

ST. JOHN'S
EPISCOPAL
CHURCH,
COMPASS
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The Compass

... Pointing People toward Christ



June 2017

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From the Rector: "Batteries Not Included"

There was a great little movie in 1987, titled "Batteries Not Included."

It stars Hume

Cronyn and Jessica Tandy as an old couple barely eking out a living in a run-down luncheonette on the ground floor of their crumbling New York City apartment building. Their mismatched set of eccentric neighbors are battling a ruthless developer who wants them all evicted—by force, if necessary—and the building demolished. One night, the developer's goons come around with baseball bats and crowbars, wrecking the old couple's only means of survival, their quaint vintage diner.

Meanwhile, what remains of the restaurant's kitchen, the appliances—a toaster, a blender, the radio—are mysteriously disappearing. Up on the roof, *strange things* are happening in the tool shed. Gradually, the residents discover their electrical gadgets and metal implements are being cannibalized by what look like two tiny space ships.

The pair of toy-sized flying saucers "talk" in soft chirping sounds and appear to have friendly personalities. Soon it becomes clear that one is a mama ship. She needs the electricity for energy, because she's about to give birth!

Sure enough, out come three of the cutest little whir-

ring, blinking thingamajigs that quickly become the darlings of the apartment dwellers.

That night, while the humans are asleep, out of gratitude for the hospitality shown them, the visitors from outer space whiz through the destroyed dinette and restore everything as it once was. Through their mysterious powers, smashed glass comes together again, pictures rehang themselves on the wall, trashed tables upright themselves, and soon everything is as good as—or better than—new.

The rest of the film is about the developer's escalating tactics of intimidation, and how the previously isolated neighbors bond with one another and their newfound friends from outer space. Eventually, this ragtag little band defeats the wealthy movers and shakers—but they couldn't have done it without power that came from on high.

As I was thinking about this delightful film, it struck me that all of us are like those apartment dwellers. We, too, are up against a powerful enemy that wants to destroy us, one who uses a variety of nasty tactics to try to tear us down.

The Bible calls our enemy the devil. You may choose to call it evil: It is whatever opposes God's truth and will. And it is both in us, and in the

world. Like that elderly couple, we, too, face struggles in our daily lives. Like them, we need help from on high. Not from pint-sized flying saucers with adorable personas. We need the Holy Spirit! *God's Holy Spirit* that was given to Jesus' followers two millennia ago on the **Day of Pentecost** (which we will celebrate at St. John's on **June 4**)—and *still available to each of us*, today and every day.

The Holy Spirit is mentioned 95 times in the Old and the New Testaments. In Genesis, we read that the Spirit of God swept over the unformed waters of the firmament, initiating Creation. And in the book of Revelation, it is the Spirit who, in the very last words of the Bible, issues the invitation to come to the *living waters* of eternal life.

Between the beginning of the universe and the end of time, the Holy Spirit is busy doing God's work on earth—through us, as well as through God's holy angels.

In the Old Testament, we read that the Holy Spirit was active in the world and in people's lives, yet the Spirit was never given to individuals, except occasionally for purposes of prophecy. Then along came the prophet Isaiah, who foretold that one day in the future, God's Holy Spirit would be poured out upon all of Israel's descendants.

(⇒ continued on page 2)

“Batteries Not Included” (continued)



We still need the gift of the Holy Spirit that was given at Pentecost

The prophet Joel affirms this promise, declaring that on that day, young and old alike, women and men equally, slaves or free—*everyone who calls on the name of the Lord*—will be saved.

Can you picture it? *The very Spirit of God Almighty* enters anyone who believes in God through having faith in Jesus Christ! Now that’s some *power source!*

If you know anything about computers, you know it doesn’t matter how great your central processing unit is, if the power source is inadequate. The same is true of our spiritual lives. The Holy Spirit is the “battery” we need to recharge our spirits and even our very lives.

Given everything that’s going on today, all the garbage we face and are trying to cope with—not to mention, spiritual warfare—we *need help! We need power!*

Our faith, hope, love, and courage need re-energizing!

Jesus knew this about His disciples 2,000 years ago, and the same is true of us today.

Do you need a spiritual booster shot? Would you like what’s been broken or smashed up inside you restored to better-than-new—like the luncheonette in the movie?

Does your faith need help? Do you have trouble remembering Bible verses—or even understanding the Scriptures you read? Would you like to be able to share Jesus with others, but are too afraid? The Holy Spirit is the answer!

Just as the Holy Trinity is not complete without God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit, our spiritual lives, our faith, and the devotional practice are not complete without each person of the Trinity.*

God is the one who created us. **Jesus** is the one who saves us. And the **Holy Spir-**

it is the one who makes it possible for us to live as Christian believers whose faith can actually make a difference in the world.

So, what will it be? Will you go on being a person whose label reads “batteries not included”? . . . Or will you plug into the power source, the Holy Spirit of God, who is eager to fill your life—and the lives of those around you—with grace, gifts, and blessings beyond compare?

In Luke 11:13, Jesus promises that if we ask for the Holy Spirit, we *will* receive. The Day of Pentecost is a great opportunity for that prayer!

*Yours in Christ’s
love and service,
Mother Nina*

*(At St. John’s, we will celebrate **Trinity Sunday** on **June 11**, with Fr. John Daniels as our Guest Celebrant.)

Do you like beautiful music? Donate to the Organ Fund!

The time has come to replace our current organ. So far, we have received \$12,535 in donations—along with another promised \$5,000—for what will likely be an expense of **\$30,000** total.

Our Organist, Richard Hacker, is researching which make and model in this price range would best suit the needs of St. John’s Church. With your generous support, we’re hoping to have a new organ before our old one ‘goes kaput!’ Checks payable to St. John’s Church should be marked “**Organ Fund**,” and may be placed in the Sunday offering or the Treasurer’s mailbox.



"Catch a Wave!" Vacation Bible School, July 8th ~ 10 am to 3 pm, for Kids 5-12



Sunday School ends June 4th. But this **one-day Vacation Bible School** adventure at St. John's Church will be packed with stories about **Kids in the Bible**, plus: **fun, games, snacks, crafts, great songs, and an outreach project.**

Children will have an awesome time **plunging** into Scripture; **diving** into crafts; **swimming through** games; and **surfing** mini-missions!

Lunch will be provided, and there will be a **water-slide** to slip, splash, and play in, at the end of the day. The event is free, and open to everyone.

You can register your kids or grandkids one of two ways:

- 1) Pick up a registration form at church and turn it in, or mail it to St. John's Church (**one form per child**);
- 2) Click on the **VBS Registration link** on our **Facebook Page** at <https://www.facebook.com/stjohnscompass/>



Send Help to a Child in Peru, through a St. John's Missioner

You can help a child in Peru through Laura Armstrong's Mission Trip

In partnership with the YMCA of Peru, the YMCA of Greater Brandywine is sponsoring a **Family Service Mission trip to Peru, July 21-30, 2017** for individuals and families.

Working in communities surrounding Lima as part of the recovery effort following historic floods in March of this year, the mission will involve cleaning, painting and rehabilitation of program centers in challenged areas where the Y provides outreach.

The Mission's goals are to: Share cultural immersion and service learning; gain a greater understanding of and appreciation for Peruvian culture; develop relationships



with YMCA members locally and abroad; see and participate in the Y in mission in action; and serve as ambassadors from the YMCA of Greater Brandywine.

St. John's member, Laura Armstrong, was chosen to participate in this mission, and she would like our congregation's support—not for the cost of the trip, which she is paying personally—but to **help the children of Peru.**

She writes, "The cost of the supplies we are bringing with us is **\$25 per child**, which provides a wool blanket for the coming winter and replaces each child's books and school supplies for the year. Checks can be made to the YMCA of Greater Brandywine."

Please be generous, giving to "the least of these" as we would to Jesus.



Many hands
make light
work!

FALL FESTIVAL October 7th

We need all hands on deck to make our Fall Festival a *success!* By reaching out to the surrounding community in this way, we have a great potential to attract visitors to St. John's. Every member of our parish has some gift or talent to contribute. If you're not already part of the planning team, please see **Jenny Landis or Linda Zynn**. And mark your calendar to attend the **June 25th Planning Meeting**. Also, kindly keep this effort in your *prayers*. Nothing is impossible with God!

Father's Day Brunch, June 18th

Please join us on **Sunday, June 18** for a **Father's Day Celebration** during Coffee Hour. We'll have some "manly" food to satisfy those special guys in our lives.



If you're interested in attending **Picnic Sunday at Mt. Gretna on July 23**, please see the sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall. We need at least 25 people to make this possible.

Time to Start Thinking about 'Homecoming Sunday,' November 5th—All Saints' Sunday

Homecoming Sunday will be an opportunity to invite back to St. John's former *members*, or *those who have not attended in quite some time*. We're planning a special luncheon after Mass that day, to celebrate their return. Summer would be a good time to renew relationships and friendships with those you plan to invite. *Let's fill the church that day!*



Birthdays

&

Anniversaries



JUNE

Hank Brooks June 6
 Olivia Cipollini June 9
 Barry Baldwin June 11
 Jeff McLauchlan June 15
 Kathy Trofe June 15
 Ron Zynn June 16
 Andrew John Tritz June 18
 Brittany Trofe June 21
 Tracy Miller June 25
 Richard Gilfillan June 30

JULY

Mia Eileen Baldwin July 1
 Kurt Gansauer July 7
 Robin Baldwin July 11
 David Skiles July 18
 Katelyn Wilkinson July 20
 Neven Zurcher July 20
 Don Faix July 23
 Sharon Fremont July 26
 Jennifer Kirchhofer July 29

AUGUST

Naleea Zurcher August 4
 Michael Zurcher August 6
 Ellie Baldwin August 16
 Marie Kinka August 19
 Niya Zurcher August 26
 Paul Weaver August 28

JUNE

Paul & Mary Lou Weaver June 3
 Chris & Sharon Fremont June 6
 Glenn & Debbie Martin June 7
 John & Faye Oberholser June 18
 Dawn & Bob Filetti June 18
 Mike & Tina Zurcher June 27
 Ron & Linda Zynn June 27

JULY

Grier & Jennifer Hoskins July 1
 Bob & Leslie Yarnall July 23
 Richard & Fran Gilfillan July 25
 Ron & Joyce Kelly July 25

AUGUST

Lou & Joan D'Aloisio August 17
 Ralph & Jennifer Kirchhofer August 23
 Joe & Shannon McLauchlan August 23
 John & Kathy Trofe August 27



CEC NEWS: June 18, Organ Dedication & Concert, St. Mark's, Honey Brook; July 13, CEC Meeting at St. Mary's, Elverson.

The Lunch Bunch had a great time at the Honey Brook Golf Club, in May



Join us for our next gathering in June, hosted by Susan Hurst



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MISSION STATEMENT

We welcome all persons searching for spiritual guidance and wholeness in our broken world, as together we seek to serve others in the Name of Jesus Christ.

STAFF, WARDENS, and VESTRY

The Rev. Dr. Nina George-Hacker, FHC, Rector
 Richard Hacker, Organist/Choir Director
 Robin Baldwin, Ass't. Parish Administrator
 Reid Heeren, Rector's Warden
 Robin Baldwin, People's Warden

Vestry: Steve Boyd, Jen Hoskins, Glenn Martin,
 Nancy Miller, Jenny Landis, Kaye Lee, Bob Yarnall

NO VESTRY MEETINGS, JULY or AUGUST



<https://www.facebook.com/stjohscompass/>
 "Come and See!"



*There will be no
 Compass Newsletter
 in July or August*



June 2017 Service Schedule

(All Summer Services at 10:30 am—NO time change)



Date	First Lesson, Psalm, and Prayers	Second Lesson & Eucharistic Minister	Acolyte	Crucifer	Greeters	Coffee Hour Host
June 4 Day of Pentecost	Laura Armstrong	Linda Zynn	Tom Rohrer	Pat Owens	Ron & Joyce Kelly	
June 11 Trinity Sunday	Kurt Gansauer	Linda Zynn	Robin Baldwin	Bob Yarnall	Joanne Cipollini Helen Esbenshade	
June 18 Father's Day	Sharon Fremont	Robin Baldwin	Hank Fant	Glenn Martin	Fran Gilfillan Selena Baldwin	Father's Day Brunch
June 25 3 rd Sunday after Pentecost	Kaye Lee	Cynthia Boyd	Pat Owens	Tom Rohrer	Howard & Kaye Lee	
<i>Thank you for your support this month</i>	Altar Guild Fran Gilfillan	Offering Robin Baldwin, Reid Heeren Jenny Landis, Kaye Lee		Card Ministry Joyce Kelly	Lunch Bunch Host Susan Hurst See church bulletin board for July & August Service Schedules	