

Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church
Pearl & Marine Streets
Beach Haven, NJ 08008



The Parson's Place

Church Email
hichurch08008@gmail.com
Website: www.hiecbh.com
Office: 609 492 7571
Parish Office Hours
Monday thru Thursday
9:00am - 2:00pm

Inside this Issue!

- Dishing with The Deacon* 2
- Parishioner Spotlight* 9
- February Calendar* 10

EVERY GRATEFUL STEP

Walking meditation is meditation while walking. We walk slowly, in a relaxed way, keeping a light smile on our lips. When we practice this way, we feel at ease, and our steps are those of the most secure person on Earth. All our sorrows drop away, and peace and joy fill our hearts. Anyone can do it. It only takes a little time, a little mindfulness, and the wish to be happy.

~ [Thich Nhat Hanh](#) (10/11/1926 – 01/22-2022) in [The Long Road Turns to Joy](#)

The above quote is something that I keep in mind, with tremendous gratitude, as I walk the many wildlife refuges, conservation areas, and parks of this perhaps-unexpectedly-beautiful state of New Jersey. Walking in new places gives part of my mind a new adventure and frees me up to set another portion of my mind peacefully on thankfulness and prayer. Prayer, for me is a chance to “be” – in and for God, in peace, in rest, in beauty, in request, in thankfulness, or in lament. It is both stillness and motion. It is an emptying and a filling. I become a vessel for the Holy Spirit to then fill up to use as God wills. It took me a very long time to get to the point where I was comfortable walking alone and then even being calm enough to deeply ponder while I walk instead of looking over my shoulder and feeling unsafe. One day many years ago in a South Tyrolean Italian forest just outside of Rovereto, it also finally hit me that I can indeed take the time to stop, even in a magical, fern-carpeted and slightly uncomfortably-silent wood at dusk between mountains. I began to

practice grateful stopping. My love of photography helped me do that often and it also brought me a feeling of closeness to my late father’s presence, as he was a professional photographer. Often, in our busy lives, we forget to include the miniscule moments of silence and serenity. We periodically even forget to acknowledge the gratitude we hold in our hearts. In building a habit of occasional and observational silence paired with simply being grateful for the moment, we learn to hear in a new way and to listen without expectations. Observational because we are not responsible for all the action or for always “doing.” Without the constraints of expectation, we become open to the nuances and surprises of God’s presence. And here is where we are most vulnerable before God, in our raw form, refreshed again to be ready and radiating an aura of mindful thankfulness for all that we see and all that we experience and all that we are.

~ The Very Rev. Dr. Caroline Carson



Photos by Mtr. Caroline

Dishing With The Deacon

My mother's maiden name was Valentine. My siblings and I, as we got older, began to appreciate the Valentine name especially as Valentine's Day approached February 14th each year. To this day we send each other Valentine's cards.

The day has an interesting history which is too long to completely tell here but I will relate a few tidbits here. Valentine's Day was a feast in the Catholic Church named for a martyred saint named Valentine or Valentinus in 500 BCE. It was removed from the Catholic liturgical calendar in 1996.

The legend of Saint Valentine tells us he refused to convert to paganism, and that he was executed because of his refusal. The legend includes his miraculous healing of the daughter of his jailer before his execution. The love focus of this day was affiliated with a Roman priest who performed weddings for soldiers because they were forbidden to marry because marriage would make the men bad warriors. There are other legends about St. Valentine's Day which you can read about in Google, or Wikipedia.

Today, Valentine's Day is a day for love and lovers. Despite its questionable history, it also had religious overtones in its reminder of God's love for all of us. This is the part I like the best. Human love is a wonderful experience and God's love for us is an even greater experience. We can rejoice in his love any day. It is also lovely to remember how loved we are by the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This Valentine's Day, in addition to the fun my family has with our Valentine origins, I am going to meditate on God's love. How about you?

Love you!

Deacon Judy

Sandwich Ministry Update



On Wednesday, January 10, Holy Innocents' Sandwich Ministry was launched. From 9:30 until 11, the group made 60 bagged meals that included a turkey sandwich, carrot sticks, a mandarin orange, cookies, a napkin, and a bottle of water. They were picked up by Bright Harbor with plans to distribute to an at-risk teen group, case workers making house calls to food insecure households, and Code Blue for delivery to outdoor dwellers.

Our plan is to do this again on Wednesday, February 7; then Wednesday, March 6; followed by the second Wednesday of the month for the remainder of the year.

Thanks to those that wanted to be with us, but were unable due to flooding that morning or travel (Gail Jacobsen, Diane Entrikin, Judy Contreras, and Ruth McLaughlin). And a huge thanks to those that made it to church and enthusiastically helped: Jean Nelson, Jane Enos, Maggie Aftanis, Floss Boulden, Chris Burlaga, Jeanne Cashel, Susan Hughes, Ellen Kehr, Pat Peacock, Melissa Wall, and Deb Hunter. Twelve seemed to be a perfect number to easily complete the task in 90 minutes and not get in each other's way. (Of course our new, spacious, beautifully designed kitchen really helped!) So, if you can only make it some months, but not all, that will be fine. I am so grateful to all that are making this ministry possible.

Thanks - Alexa Fahner

HI Happenings...

CALLING ALL EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN! TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6 at 11:30 a.m. ~ ALL ARE WELCOMED!

Join us for Holy Eucharist, brown bag lunch, and a re-organizational meeting!

Since 1871, the National Episcopal Church Women, ECW, have championed women's rights and the Christian foundation of God and family. They are a ministry of the Episcopal Church and celebrate that Episcopalians believe in a loving, liberating, and life-giving God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

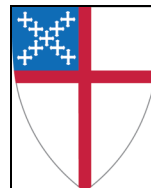
Their women's ministry and children's programs feed, educate, and provide community grants around the world. They are a volunteer organization that creates a legacy for Episcopal Church Women to lead future generations with stewardship in Christ.

Serving women and girls since 1871

LINK TO NATIONAL ECW Communique

<https://ecwnational.org/communique/2023-fall/>

CONTACT Melissa Wall for more information



Mardi gras Celebration Pancake Supper!

PLAYGROUND COMMUNITY FUNDRAISER

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13th from 5:00 until 8:00 p.m.

We will gather in Martin Hall for a pancake supper and music-filled Mardi Gras Celebration. We'll hold a costume contest, have prizes, and hold a drawing for a prize.

Please RSVP to hichurch08008@gmail.com or call Lisa in the Church Office at (609) 492-7571.

ASH WEDNESDAY Holy Eucharist **February 14th at 12:00 noon with Choir**



The first of the forty days of Lent, named for the custom of placing blessed ashes on the foreheads of worshipers at Ash Wednesday services. The ashes are a sign of penitence and a reminder of mortality, and may be imposed with the sign of the cross. Ash Wednesday is observed as a fast in the church year of the Episcopal Church. The Ash Wednesday service is one of the Proper Liturgies for Special Days in the BCP (p. 264). Imposition of ashes at the Ash Wednesday service is optional.

ASHES-to-GO!

If you are unable to attend our noonday Ash Wednesday service, you may be interested in our *Ashes-to-go* offering. **Between 4:00 and 6:00 p.m.**, Mtr. Caroline+ will be in the Narthex and at the front drive of our church to offer a short prayer and the Imposition of Ashes on-the-go!

From Our Minister of Music

ALL ARE WELCOME to sing in our choir.

We have revamped our choir schedule -please contact me if you are interested in joining.

First rehearsal for 2024 is Wednesday, February 7 at 11AM – 2:30PM (with lunch break)

Choir returns for Sunday worship on February 11th



Save the Date!

Spring 2024 Concerts – All concerts are Saturdays at 4PM – reception will follow

March 16 Nocturnes Big Band
April 6 Happy Together (friends making music)
June 9 Capital Singers of Trenton



Ellen Dondero

Minister of Music

ejdondero@comcast.net

Prayer Ministry

I would like to start meeting in our chapel this month. Please continue to pray for those on our prayer list. If you have any names of someone who prefers not to be listed in our bulletins please send me their names. If there is anyone who did not sign up that would like to join us, please let me know!

Prayer Ministry Gathering

Date: Wednesday February 21, 2024

Time: 4:00

Place: Chapel

Please let me know if you will not be available to join us.

Judy Contreras

Cell Phone: 856-906-6725

E-mail: judyc3956@gmail.com



NEW AA MEETING NOW AVAILABLE

A new weekly **Open** Alcoholics Anonymous Women's Meeting began on January 16th at Holy Innocents'. More information is below:

DAYS - Wednesdays

TIME - 6:00 p.m.

LOCATION - Kitchen area at HI

FREQUENCY - Weekly

ENTRANCE - Kitchen glass door

WHO - Anyone who thinks they may have a problem with alcohol is welcome. Open meetings are available to anyone interested in the Alcoholics Anonymous program of recovery from alcoholism.



Non-alcoholics may also attend open meetings as observers. The AA chairperson may request that participants concern themselves to matters pertaining to alcoholism.

LNK - <https://www.aa.org/>



Let's celebrate!

World Wetlands Day on Friday February 2, to raise awareness about wetlands.

Coastal wetlands are important natural carbon sinks. Salt marshes, and sea grass beds, known collectively as “blue carbon” ecosystems, are especially efficient at removing carbon dioxide from the air and surrounding waters.

Wetlands and Climate

WETLANDS ARE NATURAL GUARDIANS AGAINST POLLUTION AND CLIMATE CHANGE

- Wetlands capture CO₂ from the atmosphere and store more carbon than any other ecosystem on Earth.
 - Peatlands store about 30% of land-based carbon — twice the amount of all the world's forests.
 - Coastal blue carbon ecosystems (mangroves, seagrass beds, salt marshes) capture and store carbon in their sediment up to 55 times faster than tropical rainforests.
 - Wetlands safeguard the 60% of humanity along coastlines against storm surges, hurricanes and tsunamis.
 - An acre of wetland can store up to 1.5 million gallons of floodwater.
- Wetlands are at high risk from climate change, severely impacting many economically marginalized people.
- Wetlands are integral components of resilient urban planning, restoration and vital contributors to One Health.
 - Meeting the climate challenge requires ambitious wetland conservation and restoration across society.





The Environmental Education and Advocacy Committee will lead our annual birding trip to Barnegat Light State Park on **Tuesday, February 20, 10:30-12:15**, followed by lunch at Kubel's. After lunch, we will proceed south along the bay in Barnegat Light and Harvey Cedars to find other winter ducks. This part of the trip may be much easier for some folks.

You may elect to join us for any part of our trip, such as birding in the morning, but not lunch. Be sure to let us know.

We expect to see many sea ducks and other waterfowl which are unique to this area during the colder winter months. Many of these ducks and some shorebirds have brilliant color patterns, and dive to find small fish and other small ocean creatures to eat. We hope to see Harlequin ducks which migrate to our inlet jetty from their summer breeding grounds along the northern most Canadian coasts, as well as several species of Scoter, and Red-throated loons, Red-breasted mergansers, Long-tailed duck, Purple sandpipers, Ruddy turnstones, Buffleheads, Cormorants, various gull species, and more.

Bundle-up, wear winter outdoor shoes or boots; expect to walk along the concrete jetty walkway, and along the beach. We will meet in the parking lot of Barnegat Light State Park and plan to be outside for an hour and a half. Rest rooms are usually open in the State Park.

Bring your binoculars for this fun fill morning.

A brief Q & A for this trip will be held on Sunday, February 11, 2024 at Coffee Hour.

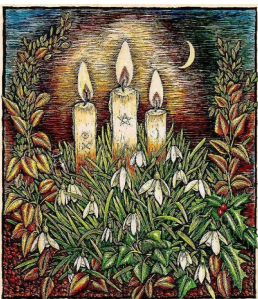
Registration is required!

Register by emailing

Mary Jane Mannherz mjm.lbi@gmail.com

Rob Meyer rmeyer1394@aol.com

by Friday February 16, 2024. In case of inclement weather, we will cancel the trip and may propose an alternate date.



CANDLEMAS SERVICE FRIDAY, FEB. 2nd at 6:00 PM

A feast of our Lord celebrated on Feb. 2, also known as **Candlemas** is the Feast of the Purification. It commemorates the presentation of Jesus and the purification of Mary in the Jerusalem Temple forty days after Jesus' birth, in accordance with the requirements of Jewish law (Lv 12:2-8). The feast is celebrated about forty days after Christmas. According to the account of Lk 2:22-39, the presentation of Jesus was also the occasion of the meeting of Jesus with Simeon and Anna. Simeon's prayer of blessing is the basis for the canticle *Nunc dimittis* (see BCP, p. 120). Celebration of this feast dates from the fourth century in Jerusalem. It was introduced in Rome in the seventh century, where it included a procession with candles and the singing of the *Nunc dimittis*. ***The celebration came to include the lighting and blessing of candles*** which were carried in procession. This feast was known as "Candlemas."

BRING YOUR CANDLES to be blessed!

Parish Prayer List February

If you need to add or delete a name, please contact Lisa Halpin, our Parish Administrator

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Judy Contreras | Lara Sparks Deitz | Joan Connolly |
| Mary Ann Crewdson | Dennis | Mary Timmerman |
| Connie Anderson | Christian Balint | Barney H. |
| Susan F. | Cheryl | Diane D. |
| Dayton | Jason | Kirsten Angelozzi |
| Bob Hendricks | Christine Hendricks | Andy |
| Kathy & Walter | Ron & Kenny | Jeannine |
| Priscilla | Judy & Al | Joan & Linda Kelly |
| Chris C. | Pierro Family | David D'Ambrosia |
| Barry Longenbach | Robert | Mike |
| Tony | Aleen | Jan |
| Elliott | Anne | Karen & DJ |
| Dennis Hickey | Rosanne & Bob | Juli & Dave |
| Laura | Lovas Family | Debbie & Joe Reising |
| Rebecca | Fiona | Graham |
| Bob | Sue | Melanie |
| Sophia | Joseph | Paris |
| Jim Darling | Charles Sullivan | Warren Lamon |
| Greg Melega | Rachel | Louise Muth |
| Teri Keller | Gia | Cora |
| Hunter Gideon | Vic Hughes | Rick & Becky Johnson |
| Frank M. | Ray M. | Kate White |
| Joey | Diane Dreby | Cameron Sanders |
| Patty August | Hank Henninger | Canon Don Muller |
| Sue P. | | |

Those serving in the military and other dangerous professions:

Paul Bailey, Justin A. Dumhart, Joseph Alexander, Danny Melega, Andrew Wall, Brandan White

The Souper Bowl!



February 11th is the SOUPER BOWL date this year!

We hope to see lots of choices of soups, breads, and cookies to serve during coffee hour that day. As is our custom, we will have two soup kettles representing the two football teams that are playing in the NFL game later that day. Put your donation in the kettle of your choice. In the past the most \$'s collected in a team's kettle will be the winning team that evening! All donations collected during SOUPER BOWL coffee hour will be sent to OPERATION SMILE. See Debbie Hunter for any questions. hunterd93@yahoo.com.

UPCOMING LENTEN SERIES DATES TBA

HOSTS Hosts will be providing soup, salad, bread, crackers or pita, and something to drink.

FORMAT NOONDAY PRAYER from the Book of Common Prayer. Soup & Salad lunch & Study Session and Discussion

Contact Mtr. Caroline if interested in hosting!



Country Queensland and its Churches ~ Submitted by Diane Carter

In January 2023 I took a trip to my homeland, as I was wont to do each year when the cold weather in New Jersey became unbearable. By this time, I had sold all my cattle and a large part of my cattle station. I decided to take a road trip around some of Queensland's country towns and outback tourist spots I had never visited. I borrowed my nephew's old car, which, he assured me, was in good running condition. This turned out to be true but he didn't tell me the air conditioning barely worked. (I ended up spending a couple of hundred dollars to fill it with coolant). In every town I visited on a Sunday I attended the Anglican church in town. I was always welcomed warmly and invited to morning tea, which is Australian for coffee hour. Below is a map of where I went.



State of Queensland is in the North East of Australia.



Black marking shows my route.



Good Shepherd Anglican Church
Rainbow Beach



Morning tea at St. Luke's
Anglican Church, Emerald,
Queensland



Holy Trinity
Anglican Church,
Blackall, Queensland



Matt looking out over a huge gorge.



Painting of a boomerang and hands

I could go on with more pictures but I think this gives you an idea of outback Australia and its churches. There is an Anglican church in almost every town, big or small. And they welcome all comers with a worship service and morning tea!



In the Spotlight

Parishioner Spotlight is a regular feature in The Post. The purpose is to provide insights into the background and personalities of our fabulous parishioners! We hope you enjoy getting to know the people of Holy Innocents'!

February Parishioner Spotlight ~ Jeanne Cashel

Born long ago in a suburb of Detroit, my family left Michigan when I was 6 years old and moved to Lumberton, NJ. I spent the rest of my life in Burlington County until moving full time to LBI in 1998 and more recently to Barnegat in 2015. I am the oldest of my siblings, 2 sisters, and a brother who passed in 2021. We were all baptized by Fr. Frank here at Holy Innocents'.

Soon after high school I chose to forgo college (was enrolled at Trenton State as a Liberal Arts Math Major) and began my 33 year career with NJ Bell/ Bell Atlantic known today as Verizon. I worked my way through Operator Services, the Business Office and then thanks to Gloria Steinem, et al, I decided to apply for a "man's job"! Well guess who is one of first two women in NJ to become a Central Office Technician? I worked inside the Bell buildings that supplied dial tone and switched calls throughout the world. I wore safety glasses and a tool belt equipped with wire cutters, solders, long-nose pliers, orange sticks, etc. I surprisingly received a check from a class-action suit filed by someone on behalf of a lot of women!

I was promoted and ran crews throughout South Jersey retrofitting our Central Offices from mechanical to electronic and then on to digital equipment. I did some work in Surf City, LBT and Barnegat where we now reside! Does anyone even have a landline now?

Another promotion and I finished my career working in Philadelphia on Advanced Intelligent Networks writing Methods and Procedures for installing new features in the phone system. My biggie was the Do Not Disturb feature. Rich and I met at work and he can tell you that story! We married in April of 1989 and it's been quite a trip as you can imagine if you know Rich!

Two things that may surprise some of you: One ~ I am a diehard Parrot Head aka Jimmy Buffett fan. It rocked my world when he passed in September...just never occurred to me there would be a world without our Captain! Check out my right wrist for my Phins Up tattoo recently acquired in memoriam! Two ~ I also consider myself somewhat of an introvert which I know some of you would try to argue! I cautiously take my time in getting to know someone. I have a close circle of friends. I like small (6-8 at the most) group outings. I prefer to work alone. I enjoy my solitude!

I also love Caribbean beaches as evidenced by our annual trips to St. Maarten and Aruba! And theatre...love going to Broadway! Most nights you will find me at home watching television with a needle in hand, cross-stitching Christmas ornaments for family, friends, and the church auction.

Rich & I first attended Holy Innocents' the Friday after 9/11 when the President called for a National Day of Prayer. The church we had been sporadically attending was not holding a service. I had visited Holy Innocents' lovely church gardens on a "house tour" and suggested we try to attend a service "there." Twenty-two years later we are still attending services "here" and are fully immersed and in love with everything about it! Because we celebrate Valentine's Day this month and because it was part of our wedding ceremony I have chosen 1 Corinthians 13:13 as one of my favorite Bible verses ~

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.



Aruba, our favorite!

Fun times in St. Maarten!



Phins up!
Bubbles up!



FEBRUARY 2024

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|-----------|
|  | | | | 1 2:00pm Book Study @ Church 9:00pm Compline (FB) | 2 Parish Office Closed 6:00pm CANDLEMAS Service (in Person & FB) | 3 |
| 4 5th Sunday after the Epiphany 9:30am Rite II Rector's Forum during coffee hour | 5 9:00am MP (FB) | 6 11:30am-2:30pm ECW Holy Eucharist, brown-bag lunch & Organizational Mtg. (Sanctuary & MH) 6:00pm Evening Prayer (FB) | 7 9:30am-11:00am Sandwich Ministry 11:00am-2:30pm Choir Rehearsal 6:00pm AA (Open) Women's Mtg. | 8 2:00pm Book Study @ Church 7:00pm Vestry Mtg. 9:00pm Compline (FB) | 9 Parish Office Closed | 10 |
| 11 Last Sunday after the Epiphany 8:30am Choir 9:30am Rite II SOUPER BOWL during coffee hour! | 12 9:00am MP (FB) | 13  Shrove Tuesday 5:00-8:00pm Mardi gras Pancake Supper Playground Fundraiser | 14  12:00pm Ash Wednesday Holy Eucharist w/ choir 4:00-6:00pm ASHES TO GO 6:00pm AA (Open)  Women's Mtg. | 15 9:00pm Compline (FB) | 16 Parish Office Closed 6:00pm Stations of the Cross (in-person & FB) | 17 |
| 18 Lent I 8:30am Choir 9:30am Rite II | 19 9:00am MP (FB) Parish Office Closed  Mtr. C away | 20 10:30am-12:15pm EEAC Birding Trip @ Barnegat Light followed by lunch RSVP req. 6:00pm Evening Prayer (recorded) | 21 4:00pm Prayer Ministry in the Chapel 6:00pm AA (Open) Women's Mtg. | 22 12:00pm Lenten Series TBA 9:00pm Compline (FB) | 23 Parish Office Closed 6:00pm Stations of the Cross (in-person & FB) | 24 |
| 25 Lent II 8:30am Choir 9:30am Rite II Mtr. C away | 26 9:00am MP (FB) | 27 | 28 6:00pm AA (Open) Women's Mtg. | 29 12:00pm Lenten Series TBA 9:00pm Compline (FB) |  | 30 |

The
Engleside Inn

Hotel · Restaurant · Bar

Sushi Bar · Sand Bar

Open Year Round

Engleside Avenue on the
Ocean Beach Haven

Hotel 492-1251

Restaurant 492-5116

www.engleside.com

Larry Peacock

for all your
Real Estate needs

609 226-7719 cell

609 492-1277 office



**G. ANDERSON
AGENCY**

Your LBI Real Estate Partners

Half Day

Cruises

Family Fishing Fun
aboard
Star☆Fish!

A safety-inspected vessel
for up to 19 people

At Queen City Marina

Call 609-661-3080 for reservations

CFSheppard@aol.com

Parties

Ashes

OCEANFRONT *TIKI* BAR & RESTAURANT

SEA SHELL
Open to the Public

TIKI BAR & BEACH BAR
MARTINI + WINE BAR
LUNCH, DINNER & TAKEOUT
FIRE PITS ON BEACH
PALM TREES
53 HOTEL ROOMS

THESEASHELLRESORT.COM

THANK YOU ALL!!!

Please be sure to patronize & thank the businesses that
so very generously purchased ads for this Parish Post year!

The Hillman Family ~ Larry & Pat Peacock ~

Carroll & Carl Sheppard ~ The Hughes Family

These ads greatly help defray our publishing costs and
support our ministries and church operations!

Congratulations to the newly-elected Members of the Vestry, Junior Warden,
Deputies and Alternates to Diocesan Convention, and Delegates and Alternates to the
Atlantic Convocation at our annual meeting on January 7th.

Wardens:

Dave White - 2024 Senior Warden

Pat Peacock - 2024 Junior Warden

NJ Diocesan Convention

Delegate

Rob Meyer

Melissa Wall

Janine Kleber

Atlantic Convocation Representatives

Jean Nelson

Gail Jacobsen

Vestry:

Larry Peacock

Leila Sullivan

Barbara Wheeler

Alternate

Jeanne Cashel

Richard Cashel

Alternate

Bill Kehr

George Waldner

CONGRATIS

Coffee Hour Schedule-February-May 2024

Our weekly Coffee Hours are gaining popularity and attendance! It's a marvelous opportunity for our parishioners to socialize, participate in various workshops, and welcome new members and visitors.



Our committee invites you to participate in another important way by providing an EASY refreshment to accompany the coffee and tea that is provided each week. Examples include bagels, cookies, bread, cupcakes, etc. These food items can be homemade or bought, and you DO NOT have to make the coffee!

If you would like to sign up for a week during the months of February through May, please locate the Coffee Hour Schedule that is posted on the bulletin board outside Martin Hall, or contact me and I will schedule you: Ellen Kehr (814)598-4973 or bkehrfl@comcast.net

The weeks that are unavailable are the second Sundays of each month because they are reserved for Vestry Birthday Cakes. Thank you so much! Ellen K.

Re-visiting Holy Innocents' Trip to the Holy Land 2012 ~ Day 6

With little more than half our journey complete it was great to be able to put down roots for the next five days here in Jerusalem. Our hotel will serve as a departure point as we make trips to sites in and around the city. First up is a trip 4 miles west of Jerusalem, a beautiful valley in which sits the picturesque village of Ein Karem and the Church of St. John the Baptist. It was erected in the 17th century (but as is typical in this part of the world), over the ruins of other churches. Inside the church we take a narrow staircase to the undercroft where we see a natural cave and grotto which may have been connected to St. John the Baptist when he was a small child. It is said that Elizabeth, his mother used this place to keep her child safe from Herod's soldiers. Next on our itinerary is, you guessed it, another church! This one, the Church of the Visitation, was recently built in 1955. It commemorates the visit of Mary, Jesus' mother, to her cousin Elizabeth. Outside the church the exterior walls are decorated with tiled murals depicting the visit and other events of that time. There were also benches where we could take a breather (we were averaging over 4.5 miles walking each day!) We traveled next by bus to the town of Bethlehem. With the separation of the West Bank under Palestinian control and the State of Israel, Bethlehem is located in the West Bank. Since Israeli citizens are not permitted in the West Bank with some rare exceptions, we were required to change both our guide and bus driver. Before that exchange occurred, two heavily armed Israeli soldiers entered our bus to make certain all was in order. This was a stark reminder of the severe portal restrictions that exist between both countries. The bus with our new guide and driver, are permitted to go forward through a heavily guarded entry point and navigate a narrow road bordered by a 22 foot wall. The wall serves to eliminate terrorist infiltration on either side. After a short ride we come to the Church of the Nativity (hoping you are keeping all these churches in order, as there will be a quiz at the end of this travelogue...kidding!) which is built over the site of Jesus' birthplace. It is here that we encounter other tour groups. Most are gathered in and around a huge star which is located on the floor over the actual site. Pilgrims pause to touch the star as church guides encourage us to not tarry to long. After our visit our group has its portrait taken outside the church. Before returning to Jerusalem, we make a stop at the Garden Tomb, the site where Jesus was buried. The Garden Tomb is located along a sharp escarpment where several tomb portals exist. It is a restful and contemplative setting with trees and shrubs. After a brief presentation, our garden guide Roy decides to finish with a story. Joseph of Arimathea tells his wife that he is laying Jesus in their recently built tomb. His wife says where will our children bury us? Not to worry Joseph answers, it is only being used for the weekend. Oh well, we escape this frivolity and our bus returns to the hotel. After dinner we are treated to a presentation of an Israeli folk dance group. To be continued.....*Tom Jacobsen*

February Birthdays

| | | | |
|-----------------|----|-------------------|----|
| Maria Mack | 02 | Edward Miller | 21 |
| Kimberly Sparks | 02 | Matt Starr | 21 |
| Philip Boulden | 05 | Gabriella Vaughan | 21 |
| Jean Nelson | 06 | Connie Anderson | 26 |
| Ellen Dondero | 08 | John Dondero | 26 |
| Joan Melega | 10 | Sherry Johnson | 26 |
| Anita Miller | 11 | Leila Sullivan | 27 |
| Noah Dondero | 12 | Jo-Anne Entrikin | 28 |
| David Hunter | 13 | Barry Baxter | 29 |
| Joe Johnson | 17 | | |



February Anniversaries

Francis W. and Janine C. Kleber 09 Robert and Ellen Meyer 26

WE LOVE OUR VOLUNTEERS!

The following parishioners have graciously volunteered to assist with our worship and/or have donated either candles or flowers for the altar for the month of **February**.

FEBRUARY ALTAR DONATIONS

4th -
 11th - Gail & Steve Steiner
 18th -
 25th -



FEBRUARY FLOWER GUILD

4th - Kim Sparks
 11th - Carol Hammond
 18th - Joyce Hillyer
 25th - Joyce Hillyer

FEBRUARY ALTAR GUILD

4th - Chris Burlaga, Melissa Wall
 11th - Diane Entrikin, Carol Hammond
 18th - Donna Evleth, Jackie Sparks
 25th - Carol Hammond

FEBRUARY USHERS & GREETERS

4th - Kay DeCicco, Mike DeCicco
 11th - Bob Weidmann, Sue Hughes
 18th - Bill Cowper, Leila Sullivan
 25th - Melissa Wall, Gail Jacobsen



FEBRUARY COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE

4th - TBD
 11th - Mtr. Caroline
 18th - TBD
 25th - TBD





Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church
Pearl and Marine Streets
Beach Haven, New Jersey 08008
609-492-7571

Sunday Morning ~7:30 a.m.
Rite I Worship Service
(May 26th through Labor Day)
Sunday Morning ~9:30 a.m.
Rite II Worship Service with music
609-492-7571

Dear God,
**FOR THE 40 DAYS OF LENT, DON'T LET ME FOCUS ON SOMETHING I'M GIVING UP.
LET ME FOCUS ON SOMEONE WHO GAVE IT ALL UP FOR ME.
RENEW MY MIND & DRAW ME BACK TO MY FIRST LOVE.
PREPARE MY HEART FOR EASTER, FOR YOUR SACRIFICE,
FOR YOUR RESURRECTION!**
AMEN