Community Notes

News of the Community of St. John Baptist
Vol. XV No. 3  Winter 2013-14

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Progress on the Roof!

Sr. Mary Ruth from Cameroon will be coming in January

The Epiphany Party
Sunday, January 5, 2014
4 p.m. - Vespers and Reception of Associates
5 p.m. - Informal Supper and Musical Evening
Bring hors d’oeuvres, veggie platter, finger food or dessert  Come when you can!

Sr. Mary Ruth will be arriving from Good Shepherd Home for a year’s stay in the United States. We look forward to welcoming her.
PAVERS FOR OUR OUTDOOR PATH

The Pavers that were reserved last year are about to be ordered! We apologize for the long delay. We have now been told that the ground around the asphalt path leading to the Convent is not suitable to hold the pavers that would have lined the path. It has therefore been decided to move the path to St. Marguerite’s House, where a barrier-free path is in place. There will be more room on the new location for future pavers to be added whenever they are ordered. Small pavers – 4 lines. Large – 8 lines.

20 characters per line, including spaces and punctuation.

_______Yes, I wish to place an order for _____ 4x8 pavers $100 apiece
_______Yes, I wish to place an order for _____ 8x8 pavers $150 apiece
_______Yes, I enclose my print request on a separate sheet with this order
_______Enclosed is my check for____________________made out to SJBF
NAME__________________________________________Email_______________
ADDRESS___________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________

CONSTRUCTION NEWS

This is a time to celebrate good news in our latest construction project. The front roof restoration on the convent is moving along very well and should be completed in early January. At that time, the whole convent will have a newly retiled roof and all the windows on the third and fourth floors will have been restored and resealed.

As we turn our eyes to the future there are some items that need attention. Our retreat house needs a new furnace as well as asbestos abatement in the boiler room. Also our cemetery is in need of repair. The walls are cracking and crumbling and the lych-gate and altar roofs need replacing. Our construction committee will be investigating these projects as well as possible funding sources for the work.

- Sr. Linda Clare

Renewing Our Ministry
Capital Campaign and Construction News
The Employee Luncheon
On September 24 we held our annual Employee Luncheon. We are grateful to our employees and residents, without whom it would be impossible to maintain our houses, our guest ministry, and our property. Below are pictured some who attended.

Maureen Woods
Ken McCurdy
Karen Orgera and Betsy Bellamy
Ryan McCurdy
Carolyn Sterner
Janet Thomas
Ana Andino, Ana Antunez, Margaret Erath
Not pictured: Donna MacKenzie, Leo Zelaya

Harmonium Outreach Chorus Performs
On September 29th the Harmonium Outreach Chorus performed a program of works about light, angels, peace and singing, under the direction of Anne Matlack. The event was arranged by Sr. Pamela for the benefit of the Capital Campaign. The choir and the audience were invited to a light supper in the Sisters’ refectory after the concert.

New Associate Received
George Witterschein, a member of our Centering Prayer group, was received as an Associate at Vespers on November 7. George lives in Mendham and often brings devotional readings to the group. Anyone who is interested in becoming an Associate may contact Sr. Eleanor Francis at sref@csjb.org. We will be receiving new Associates at Vespers before the Epiphany Party on January 5.

OBLATE NEWS
Linda and Charles Smith, Juli Towell and John Van Dine Renewed their Oblate Promises
JOURNEY TO ISRAEL
By Sr. Deborah Francis

I recently had the opportunity to travel to Israel and the West Bank, with a group from Christ Church in Short Hills, led by our Associate the Rev. Bob Morris. When I first told people that I was going on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, they expressed concern for my safety. I must admit I had some doubts myself. The terrible violence of Syria's civil war continues unabated and there have been concerns that the violence might spread to neighboring countries. That, of course, did not turn out to be the case.

Our group toured a great many of the usual pilgrimage sights. We stayed at a kibbutz by the Sea of Galilee; prayed at the Church of the Annunciation in Nazareth; and visited the Mount of the Beatitudes and the Golan Heights. We travelled to the Dead Sea and saw Masada and Qumran. In Jerusalem, we went to the Mount of Olives and walked the Via Dolorosa to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. We saw the Kotel (the "Wailing Wall") and the Temple Mount. We also visited various archaeological sites. On Sunday, we attended the Arabic Mass at the Anglican Cathedral of Saint George. We were able to walk some of the streets of Jerusalem and visited the city's bustling open-air market. We also made a sobering visit to Yad Vashem, Israel's Memorial to those who died in the Holocaust. In Bethlehem, we visited both the Church of Nativity and the Shepherds' Field.

I will never forget the view of Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives or the powerful presence of God at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. There are so many memories that I will treasure. The most moving part of the pilgrimage was the opportunity to meet so many people who are looking for reconciliation and understanding among Palestinians and Israelis. One almost never hears about such people in the news. So often, one hears only about conflict and bloodshed.

The first person we met was Palestinian entrepreneur, Reem Yunis. She and her husband operate a company called Alpha Omega in a new high-tech industrial park in Nazareth. It develops medical devices for the treatment of Parkinson’s disease. She employs fifty people, both Jews and Arabs. She wants to create jobs for her people as an alternative to violence. Dr. Marc Rosenstein is the executive Director of the Galilee Foundation for Value Education. He runs a youth circus for both Jewish and Arab teenagers. One evening we heard two stories, one from a Palestinian woman and the other from a Jewish man, who are involved in Parents Circle-Family Forum. This is a joint Palestinian-Israeli organization of over 600 families. All of the families have lost at least one family member in the ongoing conflict. The organization attempts to promote healing and understanding through dialogue, sharing of stories, and careful and intentional listening. In Bethlehem,

Oblate News, Continued
This has been a very exciting year for our Oblates. At present we have 17 Oblates and 2 Probationers. Two of our Oblates: the Rev. Mary Adebonojo and Dorothy Fowlkes celebrated 25 years as Oblates of the community! At the November meeting we had 4 Oblates renew their promises: pictured are Linda and Charles Smith, Juli Towell and John Van Dine. Each Oblate is a serious spiritual seeker and brings his or her unique gifts to CSJB through prayer and service to the community. We are blessed to have them all!

Lily Altamura continues to be very active on the Development Board. You can often find her at CSJB at one meeting or another.... or just here to talk over an idea she may have for the future of the community. Carolyn Dunham received the Mission Star Award from her church, Hilltop Presbyterian. This award was given for years of service to both the church and the community. Carolyn’s Oblate standing was mentioned as well as her involvement with many other community activities. Carolyn was our first Presbyterian Associate and Oblate!

John Van Dine is in the process of Ordination to the Diaconate. Doug and Pat McKenzie's apartment, which is being constructed in the basement of St. Margaret’s, is nearly completed. We look forward to their presence here as "Oblates in residence". They will begin spending part-time here as they transition their lives to a deeper commitment and closer connection.

Fr. John Negrotto continues as Head of the Construction Committee. His help is invaluable. We cannot thank you enough John! Susan Negrotto finished CPE (Clinical Pastoral Education) training and is now a Chaplain at Community Hospital in Toms River one day a week. She also studies theology online @ Notre Dame and is enrolled in Richard Rohr’s Living School, a two year program which requires study both online and travel to Albuquerque.

Juli Towell traveled to Israel with a group from Christ Church, Short Hills that included Sr Deborah Francis and several Associates. If you would like to know more about Oblates and the commitment required contact Sr Eleanor Francis, Director of Oblates.

By Janet Thomas, Oblate, CSJB
Journey to Israel, Continued

we met Antwan Saca of the Holy Land Trust Organization. He spoke about the traumas that have shaped both the Jewish and Palestinian narratives: the Holocaust for the Israelis and the 1948 loss of land and sovereignty for the Palestinians (known in Arabic as "the Nakba," meaning "disaster" or "catastrophe"). These competing narratives cannot help but frustrate progress in achieving a just and lasting peace. The Trust attempts to break down fear of the "other" through non-violent methods.

In Jerusalem, we visited United Hatzalah, which attempts to unite all sectors of Israeli society, by saving lives and providing relief to anyone in distress, without discrimination. The organization responds to car accidents and medical emergencies, by using locally-trained volunteers and GPS technology.

All of these persons and organizations seemed to me to be signs of hope in the midst of a seemingly interminable conflict. They are not waiting for the politicians to come up with a peace plan. They are building trust, understanding and alternative narratives. These are ordinary people doing extraordinary things. Shalom/Salaam/Peace.

Sr. Suzanne Elizabeth Attends National Altar Guild Meeting

Seattle, Washington was my destination in early September, to participate in the second Province VIII Altar Guild workshop. About 25 women and men gathered from about 10 Dioceses to share the ‘tricks of the trade’ of altar care. The weekend was spent in a former convent and school overlooking the magnificent Dumas Bay. Many kinds of presentations were offered as well as our worship together. Where else may one learn ways to care for the precious vestments and vessels used in our worship? All came away feeling enriched spiritually in our fellowship together.

The Province II Altar Guild workshop held at our Convent in this past spring seemed to also bolster the 25 attendees with fresh ideas to bring home to their parishes and dioceses.

Ideas gathered at these workshops are shared in the NAGA (National Altar Guild Association) newsletter, The Epistle.

NAGA shares information and happenings of Altar Guilds in their Newsletter and on their web site, along with needs and supplies available to them. Emergency Kits containing a goblet, plate, and cruets for wine and water, etc. may be sent to parishes experiencing disaster in fire, tornados, hurricanes or whatever. We also serve the Bishop of the Armed Forces, providing stoles and other items for the chaplains requested by the Bishop. NAGA meets during General Convention, offering enriching programs, worship and fellowship. NAGA is also responsible for the daily GC Eucharist set up for the thousands of attendees. The hundreds of attendees, the hundreds of volunteers, who help under the direction of the NAGA executive committee member, take home to their Diocese this awesome experience to help arrange their own Convention worship.

It is time for the Nominating Chair to send to the Epistle the information and nominating forms for suggested persons to be elected to the NAGA board for the 2015 Convention. As that elected Chair, I will now turn my attention to that task. When the executive Board meets in Texas in March 2014, I will work with the other members of the nominating committee to review suggested persons that will be proposed for election by the total membership, meeting in Utah, July, 2015. Most work done by sacristans/altar guild is done behind the scenes to prepare the worship space for a meaningful and orderly spiritual experience for all attending, with the greatest possible beauty and reverence. As God’s Housekeepers, it may be a lovely prayerful way to serve in the church, using whatever talents God has given and called us to share in this manner. Perhaps you might offer yourself to the priest in charge of your parish to help do this work, and who knows? I might see you in Salt Lake City in summer of 2015.
NEWS OF THE SISTERS

Sr. Deborah Francis serves at St. Mary the Virgin in New York. She assists with the services, visits the sick, and offers spiritual direction. She recently attended the New York Diocesan Convention. In September she traveled to Israel with members of Christ Church, Short Hills, under the guidance of the Rev. Robert Morris.

Sr. Mary Lynne has been giving talks in parishes about Good Shepherd Home in Cameroon. She goes yearly to Cameroon for two months and is in constant contact with Sr. Jane at GSH. She also serves on the Good Shepherd Home board. She continues to make jewelry for the Nun Better Shop and now has some new Christmas ornaments out on display.

Sr. Victoria Michelle is now a second year Novice. She is teaching Sunday School at the Church of the Messiah in Chester. She also welcomes guests at the Retreat House. In the Chapel, she sets up for the services that are held each day. In her spare time she makes cards, prayer beads and jewelry for the Nun Better Shop.

Sr. Pamela has arranged for two concerts this Fall: the Harmonium Outreach Chorus in September and the Classical Jazz Quartet in December. She also keeps our website up to date. Recently she organized our exhibit at the NY Diocesan Convention. She is a member of our Capital Campaign Committee. She also is a spiritual director.

Sr. Monica Clare is in her first year as a Novice. She is active at All Saints’ Church in Millington. At the Convent she helps with sacristy work and is often busy on her computer doing graphic design and correspondence for the office. Sr. Monica enjoys photography and contributes pictures to the Community Notes.

Sr. Suzanne Elizabeth recently passed her 50-year mark in the Community. She has held many posts and served in several branch houses. She also has been our Superior. Currently she schedules guests and groups along with Sr. Margo. She also serves on the National Altar Guild and is a spiritual director.

Sr. Eleanor Francis is our Superior. Much of her work in the Community is administrative, and she has been closely involved with the construction work on our front roof and the new apartment being built at the Retreat House. She also serves as a priest here and in local parishes when needed. She offers spiritual direction and gives retreats.

Sr. Barbara Jean is the Director of Novices. She serves as a priest here and as an assistant at St. Mark’s Church in Mendham. She also is on the Capital Campaign Committee and serves on the Daytop Board. She assists at Daytop by taking some of the residents to church. She is our liaison with the SJB School Alumnae. She also is the editor of the newsletter.

Sr. Linda Clare is in charge of buildings and grounds. She is on the construction committee and interacts with the contractor for our roofing project. Sr. Linda also is in charge of our community garden, which delivers produce to the Morris County Food Pantry. She has served on the Bishop’s Task Force, exploring questions concerning open Communion.

Sr. Laura Katharine serves at St. Mary the Virgin in New York and works closely with the volunteers who assist with setting up for the many daily services. She cares for linens and vestments, and has been involved in the preservation of some of the historic embroidery work at the parish. She also offers spiritual direction.

Sr. Margo Elizabeth schedules groups and guests at the Retreat House and Convent. She also plans and leads the Celtic Journeys to Ireland and Great Britain each year. She gives talks on Celtic spirituality and sees many persons for spiritual direction. Her skill with graphics is a great help with publicity.
NEWS OF ALUMNAE OF ST. JOHN BAPTIST SCHOOL

1938 Peggy Plummer Sanders died recently. She is survived by one son, Malcolm. She and Mary Walker Crittendon ’65 were friends, and Mary informed us of her passing.

1941 Kit King Rockwell is an Oblate on our Community, and attended the September Oblate meeting. She lives in her own home with family nearby. She has five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

1960 Chris Chrystal went to Scotland in September with Sr. Margo’s group and has written about it in this Community Notes.

1961 Mary Ann Lewis Renn wrote to tell us that the Class of 1961 held a reunion to celebrate their 70th birthdays together! Those who came together were Marian Shilstone, Kathy Wilkinson McCain, Frannie Bramhall Wittgins, Susanna Massey Walsh, Katie Mitchell Hough, Garland Talmage Riggs, Joyce Bearden McGirr, Ruth Robinson Ertei, Barbara Lane and Mary Ann.

1962 Elizabeth Roueche Krijgsman recently lost her beloved husband, Lars. Please keep her and her family in your prayers.

1964 Martha Wetherell Forbes wrote to tell us of the death of Sally Starrett, an Associate of the Community and fellow parishioner in Clearwater, FL.

1964 Marilla (Holly) Holland Savage phoned recently just to catch up. She volunteers 40 hours a week with Alzheimer’s patients and elderly people. Her elder daughter recently graduated from Mt. Holyoke. Holly has one grandson. She keeps up with Chris Chrystal ’60.

1965 Mary Walker Crittendon has retired from her career in publishing and lives in Hanover, NH.

1968 Nadine Boyd Sutcliffe performed with the Harmonium Outreach Chorus at their concert here in September. She has been a music teacher at Stonybrook Elementary School in Kinnelon.

1971 Brigid Vianest Wonder writes to say that she works for United Religions with retired Bishop Bill Swing in the San Francisco area. She and her husband, John have four children, two in college.

1980 Ellen Kohn Perry expects to be ordained to the priesthood in the Episcopal Diocese of Newark on December 14. Sr. Barbara Jean has been invited to preach at her ordination. She is the first SJBS graduate to become a priest.

1983 Kathryn McLaughlin Garcia works as a civil engineer for the city of Lodi in California. She keeps us up to date on the news about her mother Barbara Leader ’54.

In Memoriam

Sally Starrett departed this life on October 23. She was 99. She had been an Associate since 1967, and was a volunteer at the Convent for many years before moving to Clearwater, Florida. Her funeral was held at the Church of the Ascension in Clearwater. May she rest in peace and rise with Christ in glory.

Ruth Marsh passed away on November 18 after a short illness. She lived in El Cerrito, California with her sister, Henrietta. Ruthie had been received as an Associate in 1992. She was a member of St. Alban’s Church in El Cerrito, with a special ministry of sending birthday and get-well cards to church members. May she rest in peace.

Marie Sawyer, a close friend of the Community, passed away peacefully at Holly Manor in Mendham on November 19. Marie attended our Thursday Eucharist faithfully for many years. She and her husband, Bob often attended our events. She was a member of St. Luke’s Church in Gladstone. Marie was a lifelong resident of the Morristown area and helped many in need. She was a member of the South American Missionary Society and journeyed there several times on mission trips. We will greatly miss her.

A Prayer of Thanksgiving

Dear GOD, We are delighted that You are both loving and sovereign, and that You cause all things to work together for good to those who are called according to Your purpose. Thank You that each difficulty is an opportunity to see You work…that in Your time You will bring us out to a place of abundance. A thankful attitude opens windows of heaven. Spiritual blessings fall freely onto us through those openings into eternity. As we look up with grateful hearts, we get glimpses of Glory through those windows. We cannot yet live in heaven, but we can experience foretastes of our ultimate home. Such samples of heavenly fare revive our hope Thankfulness opens us up to these experiences, which then provide further reasons to be grateful. Our path becomes an upward spiral: ever increasing in gladness. Thank You GOD. Amen.

By Sr. Victoria Michelle
It’s September 2013 and my soul-satisfying Celtic Journey to Scotland has ended, leaving me wanting more, as always after these incomparable trips. So even before I unpack the wool sweater, tartan scarf and souvenirs from inviting shops near Edinburgh Castle, I send off a deposit to Sister Margo to reserve a spot on the 2014 tour to Northumbria (England) and Wales.

I’m already anticipating the trip because I know what’s in store. I’m a repeater, one of those folks hooked on the Celtic Journeys created by Sister Margo of the Community of St. John Baptist. Besides being fun and interesting, the trips offer an intangible dimension, an opportunity for a personal pilgrimage to find spiritual connection, renewal and that often elusive feeling of inner peace.

Going once is just not enough; they’re that good. September Celtic Journeys alternate between Scotland one year and England-Wales the next. The May Celtic Journey is always to Ireland. It’s wise to book early, as I discovered the hard way one year. [www.celticjourneys.org](http://www.celticjourneys.org). The cost is reasonable and covers airfare, ground transportation, lodging in cozy hotels, yummy breakfasts and dinners and admission to unforgettable attractions of great consequence to Celtic Christianity.

We travel at a comfortable pace, usually boarding our bus about 9 a.m. and checking into our hotel around 4 p.m. There’s time to take a walk, do some shopping and absorb the day’s experiences. Group size numbers about a dozen but usually no more than 15. The atmosphere is relaxed and congenial. All of the places we visit on Celtic Journeys are well worth seeing and many leave me longing to return. Holy Island (Lindisfarne) on the itinerary next September is an example.

It’s one of the “thin” places, where the spiritual realm seems especially close. On this extraordinary tidal island, only accessible by bus during low tide, Irish monk St. Aidan founded a monastery in 634 A.D. Remarkable relics remain, and there’s also an ancient Anglican church to see and activities to enjoy, such as snapping pictures of wild roaming horses, walking along the rocky beach and stopping by the mead distillery (and gift shop).

Another thin place of great spiritual significance on the Ireland itinerary is Glendalough, a lush valley, rushing river and enchanting oak forest in the Wicklow Mountains between two lakes, where the phenomenal St. Kevin of Glendalough established a monastery in the sixth century. Remains of the world-famous stone buildings, towers and high crosses still stand, having somehow survived the ravages of Viking plundering and centuries of weathering. I loved Glendalough so much I joined the Celtic Journey to Ireland two years in a row just to see it again.

Each day of a Celtic Journey is a blessing and a treasure, and some of the places visited are, I believe, worth alone the price of the trip. Sister Margo pours her considerable insight and caring into each Celtic Journey, and going on one is like catching the brass ring of U.K. tours. Grab it and you’ll be glad you did.

Chris Chrystal is an Associate of the Community of St. John Baptist who lives in Carson City, Nevada.
Pet Stories

Hi everyone - I’m an old man now of 15 years. My teeth are bad and I’m no longer able to eat that hard kibble... fortunately my person understands and fixes beautiful soft bowls of food. I used to go to Maureen in the Business Office for treats but I found lately that I couldn’t eat them either. They were too hard! But my person, having a kind heart, found some lovely soft treats that I could manage and bought them for me. I’ve not been well of late. I have a bad heart, the vet says. Some days I only feel like lying next to the radiator and warming myself. Doesn’t it seem colder than usual? The vet gave my person PILLS! I don’t like them much. Sometimes my person tries to trick me. Most often she pokes them down. I try to be good, I really do.... but sometimes it’s more than a cat can stand. I’ve spent a lot of time at the vet lately being poked and oh, they did an ultrasound– felt like a belly rub to me! I was really down for awhile. Even off my purrrrrrrrrrrrrrr. My person put a heating pad on my favorite red ottoman. It felt good. I’m back on the purrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr
Remember the Community of St. John Baptist

Planned giving is the means by which persons may make use of their resources by supporting the Community through Bequests, Life Income gifts, Life Insurance, A Life Estate, or Appreciated Property. Income from an Endowment Fund will be available for programs of retreat, worship, education, or special projects, as well as the future support of the Sisters.

office@csjb.org

For further information, please contact Sr. Barbara Jean at 973-543-4641 ext. 1.

CSJB Tribute Cards

You can now give a tax-deductible donation to the Community of St. John Baptist in memory of a loved one, or to honor a birth, marriage, birthday or graduation of a special person. Just send your request to office@csjb.org for details and we’ll send out a Tribute Card that lists you as the donor.

Call our Business Manager Maureen for more info. at: 973-543-4641 Extension 0.

WISH LIST

Donations are needed toward new carpeting for stairs and the second floor hallway at St. Marguerite’s. If you would like to help, please contact Sr. Pamela at sr-pamela@csjb.org or 973-543-4641x9.
CONVENT OF ST. JOHN BAPTIST: WINTER 2013-14
82 West Main Street, Box 240, Mendham, NJ 07945    973-543-4641    CSJB@csjb.org    www.csjb.org

THE EPIPHANY PARTY! Sunday, January 5, 5:00 p.m. This event is for old and new friends of the Community. Enjoy an evening of music and fellowship with the Sisters. Vespers and Reception of Associates - 4 p.m. Informal Supper and Musical Evening at 5. *Bring hors d’oeuvres, veggie platter, finger food or dessert* Come when you can!

CENTERING PRAYER Thursdays 7:15 - 8:15 p.m. Join us for a quiet hour and learn a new way to pray. Centering Prayer is a method of silent prayer that prepares us to receive the gift of contemplative prayer, in which we experience God’s presence within us, closer than breathing, closer than thinking, closer than consciousness itself. For info, call Sr. Barbara Jean 973-543-4641 ext. 1 or srbj@csjb.org

LABYRINTH WALKS Jan. 11, Feb. 8, 22, March 8, 22, Apr. 12, May 17, June 7, 2-4 p.m. Walk our labyrinth and learn about this ancient way of prayer. Phone Sr. Barbara Jean or e-mail srbj@csjb.org. Meet at the white Convent Building.

FABRIC OF FAITH 1st and 3rd Thursdays, 10-3. Learn about ecclesiastical embroidery and the preservation of church vestments. $10 includes lunch. Contact Sr. Suzanne Elizabeth at srse@csjb.org or 973-543-4641 x 5.

YOGA AT THE CONVENT at St. Marguerite’s Retreat House. Join us Mondays from 4:45 - 6:00 p.m. For gentle Yoga. Experience how Yoga can benefit your overall well-being. (In the fall, we will offer Levels 1 / 2 from 6:15 to 7:30) Suggested donation: $10.00 per class ~ Please bring a Yoga mat~ Classes are subject to change. Send us your email address and we will add you to the class update list. Contact: Jean Marie @ 908-850-6475

JOINT CLERGY RETREAT (Dioceses of Newark & NJ) Jan. 6th at 2 p.m. - Jan. 8th at 2 p.m. Led by the Rev. Dennis McNally SJ, PhD. Info: fr.negrotto@yahoo.com or call 609-242-7637. $150 for 2 nights, 5 meals. Register by Dec. 17.

WINTER SEARCH PROGRAM For those seeking God’s Call in their lives. February 14-17, 2014. A Live-in with the Sisters to experience the Religious Life. Write or e-mail Sr. Barbara Jean 973-543-4641 ext. 1 or srbj@csjb.org

THE ADELPHI CHAMBER ORCHESTRA – Concert on March 30 at 4 p.m. Refreshments following. All proceeds are for the Convent’s renovation fund. Info: sr-pamela@csjb.org or 973-543-4641 ext. 9.

MANUSCRIPT ILLUMINATION RETREAT Led by Patricia Miranda April 2-4, 2014 At St. Marguerite’s, Tuesday midday through Friday 3:30pm. Cost $320 full board, $260 for non-residents. All meals and materials provided. For more information Contact Sr. Pamela at sr-pamela@csjb.org or call 973-543-4641 X 9.

LENTEN RETREAT FOR ASSOCIATES. “The Also Life: There Is no such Thing as Time ” by The Rev. Barbara Crafton. Sat. April 5. 9:00-2:30. Followed by optional Associates’ meeting. Contact Sr. Eleanor Francis at sref@csjb.org or 973-543-4641x3

Cold winter night are drawing near!!!
The Convent has firewood for sale.
Please contact Sr. Linda Clare at
973-543-4641 ext. 8

We have gone Green and wish to go greener!
Please let us know if you would prefer to have the Newsletter sent to you by email.
Please respond to: office@csjb.org

With Our
Prayers
for you, this
Christmastide
and New Year

From the Sisters of St. John Baptist and
The Rt. Rev. Prince Singh, Bishop Visitor