

## Carriage Club

Once again, on the second Monday of April, Carriage Club will be meeting at noon in Fellowship Hall.

If you are free for lunch, Carriage Club is a wonderful way to break up the weekly routine, meet new people, renew old acquaintances, have a good lunch, and listen to an interesting speaker.

On April 11 Victor will share a little of his history and give us the benefit of a few observations.

Born in 1946 on the leading edge of the baby-boomers, he will talk of growing up in King George VI's post-war England, with a young boy's naïve embrace of rationing, leveled cities, and an economy clawing back to life. He will speak of his lifelong love affair with the unrivaled English Lake District, the land of John Ruskin and Wordsworth. Of village life, school, the Royal Air Force, his passion for gymnastics, cricket, rugby and "football," and his years in the entertainment industry that led him, by God's always artful providence, to faith, then to his beloved Jane. Finally, to a new land with, for him, never imagined opportunities.

Please join us on Monday, April 11 at 12:00 noon.

Reservations are greatly appreciated, and may be made by calling the Church office (610-688-5222), Marie Cantafio (610-971-2187) or by e-mailing Virginia Holt ([swleeholt@verizon.net](mailto:swleeholt@verizon.net)). A sign-up sheet is also available in Fellowship Hall.

## Progressive Dinner

The arrival of spring means it's time for one of our favorite annual events at St. John's--**The Progressive Dinner**. Plan to join us on Saturday, April 30, at 6 pm at the home of Cindy and Paul Wilson.

After some time for conversation and appetizers, we will split into groups of 8 or 10 to have dinner in individual homes. It's a wonderful opportunity to get better acquainted with the folks who sit on the other side of the sanctuary and those whom you haven't had a chance to meet. After dinner, we will all gather again at one home for dessert and coffee.

We always have a wonderful turnout for this event and we guarantee a great time. You can sign up to attend during Coffee Fellowship or by contacting Nancy Higgins (610-644-3642 or [tomandnancy@verizon.net](mailto:tomandnancy@verizon.net)) or Elizabeth Ator (610-644-3634 or [EDAator@comcast.net](mailto:EDAator@comcast.net)). The cost is \$10 per individual or \$20 per couple. Please consider hosting a dinner or the dessert portion of the evening. We'll supply recipes, beverages, and a contribution toward the cost of the dinner.

We're looking forward to seeing you on April 30!

--The Christian Fellowship Committee

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## Spring Service Day

The Trustees invite all to participate in our upcoming Spring Service Day, which will take place immediately following worship on **Sunday, April 10**. We'll take this time to perform a number of spring-cleaning and light maintenance activities both inside our buildings and outdoors. Feel free to come to worship dressed for Service Day. In return for an hour or two of your time, we offer a light lunch, the camaraderie of working with other members of the St. John's family and the satisfaction of a job well done. Please bring your tools (rakes, shovels, wheelbarrows, etc.).

We're looking forward to working with you on the 10<sup>th</sup>!





## Victor's Corner

To my St. John's family:

Our Bible is an astonishingly wise document. In conversation with one of our members I was reminded that most everything we need to know about ourselves is spoken of or implied in the first three chapters of Genesis--which is no doubt why I was drawn there for Sunday's sermon following the wretched plight of our brothers and sisters in Japan. In the midst of this Lenten season these chapters are a good place to turn for the sort of self-discovery that Lent would lead us to.

In particular I think of the picture at the center of the creation and fall story, with the two bemused figures of Adam and Eve standing nervously before the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, salivating at the sight of the lush, forbidden fruit. What happens there happens about as quickly as most sins. In an instant, the deed is done, the one wipes an errant bead of succulence from the corner of the mouth and turning to the other and says, "Ummm... try some." And then the deed is doubly done.

I notice over and over throughout the Bible that its stories seldom linger with a sin. In the mere twinkling of an eye, without descriptive pandering, the fruit is taken, Tamar or Bathsheba is violated, or Peter explodes, "I do not know the man." The hairspring on the trap door of the will is ever so delicate. Somewhere in Goethe's Faust there is a line that says that the fastest movement in all the world is the speed of a thought from good to evil. We are all so suspect.

While Lent is often thought of as a time to renounce a few excesses, a sort of temporary capping of self-indulgence, it wasn't supposed to be that way. Instead, it was placed before Easter in that same way that Advent is placed before Christmas. It's a time to touch base with that hidden or neglected side of our nature that reflects our blueprint: people created in the image of God, after God's likeness. It's a time to come to terms with the false notions with which we surround ourselves and which we assume give us security and make us content. It's a time to face with honesty the same three things that drew that

primeval couple to the forbidden fruit: false goodness, false wisdom, and false beauty.

So much of God in us gets hidden among the accretions of our own incarnate freedom. I want to encourage us all this Lent to discover more of your good side: the side that gets venerated over with the intemperate thought, the surge of frustration, the idle chatter that demeans another in their absence, the silence that kills something in another where an affirming word, or a listening ear, or a sympathetic hand could lift another from beneath their burden. Lent is a time to discover the incarnation in us that we see perfectly modeled in Christ. It's a time to claim our inheritance.

May the Lord bless you and keep you,

*Victor*

### **Seminarians' Fund**

St. John's created a Seminarians' Fund in 2009 for the purpose of supporting the efforts of Emily Chudy and Sum Thang while attending seminary. You - St. John's members and friends - contributed approximately \$12,000 to this fund. Through your extreme generosity, we were able to finance Sum's senior year internship, which he served at St. John's, and help Emily with tuition.

Since then, Sum has been hired as our Director of Children's and Youth Ministries and Emily is close to the end of her third of four years at Princeton Theological Seminary. In addition, two Eastern College students, Jess Field and Chris Clark, are serving St. John's young people as Student Interns.

Once again, we would like to ask for your support so that we can assist Emily, Jess and Chris with tuition and book expenses. That we can claim three students pursuing degrees in theology is a reflection of God's love at work in our dynamic, vibrant congregation.

Envelopes labeled "Seminarians' Fund" are available on the Ushers' Table in the sanctuary or you can contact Brian Bouvier at 610.873.9856 or [bbouvier@duanemorris.com](mailto:bbouvier@duanemorris.com).

## How are our Outreach funds allocated?

This issue presents the first in a series of brief articles on the organizations that are, in part, funded by St. John's. Since our readers are the source of these contributions, we hope that the content will be informative.

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### Baker Industries

*“O, yet we trust that somehow good  
Will be the final goal of ill,  
To pangs of nature, sins of will,  
Defects of doubt and taint of blood...”*

Tennyson's lofty words aptly ground Charles and Louise Baker's 30-year enterprise in aiding those in ill circumstances and guiding them, as far as possible, into the good. A nonprofit organization, Baker Industries enables ex-offenders and recovering substance abusers to gain access to a marketplace that, without support, is as hard to penetrate as a cell door.

The Bakers express to their new employees: Your past is behind you and, together, we will focus on your new opportunity. Employees are charged with abiding by the daily work schedule and attending to the assignments before them, but not in isolation. Rather, they build discipline and self-confidence under the guidance and moral support of supervisors and fellow employees. In time, they will have the wherewithal to seek and obtain positions by virtue of the skills they hone at Baker Industries. An estimated 60 people a year achieve this goal.

The same opportunity is provided to those who are homeless or those with disabilities who did not necessarily come into their misfortune of their own volition, but are equally in need of a structured livelihood. For those who remain unready to make

the transition into the broader work force, the Bakers are able to continue their employment for an extended term.

Baker Industries sustains itself by securing 65-70% of its revenue through agreements with companies who require manpower in packaging, direct mailings, fulfillment, assembly and other preparatory work in the numerous stages of marketing and manufacturing. The estimated 150 workers at Baker Industries are able to complete this work by the agreed-upon deadlines.

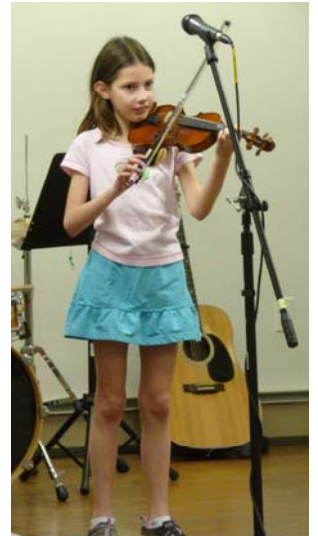
The remaining 30-35% of revenue is provided by St. John's and other contributors. No support is either sought from or given by the government. The parishioners of St. John's may know that they foster the well-being of a unique organization, which, in turn, continues to contribute to the welfare of so many people who receive that which we all welcome—a second chance.

St. John's Outreach Committee:  
Lee Holt, Chair  
Tom Higgins  
Beth McKay  
Ellen Moeller  
John Woodcock



On Friday, March 18, an audience of more than 70 people was treated to a variety of entertainment provided by our own St. John's family. From poetry readings to magic tricks to musical performances to gymnastics, we certainly showed that St. John's has got talent!

Many thanks to the cooks who provided a tasty meal to kick off the evening, our emcee Jim Netter, and all our talented performers! Special thanks to our very talented Director of Children and Youth Ministries, Sum Thang for organizing this fun evening.



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## Junior High Lock-In

All Junior High Youth (Grade 6-8) lock-in (all nighter) will be held on Friday, April 1 through Saturday, April 2. The cost for this lock-in is \$10 per youth. Lock-in activities include group games, food, and fellowship activities. Please note that drop off time on Friday is 8:00 pm and pick up time at 10:00 am on Saturday.

## Sr. High Weekend Retreat

All youth entering 9 grade through graduating seniors are welcome to attend this year's Sr. High weekend retreat at Refreshing Mountain Camp in Stevens, PA. Group games, rope courses, free time, food, and friendship building activities are planned for the weekend. The cost for this retreat is \$75 per youth. (Retreat scholarships are available based upon need). We look forward to seeing you there!

## Palm Sunday Celebration

All children and youth are invited to participate in this year's Palm Sunday worship service at 9:30 am on Sunday, April 17. Participants will be marching around the sanctuary during worship service with palm branches. We hope to see you there!

## Mother's Day Youth-Led Worship

Our youth members will be leading this year Mother's Day Worship Service on Sunday, May 8 at 9:30 am. We are currently recruiting for worship leaders, scripture readers, and youth musicians. If you are interested in taking part in the Mother's Day service, please contact Sum as soon as possible.

## Easter Egg Hunt @ St. John's

Our annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, April 23 from 10-11 am. All children and family are welcome to participate in activities including an Easter egg hunt, story time, and art activity.



## Devon Horse Show Parking

Every year, we at St. John's use the extra space in our parking lot to park cars for the Devon Horse Show. When we run out of spaces (which happens very often) we will park cars on the grass in front of the Carriage House. Youth are required to help out for Horse Show Parking, but we appreciate all the help that we can get. Please feel free to sign up for Horse Show Parking as you will be helping to raise funds for the Mission Trip, supporting the community, and bonding with fellow members of the congregation.

The dates for Horse Show Parking are Thursday, May 26th through Saturday, June 4th and the funds that we raise have many benefits. First and foremost, the funds are donated to the Senior High Mission Trip, which will be to Taylorsville, North Carolina in the Blue Ridge Mountains this year. Generally, most of the funds that we raise go towards the Mission Trip, which begs the question, where do the remainder of the funds go?

After the funds have gone to the Mission Trip, the remaining profit gets donated to a charity of choice. Last year, the money went to T&E Care, an organization that helps families in need within the community. By donating the excess money to charity, we feel that we are making an impact on the lives of people in need. So, if you have any charities in mind that would be candidates for the money, we would be happy to accept suggestions; and even if you don't, your help would still be appreciated for Horse Show Parking.

A final reason to help with Horse Show Parking is that it is a good way to strengthen your relationship with members of the congregation. We work in three hour shifts, so if you spend this time with someone you don't know very well, or someone you don't know at all, it will be a good opportunity to make new friends and become better acquainted with people you know little about.

Sign up sheets can be found in Fellowship Hall a few weeks before the Devon Horse Show starts and you can also sign up online. We appreciate all the help we can get, and the funds go to a good cause; it is also a fun way to interact with other congregation members and to make friends. We hope to see you there.

--Mark McConnell

## Welcome St. John's Newest Members!

*Frank and Joan Grande* are long-time residents of Chesterbrook. Frank has applied his MBA to a variety of careers and is currently writing a Math Booklet to assist students in understanding word problems. Joan is an artist and accomplished equestrian and had a career in real estate management. She enjoys sewing, gardening, and paddle tennis. Frank and Joan both enjoy the outdoors and taking long walks in any type of weather. They credit the Devon Horse Show parking with bringing them to this warm and friendly church home.

*Barbara Hicks* has lived in Wayne for the past 20 years and is currently employed as a client manager for Willis Personal Lines, Inc. Barbara has experience as a hospice volunteer, and enjoys walking and doing crafts in her free time. Her daughter Kristen was married at St. John's. Barbara looks forward to becoming involved in her new church home.

*Walter (Skip) and Marianne McClennen* have been residents of Devon for 35 years. They have two grown children and three grandchildren. Skip has recently retired from a career in banking and now has more time to pursue his hobbies of reading and golf. Marianne is a retired kindergarten teacher. She enjoys needlepoint, knitting and playing bridge and golf. Skip and Marianne were introduced to St. John's by a member and responded

to the church's warmth and friendliness. They now look forward to participating in church activities and growing in their Christian faith.

*Craig and Joyce Nowacki* live in Malvern with their children, Jason (19) and Kiera (23). Craig is currently the Director of State Government Affairs, Daiichi Sankyo, a Japanese pharmaceutical company. Joyce works as a clinical scientist for Pfizer Nutrition. Both Craig and Joyce enjoy fitness activities, outdoors, and scuba diving. They thank Bob Miller for his kind welcome and unwavering faith.

Sisters *Rachel and Lindsay Phillips* join their parents Bruce and Nancy as members of St. John's. Rachel is a graduate of the University of Virginia where she studied French literature. Currently, she is an advertising account executive with County Lines Magazine. When time permits, Rachel enjoys reading, cooking, painting and spending time with family and friends. Lindsay majored in Theater Arts and Elementary Education at Penn State and Temple and currently works at General Wayne Elementary. She enjoys her animals, crafts, reading, riding her bike.

We're so glad you're here!

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## Session News

In both February and March, Session had the pleasure of receiving new members to St. John's. Barbara Hicks, Skip and Marianne McClennen, Craig and Joyce Nowacki and Rachel and Lindsay Phillips are the newest members of our congregation. See the accompanying article for some brief information about each of them, and be sure to give them a warm welcome!

On the recommendation of the Worship and Music Committee and the Board of Trustees, the elders approved an expenditure of just over \$13,000 for needed organ repairs, to be funded through Planned Maintenance and approved memorial gifts. Session also approved Worship and Music's recommendation for the adoption of a church wedding policy requiring a St. John's minister to participate in weddings in the church, and encouraging couples to employ the church's Music Director for organ music.

Session has had several recent discussions about identifying and strengthening our standing committees. We will soon begin an initiative to involve more congregational members in our committees. If you have an interest in serving, please contact any elder.

Our April meeting will begin with the All Boards Dinner and meeting, where we will welcome all St. John's new officers and say thank you to those who are retiring. Our deepest thanks to Sue Chudy and Jerre Lieberman (Worship and Music), Bob Miller (Membership Enrichment), and Kathy Shaw (Christian Education) for their years of service as Elders. We are also very grateful to our retiring Deacons, Jim Friday, Virginia Holt, Amy Lord and Bob Risk and Trustees Mark Ator, Rick Shinnors and Susie Stetson.  
--Elizabeth Ator, Clerk of Session

## Confirmation Retreat

In early March, our confirmation students, their mentors and several helpers enjoyed a great overnight retreat at Refreshing Mountain Camp in Stevens, PA. Students and mentors had a chance to get to know each other better, start work on the confirmands' Personal Statements of Faith and generally have a great time.

At the stated Session meeting on March 14, the Session commended Sum Thang for his outstanding work in organizing and executing this first confirmation retreat. We hope it will become an annual event!

## St. John's Newsletter

The St. John's Newsletter is published monthly from September through June. Four expanded issues, in September, December, April and June, are augmented by shorter issues in October, November, January, February, March and May. Deadline for submissions is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the prior month. Please email articles to Elizabeth Ator ([EDAator@comcast.net](mailto:EDAator@comcast.net)).

Volunteers to assist with the many aspects of producing the newsletter are always needed! Whether you enjoy writing articles, laying out the publication, producing copies or enjoying fellowship while preparing the mailing, your help is always appreciated! Contact Elizabeth or the church office (610-688-5222) if you would like to help!

Many thanks to our recently retired newsletter team: Earline Eck, Carol Netter, Betsy Friend and Beth McKay for all their contributions over the years to keep us informed and enriched!

## St. John's April Calendar

- March 28-April 1** – Builders' Competition  
**April 1-2** Jr. High Lock-In  
**April 3** 8:00 a.m. Called Session Meeting  
Installation of Officers  
**April 5** Philabundance  
**April 8-10** Sr. High Lock-In & Retreat  
**April 10** Spring Service Day  
**April 11** Noon – Carriage Club  
**April 11** 6:00 p.m. All Boards Dinner  
Session, Deacons & Trustees mtgs.  
**April 17** Palm Sunday  
**April 21** 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday  
Worship  
**April 23** Easter Egg Hunt  
**April 24** Easter Sunday  
(No Sunday School or Youth Fellowship)  
**May 1** Recognition Sunday for interns  
Chris Clark and Jess Field  
**May 26-June 4** – Devon Horse Show Parking

## Regular Weekly Schedule

### Sundays

- 8:00 – Women's Biblical Reflections  
9:30 – Worship with concurrent Sunday School;  
Communion on 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month  
10:45 – Coffee Fellowship  
11:00 – Rejoicing Ringers  
6:00 – Jr. High Youth Fellowship  
6:15 – Jingle Bells  
6:30 – Sr. High Youth Fellowship

### Tuesdays

Victor's Day of Rest

### Wednesdays

6:30 – Confirmation Class

### Thursdays

- 10:00 – Inward Journey  
6:30 – Devon Chapel Bells  
7:45 – Chancel Choir  
9:00 – Devon Brass



## Lord, Hear our Prayers ...

### *Prayers for Healing and Restoration ...*

- ... *Ralph Umstead* recovering from a recent hospitalization.
- Liz Ward's father Nick* dealing with complications from diabetes.
- Renee Churchill* hospitalized with a B19 virus

### *Prayers for God's Peace ...*

- Carol Yocum* mourning the death of her mother Margaret

### *Prayers of Joy ...*

- ... *Emily Chudy* who has successfully passed all five required ordination exams, and pending a call to ministry at the conclusion of her studies in 2012, will be ordained at St. John's as a Minister of the Word and Sacrament.

## **St. John's Presbyterian Church**

The Reverend Dr. Victor M. Wilson, Pastor: [victor.wilson@stjohnsdevon.com](mailto:victor.wilson@stjohnsdevon.com)  
Rody Gratton, Administrative Assistant: [rody.gratton@stjohnsdevon.com](mailto:rody.gratton@stjohnsdevon.com)  
Sum Thang, Director of Children and Youth Ministries: [tsum@stjohnsdevon.com](mailto:tsum@stjohnsdevon.com)  
Diane Legnini, Director of Music: [diane\\_legnini@hotmail.com](mailto:diane_legnini@hotmail.com)

For the latest news, visit our website: [www.stjohnsdevon.com](http://www.stjohnsdevon.com)

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