
On Eagles' Wings

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A Communication From
The Church of Saint John the Evangelist
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A Message from Fr. Matthew

Summertime, and the living is easy...I always find the summer in church a little deceiving. People go on vacation, many parishes reduce their service schedules, and programs are suspended for the season. Summer is supposed to be a light time, and yet, I always find myself playing catch-up all summer. This probably is due more to my own procrastination than anything. I always slow down in the summer, then seem to be perpetually behind. I do not know if it is the heat or my own thinking I have more time than I really do.

Part of the issue with this is my own laziness and disorganization, but part is the fact that I do not build in enough downtime. I know this sounds like I am making excuses at this point. Nonetheless, this is something with which I have struggled for a long time. It is also something that I have gotten a lot better at.

We all need to take time for ourselves and pace ourselves. Jesus gave us his great commandments: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." (Matthew 22:37-39 NRSV) We read this over and over and nod our heads. "Yes, Jesus, we

know, we know." But, it's that second clause we tend to gloss over. If I am expected to love my neighbor as myself, I need to remember to start by loving myself. This is not a selfish love, but a genuine love reflecting the love of God.

Taking time for ourselves is part of keeping ourselves the most effective servants for God. If we work ourselves to death, we are not being faithful to God because we are not able to serve Him effectively. This summer, take time to rest and regenerate so you can be ready when God needs you.

Blessings and Peace,
Fr. Matthew+

Christian Education

We are delighted to have plans underway for a youth Sunday school program to begin this fall. **Stacie Kelly**, an elementary school teacher by avocation, and a new mother herself, has graciously offered to lead this project with the help of volunteers from the congregation. She will be working with Fr. Matthew and others over the summer to select a curriculum for our young scholars. It has been tentatively agreed that classes will be held on Sunday mornings following the 9:30 AM service. If you have a child you would like to have participate in

Sunday school, or if you feel called to volunteer your time and talents to help Stacie with the classes, please see Fr. Matthew or Stacie Kelly.

Lunches, with Love

On Sunday, June 26th, St. John's began a new outreach project. We prepared over 30 bagged lunches for distribution at Elijah's Promise community food program in June and an additional 45 in July. These lunches are handed out to the working indigent, individuals who are fortunate enough to have secured employment, but who do not yet have the financial means to prepare noon time meals for themselves or, in some cases, for their children. It is our collective hope that the lunches we deliver to Elijah's Promise will do more than fill hungry stomachs; we endeavor to offer support and hope to neighbors who need us. Thank you, *Marge Koleser*, for alerting us to this new and wonderful opportunity for our small congregation to fill a need in the community.

For our first two sandwich-making Sundays, in June and July, respectively, a number of people contributed the ham, turkey, cheese and bread for sandwiches, and fresh fruit, pre-packaged snacks, juice boxes and the paper bags in which to assemble the completed lunches. We worked as a team to fill those bags and we had fun in the process. The plan is to make more lunches, always with love, on the fourth Sunday of each month following the 9:30 AM service. There will be a sign-up sheet available in the parish hall for anyone who would like to contribute food, supplies or his/her enthusiasm for this great project. Our next event is scheduled for the fourth Sunday in August (8/23).

Roll up your Sleeves

St. John's will be hosting a *blood drive* for New Jersey Blood Services on Tuesday, October 6th between 2 – 7 PM in St. Joseph's Hall.

You and your friends and neighbors are strongly encouraged to make donations. Blood supplies are now critically low, as is always the case in the summer, but demand for blood remains high.

Rh-negative blood types are especially sought, though nearly everyone between the ages of 17 and 75, weighing a minimum of 110 pounds and in good health, can donate blood. Donors over age 75 who are healthy and meet all other donor requirements simply require a doctor's written permission note to donate.

We need volunteers to serve juice and cookies to the donors. If you can spare a couple of hours to help out at the canteen, please let Fr. Matthew know. NJ Blood Services will do the rest!

Our Hero Veterans

Continuing our series on St. John's hero veterans, we turn this month to our Deacon Emeritus, The Reverend *Kenneth C. Reed*.

Ken, at 21, enlisted in the army in August 1942. He completed what he describes as a "tough" 8-month course in radio theory and repair at Rutgers University in New Brunswick. FM radio was a brand new innovation in 1942 and it was exciting for Ken to be one of a select few who had the skills required to repair the radios. Ken then underwent his basic training at New Jersey's Camp Ft. Dix and was later sent to Camp Crowder in Missouri – it was a hot and dusty five-day journey by locomotive – to train for the Signal Corp. Ironically, despite Ken's intense preparation in radio repair, the Army had decided it didn't need any more radio repairmen!

During the many months that followed, Ken was moved from one camp to another, spending time in Virginia, North Carolina, California, Arkansas and New York before being shipped to Le Havre in northwestern France.

Le Havre was in the midst of a battle when Ken's company waded to shore and they spent a hellish day there before moving inland to Gournay, France. Ken drove a six- by-six truck that was not supposed to move faster than 40 mph because of its enormous size and the 12 tons of cargo it was hauling. His caravan drove for 24 hours straight and Ken was so exhausted by the time he parked the big truck that he fell asleep over the steering wheel.

When their orders came to leave France, Ken's company moved into Germany where they encountered enemy troops in the city of Nuremberg, the site of nearly half the total German production of airplane, submarine and tank engines. Ken did not have much to say about his time spent in Nuremberg and, perhaps, some things are better left unsaid.

Later, Ken crossed Germany and entered Czechoslovakia on his way to Pilsen Airport. In 1945 when the war was declared over in Europe, Ken was sent to Wigginsberg, Germany and placed in charge of a radio repair shop where he put FM radios in the MP's jeeps.

After Ken was discharged from the army, he returned home to marry his finance, Ruth Rule and they later had two children: Susan and Keith.

Mass in the Grass

Our plans to celebrate the Eucharist outdoors on Sunday, September 20th, are proceeding nicely. We hope to be able to announce shortly the park chosen as the site for our "*Mass in the Grass*" and parish picnic. (In all likelihood, it will be Johnson Park). We will do our best to provide transportation for anyone who will need it. If you would like to help plan this event, please speak to Fr. Matthew or any member of the Vestry. Let's look forward to a special day of

worship and fellowship as we welcome the return of autumn!

Stewardship

Joyce Szabo, Godrim Beckley and Dick Engle have agreed to co-chair St. John's 2009 Stewardship Committee. Let's keep the committee in our prayers as they plan this fall's stewardship drive.

Betty Farnloff

Ken Reed informed us that *Betty Farnloff*, a good friend of St. John's and the wife of our former rector, *Fr. Norman Farnloff*, who predeceased her, died on July 4, 2009. Please keep Betty's daughters in your prayers.

Paul Edward Jensen

On a happy note, we are thrilled to share the news that Jill Brockett Jensen and Edward Jensen are newly the proud parents of a baby boy! Their son, Paul Edward Jensen, was born at St. Peter's Medical Center in New Brunswick on July 23rd, weighing 8 lbs 3 oz and measuring 20 ¾ inches long. If you would like to send Jill and Ed a note, their address is: 612 Easton Ave., Somerset, NJ 08873.

Canterbury House

Canterbury House, the Episcopal Campus Ministry at Rutgers University, is in need of the following donations: a microwave oven, toaster and vacuum cleaner. If you are able to donate any of these items, in new or nearly new condition, please contact Chaplain Greg Bezilla at (732) 932-1278 or bezila@rci.rutgers.edu.

Christ Church Food Pantry

Don't forget to bring a non-perishable food item with you each Sunday to donate to the Food Pantry at Christ Church. You can drop your donation off in the basket at the narthex. Let's

do our part to make sure no one in New Brunswick ever has to go to bed hungry.

Remember Seven days WITHOUT God makes one weak!

Without God, our week would be:
Sinday, Mournday, Tearsday, Wasteday,
Thirstday, Fightday and Shatterday.
Author Unknown

St. John's Website

Please visit stjohnepiscopalnb.org to see the beautiful website *Godrim Beckley* has engineered for St. John's. The site contains a history of the church, service times, a listing of upcoming events, driving directions, and more! It is interactive and fun to explore. We owe Godrim a huge debt of gratitude for all the effort and skill he utilized in producing our website! Please let him know how much you enjoy it.

Newsletters by Email

If you would like to begin receiving your copy of "On Eagles' Wings" by email, contact Nancy Carrado (sjohns9@verizon.net) or speak to Michele Bacorn after church to request that your email address be added to the newsletter distribution list. Thanks for helping St. John's "Go Green"!

October 2009 Newsletter Deadline

Please provide Michele Bacorn with submissions for the October 2009 newsletter by **Sunday, September 20th**. 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 forward it via email to stjohns9@verizon.net.

Upcoming Events

Aug. 23 Lunches for Elijah's Promise
Sep. 20 Mass in the Park/Parish Picnic @
10 AM (Location TBD)
Sep. 27 Lunches for Elijah's Promise
Oct. 6 Blood Drive 2-7 PM
Oct. 25 Fr. Matthew's Installation Service /
Bishop Councill's Visit @ 9:30
AM

Committees and Chairpersons

Worship – Fr. Matthew Buterbaugh
Music – Susan Huslage
Finance – Dick Engle
Renewal (Outreach) - Martha Godfrey
Parish Life – Marge Koleser
Christian Ed – TBD
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
George Koleser, Sr.
Lynn Pilanen
Eugene Pillar, Jr.

