity went out at the church a scant thirty minutes before the doors were to open to our guests. Fortunately, we had a good supply of candles to arrange on the tables and along the windowsills and those tapers kept the hall romantically lit, albeit mutedly, to the delight of our diners. Nancy Engle even managed to give one of her friends a Gothic-style candle lit tour of our shadowy sanctuary!

Without the convenience of a refrigerator, microwave oven, electric coffee urn, or dishwasher, we certainly faced a few challenges dishing up and serving more than 70 meals. Our guests were good-natured, however, and we enjoyed many good laughs, while skirting tables in the nearly dark hall and neatly avoiding spills and collisions. Thanks to the marvel of flash photography, Martha Godfrey and Christopher Koleser were even able to memorialize the evening in pictures. The corned beef was tender and delicious and we had our customary array of superb home baked desserts to offer at the end of the meal. Our diners ate very well!

The dinner, one of the first fund-raisers of our Capital Campaign, was an acknowledged success. Netting over \$1000, we had our most profitable St. Patrick's Day gala in recent memory. Perhaps we should consider switching off the lights again next year...

Our **Rada fundraiser** was also a success. Peggy Koleser did a great job of organizing the event and we had some eager sales folk who brought in an impressive number of orders for the high quality and very reasonably priced Rada products. There are a few paring knives and peelers still available for purchase. If you are interested in buying any, seek out Peggy.

The Guild's upcoming fundraiser will be a **Tricky Tray** ("silent auction") on Saturday, May 1. Donations of *new* items for the event should be or marked "Tricky Tray" and left in the parish hall. We are also looking for donations from local vendors and businesses.

### **Stewardship is a Year Round Pursuit**

Following is the fourth of seven spiritual practices relating to stewardship that are found in a pamphlet entitled, "Finding Hope in Hard Times". [[www.episcopalchurch.org/stewardship](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/stewardship).]

### Choose a Simpler Lifestyle

*Then Jesus called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal. He said to them, 'Take nothing for your journey, no staff, nor bag, nor bread, nor money – not even an extra tunic. Whatever house you enter, stay there, and leave from there. [Luke 9:1-14]*

A time of recession is a good time to take stock of our lifestyles. The average American is busier than ever before, working longer hours, traveling further, and owning more possessions than ever before. But studies show we are not necessarily any happier or more fulfilled. Perhaps this is a good time to slow down and reassess what is important to us. "Cutting back" can have a negative feel to it, but any gardener will tell you that pruning is a vital part of encouraging healthy growth.

► *Action:* *What clutters your life? Look back at your budget. What could you cut to free up more money? What about your schedule? What would give you more time to do the things you really want to do? Are you spending your time and your money on the things that are really important to you?*

|| *Pause for Reflection:* *Why do you think Jesus linked the sending out of the disciples to living without the clutter of possessions?*

### **Mothers' Union**

You are welcome to join the Mothers' Union for a Eucharist service at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, 90 Leonardine Avenue, South River 08882, on Sunday, May 23, from 3-4 PM. Isatu Beckley will be able to provide additional information. The Mothers' Union also meets on the first Saturday of each month from 3-4 PM in St. Joseph's Hall here at St. John's.

## Elijah's Promise

St. John's has long been a supporter of Elijah's Promise soup kitchen. Did you know that, in addition to donating time, cash and/or food to assist the soup kitchen, you are also encouraged to donate clothing to EP's **Clothesline Project**? It is easy to participate! You simply drop off clothing donations in the blue bin at EP's 211 Livingston Avenue, New Brunswick, facility. For more information, please call 732-545-9002 or visit [www.elijahspromise.net](http://www.elijahspromise.net).

## Upcoming Events

Apr. 1	Maundy Thursday Service @ 7:30 PM
Apr. 2	Good Friday Service @ 7:30 PM
Apr. 4	Easter Service @ 9:30 AM
Apr. 11	Women's Guild Mtg. @ 10:30 AM
Apr 17	Capital Campaign Kick-off @ 5:30 PM
Apr 25	Bagged Lunch Project @ 10:30 AM
May 1	Tricky Tray @ 2 PM
May 1	Mother's Union @ 3 PM
May 2	UTO Ingathering @ 9:30 AM
May 15	ECW Annual Mtg. @ 10 AM
May 23	Bagged Lunch Project @ 10:30 AM
May 23	Mother's Union Eucharist @ 3 PM

## June 2010 Newsletter Deadline

Please provide Michele Bacorn with submissions for the June 2010 newsletter by **Sunday, May 16**. Your contributions are always welcome. You may leave stories, articles, news of upcoming events, and other communications in the "Newsletter" mailbox in the parish hall, hand your material to Michele during coffee hour, or via email to [stjohns9@verizon.net](mailto:stjohns9@verizon.net).

## Committees and Chairpersons

Worship – Fr. Matthew Buterbaugh  
Music – Susan Huslage  
Finance – Dick Engle  
Renewal (Outreach) - Martha Godfrey  
Parish Life – Marge Koleser  
Christian Ed – Stacie Kelly  
Property – George Koleser

## St. John's Vestry

Marge Koleser, Sr. Warden  
Martha Godfrey, Jr. Warden  
Michele Bacorn  
Christof Beckley  
Victor Beckley  
Nancy Cole, Clerk  
Dick Engle, Treasurer  
Susan Huslage, Music Director  
George Koleser, Sr.  
Eugene Pillar, Jr.