

The Compass

... Pointing People toward Christ



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FALL 2019



I enjoy reading the local bi-weekly "Fishwrapper" newspaper. It's an uplifting, old-fashioned, Christian-based collection of touching stories; dumb (but funny) jokes; silly anecdotes; helpful hints; and Pennsylvania Dutch recipes.

In the June 4, 2019 edition, there was a (possibly apocryphal) story called "Eight Hundred Pacos," which resonated so greatly, I wanted to reprint it here:

"There's a Spanish story of a father and son who had become estranged. The son ran away, and the father set off to find him. He searched for months to no avail. Finally, in a last desperate effort to find him, the father put an ad in a Madrid newspaper. The ad read:

Dear Paco,
Meet me in front of this newspaper office at noon on Saturday. All is forgiven. I love you.

Your Father

*On Saturday, **eight-hundred** Pacos showed up looking for forgiveness and love from their fathers."*

Every one of us needs and longs to be forgiven our sins, errors, and transgressions, whether or not we realize it. Each of us is a "Paco" looking for love and reconciliation with our Heavenly Father, and that is why God sent Jesus to live among us, and die on our behalf.



Jesus also taught that just as *He* forgives us, *we* are to forgive others (Matthew 6:14). That's often easier said than done, and may take more time than we're willing to give the process.

One reason Christ taught us to pray "forgive us our debtors," is that forgiveness is essentially releasing another person from a debt (such as: money, justice, kindness, etc.) we feel they owe

us. We have to *let go, and let God*. It's been said that "forgiveness doesn't change the other person's life, it just keeps unforgiveness from destroying ours." There's a lot of truth to that adage.

As we enter into Autumn, and prepare to say goodbye to another year, even though this is not a "penitential" season in the Church, I think it's a good time to thank God for His mercy in forgiving us, and to ask Him for the grace and patience to forgive all who have offended, wronged, or hurt us.

As we celebrate our **290th year in ministry for Christ at St. John's Church**, we've been reviewing the complicated early history of our parish that began as a British church. In our members' backgrounds, we have found both Tories and Colonists; loyalists and revolutionaries; slaveholders and abolitionists. The United States managed to make peace with England, and later, North and South were reconciled.

With the help of God's grace, let us do the same with our fellow men and women.

Yours in Christ's love and service,

Mother Nina ⁺

Congratulations to Colonel Mark S. Robertson

Kudos to Suzanne Robertson
Turpin's nephew!



The Commanding General of the United States Army announced his retirement from serving our Nation on July 12, 2019, when a ceremony honoring Colonel Robertson and Mrs. Lesly Robertson was held at the 351st Civilian Affairs Headquarters in Mountain View, California. The citation read: "Through more than 36 years of marriage, Lesly has supported her Soldier as he pursued his passion to serve in the military." **Awards presented to Col. Robertson and his wife, Lesly, included:**

- Great American Family awarded by Barbara Bush
- Spouse recognition from the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense
- General Douglas McArthur Leadership Award
- Legion of Merit
- Bronze Star
- Defense Meritorious Service Medal
- Secretary of Defense Badge
- Good Conduct Medal
- Global War on Terror Medal

We are so proud of Col. Robertson and his wife. *Thank you for your service!*

Best Wishes to Shawna and Tim!



On Saturday, July 6, **Shawna Armer and Tim Adair** were married at St. John's Church. Members of nearby Pequea Baptist Church, they were unable to wed in their sanctuary because it was in the midst of renovations. We were happy to extend our hospitality, and wish the newlyweds all God's best.

Save the Date!

Sunday, October 6 at 2 pm

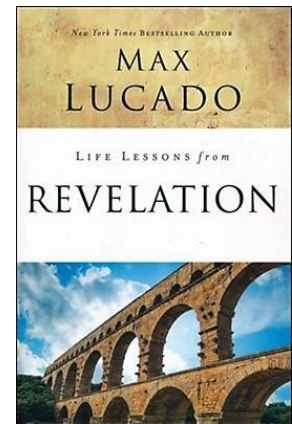


In honor of **St. Francis of Assisi**, there will be a brief liturgy in our parking lot. Bring your "furry family member," leashed or in a carrier, for a blessing and a treat. (People treats, too!)

Bible Study Update

Adult Bible Study resumes **Wednesday, September 25, Noon to 1:00 pm** in the Conference Room.

We will be reading and discussing the New Testament book of **Revelation**, using Max Lucado's "Life Lessons" series.



In Spring 2020 we plan to offer **Wednesday Evening Bible Study** so that those who work in the daytime will be able to attend.



Join us for these informal services of candlelit silence; inspirational Scriptures; uplifting songs; and contemplative prayer:

Saturday, October 19 – 7 pm
Saturday, December 7 – 7 pm



The Lord has blessed St. John's Church, Compass with **290 years of ministry for Jesus Christ**. For nearly 3 centuries, we have been a beacon on the hill, and will continue, by God's grace, to shine His light to all in need of the good news of the Gospel.

Join us on **Sunday, September 15 at 10:30 am** for a special service of Confirmation and Holy Eucharist Rite II, led by the Rt. Rev. Daniel G. P. Gutiérrez, Bishop of Pennsylvania.

A special luncheon in the Parish Hall follows the service, at which current and former members are invited to share remembrances. Bring memorabilia to display, and invite friends and family!

Please keep our Confirmands in your prayers:

Liz Palwick-Goebel



James Hershey

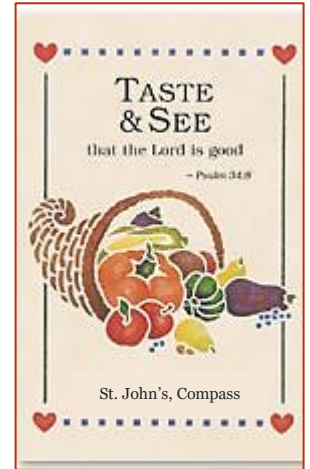


Gail Smith



Parish Cookbooks !

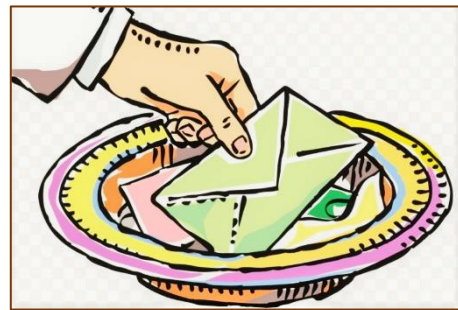
For our **290th Anniversary Celebration** we have published a **cookbook** containing more than 150 favorite recipes from St. John's famously wonderful cooks!



The cost is only **\$10 per book**, and they would make great Christmas gifts.

Checks may be made payable to **St. John's Episcopal Church**, with "**Cookbook**" in the memo line. See Suzanne Turpin to pick up your copy from the Church Office.

Bishop's Discretionary Fund Offering On September 15th



The congregation is encouraged to donate to the "**Bishop's Discretionary Fund**," which is used for needs of the Church not covered by the diocesan budget, such as religious and charitable purposes, pastoral emergencies and ministries. **Checks can be made out to "Diocese of PA."**

On that day, offerings specifically designated for this parish should be made out to "**St. John's Episcopal Church.**"



SEPTEMBER

| | |
|-------------------|------|
| Jane Strattan | 9/1 |
| Kathleen Strattan | 9/7 |
| Rick Hacker | 9/11 |
| Ryan Wilkinson | 9/19 |
| Linda Baldwin | 9/21 |
| Jon Strattan | 9/26 |

♥ Don Faix
& Jenny Landis 9/20

OCTOBER

| | |
|-------------------------|-------|
| Joe McLauchlan | 10/8 |
| Eileen Holland | 10/11 |
| Sara Snyder | 10/14 |
| Gail Smith | 10/18 |
| Thomas Rohrer | 10/19 |
| Linda Zynn | 10/20 |
| Christopher Lorenz, Jr. | 10/24 |
| Selena Baldwin | 10/27 |
| James Hershey | 10/30 |
| Shirley Fisher | 10/31 |

♥ Tracy & Nancy Miller 10/12

NOVEMBER

| | |
|------------------|-------|
| Leslie Yarnall | 11/3 |
| Emily Hoskins | 11/7 |
| Ruth Ann Pavelik | 11/12 |
| Frances Smith | 11/17 |
| Jenny Landis | 11/22 |

♥ Jon & Kathleen Strattan 11/2

♥ John & Jane Strattan 11/6



- ✦ **Wednesday, September 11 at 1:30 pm**, the Eucharist at the Tel Hai Chapel sponsored by St. John's will honor and remember all who perished on 9/11/2001.
- ✦ **Tuesday, September 17 at 7 pm**, regular Vestry Meeting in the Conference Room. Please email agenda items to Sharon Fremont.
- ✦ We are very grateful to Doug Skiles, Tom Rohrer, and Hank Fant for overseeing the **replacement of the Parish Hall roof**.
- ✦ Many thanks to everyone for your **generous donations of school supplies and non-perishable lunch foods for children in need**, which were donated to the Octorara Area Food Cupboard. May God bless you!
- ✦ We always need volunteers to provide for **Sunday's Coffee Hour**. Please see the sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall.
- ✦ Are you willing to serve as a **lay reader, acolyte, crucifer, lay Eucharistic minister, lay Eucharistic visitor, lay minister of healing prayer, choir member, or Altar Guild member?** If you sense God is calling you to any of these ministries, please see the Rector or a Vestry member. Training is available!
- ✦ St. John's community of the **Franciscans of the Risen Christ** is open to anyone who wishes to learn more about following Jesus Christ according to the teachings and Rule of St. Francis. We meet monthly for worship, prayer, study, discussion, fellowship, and missional outreach. If interested, contact Mother Nina, Tom Rohrer, or Suzanne Turpin.
- ✦ Please keep former member **Pat Owens** in your prayers. She has encountered many difficulties with her new home, and still hasn't been able to move in. Moreover, she is experiencing health problems. Her address is in the Parish Hall, if you'd like to send a card of encouragement.

If we don't have your birthday or anniversary listed, please inform the Church Office.