# The Chapel Chimes



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From the Rector's Desk...

#### How Can I Know?

Part of the responsibilities of any clergy person is to minister to those in his or her community who have no connection to any parish. Most times this occurs in a hospital or when there is a death in a family. Sometimes it is when a couple desires to be married in a church.

Recently, I have been involved in a few funerals of this type.

In all of these cases, the two most common questions that were asked by loved ones of the deceased were "Is there any way I can know, for sure, that he or she is O.K. now?" And "How can I know I will see him or her again?"

Saint Thomas asked Jesus this same question in the fourteenth chapter of the Gospel according to John. Jesus was explaining that he was going to die and then would go to Heaven and prepare a place for his followers. He said.

"...I go to prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way where I am going."

Thomas responded, "Lord, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?"

It is amazing how much we are like Thomas. Just because we don't know how to point out Heaven on a map, we claim ignorance as to how we or our loved ones might get there. The way to Heaven is not defined in terms of landmarks, turns and mile markers. Heaven is a place. But it is also a state of being. So, the real question that should have been asked by Thomas and needs to be asked by us is "What must we be, to know the way?"



How can we KNOW that we will see our loved ones again? How do we KNOW how to get to Heaven? We know these things by who we are... or by what we have become in this life. The hardest thing any of us will ever do, is take an objective look at what we have become. Are we loving, generous, helpful, selfless, and caring? Or do we tend to be guarded, self-concerned and protective of our possessions. These are hard things to judge.

(Continued on page 2)

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Is a publication of

The Chapel Chimes

St. Stephens Episcopal Church

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Articles are welcome form all parish members

Please submit signed and dated items in writing to The Church Office or email us at

Any Questions, please feel free to contacts us

(732) 350-2121 ext 10

(First Monday of the Month) The deadline for items, ssechurch@gmail.com

But Jesus does not want us to spend our time judging all the minute aspects of our life to see if we are going to make it to Heaven. What he wants, is for us to decide if we have become just one thing.

When Jesus answered Thomas, he Said; "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but by me." In other words, if you want to know how to get to Heaven you must believe in Jesus as the son of God. You must BE a believer. If you are a believer in Jesus, then you will attempt to live your life in a manner which is pleasing to him. When you fall short and sin, you will ask him for forgiveness. When you feel tempted you will look to be strengthened by his grace.

If you are a believer in Jesus, then you will trust in the words he speaks to you in the scriptures. You will try and be more like him in your day-to-day living. You will trust his every word and action as the truth of God.

If you are a believer in Jesus, then you will travel with Jesus from your baptism, through the trials, rewards, difficulties, and blessings of this life, until you have completed this course and followed him all the way to his kingdom in Heaven.

You see Thomas had missed the point. We do not need to know how to get to Heaven. There is no map. There are no shortcuts. What we need to KNOW is JESUS. He is the way heaven. He is the guide who will lead us to our loved ones. He is the assurance that we will not be lost on our journey but will arrive safely at our heavenly home.

I saw a bumper sticker a long time ago. It said,

NO JESUS...NO PEACE

KNOW JESUS...KNOW PEACE

There is great truth to that little ditty. We will never be at peace without ourselves; we will never rest in the assurance that we will see our loved one again; we will never KNOW where we are going; until we KNOW that we are in a relationship with JESUS, our lord and savior.

Thank God Thomas asked the question. Thank God we continue to ask the question. And thank God that he has chosen to show us the Way in his son Jesus Christ.

The Rev. Paul Van Sant Sr. M. Div., Th. M.



### Music Notes

From the time I was a little girl until the day that my father graduated to Heaven, I would hear him around the house talking to the Lord. I would so often hear him whisper sweetly, "Oh Hallelujah". What a precious legacy I have in Christ.

The word Hallelujah is an exclamation: God Be Praised! (Uttered in worship or as an expression of rejoicing.)

NOUN: an utterance of the word "hallelujah" as an expression of worship or rejoicing.

Did you know that the word Hallelujah is the same in every language even though it may be pronounced without the H....filtered through an intermediate language that didn't have an H sound... (Linguistlist.org)

What a powerful word. For the historical believer in Christ that word is so powerful that we even make a point to sing it in all our songs in the service before Ash Wednesday and then we "put it away during lent and bring it out with great pomp and circumstance on Resurrection Sunday. Are you prepared to sing, perhaps even shout, Hallelujah as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Thank you, Father for sending us your Son. Thank you, Jesus for being willing to give yourself so that we may spend eternity in the presence of the Almighty, loving creator of the Universe.

Hallelujah to our Holy God!

Esther Graham, Minister of Music





The MEN'S CLUB and ECW are planning a Roast Chicken Dinner on Saturday, June 4, 2022 from 3-5PM. Our own Chef Greg Mathews will be in charge of creating a delicious dinner with all of our help. Enjoy roast chicken, red potatoes, beans, carrots, tossed salad with dressings, rolls and butter, beverages (coffee, tea, water, soda), and our delicious homemade desserts. In addition, door prizes, treasure auction, and a 50/50 will be available. All for \$15 per person. Listen to the

beautiful music while you dine and chat with your friends. Tickets are available in the church office from Monday through Thursday from 9AM-2PM. and on Sundays after each service Support the church.

#### ECW NEWS

The ECW will hold their first meeting of the year on Thursday, June 9 at 1PM. Every woman is a member of ECW (Episcopal Church Women). Our speaker will be Colleen Dalvachio from VNA Hospice. She will share information on hospice and VNA's other programs for veterans and more. If you have specific questions you can talk with her one-to-one. We will be creating silk flower arrangements in small flower pots to share with those in hospice. Colleen will deliver them for us. You can make an arrangement of your own. Stefanie will show you how to create the arrangement. All materials will be provided. When it gets closer to the date, it would be helpful to know how many people plan to attend so there will be enough materials for everyone. Refreshments will be served. Plans will be made for upcoming projects, events, and fundraisers. All are welcome. Any questions, see *Stefanie Bodine, President, or call her at (732) 350-2904*. *Meet the other officers: Marge Pomykala, Vice-President; Barbara Marshall, Secretary; and Kay Karlick, Treasurer*.

**ENGLISH TEA** #1 - on May 19 sold out in two weeks. The teas have not been held in 3 years, and everyone was thrilled to have them return. For \$15 to be seated at an elegantly set table of real china dishes, silverware, linen tablecloth, and flower centerpiece enticed many to hurry and get tickets. With delicious tea sandwiches, scones, trifle, cookies, cakes, candies and delicacies all for the bargain price of \$15, made people act quickly. to purchase their tickets. Many people have attended teas in other areas that cost up to \$65 per person but lacked the quality and quantity of what our event provides. A 50/50, treasure auction, and door prizes also add to the special quality of the day. It also is a fundraiser for the church. If you missed the ability to purchase a ticket, there is still room at the September 15th tea. But hurry, as those tickets are selling rapidly and by the time we get to the May tea will be sold out. It takes many people to set the tables, create the sandwiches and other items, share the prizes, and clean up afterwards. If you want to help, or you have any questions, contact the chair.

Stefanie Bodine at (732) 350-2904.

#### $\pmb{O}$ RDER OF ST. LUKE

The next OSL meeting will be on Thursday, May 12 after the Healing Service, The book we selected to read from Jack Sheffield is coming to an end. The audio information will be shared and our discussions on this book will finalize. Next, we will select a new book and author to share, read, discuss, and learn from. Still no updated news on when and if Josh Acton, North American Director of OSL, will be visiting and speaking in our area. Bill and I have gone on several Zoom convener's meetings, and OSL Conferences. We will share highlights from time to time in future issues of "The Chimes". And our group still talks about doing a healing mission in 2023--whether in person or through zoom.

Stefanie and Bill Bodine, Co-Conveners

#### **WORLD FRIENDSHIP DAY**

is held on the first Friday of May each year. It is an ecumenical service conducted by women which features the presentation of the least coin. Collect your pennies and other coins to share and help others. The service will be held in a Toms River Church this year. The rest of the details and flyers have not yet arrived. The event is always informative and enlightening. More details will follow. A carpool will be formed as soon as details are available. Contact *Stefanie Bodine at (732) 350-2904* if you are willing to drive, or want to join the carpool.

#### ECW - WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

We just received a letter of thanks from the World Day of Prayer USA Committee for participating and praying with women all over the world, and for our generous offering of \$103. This offering makes it possible to put the prayers we offer God into action. They requested we extend thanks to all who worked on the service, helped with the contributions, ushering ,the refreshments, the music, contributed to the offering, participated in the service in person or online. It is our hope to continue to remain involved with World Day of Prayer and to continue to be a partner in lifting up the lives of women everywhere. Our contributions and those of others will help to fund the projects listed at www.wdp-usa.org/grants.

#### St. Peter's Stewardship Prayer

Dear Lord, Send your Spirit to open my heart and mind.

Give me wisdom to guide my faith journey of stewardship,

Help me to graciously recognize that everything is a gift from You.

Inspire me to use these gifts generously to give back to You.

#### Amen

The Stewardship Committee will be created during the summer. If you want to join this committee, Contact Bill Bodine at (848) 210-4206. The Diocese provided 3 zoom meetings recently to share thoughts and ideas on how to move forward after the COVID in the area of Stewardship. Speakers will be needed and a speaker from Project Resource will join us on Consecration Sunday, November 20. More details will follow.



#### EASTER FLOWER OFFERINGS

Anyone wishing to request a memorial or honor a birthday or anniversary with a donation is welcomed to contact Valerie Thompson. Also, please continue to add you name and memorial to the chart in the Narthex as you are able. The Guild sincerely appreciates all donations and we thank you for your generosity. We encourage all interested parties to consider volunteering for the Altar Guild. Our membership has seriously diminished, so your service is definitely needed and would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Valerie if you are interested in learning about this very rewarding service.

If you have any questions, please call Altar Guild Flower Chair, *Valerie Thompson*, at 732-657-4510.

Thank you and God Bless.

#### FROM THE TREASURER'S DESK

Pledges for 2022 have been processed. Letters of acknowledgement are being prepared. Thank you for your patience.

results:

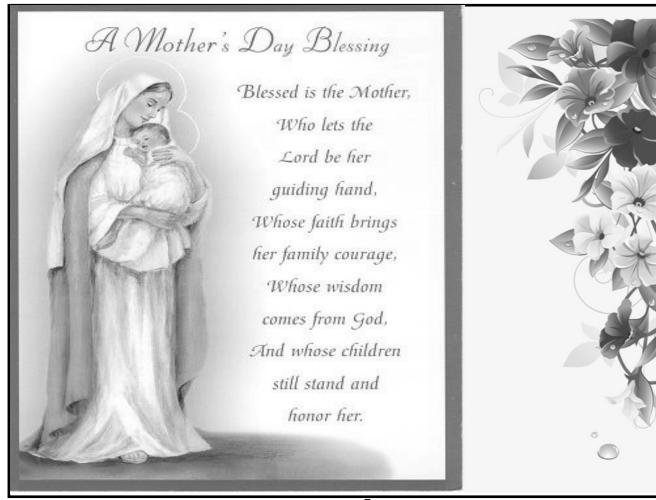
	2022	2021	% of 2021
# of Cards	48	60	80
# of Pledges	45	59	76
# of Mainte- nance	30	39	98
# of Capital	24	31	77



What the above chart means is that fewer pledges cause a few people to increase their donations in order to keep paying the bills. Research has shown that most churches have lost members due to attrition, deaths, elderly moving in with family, COVID and other reasons. If you have not yet pledged, please do so. Pledge cards are available in the office. We pray for your continued generosity.

Gerrie Vergona Treasurer







## DO YOU NEED PRAYERS FOR HEALING

Your prayers have been included in our Compline prayer list. Contact Fr. Paul. Susan Clarke, or Stefanie at (732) 350-2904 or <a href="mailto:houseofpink7@gmail.com">houseofpink7@gmail.com</a> if you have any questions or need prayers.

# ST. STEPHEN'S PRAYER CHAIN

St. Stephen's is in need of additional members for our Prayer Chain. The Prayer Chain is a dedicated group of parishioners who will pray for any who are in need. If you are interested or would like further information, please contact Greta Pearl at 732-350-7584 for details. Greta is the contact when placing, on the Prayer Chain, your name or the names of family, neighbors, or friends who would like prayers for healing, comfort, or any other purpose.

#### **BLESSING OF THE BIKES:**

The committee is working diligently to make this a successful and memorable event. We are asking for sponsors and donations, specifically; \$150 buys a sponsorship and name on a banner and donations of gift cards and miscellaneous NEW items would be appreciated. If you have a friend or relative who would like to be a sponsor or make a donation for the raffle drawings, it would of great benefit to the event and the church. Please contact Joy Frey if you can help.

# PRAYER OF THE ORDER OF ST. LUKE THE PHYSICIAN

Almighty God, who inspired Luke the Physician to set forth in the Gospel the love and healing power of Your son: Graciously continue in Your Church the love and power to heal, to the praise and glory of Your Name, through Jesus Christ, Our Lord. *Amen* 

# ONLINE CHURCH SERVICES

Holy Eucharist are held every Sunday at 8AM and 10:15AM – Compline is now on **Monday, Wednesday**, at 7PM on **YouTube** and **Zoom**. All are welcome!

COME AND SEE!!!

#### HEALING SERVICE

Join us every Thursday at 10AM for an uplifting experience prayers, communion, and healing.

Available on You Tube and Zoom!



We need your help--join us as a LEM, Lector, Altar Guild member, Usher or a Tech. Training will be provided. See Fr. Paul if you can help. This is a wonderful opportunity to serve our Lord, parish and community.

Thank you, to all that help.

#### Thank You to the Hospitality Committee

We want to thank all the members of the Hospitality Committee for all the help with our grand daughters Hope's repass. They did it all from setting the tables and making them look so nice, to setting up the food and serving it. And they cleaned up the rooms and kitchen afterwards.

How can you say thank you, to all these wonderful people and let them know just how much it means to us. So many pitched in to help us on Sunday April 3rd. Some of you made desserts that were welcomed by all, and so very appreciated by Bill and I. Other just pitched in with cleaning up and making our Parrish Hall get back to normal. Just know that we love you all.

Our Church family is the best!
With our love and appreciation,

Dottie and Bill Kaster

### Happy Birthday!

<u>May</u>	May		<u>June</u>	
Jeremy Busch III	05/01	William Kaster	06/02	
Patricia Hayton	05/08	Judith O'Neil		
David DeLouise	05/10	Patricia Russo	06/06	
Ellie Walling	05/13	Randy Walton	06/06	
Joanne Iacovelli-Lemmon	05/15	Barbara Lavinio	06/07	
Esther Graham	05/18	Jurgen Busch	06/16	
Alice Conover	05/19	William Bodine III	06/22	
Conceicao Sutherland	05/19	Joan Kliemisch	06/23	
Jean Hanko	05/21	June Coles	06/26	
Karen Hoffman	05/21	Margaret Poper	06/26	
Margie Pomykala	05/21	Florence Helger	06/27	
Ginny Bray	05/30			
Hillary Taliaferro	05/30			

#### MESSAGE BOARD

#### THYROID SUPPORT GROUP

will meet on Monday, May 8 at 10AM. Our speaker will be Pat West. Each month she writes an informative article in "The Crestwood Sun" about auto-immune disorders and related areas. She has much knowledge to share from her experiences and studies that changed her life in a positive way. Her knowledge can help you. Come with your questions. We will have time to share our knowledge and questions on thyroids after her talk. Come and share your thoughts and support others with thyroid issues. Contact Stefanie Bodine at (732) 350-2904 with your questions.

WHITING GARDEN CLUB

will meet on Wednesday, May 4 at 10AM. Our speaker will be Ellen Karcher, "The Lavender Lady". We will make lavender sachets, learn about lavender and its uses, have time to shop for lavender plants, lavender edibles, lotions, and other products. The deer do not like lavender plants. Many of us have purchased lavender plants that are easy to maintain, bloom easily, and smell beautifully. A worthy asset to any garden is a lavender plant. Bring your lavender questions and thoughts to share with Ellen and the rest of us. If you have any questions, contact co-chair Stefanie Bodine at (732) 350-2904.

Host one after the 8AM or 10:15AM Service Everyone enjoys chatting and visiting and a delicious item with their coffee or tea. See Stefanie Bodine with your questions



#### Embracing the Uncertain

"A Lenten Bible Study"

Thanks to Fr. Paul for selecting an inspirational book EMBRACING THE UNCERTAIN by Magrey R. deVega. Each week, the Bible readings, chapter information, and questions, had us all thinking of moments in our lives, connecting with God, and finding inspiration and hope for us that will last beyond the Lenten season and keep us thinking, praying, and talking to God. Each person that attended could share their own opinions. *Stefanie* 



#### IRISH SODA BREAD COOKIES



This recipe is from an Irish cookbook and was recently served at the World Day of Prayer, the Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner, and coffee hour on March 20.

#### IRISH SODA BREAD COOKIES

2 c. flour 1/2 c. sugar 1/2 c. (1 stick) butter, softened \*

1/2 tsp. baking soda 1 egg 1/3 c. buttermilk\*\*\*
1/2 tsp. salt 3/4 c. currants 1 tsp. caraway seeds\*\*

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. Line cookie sheets with parchment. Combine flour, baking soda, and salt in a medium bowl. Beat butter and sugar in a large bowl at medium speed until fluffy. Add egg; beat 1 minute, until combined. Add flour mixture; beat on low speed until combined. Add currants, caraway seeds; mix well. Add buttermilk; mix until combined. Drop teaspoons of dough 1 inch apart on the prepared cookie sheets. Bake for 10 minutes or until light brown. Remove to wire racks to cool. Can be served warm. Yield: 60 cookies.

- \* I used canola oil instead of butter
- \*\* I omitted the caraway seeds
- \*\*\* I used a powdered buttermilk found in the baking aisle and added water (there was no buttermilk available). I have also added vinegar to milk and used that in the past as a substitute for buttermilk. NOTE the original recipe dropped the dough by tablespoonful and baked for 12-15 minutes, yielding 3 dozen cookies. I found the smaller size was more popular. ENJOY!

Stefanie Bodine

#### **FATHER PAUL**

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26th ANNUAL

#### BLESSING OF THE BIKES

SUNDAY MAY 1st 2022

**HOURS 12 TO 4 RAIN OR SHINE** 

BIKES WILL BE BLESSED AT 2 pm

BY: FATHER PAUL VAN SANT

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at:

732-350-2121 (Mon-Thurs 10am to 2pm)

or e-mail us at ssechurch@gmail.com

#### Laughter is Good for the Soul



I am happy.

I am beautiful.

I am healthy.

I am strong.

I love my body.

I attract positivity.

I attract opportunity.

I attract love.

I am kind.

I am smart.

I am confident.

I am successful.

I am worthy of all the

blessings coming my way.







29 H	22 H. 8	15	8 MOTI <i>H</i> <sub>1</sub>	1 Hc 8 BLES BI	
Holy Eucharist 8&10:15AM	Holy Eucharist 8&10:15AM	Holy Eucharist &10:15AM	8 MOTHER"S DAY Holy Eucharist 8&10:15AM	Holy Eucharist 8&10:15AM BLESSING OF THE BIKES 12-4pm	Sun
30  MEMORIAL DAY  AA group 3pm	23 10 am Vestry Meeting AA group 3pm	16 Woman's Bible Study Group Llam AA group 3pm	9 Thyroid support group 10am Woman's Bible Study Group 11am AA group 3pm	2 Woman's Bible Study Group Ilam AA group 3pm	Mon
31 Closed AA Meeting 2pm Boy Scouts, 7:30 - 8:30pm	24 Closed AA Meeting 2pm Boy Scouts, 7:30 - 8:30pm	17 Closed AA Meeting 2pm Boy Scouts, 7:30 - 8:30pm	10 Closed AA Meeting 2pm Boy Scouts, 7:30 - 8:30pm	3  Closed AA Meeting 2pm  Boy Scouts, 7:30 - 8:30pm	Tue
	25 AA Meeting 3pm Choir Practice 10am	18 Choir Practice I 0am AA Meeting 3pm Set up for English Tea	11 Choir Practice 10am AA Meeting 3pm	4 Whiting Garden club 10AM Choir Practice 10am AA Meeting 3pm	Wed
	26 AA Meeting 3pm	19 Healing Service, 10am English TEA 2-4pm AA Meeting 3pm	Healing Service 10am OSL Meets after Healing Service AA Meeting 3pm	5 Healing Service 10am AA Meeting 3pm	Thu
	27 Pinelands Symphonic band practice 9am AA Friday Nighters 7-8pm	20 Pinelands Symphonic band practice 9am AA Friday Nighters 7-8pm	13 Pinelands Symphonic band practice 9am AA Friday Nighters 7-8pm	6 Pinelands Symphonic band practice 9am AA Friday Nighters 7- 8pm	Fri
	28 AA Meeting 8pm	21 AA Meeting 8pm	14  AA Meeting 8pm	7 AA Meeting 8pm	Sat

#### **Parish Staff**

#### **Bishop & Chief Pastor**

The Rt. Rev. William H. Stokes

#### Rector

The Rev. Paul A. Van Sant, Sr., M. Div., Th. M.

Music Minister

Esther Graham

Treasurer

Gerrie Vergona

**Assistant Treasurer** 

Suzan Webb

Rector's Warden

Stefanie Bodine ('23)

**Property Warden** 

Richard Smithson ('22)

Clerk of the Vestry

JoAnn Smithson

**Vestry Members:** 

Class of 2023 Class of 2024

Kay Karlick Debbie Fisher

Tom Larson Marge Pamykala

Ken Seda Johanne Soriano

**Class of 2025** 

Dottie Kaster

Mary Ann Payne

Robert Virtue

**Office Staff:** 

**Parish Administrator** Greg Mathews

**Sexton** Tom O'Brien



#### **Help Hotline Contact Information**

As many of us face challenges with today's unstable economy, here are some helpful telephone numbers for assistance. Pass them along if you know someone who needs a little extra help getting through these tough times.

#### **Heating & Weatherization**

O.C.E.A.N. Inc. 732-244-5333 (heating)

732-244-5396 (weatherization)

www.oceaninc.org

NJ Shares 866-657-4273

www.njshares.org

#### **Mortgage Assistance**

Hope Hotline 888-995-HOPE

www.hopenow.com

#### **Health Insurance, Food Stamps, Utilities**

NJ Family Care 800-701-0710

www.njfamilycare.org

OC board of Social Services 732-349-1500

Verizon NJ Communications Lifeline

888-337-3339

Ocean County Government Resource Center

732-3708854

www.ocean.nj.us/socialservices

Ocean County Food Bank 732-918-2600

www.foodbankmoc.org

Angel Food Ministries 732-240-7543

Pick-up Location Christ Episcopal Church

1415 Washington St. Toms River

www.angelfoodministries.com

#### **Other Important Numbers**

Social Security 800-772-1213

www.socialsecurity.gov

NJ Unemployment Insurance 732-761-2020

www.state.nj.us



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Richard C. Campana, Jr., C.F.S.P. Manager

115 Lacey Rd.
Whiting, NJ 08759
732-350-5700
Fax 732-350-2415
Cell 908-227-1194
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A full year in our newsletter PLUS, a quarter page

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### UPCOMMING EVENTS FOR MAY

May 1 - Blessing of the Bikes 12-4

May 2,9,16 - 11AM Women's Bible Study

May 2,9,16,23,30 - 7PM Compline

May 4,11,18,25 - 7PM Compline

May 4 - 10AM - Whiting Garden Club— (Ellen Karcher, Speaker)

May 4, 11, 18, 25 - 10AM - Choir Rehearsal

May 5,12,19,26 - 10AM - Healing Service

May 6,13,20,27 - 7PM - Compline

May 6 - May Friendship Day - meeting at a church in Toms River

May 8 - MOTHER'S DAY

May 9 - 10AM - Thyroid Support Group - Pat West, speaker

May 12 - after the healing service - OSL Meets

May 18 - set up for English Tea #1

**May 19** - English Tea #1 - 2-4PM

May 23 - 10AM - Vestry Meeting

May 30 - Memorial Day