

# The Compass

... Pointing People toward Christ



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*“Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.”*

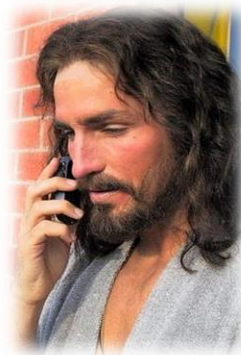
These verses from Colossians 3:1-3 describe the **“Doctrine of Identification.”** St. Paul taught that whoever believes in the Gospel, God *identifies* that person with Christ in His life, death, resurrection, and ascension.

In the New Testament, there are hundreds of references to the **believer's union with Christ.** For example, believers are *created in Christ* (Eph. 2:10); *crucified with Him* (Gal. 2:20); *buried with Him* (Col. 2:12); *baptized into Christ and His death* (Rom. 6:3); *united with Jesus in His resurrection* (Rom. 6:5); and *seated with Him in the heavenly places* (Eph. 2:6). *Christ is formed in believers* (Gal. 4:19) and *dwells in our hearts* (Eph. 3:17); Jesus is

*in us* (2 Cor. 13:5) and *we are in Him* (1 Cor. 1:30; Phil. 3:8-9).

Our Spring Bible Study class has undertaken an intensive study of Colossians. When recently we discussed Chapter 3, the Holy Spirit showed me that although we Christians talk about being “in Christ”; ask “What would Jesus do?”; and even piously claim, “All things belong to Him,” what if we looked at **our identification with Jesus** differently? For instance:

If we are *truly* in union with Christ, then the cell phone I use is *Jesus' phone*. The laptop I access is *Jesus' computer*. The TV I watch, the meal I fix, and the bed in which I sleep are *His*.



So that invites the question: If it's *Jesus' phone*, am I using it to call up and yell at someone? If it's *Jesus' computer*, am I logging onto immoral websites? If it's

*Jesus' TV*, am I watching shows or movies filled with cruelty, evil, violence, and perversion? If it's *Jesus' meal*, am I eating food that is unhealthy? And am I doing things in *Jesus' bed* that are contrary to the will of God?

If we made the effort to live our lives each day fully identified with Christ Jesus, this perspective would radically change our discipleship! Of course, we'd ‘flunk the test’ repeatedly. But what if we at least *tried* to see everything in ourselves and in our lives as *Christ's*?

An old hymn contains the words:

*So near, so very near to God,  
I cannot nearer be.  
For in the person of His Son,  
I am as near as He.  
So dear, so very dear to God,  
I cannot dearer be.  
The love with which He loves  
His son—such is His love for me.*

This summer, may you know the deep, deep love of Jesus; be assured that your life is “hidden” [kept safe] in Him, both now and eternally; and receive the grace to seek that which is Christ's alone.

*Yours in His love and service,  
Mother Nina +*

## We are so proud of our own Dr. Keith Miller!

After many years of hard work, on May 18, 2019, Nancy & Tracy Miller's son, Keith, graduated from Ross University School of Medicine.



He will be one of eight new Family Medicine Residents (Interns) at Tidelands Health Waccamaw Community Hospital in Murrells Inlet, South Carolina, 10 miles south of Myrtle Beach. He plans to live in that community for the next 3-plus years.



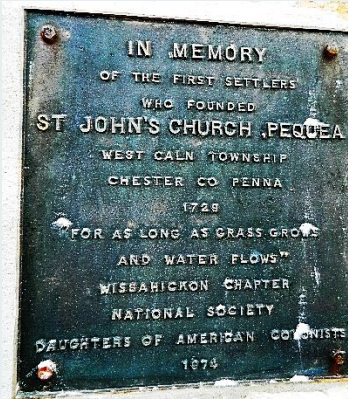
When asked about his future plans, Dr. Miller replied: "My goal is to combine seeing patients in and out of the hospital, promoting skin protection and care from the sun, and

working in hospital administration. I look forward to making the flow of care smoother. The aim is to streamline care, while keeping patient safety and quality at the forefront of efficiency, with greater ease of patient care. You enter the healthcare system when you're scared, worried, or simply not feeling your best; it should be a simple path to follow. I want to help make it that way."

"It's been a long four years, but I wouldn't trade it for the world. I've learned so much about medicine and myself; met so many people and learned from each of them. This next step will be a great experience, and I am very excited and motivated to get started!"



## Save the Date!



On SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2019 at our 10:30 A.M. service, and with a special luncheon following, St. John's will celebrate our 290<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY.

The Rt. Rev. Daniel Gutiérrez, Bishop of the Diocese of Pennsylvania, will be our guest Preacher and Celebrant. We are hoping and praying that both adults and children will be confirmed that day. If you are a baptized adult who has not been confirmed, you need to take this next step in your spiritual formation. Children 13 and older are eligible. Potential confirmands should contact the Rector *as soon as possible* so that we can begin preparations, and we *must* notify the Bishop.

We are inviting clergy who served this parish; former members, friends, and family. Please help us notify anyone you think might enjoy attending.

The 290<sup>th</sup> Committee has a sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall for everyone interested in helping make this day a great success.

Bring in your old photos and other memorabilia as soon as possible, so we can begin assembling window displays.

*Happy Birthday, St. John's Compass!*

Saturday, June 22

10:00 am to 3:00 pm

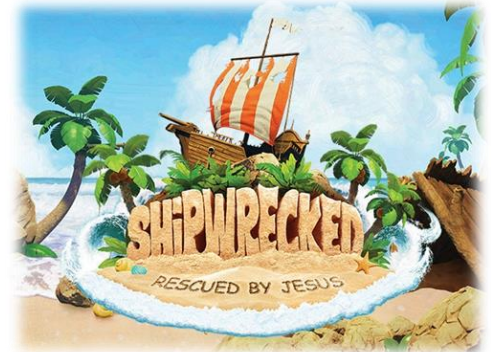
We'll host another great one-day Vacation Bible School for Kids ages 5 – 12. Older youth are invited to serve as helpers.

At "Shipwrecked: Rescued by Jesus!" kids will learn that when they're lonely, worry, or do wrong, Jesus rescues them.

To pre-register online easily and quickly go to:

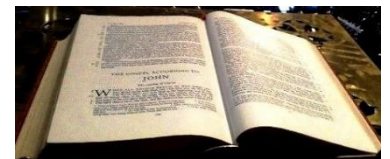
<https://vbspro.events/p/events/091431>

and click on "Registration." Walk-ins are also welcome.



## Bible Study Update

In order to make it possible for working members to attend Bible Study in the evening, in Spring 2020 we will have **Wednesday Night Bible Study** at a convenient time, to be determined. *If you'd like to attend an evening class, please talk to the Rector about what time is good for you.*



Fall 2019 Bible Study will remain on Wednesdays, Noon to 1:00 pm, and resumes on September 25. (The topic has yet to be decided.)





For our **290<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration** in September, we are publishing a **cookbook** containing more than 150 favorite recipes from St. John's famously wonderful cooks!

The sale of 45 cookbooks will cover the cost of publication, and they are only **\$10 per book**.

**Order yours in advance, starting now**—they'll make great Christmas gifts! Checks should be made payable to St. John's Episcopal Church, with **"Cookbook"** in the memo line.

## Farewell to a Longtime Member

On May 19, regretfully we said "so long" to Pat Owens, a very active member of



St. John's parish for nearly 50 years. Pat needed to move to Georgia, closer to her son Brad, for better care options in her older years.



We will miss her and her *many* ministries—Lay Eucharistic minister and visitor; Stephen minister;

healing prayer minister; acolyte; crucifer; lector; Vestry member; VBS volunteer; Sunday School teacher; Bible Study member; Franciscan of the Risen Christ, and so many more. Pat's new address is available from the Church Office.

*Bravo to the 4 Organists who made our May 19<sup>th</sup> Organ Dedication Recital such a wonderful event for all who were blessed to attend!*



*Left to right: Bruce Tonkin, Eileen Laurence, Richard Hacker, and Douglas Wimer*

The program highlighted the amazing capabilities of our new **Rodgers Inspire 233 organ**, and included compositions by Johann Pachelbel; J.S. Bach; Johannes Brahms; Marcel Dupré; Giovanni Battista Sammartini; and Benedetto Marcello.

Of the 58 in attendance, many must have been musicians because the singing of two praise hymns sounded like an angel choir!

Lots of guests stayed for the reception afterward, and those who came are still raving about what a fabulous evening it was.



Many thanks to all those who helped with the planning and preparation for this historic event in our parish.



Our **Ladies' Tea on May 18<sup>th</sup>** was also a great success. Around 25 attended, and, in addition to enjoying delicious teas and treats, these generous women donated a phenomenal amount of personal toiletries, new jewelry, and gift cards to Good Samaritan Services' ministry to women.




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**Church Picnic Sunday**  
is **July 21** at the Garden Spot Village Pavilion

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*Fellowship, food & fun*

**CHURCH**  
*Picnic* 

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We'll have **"Mass in the Grass"** at **10:30 a.m.**, followed by a **picnic lunch** coordinated by Paul & Mary Lou Weaver.

There will be sign-up sheets for both attendance and food to bring and share.



**JUNE**

|                   |      |
|-------------------|------|
| Olivia Cipollini  | 6/9  |
| Barry Baldwin     | 6/11 |
| Kathy Trofe       | 6/15 |
| Ron Zynn          | 6/16 |
| Brittany Trofe    | 6/20 |
| Tracy Miller      | 6/25 |
| Richard Gilfillan | 6/30 |

- ♥ Paul & Mary Lou Weaver 6/3
- ♥ Chris & Sharon Fremont 6/6
- ♥ Glenn & Debbie Martin 6/7
- ♥ John & Faye Oberholser 6/18
- ♥ Mike & Tina Zurcher 6/24
- ♥ Ron & Linda Zynn 6/27

**JULY**

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

- ♥ Grier & Jen Hoskins 7/1
- ♥ Bob & Leslie Yarnall 7/23
- ♥ Richard & Fran Gilfillan 7/25
- ♥ Ron & Joyce Kelly 7/25

**AUGUST**

|                 |      |
|-----------------|------|
| Naleea Zurcher  | 8/4  |
| Michael Zurcher | 8/6  |
| Liz Baldwin     | 8/7  |
| Ellie Baldwin   | 8/16 |
| Niya Zurcher    | 8/21 |
| Paul Weaver     | 8/28 |
| Mallori Baldwin | 8/30 |

- ♥ Lou & Joan D'Aloisio 8/17
- ♥ Ralph & Jennifer Kirchhofer 8/23

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

**June 24<sup>th</sup> is the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Mother Nina's Ordination as an Episcopal Priest\***



Our June 23<sup>rd</sup> Mass will celebrate this joyful occasion with an appropriate liturgy. A special luncheon follows. *Congratulations to our Rector!*

\*June 11<sup>th</sup> marks 28 years in ordained pastoral ministry.



- The **Day of Pentecost** is Sunday, June 9. **Wear red!**
- With the departure of Pat Owens, we will need another lay reader; acolyte; crucifer; lay Eucharistic minister; lay Eucharistic visitor; lay minister of healing prayer; and Altar Guild member. **If you sense God is calling you** to any of these ministries, please see the Rector or Vestry member.
- We are delighted to welcome **Alex & Cheryl Shurak** as regular attendees. Thank you for making them feel at home, and getting to know them better.
- **The Vestry** will not meet in July or August.
- **Repairs will be made to the Parish Hall roof** sometime this summer. You will be notified when, as there will be no parking near the Parish Hall during that time.
- We always need volunteers to provide for **Sunday's Coffee Hour**. Please see the sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall.