



# The Compass

... Pointing People toward Christ



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FALL 2021



Recently, in just one 24-hour news cycle, it was reported that:

- Thousands of frightened and desperate Afghans were trying to flee their country after it was taken over by fanatical terrorists;
- Hordes of refugees were still massing on our southern border;
- Haiti suffered a 7.2 earthquake, causing massive disruption;
- The Dixie wildfire in California burned up nearly 200,000 acres of land and an entire town (Greenville) was consumed;
- Flooding in Tennessee left 22 dead and 50 missing;
- Category 4 Hurricane Ida was headed for the southern coast of the U.S. that would result in untold devastation and suffering;
- Due to the coronavirus Delta-variant and unvaccinated Americans, COVID cases were rising so fast in certain parts of the U.S., medical personnel were unable to handle them;

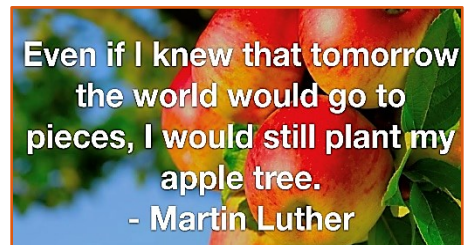
- More children were hospitalized with COVID than at any time since the pandemic started.

The Federal Emergency Management (FEMA) website lists 88 declared “disasters” in the first 9 months of 2021. One is tempted to wonder if the world is coming to an end.

Of 101 Bible prophecies of the “end times,” at least 66 have already been fulfilled. These include: **deadly pandemics; chaotic weather; massive floods and earthquakes; environmental devastation; widespread wars and violence; ethnic conflicts; famines; a global economy with faster knowledge and worldwide communications; humankind capable of destroying all life;** rising antisemitism; Israel becoming a nation again in one day (May 14, 1948); Israel making a treaty with their enemies (e.g. recent peace deals with Arab nations); Jerusalem’s Eastern Gate closed until the Messiah returns (it remains sealed); many nations attacking Israel except Egypt and Jordan (they have signed peace treaties with Israel); the prominence of Russian power; a worldwide population explosion; increasingly rebellious youth, self-centeredness, materialism, and epidemic drug use; morally deviant lifestyles; the

proliferation of false teachings and doctrine; hatred for Christ and persecution of His followers; people turning away from the Ten Commandments, and mocking the possibility of “end times.”

So, what are we to do? And how are we to live? The 16<sup>th</sup>-century leader of the Protestant Reformation, **Martin Luther**, wrote:



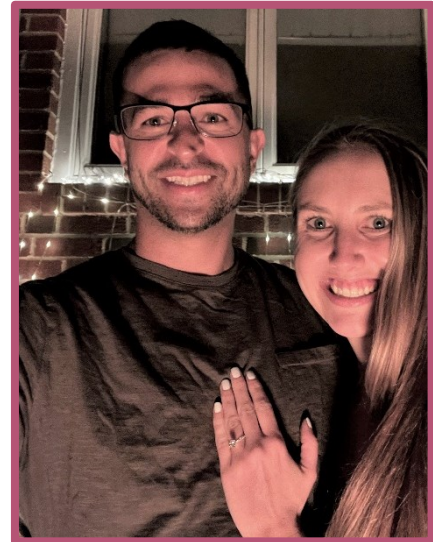
What would “planting your apple tree” look like for you? For me, it means continuing to care for this parish and for my family.

Above all, it means: **We do not give up! We do not despair!** As Christians, we believe God is in charge, and **our hope is in the return of our Lord Jesus Christ.** Scripture assures us that evil *will* be vanquished; disease, suffering, and death *will* end; there *will* be justice for the poor and needy; and the peace of God *will* reign supreme. Until then, **may God’s hope, peace, joy—and protection—be yours.**

*Love in Christ, Mother Nina<sup>+</sup>*



**Emily Hoskins** (daughter of Grier and Jen Hoskins) became engaged to **Scott Hines** on September 11, 2021, after a unique and romantic proposal:



We wish the happy couple God's best blessings as they prepare for Holy Matrimony.

**Your Fellow Parishioners are Great Photographers!** *Here are a few from this summer:*



Sunset on the Chesapeake Bay, Maryland (*above*) and Cove Point Lighthouse near Solomon's Island (*below far right*) by Sharon Fremont



High Tide at Brigantine Beach, New Jersey (*above*) and Beach Sunset (*below*) by Robin Baldwin



The Adirondacks, upstate New York by Eileen Heeren-Holland



Bald Knob Loop, West Virginia, by Jen Hoskins





### Karen and Jack Morrow



Jack and Karen met in Gulfport, Mississippi, and married in 1966 after graduating from the University of Mississippi. Next, they moved to New Jersey. Karen taught elementary school and Jack is a retired electrical engineer. In 1995 Bell Telephone Laboratories moved him to their headquarters in Holmdel, New Jersey where he worked until Lucent acquired the Holmdel facility. He retired from AT&T in 1999 and began a second career with the International Mission Board for the Southern Baptist Convention as their Information Technology Director. The Morrrows bought a home in Midlothian, Virginia and were active at the Huguenot Road Baptist Church there until the day they moved to Garden Spot Village on May 1, 2016. They have three adult daughters and four grandchildren. And their Pomeranian, “Lily,” a rescue dog, is “adored by everyone.”



### Carrie McCrorie

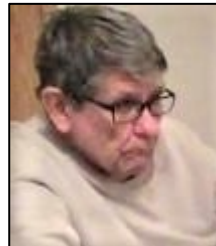
Carrie studied at Eastern Washington University, in Cheney, Washington, and formerly lived in Anchorage, Alaska.

In 2011, she traveled to both Jerusalem and the Netherlands.

At present, she lives with her parents Rick and Marla McCrorie, who moved to Coatesville from Alaska in June 2020. They are our neighbors on West King’s Highway. Carrie is interested in working with our Cemetery Restoration Committee, the Social Events Committee, and in serving as a Lay Reader during Mass.



### Dana Renner



Dana is a Vietnam Veteran who has worked in maintenance for schools and other institutions. He was widowed in January 2021, shortly before he came to St. John’s Church. Dana and his wife LaVeta shared 46 years of marriage, and had two children and five grandchildren.

Now, the Renners’ cat, “Duke,” is his constant companion.

After our previous maintenance service quit suddenly, Dana took on the job of cleaning our church, and does great work. He is also employed by St. John’s member Barry Baldwin at the “Cork & Cap” Hotel in Lancaster.

A former Baptist, Dana now attends worship at the nearby Pequea Baptist Church. We wish him well, and pray for God to bless him.



**One becomes a member of St. John’s Church, Compass through either: 1) being baptized here, or having your baptism recorded; 2) being confirmed here, or having your confirmation recorded; or 3) transferring from another Episcopal parish.**

# The Sanctuary Lamp

*The Light that Symbolizes  
the Eternal Sacrifice*



*Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world.*

*Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."*

*~ John 8:12*

The wisdom and beauty of God's one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church are spectacularly expressed through a universe of symbols.

Consider the sanctuary lamp. In every church—such as ours—where the Blessed Sacrament is reserved, the eye meets that gentle flickering flame, indicating the Real Presence of Christ.

What does the silent sanctuary lamp calmly say to the soul? What does it symbolize?

The warmth of its welcoming flame draws us closer to Our Lord. As if held aloft by angels, the lamp is suspended, not attached to this earth, preparing souls to receive Divine grace. Its subtle light envelops the faithful, creating a spiritual state in which all Christians feel united.

The sanctuary lamp creates a pleasing and comfortable atmosphere. Its subtle light enhances the church and is not overpowering.

What else does the sanctuary lamp say to the soul?

Imagine a dark church illuminated by a single sanctuary lamp. When the church is empty and Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament is alone, the lamp pays homage to its Creator. The flame keeps constant vigil, like a faithful soul who kneels before God in adoration while so many abandon Him or turn against Him.

If the light could speak, it might say this: "I remain faithful. I am Thine, O Lord. Although I am the least among humankind, I belong to Thee, I exist for Thee alone. In the worst uncertainty, in the worst isolation and darkness, I will follow Thee come what may. I am confident that my fidelity means something to Thee."

The dominant message of the sanctuary lamp speaks of the relationship between Creator and creature, Redeemer and redeemed. It is a resting place for the believer's soul. Like three bells in perfect harmony, it echoes Our Lord's words: "**I am the way, the truth, and the life**" (John 14:6).

# Worship Schedule

**Sunday, October 3** at 10:30 a.m., our Rite I Mass will celebrate the **Feast of St. Francis of Assisi**.



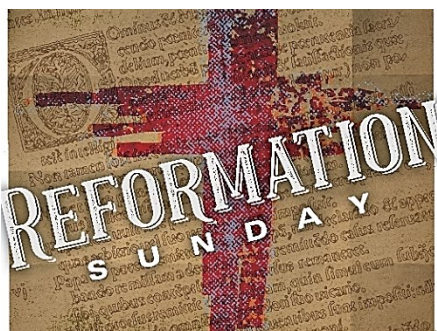
At **2:00 p.m.** that afternoon, we'll have a brief **Blessing of the Animals** service in **St. John's "barking" lot**.



Please bring your cat, dog, or other furry family member in a carrier or on a leash, and only those that play well with others. If your pet is too anxious, bring a photo to be blessed. There will be treats for both animals and people!

**Sunday, October 31** at 10:30 a.m., our Rite II Mass will celebrate **Reformation Sunday**.

On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther posted his 95 Theses on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany, an event later identified by Protestants as the beginning of **The Reformation**. The central tenets of this movement were: **Sola Fide, Sola Gratia, Sola Scriptura**—that is, we are saved only through our **faith**, by God's **grace**, and the truth found in God's Word, the Holy **Scriptures**.



The Anglican Church is both Catholic (in worship) and Protestant (in doctrine), such that our tradition is called the **Via Media**, or "the middle way."

**Sunday, November 7** at 10:30 a.m., our Rite I Mass will celebrate **All Saints / All Souls Day**.



This Sunday in the Church Year provides us an opportunity to remember and honor saints



living both on earth and in heaven.

*There will be a sign-up sheet for names you would like to be remembered as part of our liturgy.*

**Sunday, November 21** at 10:30 a.m., our Rite II service will observe **Christ the King Sunday**, a celebration of Our Lord Jesus Christ as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. **Guest Trumpeter Vincent Shickora** will bless us with his musical gifts.

**Wednesday, November 24** at **7:00 p.m.** is our **Thanksgiving Eve Service**.



*Come, give thanks to the Lord for all His blessings!*

**ADVENT begins on Sunday, November 28**

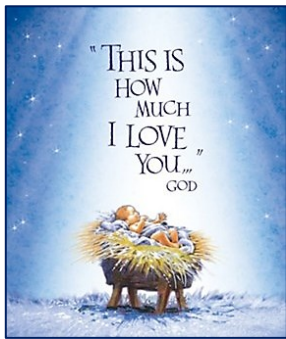
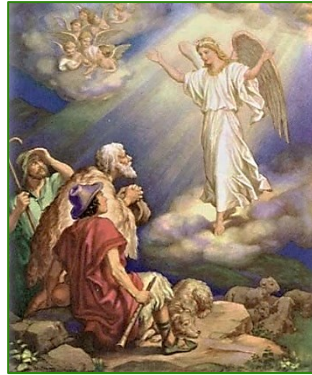


Join us for a peaceful, candlelit, choral **Advent Taizé Service** **Saturday, December 4** at **7 p.m.**



**Candlelight Christmas Eve Mass, Friday, December 24 at 7 p.m.**

Celebrate the **Eve of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ** in the beauty of our candlelit sanctuary filled with beautiful poinsettias, as we begin the festivities with special pre-service music starting at 6:30 p.m.



**Informal Christmas Day Eucharist, Saturday, December 25 at 10:30 a.m.** Come as you are (just not in your pajamas) and enjoy celebrating Jesus' Birthday in a low-key way, consistent with His humble incarnation.

**The Feast of St. John the Evangelist and Apostle—our Patron Saint—Sunday, December 26 at 10:30 a.m.**

Due to limitations caused by the pandemic, there will be no Service of Lessons & Carols on the first Sunday after Christmas. However, the Church calendar offers us this opportunity to pay honor to our parish's patron saint. His feast day is December 27<sup>th</sup>.



**New Year's Covenant Service, Rite I, Sunday, January 2, 2022 at 10:30 a.m.**

Father John Wesley, the 18<sup>th</sup>-century Anglican priest who founded Methodism, always began the new year with a special Covenant Service, in which congregants pledged to renew their commitment to the Lord. *This is a great way to start the new year!*



**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 McLaughlan	10/8
Eileen Holland	10/11
Gail Smith	10/18
Linda Zynn	10/20
Christopher Lorenz, Jr.	10/24
Selena Baldwin	10/27
James Hershey	10/30

♥ Tracy & Nancy Miller 10/12  
♥ Alex & Cheryl Shurak 10/26

**NOVEMBER**

Leslie Yarnall	11/3
Robin Lipsky	11/4
Emily Hoskins	11/7
Ruth Ann Pavelik	11/12
Jenny Landis	11/22
Werner Baldwin	11/23

♥ Jon & Kathleen Strattan 11/2  
♥ John & Jane Strattan 11/6

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