



The Correspondent

Monthly Newsletter of Saint Ann's Episcopal Church, Sayville, New York

Volume XXVI
Issue 7

July 2019

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WEEKEND SERVICES

Saturday 5:00 PM – Holy Eucharist–Rite II
Sunday 8:00 AM – Holy Eucharist–Rite II
Sunday 10:00 AM – Holy Eucharist–Rite II

WEEKDAY SERVICES IN THE CHAPEL

Tuesday
9:00 AM Holy Eucharist

SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS

July 4—Independence Day



MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to spread the gospel of Christ in thought, word, and deed to our community and the world.

A Summer Day Away in a Quiet Place

Maya Angelou said, "Each person deserves a day away in which no problems are confronted, no solutions searched for. Each of us needs to withdraw from the cares which will not withdraw from us." Similarly, when Jesus' disciples were consumed with ministry, he urged them, "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest" (Mark 6:31, NIV).



The days of summer might be just the time to seek "a day away" not only from problems but even from ministry. While serving God and others can be energizing, we must balance work with rest.

God set that example, resting after creating the world; Jesus set that example, calling his disciples away — not just alone, but *with him* — to be refreshed.

Spend a relaxing day at a lake. Go on a scrapbooking retreat or a leisurely hike with a friend. Find a monastery that welcomes guests, and experience 48 hours of prayer and silence there. Invite Jesus into that time and space. And remember another message he shared: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28, NIV).



FROM THE EDITOR

Weighed Down

Many people dream of having the “right stuff” to fly to space. Recently, 18,300 people applied for just 12 astronaut spots at NASA! Fanfare over the moon landing’s 50th anniversary is sure to spark even more interest.

Leaving behind earthly troubles and floating in zero gravity must be amazing, right? Not, it turns out, for one’s body. Weightlessness takes a heavy physical toll in space. Without resistance, muscles waste away and bones weaken. Bodily systems we take for granted are disrupted, causing disorientation. To counteract these effects, astronauts wear resistance suits while exercising. Ironically, after escaping Earth’s gravity, they must replace it.

Similarly, we long for trouble-free days and pray for an end to earthly burdens, not recognizing that exertion, whether physical or spiritual, builds strength. “He who knows no hardships will know no hardihood,” said Harry Emerson Fosdick. “He who faces no calamity will need no courage. ... The characteristics in human nature which we love best grow in a soil with a strong mixture of troubles.”

Every weighty challenge is a reason to “rejoice ... knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope” (Romans 5:3-4, ESV). —**Stephanie Martin**

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2019 Saint Ann’s Episcopal Church

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Sept Deadline

Thursday, August 15

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“Truly it seems that we are never so alive as when
we concern ourselves with other people.”

—Harry Chapin



A Word from the Interim Rector Father Hugh James



Dear Friends and Members of St. Ann's,

Imagine that you are at home one day and you hear the doorbell ring. You answer it, and there on the doorstep is the Lord Jesus Christ. Don't ask me how you know it's Jesus, you just somehow know. Of course, you invite him in. You tell him how honored you are that he has chosen to come to your home, and you tell him to make himself at home and stay as long as he likes. He takes you at your word.



Move forward two weeks. Jesus has made himself at home. What effect has that had on relationships within the family? He has heard your conversations, noticed the way you treat each other, and maybe even commented on that. How has that made you feel? He's also been bringing his "friends" back. Remember this is the man who said that tax-collectors and prostitutes will be first in the kingdom of God before righteous people. Just imagine whom he has brought into your home. Some of the neighbors are beginning to comment and are talking about the possible effect on property values.

And then, there was the sermon. You introduced him to the Rector of your church, and he invited Jesus to preach last Sunday. Nobody expected a sermon quite like that, and some very strange people turned up, who didn't behave at all like normal Episcopalians. Somehow church does not feel quite so comfortable now, and everyone's wondering what the service will be like next week. Perhaps they will hold you responsible for it all, because it was you who first invited him into your house.

Wouldn't it be easier to set up an institution where Jesus could do his religious activities and his outreach ministries, without it troubling your everyday life? It could be attached to the church with everything on the one campus. You could even build a special house for Jesus to live there. That way he could carry on his work, and your family could return to normal.

That may all sound rather far-fetched, but it's not a hundred miles removed from the way we run our churches. And it highlights a danger for us: that we confine our faith-based and religious activities to one special place, and forget that Jesus calls us to follow him into the world and live the whole of our lives for him.

With all best wishes,

Hugh James+



SAVE THE DATE: TUESDAY, JULY 30

2:00 PM

The Senior Luncheon will be an Ice Cream Social in July!
Come, have fun making a sundae, socialize, enjoy the air conditioning.

No charge, but please bring a donation for our food pantry.

Vestry Visions

With God, all things are possible. A recent example came to the forefront of my mind as we were making preparations for the annual St. Barnabas Day BBQ. As you might gather, there is much planning and advance preparation that needs to occur to bring the traditional event to fruition.



There is the component of the 10:00 AM service on the Great Lawn that requires hard work. Chairs must be positioned, tents erected, the piano (these are not light!) needs to be wheeled outside along with the lectern and necessary seating for the choir, acolytes, Father Hugh etc. The public address system requires the considerable expertise of Rick Magnani so that the sounds of Kathy's piano, the choir and Father Hugh all reach our parishioners.

As for the after-the-10:00 AM service, Jackie Gandolfo performed her usual wonderful job in arranging to have the required supplies available so that we could prepare our customary

BBQ. Beverages, ice, hamburgers, hot dogs and everything else required were at the ready on the morning of the event. Our sexton, Lou Linrunner had much of the logistics for tables and chairs in place well in advance of the festivities.

Most importantly, there were many volunteers assisted by the Grace of God who rose to the occasion to make the event memorable. Volunteers are the backbone of church activities and are one of our most cherished assets. For the first time in many years, we were ready ahead of schedule. Importantly, many stayed behind after the BBQ and assisted in making the clean-up process a less onerous task than usual.



Though the helpful volunteers are too numerous to list, I thank you! St. Barnabas day was once again a reminder that with God and his volunteers, all things are possible.

John Smith for the Vestry

	Wardens:		2020 Nancy Koinoglou	2021 Thomas Honey
	Vestry:	2020	Donald Hester	Diane Miller-Magnani
			Patricia Osarchuk	John O'Neil
		2021	Ken Smyrk	Carol Ann St. Lawrence
			Wendy Schmittzeh	John Smith
		2022	Jackie Gandolfo	Jill Hughes
			Nicole LaFountaine	Constance Currie



SEARCH COMMITTEE

News from the Search Committee

News from the Search Committee

We write to provide you with a status report regarding the search for the next Rector of St. Ann's Church.

Your input is vital to the development of our Parish profile, and we want to ensure that as many members of the St. Ann's community as possible contribute to the process. We are currently finalizing the Parish Survey to be available on the St. Ann's website. Paper copies of the survey will also be available in the Parish hall for those without easy access to a computer. The plan is to have the survey available in early - mid July. The survey will gather demographic information as well as information about St. Ann's, its future, and the qualities of our new Rector.

We welcome your prayers, engagement, support and questions.

Yours sincerely, *Susan Knoepffler*, Chair

Email: Sknoepffler@northwell.edu

Committee Members: Rich Acierno, Peg Flanagan, Jackie Gandolfo, Don Hester and Gerry Pagels

Prayer for the Search Committee

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on St. Ann's, and so hear the prayers of the parish family as we look to you for guidance in our search for a new Rector. We pray that you will lead to us a faithful pastor, who will care for us and equip us for our ministries, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ECW ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



Congratulations to Bayport High School graduate Hannah Smith winner of this year's achievement award. She will be attending Geneseo College this fall planning to be an English teacher.



Congratulations to Carol Ann and John St. Lawrence, who were honored at the American Legion, Post #651, together as a team. Together they have archived the historical records of all veterans whose resting places are at St. Ann's and Union Cemeteries. What a dynamic team!



Thoughts from the Front Porch

Father Brian Barry



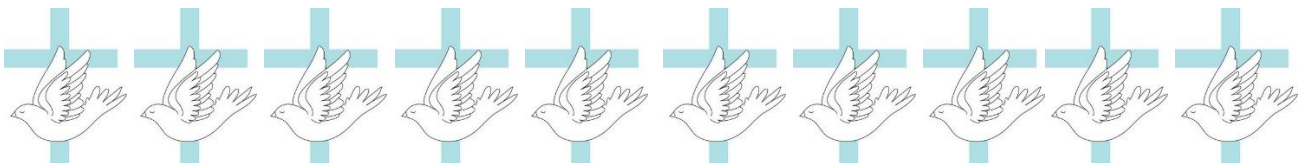
Given that I have been asked some questions lately about our understanding of Holy Eucharist, particularly “First Holy Communion,” I thought I would take the time during this month’s “Thoughts from the Front Porch” to address those questions, and maybe explain the Episcopal Church’s teaching on the subject.

In the Episcopal Church we say that “all baptized Christians are eligible to receive Holy Communion,” but that has not always been the practice. Every Sunday, several of our members do not receive Communion, because they have traditionally been considered too young. This is why a lot of churches, particularly the Roman Catholic Church, have a First Communion class, along with a separate day to receive the Eucharist for the first time. While that may be part of the tradition, especially considering the fact that many of us (myself included) are former Roman Catholics who brought our traditions with us, that is not what the Episcopal Church teaches. We teach that from the moment you are baptized, you are welcomed into God’s family, and are thus invited to receive the food from God’s table. God, as our Father, would never send God’s Children away hungry.

Now, in some denominations (particularly in the Eastern Churches), when a baby is baptized, the priest will actually mush up communion bread with (well-watered) wine, and serve it to the baby on a spoon. This is to communicate to us the idea that once you are baptized, you are welcome at Christ’s table. We don’t do that in the Episcopal Church, though I sometimes think we should. What we actually do is allow parents to decide when their kids can receive Communion, because very young children can’t eat solid food. But because of various traditions, parents in our parish often wait for a certain age (usually 7, or 2nd grade, which is the norm in the Roman Church) before allowing their children to receive. This, in the past, led us to create our own First Communion Class.

The problem with a First Communion Class is that it implies that a child must somehow “understand” the Sacrament before receiving it. That is actually very wrong: none of us “understand” the Sacrament. We know in our hearts that we receive Christ’s Body and Blood, but none of us can explain how that happens. To expect a child to “understand” is actually very wrong. Further, what about those who are cognitively disabled, or have a learning disability? Should they be turned away because they can’t “understand?” Or should they, like the rest of us, receive Christ’s gift of himself to us, freely offered, with no strings attached?

Father Hugh and I have decided that a First Communion class is not consistent with the Episcopal Church’s teaching on Communion, and so we have done away with that program. We are now inviting parents with young children to bring their children up to receive Communion no matter what the age. For those who still wish to wait until a certain age, we will of course honor that, and we invite parents who desire that to schedule with us a day where their child can receive Communion first as a way of marking the occasion. What we want most, of course, is to be able to share Christ with every baptized Christian, so that they can grow in the knowledge and love of God through Jesus Christ.



THE Thrift Shop

By Elsie Flanagan

This month at the Thrift Shop we are putting away the Christmas and Holiday sections and will be bringing them back at the end of September. We will be having ongoing sales on all summer items, until we close the last week of August and remove old stock. Then we will put out all new stock--everything for Fall and Winter. It is a busy time for volunteers, and we are all working together to remove and replace just about EVERY article of clothing (shoes, bags, scarves, ties, socks, and linens) to reflect the upcoming cool Fall and colder Winter weather. What a job!



You may wonder, who does all that work? Surely there must be a large group of strong young people to do all the lifting, packing, unpacking? It may surprise you to know that most of our volunteers are a bunch of white-haired little ladies (even under the blonde and brunette hair dye!). Most have been with St. Ann's Thrift Shop for over 20-30 years. Most are Sayville born and are congregants of St. Ann's church. But just as many of us come from other towns and are not even Episcopalians -- or Christians for that matter. We just feel the need to "do something good." While 99.5% of them are women, we do have a few men (one, Tom, is a retired NYC policeman). It is hard work, have no doubt about that--lifting, carrying the bags and boxes, sorting through clothing and shoes, cleaning the housewares and putting together the toys thrown in a bag. Ask any 10 women why they do it and you will get 10 different answers. "It gives me a place to go each day," "It keeps me active," "I've made wonderful friends," "Someone has to do it!" But the most common thread is: "I am part of the community. We all need to give back, and I have been blessed with a long life."



So, the takeaway is that this is an opportunity for you to make some wonderful friends, feel less lonely, help some people and give back some of what you have accumulated over the years. You don't have to be religious; you don't have to be part of the church; you don't HAVE to be anything. Just come on over! Who knows, you may find something you need, like a new pair of pants, a new pillow for your couch, or maybe just a friend.



Happy to Help

Jesus said we'll be happy (or "blessed") when we're meek, merciful, pure, and so on (see his Beatitudes in Matthew 5:3-12). In other words, happiness results from putting others' needs above our own.

Research confirms that helping others boosts people's self-esteem, forges strong friendships, offers a sense of belonging and purpose, decreases stress, increases gratitude, and sparks others to "pay it forward." In fact, University of Texas researchers found that the "activism cure" is a great way to overcome bouts of sadness. So, get helping—and get happy!



PEANUT BUTTER AND JELLY MINISTRY

By Mary Mattarella (631-745-3745)
stbarnabus@yahoo.com



Greeting Friends!

This warm summer day was especially outstanding for our homeless mission to NYC! We were pleased to have Father Hugh with us on this trip in addition to Rodney, Rick, myself, my friend Kim and her son Alex, Paddy, Trevor, and Kym Mahoney. We boarded the 6:39 AM train out of Ronkonkoma with five wagons and one travel suitcase filled with your generous donations. Walking to our distribution spot on 7th Avenue, we passed several people just taking up a piece of the sidewalk as home, so we made certain to give them cold water, a blanket to sit on, etc.

Arriving onsite, we were met by our fellow missionaries from Zion Episcopal church, who had already set up, and were starting to handle the large line of our homeless friends. Besides peanut butter and jelly sandwiches they usually bring, Zion missionaries brought watermelon and hot dogs for our Independence Day celebration! What a treat!



We were honored to serve over 80 customers within 90 minutes! After that, we packed up, and began walking the street to tend to souls who call the sidewalk their home. As important as it is to hand out essentials, Father Hugh had pointed something else out. One of the things that reconnect homeless people to humanity, is the simple act of touch. The handshake, the hug--they go quite a long way in restoring love and a feeling of being human. Having said that, this action is not for all who would be interested in working on this mission, and that's ok!

The prep work before each mission, is something we also need help on! Paddy Hennessey is very much in need of redeeming bottles, we use the cash to buy things. The week of mission, we could use help at the Littlejohn building to load my truck. Getting up and down

the stairs with all those things can sometimes be tough when I'm doing it by myself. Perhaps if you are an early riser, you can meet me at the train station, to help unload my truck, and load up all the wagons.* Or, perhaps if you come that day, you can assist with keeping items organized. These are, of course, just suggestions.

Perhaps you may like to help by being a prayer partner. Or coming with me to NYC, to research places for the homeless to go. You see, one of the most important parts of our mission, is to give viable and SAFE places, for the homeless to go. If I am not welcome in to say hello, I'm certainly not going to send someone in need there! Also, I look for cleanliness, programs, bedding, food in these places. Donations for our mission are, of course, always welcome and needed. Thank you all, for the amazing items given! So please consider coming once, at least just to observe, and you can do only what is within your comfort level. I promise it is life changing! So many people who come are surprised at what fun it can be.

* When I arrived at the train station Saturday morning at 5:28 AM to unload my truck for the train, I had to pinch myself, because to my joyous shock, there stood my usually last-minute friend Rodney Dudley, waiting on the curb for me! She was wide awake (very unusual!), coffee in hand, and smiling! It was a pleasure to have company preparing the wagons!



Blessings to you all, *The Very Festive Mary*

VIEW FROM BEHIND THE POLE

Choir Gathers to Celebrate as Summer Holidays Arrive



We will sing again in September!

SUMMER COFFEE HOUR



Episcopalians love their coffee hour! Often called the “Eighth Sacrament,” it’s where we gather after church to relax, enjoy a cup of coffee and a snack, and catch up with friends before running off for a busy afternoon. The Coffee Hour will continue through the summer, as long as we have people sign up to provide it. If no one signs up—no Coffee Hour. Check the signup sheet in the Parish Hall and see if there is a Sunday when you could help.

It doesn’t have to be fancy—casual will do nicely in this casual season. Cookies, donuts, maybe bagels or coffee cake—whatever is easiest for you. Thanks for your help!

THE BIBLE IS CLEAR: Moabites are bad. They were not to be allowed to dwell among God's people (Dt. 23).

BUT THEN comes the story of "Ruth the Moabite," which challenges the prejudice against Moabites.

THE BIBLE IS CLEAR: People from Uz are evil (Jer.25).

BUT THEN comes the story of Job, a man from Uz who was the "most blameless man on earth."

THE BIBLE IS CLEAR: No foreigners or eunuchs allowed (Dt. 23).

BUT THEN comes the story of an African eunuch welcomed into the church (Acts 8).

THE BIBLE IS CLEAR: God's people hated Samaritans.

BUT THEN Jesus tells a story that shows not all Samaritans were bad.

THE STORY MAY begin with prejudice, discrimination and animosity, but the Spirit moves God's people towards openness, welcome, inclusion, acceptance, and affirmation.



As our own priests have taught us, you can't just read a verse from the Bible and assume it is true for all people in all times—or even that the words written then mean the same thing they do now. The Bible must be read in context, acknowledging the customs of the time it was written and following up on the verse at other places in the Bible. Few Bible verses stand alone.

Many Ways to Give



As a hen and a pig walked down the road, they noticed a church sign advertising a breakfast of "Ham and Eggs!"

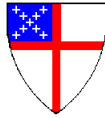
"That's nice," said the hen. "A chance for us to serve the congregation."

"Easy for you to say," replied the pig. "For you, it's a contribution; for me, it's a sacrifice!"

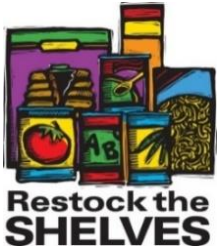
Versions of this story appear on inspirational websites, with comments about the chicken being *involved* in breakfast, while the pig is *committed*.

Opinions differ, however, about which animal has the right idea. Some people warn against being the pig, sacrificing yourself for success; others say the chicken isn't all-in.

"People who give themselves to Jesus with a trusting abandon" are like pigs, says Rick Lawrence in *The Jesus-Centered Life* (Group). That total, "without reservation" commitment, he says, shows a willingness to give your life to Jesus — as he gave his for you.



NOTES



OUR DAILY BREAD

Monday & Thursday, from 10:00 AM -12:00 Noon
The food pantry is especially in need of these supplies.

Canned Meats * Soup * Chili * Peanut Butter * Jelly
Fresh Vegetables

Of course, cash donations allow us to shop for needed items.

God and Guinness

Father Brian invites parishioners to join him at the Portly Villager, at 261 Main Street in Sayville. Generally, the meetings are alternate Thursdays. The next date is Thursday, July 11th.

All parishioners who are 21 years old and above are welcome to attend.



Sometimes when you're in a dark place you think you've been buried, but you've actually been planted. Bloom! –Christine Caine



Kingdom on Wheels

If you love what you do, you're going to talk about it," says Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Carson Wentz. "I love Jesus ... so I'm going to talk about [him]. But I'm not going to force [Christianity] down your throat, either." That's why the pro athlete tries to show his faith by "how I live and what I'm about."

Wentz started the foundation AO1 (Audience of One) to make a tangible impact beyond the gridiron. With a local church, he sponsors Thy Kingdom Crumb, a food truck that offers free meals to people in the community. The motto painted on the mobile restaurant sums up the message Wentz wants to share with his neighbors: "It's on us ... 'cause he loves you!"



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IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS REGARDING
THE BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES LIST, PLEASE CONTACT
THE CHURCH OFFICE AT 631-589-6522.



WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

1	Raymond & Betty Graunke	6	Dennis & Bo Messina	19	Richard & Alissa Williams
3	Patrick & Karen Cavanagh		Adam & Jessica Shelton	22	Peter & Jenny O'Connell
	Juan Carlos & Lara Espinoza	15	Shaun & Jessica Brett	29	Keith & Heather Johnson
	Donald & Barbara MacKenzie		Phil Potestio & Addie Sanders	31	Stephen & Jeanne Vander Borgh
5	Christopher & Ann Marie Zanchelli				Christopher & Kyle Wolfe



2	Joanna Wolfe	14	Rodney Dudley	19	Jean Arena	28	Joyce Hamilton
3	Doreen Greci	15	Lisa Montemarano	20	David Gandolfo III	29	Carole Sheppard
4	Joanne Festa		Jeremy Pandolf		Salvatore Senese	30	Patricia Madison
	Roland Russell	16	Barbara Gaito	22	John Schulz		Victoria Speicher
5	Emily Cole	17	Eleanor Cheslak-Wilkins	23	Ella Chalmers	31	Nathan Casaburi
9	Jonas Stankovich		Ronald Mediatore	24	Susanne Schultz		Constance Currie
11	Meredith Espinoza		Donald Russell	27	Rachel Ferzola		
	Taylor Schmittzeh	18	Robert Immoor		Gerhard Pagels		
13	Jillian Waters		Shane Leuly		Patricia Shiebler		

These names are offered each month as an opportunity to extend to our brothers and sisters the love of Christ on these special days and to express our thanks for the gift of their presence in our midst. They are also offered as an opportunity to pray for each one of these individuals and couples on these significant days in their lives.

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We need deliberately to call to mind the joys of our journey.
Perhaps we should try to write down the blessings of one day. We might begin; we could never end; there
are not pens or paper enough in all the world.

—George Buttrick

Our Church History



By Connie Currie

❖ The Garden of the Unforgotten

Warrington B. Stark
Mildred Stoll Stark
SECTION 46 – LOT 4

Warrington Bates Stark was 78 years old when he died on October 16, 1974, after suffering a long illness. Mr. Stark was born in Dorchester, MA, but made his home in Bayport for most of his life. He retired from the Liberty Mutual Insurance Company. Once retired, he was able to devote his time to the Bayport Fire Department and Bayport Fire Police, Islip Town Exempt Firemen, Connetquot Lodge 838 F&AM, and the Connetquot Square Club. He also served on the Bayport Board of Education and the Selective Service Board.

Mr. Stark was survived by his wife Mildred, one son, Warrington, of Berlin, CT; a grandson; and a great grandson. After Fire Department and Masonic services were held October 18th at the Bayport Funeral Home, religious services were conducted by the Rev. Mr. Joseph Bond, Rector Emeritus of St. Ann's Episcopal Church, on October 19th in the church. He was laid to rest in the parish cemetery.



Mildred Stoll Stark died at the age of 74 at her home on March 5, 1977, after a long illness. A lifelong resident of Bayport, she lost her husband in 1974. Mrs. Stark was the daughter of Michael and Nettie Stryker Stoll, making her a member of two well known local families. Mildred's life was celebrated on March 7th at St. Ann's Episcopal Church, the Rev. Mr. Joseph Bond officiating. She was interred next to her husband in St. Ann's Cemetery.

TAKE TIME

Take time to learn,
It is a sign of greatness.
Take time to plan,
It is the first step to fulfillment.
Take time to dream,
It is the fountain of achievement.
Take time to give
It is a symbol of maturity.
Take time to love,
It is a gift of God.

Take time to think,
It is a source of power.
Take time to work,
It is the price of success.
Take time to act,
It is an expression of belief in oneself.
Take time to smile,
It is the window of the soul.

--Floyd Brown



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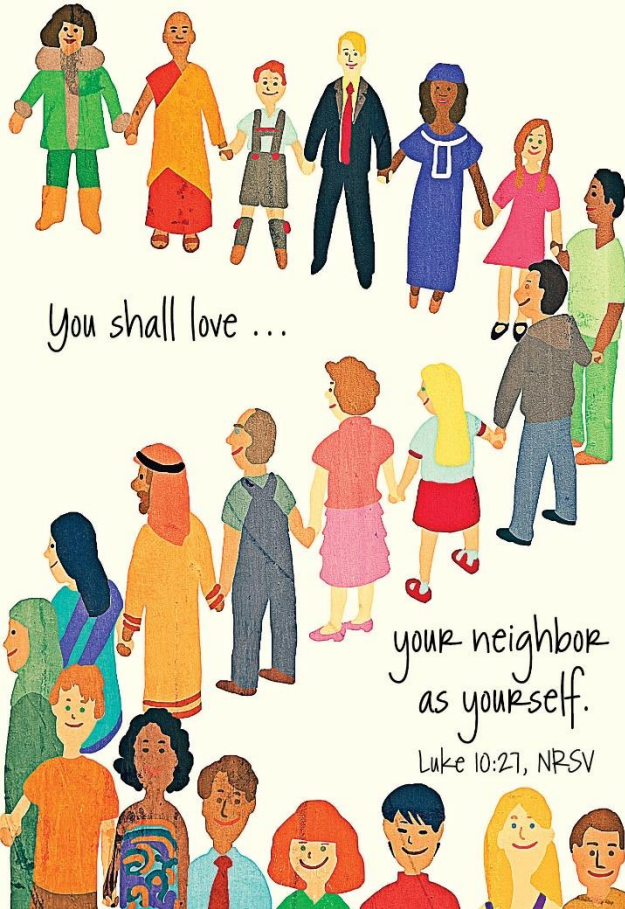


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AROUND SAINT ANN'S Monthly Schedule

See Correspondent pages and Bulletin for
changes/cancellations.

Check out the website at: www.saint-anns.org

Sundays

8:00 AM—Holy Eucharist
9:00 AM—Sunday School
10:00 AM—Holy Eucharist
7:30 PM—AA Meeting

Mondays

10:00AM—12:00 PM Food Pantry
6:00 PM—Vestry Meeting—July 8
8:00 PM—AA Meeting

Tuesdays

8:00 AM—Men's Group
9:00 AM—Holy Eucharist

Wednesdays

9:30 AM—12:00 PM Operation Hope
10:00 AM-3:00 PM—Thrift Shop Open

Thursdays

10:00 AM—AA Meeting
10:00 AM—12:00 PM Food Pantry
10:00 AM-3:00 PM—Thrift Shop Open
8:00 PM—AA Meeting

Fridays

12:00-3:00 PM—Thrift Shop Open

Saturday

10:00 AM-3:00 PM—Thrift Shop Open
5:00 PM—Holy Eucharist



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