

# ST. JOHN'S EPISTLE

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
BERRYSBURG, PA | JULY/AUGUST 2023

## Letter from the Pastor

Dear Friends in Jesus,

In our time of so many seemingly overwhelming problems, here is an anonymous modern parable, set along a seashore as seems so very appropriate in these summer months:

*I was walking down a deserted stretch of Mexican beach at sunset. As I walked along, I saw another person in the distance. As I drew nearer, I noticed that he kept leaning down, picking something up and throwing it out into the water. Time and again, he kept hurling things out into the ocean.*

*As I approached more closely, I could see that the man was picking up starfish which had been washed up on the beach and, one at a time, he was throwing them back into the water. I was puzzled. I approached the man and said, "Good evening! I was wondering what you're doing there?"*

*"I'm throwing these starfish back into the ocean. You see, it's low tide right now and all these starfish have washed up onto the shore. If I don't throw them back in, they'll die here from lack of oxygen."*

*"I understand," I replied, "but there must be thousands of starfish here just on this beach. You can't possibly get to all of them. And don't you suppose this is probably happening on hundreds of beaches all up and down this coast? It just seems to me there's no way you can really make a difference. The problem is just too big."*

*The man smiled, bent down, and picked up another starfish and, as he threw it into the sea, he smiled and said simply, "I made a difference for that one, didn't I?!"*

May your summer travels, to the seashore or otherwise, be ones of restoration and hope!

**Pastor Tom**

## News from Miss Laurie, Young Christians Minister

Hey everyone! I hope you're all having a FANTASTIC summer so far! And, I hope you're adding some of our faith formation activities to your schedules!! Here's a list of the fun things we have planned:

- Calling all heroes – it's time for **"Hero Hotline" VBS!** The fun runs from **July 17th through July 21st** and we'll meet from 6:30 to about 8:45 each evening. Join us as we answer the call to serve God by working together to bring peace, by building each other up, and by sharing the great story of God's love! A Registration Form is included in the Newsletter. Please get your forms in IN ADVANCE – it helps with planning, AND it makes the first night of VBS a LOT less chaotic!! Thanks for your help!!
- **Friday, July 21st** – It's closing night of VBS and **Drive-In Movie Night!!** There may be a few other surprises in store as well!!
- **Sunday, July 23rd** – Join us for **"Voices and Vittles"** – VBS Sunday followed by our congregational picnic!
- Back by popular demand, it's our annual **Water Fun Night!!** Join us on Friday, **August 11th** for a "good soaking"!!

Summer is a busy time, but I hope you can include some of our fun activities in your plans! We always have an awesome time!! Have a great July and August and see you at the summer celebrations!

*Miss Laurie*

## Join us for VBS!

Save the date: July 17<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>

6:30 – 8:45 pm

All children 2 years – 12<sup>th</sup> grade welcome!



**HERO Hotline**  
Called Together to Serve God!  
**July 17-21, 2023**  
6:30 to 8:45 pm  
**St. John's Lutheran Church**  
For more information, contact Miss Laurie at (717) 571-5058.

COKEBURY'S  
**HERO  
HOTLINE**  
Called Together  
to Serve God!

The banner features a cartoon dog superhero character in a blue suit and red cape, standing on a yellow shield-shaped background. The text is in various colors (yellow, blue, white, green) and fonts, set against a purple background with a pattern of small white circles.

**Find the VBS Registration Form at the end of the Newsletter**

## YARD SALE NEWS!

We know everyone's been busy putting aside their gently used items for the upcoming Congregational Yard Sale to benefit ***the Lutheran Disaster Response of our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America***. Please note the following regarding the upcoming sale:



- Donations will be accepted Monday, July 31 through Wednesday, August 2. Please place donations in the front part of the pavilion, near the kitchen. ***Please do not bring donations to the church before Monday, July 31 and please do not place them anywhere but directly in the pavilion.***
- ***Yard Sale Set Up*** - The greatest need for help is Monday, Tuesday and/or Wednesday morning between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and Noon. This will be when we unpack, sort, hang and organize donations.
- The sale will take place in the pavilion:
  - Thursday, August 3 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
  - Friday, August 4 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
  - Saturday, August 5 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
- To help during the yard sale, please come to the pavilion at any time during the hours of the sale, listed above.
- ***Yard Sale Pack Up and Pavilion Tear Down*** – As in past years, items not sold during the yard sale will be available to the congregation after the service on Sunday, August 6, or prior to pack up on Monday. Items not claimed by Monday, August 7 at 9 AM, will be disposed of or donated appropriately. *If you are able to help with the pack up and/or tear down, please come to the pavilion Monday, August 7, at 9 AM.*

### *Tips for Success:*

- Be sure your donations are in good/clean condition
- Drop off donations at any time between Monday and Wednesday. Although we do not turn away donations, we have a better chance of selling them if they are out and ready for the first day of our sale... bright and early Thursday morning.
- Pre-price your donations – Just ask yourself, “What would I pay for this item at a yard sale?”
- Donate your time to help set up, tear down or help out during the sale.
- Pick up items, you do not wish to donate, in a timely manner.

We appreciate all help available and thank you for your support.

*Sheila Barder and Tam Spicher*

## Book Group - Summer 2023

Join us for some light summer reading! We'll read the first 3 titles in each of these 2 series, and then we'll discuss them at an Evening Picnic on Monday, August 21, 6:30 pm in the Pavilion:

- **The Mitford Years Series by Jan Karon (At Home in Mitford; A Light in the Window; These High, Green Hills)**
- **The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency Series by Alexander McCall Smith (The No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency; Tears of the Giraffe; Morality for Beautiful Girls)**

Choose to read one of the series ... or all 6 books. A few copies are available for sharing in the church library -- and more at your local public library, both physical copy and ebook. If you have questions or need to locate a book, please contact Ann ([rahbruner@gmail.com](mailto:rahbruner@gmail.com)). Everyone is welcome!

# Youth Group



# Camp Out

**When:** July 21st (following VBS)  
to July 22nd (8:00 a.m.)

**RSVP:** to Olivia or Amy

**Bring:** sleeping bag, pillow,  
camp chair, flashlight

We will have smores, play night camp games, tell Bible ghost stories, and watch a movie.

We will be sleeping outside under the stars (or under the pavilion). If it rains, we will move inside.

If you don't want to sleep over, no problem!! Your parents can pick you up at 11:00 p.m.

## Women of the ELCA

On April 16<sup>th</sup> the St John's Women of the ELCA met to discuss the future of the group here at St John's and what mission we will continue to provide to our congregation. At the meeting it was voted that the four present officers; Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer would form an executive committee. This newly formed committee will meet at least 4 times a year to organize events for the women of the St. John Congregation which may include speakers, fellowship or mission work.

On May 21<sup>st</sup> the executive committee met to discuss their purpose and plan for the coming year. The committee has decided to do 4 events throughout the year.

**Our first event will be on September 6<sup>th</sup> at the church pavilion for all women of the congregation from 6:30-7:30pm (only an hour of your time!). We will be having an ice cream social and Bonnie Kent of Northern Dauphin Human Services will be our speaker for the evening. We will have a free will offering at this event.**



**Stay tuned for an event in December, March and May!!**

Also, one of our purposes we believe is to keep all the women of the congregation apprised of events that are happening throughout the year. Below are some important events coming up!

### **Camp Hebron Fall Retreat (Please see registration form in this newsletter)**

We hope each and every one of you are doing well.

It was great to see those of you that were able to attend the 2022 Camp Hebron Retreat after a two year absence. Hopefully this year you will be able to join us for a wonderful weekend of good fellowship, new and renewed friendships and a time away to relax and "breathe" in God's wonderful work.

Our speaker will be Pastor Beth Hawk and her theme is "Fearfully and Wonderfully Made by God" (Psalm 139:13-14).

Due to increased costs for the Retreat, registration costs have increased slightly from last year.

There will be a wagon ride and craft session on Saturday.

Please mark your calendar for **October 27-29, 2023**, and be sure to extend this invitation to others!

Take care and Blessings,

Chris Todd and Shirley Keister, Camp Hebron Retreat Co-chairs

### **Other Upcoming Events:**

- Twelfth Triennial Convention and Gathering to be held September 19-24, 2023, in Phoenix, AZ.
- 35th Annual LS SWO Convention, Swamp, Reinholds, August 18 & 19, 2023
- Fall Retreat, Camp Hebron, Halifax, PA, October 27-29, 2023
- Day of Renewal, 2024, St. Paul, Lititz

# Registration Form for Oct. 27—Oct. 29, 2023 Fall Retreat

**Use one form per person. Copy as needed.**

(please print information legibly)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip

Home congregation: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency phone number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to room with: \_\_\_\_\_

**(possible up to 4 to a room sharing two double beds)**

1. TOTAL AMOUNT (WEEKEND PACKAGE) \_\_\_\_\_ \$205.00  
(includes 2 nights lodging and 5 meals) (Friday & Saturday night)
2. FRIDAY NIGHT ONLY, AND SATURDAY \_\_\_\_\_ Total of \$135.00  
(Friday night lodging and 3 meals + speaker)
3. SATURDAY ONLY \_\_\_\_\_ Total of \$70.00 (3 meals + speaker)
4. I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A DONATION TOWARD THE CAMP HEBRON ATTENDEE  
SCHOLARSHIP FUND \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (this scholarship fund is **not** for the Manow  
Lutheran Secondary School weekend special offering)
5. TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_



**Because of our obligation to pay Camp Hebron, we will not accept registrations after the  
postmarked date of Tuesday, September 5, 2023**

THOSE INTERESTED IN THE FRDAY NIGHT LODGING MAY NEED TO BOOK  
ROOMS WITH OTHER WEEKEND' REGISTRANTS TO AVOID SINGLE  
ROOM RATE CHARGES.

**NO REFUNDS**

Make check payable to "LS SWO Women of the ELCA" and mail check with Registration Form  
by **Tuesday, September 5, 2023** to: **Kathy Kauffman, 970 Stevens Road, York Haven, 17370**

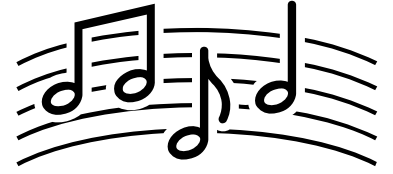
**SATURDAY BREAKFAST IS SERVED AT 8:00 A.M.**

**IT IS IMPORTANT TO CHECK ONLY THE MEALS YOU PLAN TO ATTEND**  
**SATURDAY MEALS: Breakfast \_\_\_ Lunch \_\_\_ Dinner \_\_\_**  
**SUNDAY MEALS: Breakfast \_\_\_ Lunch \_\_\_**

QUESTIONS REGARDING REGISTRATION OR THE RETREAT, SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO  
CHRIS TODD, 717-682-0729 (H) 717-439-6071 (C)  
Or SHIRLEY KEISTER 717-362-8666

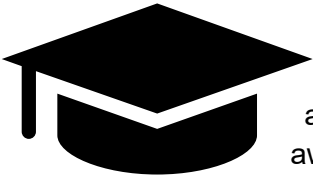
## Senior Choir

It was a real joy and a privilege to share in this last choir season with all of you. We had some good times and great fellowship together. Thank you for all your hard work, your time, and preparation. It was evident every Sunday morning as we sang to the glory of God. We did have a couple of songs that Barry didn't think had enough notes in the last chord, but all in all the music went well. I'm looking forward to starting up again this Fall. If there is anyone who would be interested in joining us for a new year of musical leadership in worship, please watch the September newsletter for the starting date and time of practice, which will likely be in the last week of September, so that we are ready to sing in worship in early October. Thank you all again!



-Ty Troutman, Choir Director

## Congratulations to Our High School Graduates!



We celebrate with our newest high school graduates, **RJ Henry** and **Landon Mace**, both from Upper Dauphin Area High School. Congratulations to RJ, who qualified for and was presented with our ***St. John Scholarship for Faith and Education*** on his class award night, held on May 25.

We pray God's blessing on both RJ and Landon and their families as they celebrate this milestone and look to new opportunities and challenges. If any congregational family graduates have been missed, or if there are corrections or additional information to be shared, please contact Pastor Tom and it will be included in a future ***Epistle***.

## Upper Dauphin Odyssey of the Mind

The UDA Elementary Odyssey of the Mind team placed 8th out of 56 teams from around the world at the Worlds Competition over Memorial Day weekend! They placed 2nd with their question and answer session! They were able to interact with the teams from Hong Kong, Korea, Mexico, Poland and Switzerland as well as many different states from here in the US.



# Upper Dauphin Area Archery Season from Myrtle Beach NASP World Open Championship

UDA archery continued its year by heading to the Open Championship in Myrtle Beach, S. C.

The Middle School and High School teams both qualified for this championship by finishing 14th and 10th respectfully at Nationals. The HS had 9 shooters qualify as individuals and the MS had 5 shooters. All 9 HS archers decided to attend the Open. Three team members also were interest so the 12 archers thus competed as a skeleton team of 12. Teams can have up to 24 members with the best 12 scores counting for your team score. The 12 member UDA team shot well to finish as the 6th place team. Individually Kyra Grace Tomlinson managed a 291-score placing her 6th in the HS girl's competition. Jordan Bush was our top male archer shooting a 285 ranking him 48th for HS boys. Grace Kohler and Austin Heim both finished at 284 earning them a ranking of 38th for the HS girls 56th for the HS boys respectfully.



The MS having only 5 individuals qualify with only 4 able to attend did not compete as a team. The 4 individuals showed up and shot well. Gary Leitzel shot his personal best. The score of 292 of a possible 300 earned him 2nd place in the MS boys' division. He finished a near 1 point behind the Open World Champion. He also shot 25 – 10-point bullseyes out of 30 shots. His 25 – 10's were only topped by 4 other archers, HS, MS and Elementary in the entire tournament. Kenzie Reading also shot her personal best score of 282 earning her a 22nd place finish in the MS girls' division. Kyra Grace Tomlinson earned a spot in the NASP Scholarship shoot off. The top 5 girls from the National Championships compete for the prizes of \$5000 - 1st place, \$4000 - 2nd place, \$3000 - 3rd place, \$2000 - 2nd place and \$1000 – 5th place. The 5 arrows shoot off found Kyra Grace in second place 1 point behind first place earning her a \$4000 scholarship.

The archers all enjoyed this opportunity to shoot and hang out on the beaches in Myrtle Beach. This was a great reward for their hard work and long season that began in December 2022. Congratulations to all our archers, parents, grandparents and friends that support the kids and the program. Keep an eye out for the UDA Archery float in the local Fireman's Carnival parades this summer!

## Pastoral Acts

### At the Altar

Pastor Tom presided on the festival of The Holy Trinity, June 4, as our congregational family joined in the order for Affirmation of Baptism and celebrated the Confirmation of **Cole Roadcap**. Congratulations to Cole and his family on this important milestone in his faith journey!

### At Graveside

Pastor Tom presided at funeral worship for **Jane Grosser**, who died at the Northern Dauphin Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Millersburg early on the morning of June 4, after some years of failing health. Worship took place at graveside at Straws Church Cemetery, rural Halifax, on June 8. We pray God's comfort in the promise of the Resurrection of Jesus for **Turtle** and Jane's other family members and loved ones!



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b>
* (Both In-Person <u>and</u> on Zoom)						Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</b> 8:45am - Adult Bible Study (In-Person) 9:30am - Worship <u>In</u> doors. Including Sacrament of Holy Communion* 9:30am - SONDay Celebration (In-Person)	<b>Thomas, Apostle</b>	Pastor Tom Taking Monthly Extra Day Off  <b>Independence Day</b>				Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</b> 8:45am - Adult Bible Study (In-Person) 9:30am - <b>OUTDOOR WORSHIP*</b> 9:30am - SONDay Celebration (In-Person) 10:30am - Mutual Ministry Committee Meeting 6pm - Congregational Council Mid-Summer Meeting <b>Day of Prayer for Peace with Justice, Beginning in the Middle East</b>						Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</b> 8:45am - Adult Bible Study (In-Person) 9:30am - <b>OUTDOOR WORSHIP*</b> 9:30am - SONDay Celebration (In-Person)	6:30–8:45pm Vacation Bible School <b>Hero Hotline: Called Together to Serve God!</b>	6:30–8:45pm Vacation Bible School <b>Hero Hotline: Called Together to Serve God!</b>	6:30–8:45pm Vacation Bible School <b>Hero Hotline: Called Together to Serve God!</b>	6:30–8:45pm Vacation Bible School <b>Hero Hotline: Called Together to Serve God!</b>	6:30–8:45pm Vacation Bible School <b>Hero Hotline: Called Together to Serve God!</b> (Ending with Drive-In Movie) Youth Group Campout Begins after Movie	<b>Mary Magdalene, Apostle</b> Youth Group Campout Ends  Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</b> 8:45 Adult Bible Study (In-Person) 10am - <b>OUTDOOR WORSHIP</b> – Celebration Worship with Vacation Bible School Closing Program* 11:15am - Annual "Voices & Vittles" Covered Dish Picnic		<b>James, Apostle</b>				Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off
<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>					
<b>9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</b> 8:45am - Adult Bible Study (In-Person) 9:30am - <b>OUTDOOR WORSHIP*</b> 9:30am - SONDay Celebration (In-Person)	Drop-Off of Items for Congregational Yard Sale to Benefit Disaster Victims Begins <u>in the Pavilion Only</u> 9am-12pm - Set Up for Congregational Yard Sale					

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
* (In-Person and On Zoom)		1 9am-12pm - Set Up for Congregational Yard Sale 9:30am - Pastor Tom at Conference Pastors Gathering	2 9am-12pm - Set Up for Congregational Yard Sale	3 8am-5pm - Congregational Yard Sale to Benefit Disaster Victims	4 8am-5pm - Congregational Yard Sale to Benefit Disaster Victims	5 8-11am - Congregational Yard Sale to Benefit Disaster Victims  Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off
6 10 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost 8:45am - Adult Bible Study (In-Person) 9:30am - Worship <u>Indoors</u> , Including Sacrament of Holy Communion* 9:30 SONDay Celebration (In-Person)	7 9am - Tear-Down from Congregational Yard Sale to Benefit Disaster Victims	8	9 <i>Day of Prayer for Peace with Justice, Beginning in the Middle East</i>	10	11 Outdoor Water Fun Night with Miss Laurie	12
<i>Pastor Tom Taking Time Off Today through Wednesday, August 16, returning to the office on Thursday, August 17</i>						
13 11 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost 8:45am - Adult Bible Study (In-Person) 9:30am - <b>OUTDOOR WORSHIP</b> – Matt Williard, Guest Worship Leader* 9:30am - SONDay Celebration (In-Person)	14	15 Mary, Mother of Our Lord <i>Deadline to Submit Items for September "St. John's Epistle"</i>	16	17 Pastor Tom Returns to the Office	18	19 Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off
<i>Pastor Tom Taking Time Off returning to the office on Thursday, August 17</i>						
20 12 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost 8:45am - Adult Bible Study (In-Person) 9:30am - <b>OUTDOOR WORSHIP</b> with Sunny Sermon with Miss Laurie* 9:30am - SONDay Celebration (In-Person)	21 6:30pm - Book Discussion Group Picnic in the Pavilion	22	23	24 Bartholomew, Apostle	25	26 Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off
27 13 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost 8:45am - Adult Bible Study (In-Person) 9:30am - <b>OUTDOOR WORSHIP</b> with Sunny Sermon with Miss Laurie* 9:30am - SONDay Celebration (In-Person)	28	29	30	31		

# VBS Registration Form

Hero's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Family/Guardian Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Numbers: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Last school grade completed \_\_\_\_\_

Home Church (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

Friends of your child at this church \_\_\_\_\_

**Special Needs/Allergies/Medical Information/Other:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Emergency Contacts

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) of person(s) who may pick up this child from VBS \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Photo Release:** \_\_\_\_\_ Church/VBS has my permission to use my child's photograph publicly in VBS materials. I understand the images may be used in print publications, online publications, presentations, websites, and social media. I also understand that no royalty, fee, or other compensation shall become payable to me by reason of such use.

**Parent/Guardian's signature** \_\_\_\_\_

----- (for church use only) -----

Assigned to Hero Group: \_\_\_\_\_

Are family members helping with Hero Hotline? \_\_\_\_\_ If yes, where? \_\_\_\_\_

## Pastor Tom's Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday: 8am – 9:30am

Wednesday, Thursday: 8am – 12 noon

Friday: 8am - 9:30am

(Other times by appointment)

## Contact Information

The Rev. Thomas Bruner, Jr., Pastor	<a href="mailto:pt@stjohnhillchurch.org">pt@stjohnhillchurch.org</a>	717-362-9519 (O) 717-362-7895 (H)
Laurie Little, Young Christians Minister	<a href="mailto:misslaurie.little@gmail.com">misslaurie.little@gmail.com</a>	717-571-5058
Lewis Weaver, Sexton	<a href="mailto:bootsdagreat@gmail.com">bootsdagreat@gmail.com</a>	570-809-1014
Grace Weaver, Sexton	No Email	570-809-1510
Judith Ferree, Organist	<a href="mailto:jiferee@epix.net">jiferee@epix.net</a>	717-362-4228
Ty Troutman, Choir Director	<a href="mailto:kimjtroutman@gmail.com">kimjtroutman@gmail.com</a>	717-686-2758
Rachel Henry, Secretary	<a href="mailto:henryfamily2004@gmail.com">henryfamily2004@gmail.com</a>	717-439-3897
Joshua Paul, Council President	<a href="mailto:joshpaul1995@gmail.com">joshpaul1995@gmail.com</a>	717-460-0670
Fay Nichols, Prayer Chain Coordinator	<a href="mailto:fnichols46@comcast.net">fnichols46@comcast.net</a>	717-329-7447

### **911 Emergency/GPS Location:**

215 St. John Road, Elizabethville, 17023

### **For US Mail Deliveries:**

PO Box 270, Berrysburg, 17005-0270

Church Website: [www.stjohnhillchurch.org](http://www.stjohnhillchurch.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/stjohnhillchurch](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnhillchurch)