

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
CANTERBURY HOUSE

# THE EVANGEL

## Who Would Miss Us?

by The Reverend Roy A. Cole

Every issue of The Evangel is a tangible declaration of our stewardship. Every event named in these pages and every person included in a photograph represents the commitment of the people of St. John's to give generously of their time, their talent, and often their treasure. While our landmarked building may be the most obvious face of the parish to the community, the real parish exists in the faces of the people who call St. John's "their church" or Canterbury House their home.

One of the questions that professional church consultants often ask the leadership of a parish is: "If your church were to close its doors would anyone in the neighborhood miss it?" It's a rather sobering question to answer. If the answer is "Yes", then it often means that the members of a parish understand that the Church exists to serve and not be served. It means that the focus of their ministry and the expenditure of their re-

sources is to the community (or, as our Lord says, "the fields of the harvest"). But if the difficult but honest answer is "No, no one would miss us", then it could well mean that the members of the parish have turned their back on their neighbors and the larger community and are focused only on themselves—kind of a private, members-only club.

As can be seen in The Evangel and by the pages of announcements in the Sunday Service Leaflet, it is fair to say that St. John's Church is a church that genuinely tries to make a difference in people's lives—to be a parish church that would indeed be missed if it were not here. Yet such a commitment to ministry does not happen without people making an intentional, stated commitment of time, talent and treasure—without, in other

words, the stewardship of what God has given into our care.

In a few months St. John's will begin its 169th year as a parish church in Rosebank. For generations past the members of St. John's have understood that to be an authentic Church, we must serve others and not seek to serve ourselves. Soon the parish will ask us to make an identified commitment of time, talent, and treasure, just as it does each fall. As you look at the photos in this issue of The Evangel and as you mark your calendar for upcoming events, remember, everything you see and read about happens because you, and so many others like you, have made the decision to give a generous portion of your time, talent and treasure—not to maintain a private club for a select few, but to serve Christ through our dedicated service to others.

## Renovation Update

All you need do is drive by the church and see that work has, at last, begun. The scaffolding is up, the asbestos has been professionally removed, and soon the contractor will start removing the many layers of asphalt shingles that have been installed over the decades. After that project is complete, they will move on to repair the large wooden louvers on each of the four sides of the bell tower (some of the louvers have already been removed as can be seen from all the blue tarps covering the openings.) Inside the church, the new sub-floor has been installed where the old cork and sub-floor removed earlier this year to eradicate the mold that have formed under the floor of the Nave in that section. As soon as the new cork tile, which had to be custom ordered to match the

existing cork, arrives it will be installed. Once installed, all the cork floors in the church will be sanded and refinished and ready for another 100 plus years of use.

As construction has begun new challenges emerge. Some are more a nuisance than a real challenge — such as when dust and small debris fall into the church as a result of the vibration of the hammering and removal of flashing and shingles on the roof. But some of the challenges are far more serious. As always happens when a 139 year old building is opened up, hidden decay and rot are revealed. Rather than covering over these problems and leaving them for the next generation of St.

John's parishioners to deal with, it is incumbent upon this generation of parishioners to provide the stewardship demanded of us as inheritors of St. John's to be sure we repair what must be repaired — and to do so according to 21st century construction standards and building codes.

Two of the most serious challenges revealed as the old shingles and flashing have been removed is the advanced deterioration of the masonry at the gable ends of the church and areas of rotting wood where the roof meets the masonry. A significant portion of the cost for repairing this decay was anticipated and its

## Episcopal Church Women (ECW)

ECW STATEN ISLAND DISTRICT  
ANNUAL FALL MEETING  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18 AT 2:30 P.M.

Church of the Ascension  
1 Kingsley Avenue, Staten Island

The guest speaker will be  
The Reverend Deacon Beverly Neuhaus  
who will make a presentation on the  
"History of Past Staten Island Churches & Chapels."

Refreshments served.

Please bring a non-perishable food item to benefit  
the Episcopal Feeding Ministry.

RSVP to Ms. Rosemary Loffredo at 718-448-3892.

Holy Eucharist will be celebrated at 3:15 p.m.

## ECW BLACK HISTORY PROGRAM AND LUNCH

Saturday, March 3, 2012

11 am - 2 pm

Eccleston Hall

More information to follow.

But mark your calendars now.

For questions or information please contact:

Edwina McCrimmon

at (718) 815-6389 or (347) 463-4319

## Canterbury Activity Center

*Sponsored by St. John's and Episcopal Charities of New York*

Every Wednesday at 1:00 p.m. in Eccleston Hall

What better way to spend a Wednesday afternoon than with the folks who are enjoying the Canterbury Activity Center. Residents of Canterbury House, parishioners of St. John's and St. Mary's R.C., and neighbors from the Rosebank neighborhood are coming together in Eccleston Hall every Wednesday at 1:00 p.m. to enjoy planned activities and friendly conversation. Of course, refreshments are always served — and the last Wednesday of the month there is a hot buffet luncheon. Theresa Rubino, R.N. from Visiting Nurse Service of New York is available each week to offer free blood pressure checks and general health advice during the refreshment portion of the program.

*All free of charge!*

### *Happenings for October*

**October 12 Christmas at Sea information, Refreshments, and Tai Chi**

Christmas at Sea is the volunteer crafting group (knitting, crocheting, sewing, and more) for the Seamen's Church Institute. Learn about this wonderful ministry and let's start our own group of crafters who will make items (caps, scarves, sox, ditty bags) for the sailors at sea.

**October 19 Halloween Craft, Refreshments and Yoga**

**October 26 Hot Buffet Luncheon and Bingo!**

# Remembering 9/11

At 4:00 pm, Sunday, September 11, 2011, St. John's Church gathered with over 200 members, friends and guests from the community to remember, to pray, and to honor those who were killed in the terrorists attacks of ten years ago. Under the direction of Mr. Tom DeFrancesco, the St. John's



As St. John's continues to build on its 168 years of service and ministry in Rosebank, occasions such as the 9/11 Requiem Memorial Mass reminds us of our calling to be a continuing witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and God's inexhaustible love. Whether it is through solemn memorials such as the requiem for 9/11 or the yearly honoring



Choir was joined by choir members from the Episcopal parishes on the island, most especially Christ Church New Brighton, St. Mary's Castleton, and St. Alban's.



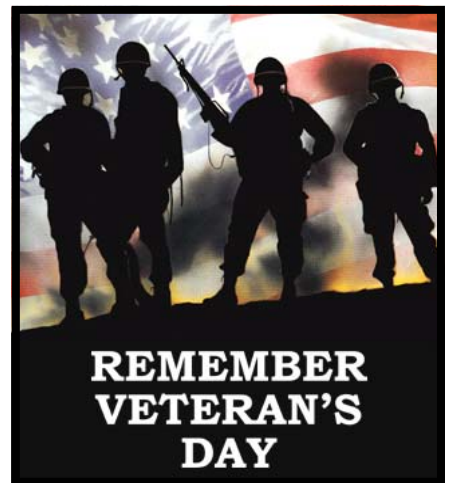
On such a solemn occasion the setting for the Requiem Memorial Mass was Gabriel Faure's Requiem in D minor, Op. 48, presented by the combined choirs along with guest soloists and a small chamber orchestra. Mr. Tom Sarff, Organist and Choir Director from Christ Church played the organ.

summer leading up to 9/11, clearly demonstrates the commitment the St. John's Choir and it's Director have made to offering their gifts and musical talent to the parish and the larger community. St. John's is blessed by such dedication.

Undertaking such a significant piece of world-renowned music in addition to offering a traditional Anglican Requiem liturgy was made possible through the partnership of Fr. Charles Howell and Christ Church, along with the generous memorial donations provided by various individuals from St. John's. The hours of rehearsing and planning that this sacred offering required over the entire

In addition to the exceptional music and the participation of area clergy in this important national day of remembrance, Brian Orlick and Christopher Still gave of their exceptional talent in creating altar arrangements composed of 273 roses, one rose for each person from Staten Island killed in the attacks.

of our veterans on Veteran's Day, or the many events and activities that bring us together to laugh and eat and enjoy our parish family, all that is done is done for God's glory and the praise of God's Name.



**Veteran's Day Mass**  
**Friday, November 11, 2010**  
**at 7:30 PM**

# Halloween Dinner Dance



## HALLOWEEN DINNER DANCE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29 FROM 7:00 TO 10:00 PM

St. John's Halloween Dinner Dance will be held on Saturday, October 29, from 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm in Eccleston Hall.

The evening includes singing with "Karaoke Stu" (a fan favorite), snacks, dinner prepared by Chef Joseph Pignatelli, coffee and dessert.

Please call the Church Office at 718-447-1605 to make your reservations. And be sure to invite your friends.

\$15 for adults

\$12 for seniors

\$8 for children under 12

## ALL SOULS' MEMORIAL OFFERING

THE FEAST OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2

So that we may remember on All Souls' Day those family members and friends who have departed this earth, please complete the following information and return this page in an envelope

**No later than Wednesday, October 26**

To: St. John's Episcopal church  
1333 Bay Street, Staten Island, NY 10305  
Along with your Memorial Offering

Name(s) of Faithfully Departed: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

NAME(S) OF DONOR(S): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number of Donor(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
(In case the office needs to clarify the spelling of a name.)

MEMORIAL OFFERING: \_\_\_\_\_

## Youth Movie Night

All the youth of the parish are invited to the Rectory for

### "Movie Night"

Friday, October 28th from 6:00 to 8:30 pm.

Food. Fun.  
And of course,  
a great movie!

More information will be mailed directly to the parish youth.

## Staten Island Turns 350 Years Old

Staten Island 350 Committee  
The Episcopal Churches of Staten Island  
The Richmond Interparish Council

Present

### An Historic Evensong

at

Christ Church New Brighton  
76 Franklin Avenue, Staten Island

**Sunday, December 4, 2011**

*Four of the clock in the afternoon*

Traditional Anglican Evensong  
Based on the 1559 Book of Common Prayer  
Combined Choirs under the direction of Mr. Tom Sarff

Reception to follow

### Renovation Update (Continued from Page One)

repair was built into the existing contract with the contractor. Unfortunately, the extent of the work exceeds that "cushion".

St. John's has been very blessed by the generosity of Church Insurance. The vast majority of the work currently underway

is covered by our insurance policy. Yet, as every homeowner knows, issues related to deferred maintenance, etc., are the responsibility of the home owner, or in this case, the parish. As the photos show, time has taken its toll on our beautiful building and it is good to have uncovered these issues before they contributed to bigger, and more costly issues. The vestry and the Rector are working with the architect, the General Contractor, and Church Insurance to come to a cost to the parish for these and the other aspects of the project that will be the financial responsibility of St. John's to pay. While it may challenge us, it will be a challenge we can meet, as all



Sections of brick masonry that are in fairly good condition



Extensive sections of brick masonry that have failed.



Wood rot. More will be revealed as the shingles are removed.

of us give in proportion to what God has given to us. Within the next few weeks, Fr. Cole will be drafting a more detailed letter to the parish outlining what God has brought us through the resources of Church Insurance, and what God is

asking of us to close the financial gap and to ensure that we gift to those who follow us a strong and stable church — both in its buildings and in its ministry.

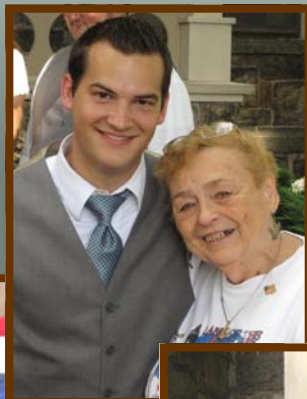
# Summer Life at St. John's!

Rogation Sunday, May 29, 2011



# Summer Life at St. John's!

July 4, 2011



ST. JOHN'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
1333 BAY STREET  
STATEN ISLAND,  
NEW YORK 10305  
718-447-1605  
WWW.STJOHNSSI.ORG

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Staten Island, NY  
Permit # 772

## October and November Calendar of Events 2011

*Save the Dates!*

**Youth Pumpkin Picking at  
Pouch Camp**

**Sunday,  
October 23rd**

**1:00 pm**

(Car pool from the church)

**Harvest Dinner**

**Eccleston Hall**

**Saturday,**

**November 19 at 6:30 pm**

**Special Masses**

All Soul's, Wednesday, Nov. 2 at 7:30 pm

All Saint's Sunday, November 6 at 8:00 and 10:00 AM

Veteran's Day Mass, November 11 at 7:30 pm

First Sunday of Advent, November 27 at 8:00 and 10:00 AM

**Halloween Party**

**Eccleston Hall**

**Saturday, October 29**

**7:00 to 10:00 pm**

**ECW Holiday Bake Sale**

**Sunday,**

**November 20**

**During Coffee Hour**

**18th Annual  
St. Nicholas Celebration**

Cathedral of St. John the Divine

**November 15 at 7:30 pm**