

THE MESSAGE

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Fr. ISAIAS GINSON, Priest-in-Charge

JULY-AUGUST 2017

SUMMER GREETINGS FROM FR. ISAIAS



Rev. Isaias Ginson

How many times have we all talked about the need to get moving, de-stress, lead healthier lifestyles, devote some time to reconnecting with our inner selves and appreciate whatever season of life we are in?

This summer, I invite you to tap into an ancient path to spiritual health in a new program called

Journey to Wellness. I hope that every member of our parish will invite friends, family and neighbors in our local faith community to join us. We'll begin on July 1, using our beautiful outdoor property to learn **Tai Chi,** a discipline that is part of my personal practice and that I have taught for many years. Classes will be held on **Saturday mornings at 8:00 a.m.** and will last 30-60 minutes. Qigong (pronounced chee gong) will also be incorporated.

Tai Chi combines gentle, flowing movements with focused breathing and meditation. With practice, we'll get in touch with our bodies, our selves, and the serenity that can be achieved no matter what emotional or physical space surrounds us. **Our Tai Chi class will be appropriate for all ages and abilities.**

Busy lifestyles often cloud our need to make time for necessary spiritual practices, and we forget how their benefits can increase health and vitality in other areas of our lives. Tai Chi makes use of breathing, movement, verticality and simple shifting of weight to increase awareness of our bodies and the intimate connection we each have with the whole universe. For centuries, the Chinese people have practiced Tai Chi as part of their daily health regimen. Most Tai Chi is done outdoors which allows for direct contact with nature.

I invite you bring your family and friends, wear some comfy clothes and rubber-soled shoes, and join us as we embark on this exciting journey towards wholeness and wellness at St. Margaret's!

Blessings,

Fr. Isaias



Saturdays at 8 a.m. with Fr. Isaias

REFLECTION FROM THE CHOIR LOFT Stepping Forward



I DID IT!

You are never too old to challenge yourself at St. Margaret's. It is not a comfortable feeling at first and often it's a bit scary, but I can tell you without reservation it's totally

worth it. What could I be speaking about? Well, it's the choir of course! I just completed my first full choir year.

Let me back up a bit. I have never participated in a chorus, could not read music, and have even been known to throw off street singers by my singing off-key. I was truly an unlikely candidate for a choir. Therefore, when it came to me in prayer one December day while looking for a worthy New Year's resolution, I laughed. Surely our church would not want such rank beginner. All I could offer was my love of music and my loud, untrained voice.

Susan Isherwood, our Director of Music, is excellent. Our choir rehearsals resemble a historic one-room classroom where each member is challenged regardless of ability. Jackie Poarch, a professional soprano, is our newest member and has taken the group to new heights — or, should I say, octaves. Our wardens, Dan and Kim, are incredibly talented singers, and we have yet to find a hymn that Mary does not know. Ayla's voice has truly blossomed this year under Susan's tutelage as you no doubt heard on Confirmation Sunday. Various other singers come and go as the year progresses. Somehow every Sunday Susan finds the right music, corrals us together and uses our different talents to present a musical gift to the Lord. It is truly beautiful and touching. I have been a parishioner here for over 25 years, but since joining the choir, the Sunday service has taken on a new and deeper meaning for me.

I look forward to September when we pick up where we left off. I am still learning how to read music and am practicing the warm-up lessons I have learned. There is room here for you as well. I am a living testament that anyone with real desire to sing and a willingness to try can contribute. I still can't believe I did it!

~ Janet S.

JULY-AUGUST CALENDAR

Remember: ONE Sunday Service at 9:30 a.m.

Thursday: Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m. & BIBLE STUDY 10 a.m. Saturdays at 8 a.m. – TAI CHI (except July 22)

July 2-16	Collection	for After-School	Project, Haiti
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Iulv 8	9.30 a m	Safe Church	Training	(lunch provided)

July 11 7:30 p.m. Vestry

July 19 Noon - Lunch Bunch

7 p.m. - PB&J Outreach, Plainview Reformed Ch.

July 26 7:30 p.m. - Fall Fair Meeting in Library

Aug. 8 7:30 p.m. Vestry

Aug. 16 Noon - Lunch Bunch

Aug. 27 Blessing of the Backpacks

FATHER ISAIAS' SUMMER SCHEDULE

Sunday: 9 a.m. – noon

Monday: Day off

Tuesday: 12 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Wednesday: Chaplain at Stony Brook

Thursday: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.Friday: 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Saturday: Visiting homes, hospitals, etc.

Fr. Isaias is available for home and in-facility visits and offers a kind and compassionate ear. Let's make use of our resources to help our "St. Margaret's Family Root System" stay spiritually connected.

FALL FAIR BASKETS NEEDED BY SEPT. 2

Basket making for our Sept. 16 Fall Fair is already underway and your support would help us greatly. Can we count on you to contribute at least one themed basket for the Fall Fair? All donated baskets must be turned in by Sept. 2 so they can be logged in. I am very grateful for the support we have received in the past.

Thank you in advance for your always generous support! If you need suggestions for basket theme ideas or if you have any questions, please call me at (516) 694-9039. Working together is the key to making our largest annual fund-raiser a success!

~ Kathy B.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT Addressing Long Island's Opioid Crisis



Karen Hoenscheid

What's cheaper than a pizza and easier to get? If you've been paying attention to the news lately, you know that our country is in the midst of an opioid crisis. Unfortunately, Nassau and Suffolk counties are at the epicenter.

The statistics are frightening, and it's likely that most of us have been

affected in some way. Maybe you or someone in your family has struggled with addiction. Perhaps the child of a friend has dealt with this or you are simply worried that your kids or grandkids will start using this destructive drug. If you share this concern, you'll be glad to know that help is on the way.

"Alone we Tog

we can do

- Pastor

"Alone we can do much.

Together,
we can do much more."

- Pastor Eric Olsen

Through my involvement with the Plainview-Old Bethpage Interfaith Clergy Council, I was encouraged to attend an event called "The Long Island Covenant to End the Opioid Crisis" at St. Anthony's H.S. in South Huntington. Organizers hoped that 493 people would attend (that was the number of opioid deaths on LI in 2016), but close to 1,300 people showed up!

Pastor Eric Olsen from Good Shepherd Lutheran Church led the discussion and we heard heart-wrenching stories from parents who lost children to this addiction and a teenager whose father sold her piano to support his drug habit. Recovering addicts shared their frustration with how little support existed once they were discharged from the hospital or rehab.

The whole point of this covenant is to bring together houses of worship, schools, government, law enforcement and the health-care system to fight this demon. With the help of community organizers from LICAN (Long Island Congregations Associations and Neighborhoods), groups will be urged to hold the pharmaceutical industry, government and law enforcement accountable for their roles in this scourge and schools, individuals and faith organizations to take action in terms of prevention and support.

So where does St. Margaret's fit into this puzzle? After attending several follow-up meetings, I learned that it all starts with LISTENING! When addicts are asked if they went to their church, temple or mosque for help, the answer was always, "No. That's the LAST thing I would ever do. I don't need to be judged." This has to change!

Throughout the summer, faith groups will be holding "Listening Campaigns" where laypeople gather in small groups and simply share their stories, struggles and fears. No solutions will brainstormed here, it's all about listening ... with no judgment. This information will then be shared with LICAN so that a more detailed action plan can be created.

Another area where we can help is in **prevention**. According to Dr. Lloyd Sederer, who spoke at St. John's Church, Cold Spring Harbor, faith can be both an immunization and an antidote. **Through service** to others, we can give meaning and purpose to our lives in a

positive and healthy way.

There is so much more to say about this serious subject and this will be an ongoing conversation that I hope we'll all be a part of.

I'm very encouraged by the energy and enthusiasm I've seen and felt so far and for the opportunity to partner with the other houses of worship in POB. On Oct. 26 there will be a huge follow-up meeting, and I encourage as many parishioners to attend as possible. In the words of Pastor Olsen, "Alone we can do much. Together we can do much more."

~ Karen Hoenscheid

SIGN UP TO HELP AT THE FALL FAIR! Saturday, Sept. 16 ... Rain date Sunday, Sept. 17

We need everyone's help to make the Fall Fair a success! A Committee Sign-Up Sheet will be posted soon in the Narthex. Committees include: Vendors, Baskets, Food, Parking, Baked Goods, Grand Raffle, Advertising Soliciting, Signs, Attic Treasures, Advertising, Treasurer. Set-Up, Clean-Up, St. Margaret's Table, Audio/Announcing/Microphone, Layout, Banners, etc. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, July 26 at 7:30 p.m. in the Library. Hope to see you there.

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OUTREACH

St. Andre's Episcopal Church in Cazale, Haiti, Needs Our Help!

I recently found out that one of our parishioners, Soledad Jacques, has been conducting some tremendous outreach efforts for an Episcopal church in Haiti that St. Margaret's has supported in past years. As I learned more about Soledad's efforts, which have been aided by help from her family and friends, I realized that we, as her church family, should get involved and help the children of this church program.

Please read Soledad's eloquently written article, and then read my article that follows, on how we can help Soledad and St. Andre's Church!

~ Dan McG.

AFTER-SCHOOL PROJECT



Soledad Jacques

Several years ago, the Scoutmaster of the St. André Episcopal Church of Cazale chapter reached out to me with the goal of securing funding to help with the annual camp expenses for their scout members.

After assessing the need and discovering the value of this endeavor, I

communicated my intentions to help them to my friends and family and, with their full financial support, was able to cover most of their transportation and food cost that year. From that time on, I grew a special relationship with the St André boys and girls scout chapter. I made a promise to fund them and with God's blessings and the unwavering support of their New York friends, no scout has since been denied the opportunity to attend camp for financial reasons. Kudos to all who have donated yearly and to St. Margaret's church for their generous donation in support of the scouts a few years ago.

While I intend to continue my support of scouting, my last trip to Cazale, Haiti, revealed a problem that I feel needs to be addressed as soon as possible. You see, unlike previous years when I visited Haiti during the summer when school is out, I travelled there this past January and was able to observe firsthand the necessity of an after-school program. I saw school children linger

from dismissal to nightfall with little to do. The vast majority of them have no set-up at home to do homework or study their lessons, so they continually return to school unprepared and unable to consolidate their lessons. Upon my return to New York, I spoke with my siblings and we decided to donate part of our old childhood home to host an after-school program. I see a need for a simple place with tables, chairs and lighting where these amazing children can do homework and also have a place where they can engage in extra-curricular activities and have fun.

My goal is to start with an after-school program this coming September. I do not plan on waiting until I can have all the amenities that the center will require for the need is too great. I would like to provide the children with all necessary school supplies and materials for the planned activities. I've already spoken to the priest in charge at St André Episcopal church as well as a local teacher who will oversee the after-school program, and I believe that once we have the aforementioned basics we can start the program and build as needed. I am beyond hopeful that with everyone's prayers, support and, most importantly, God's continued blessing this program will be a success and we will be able to impact the lives of many children.

FLASHBACK PHOTO – JULY 2014

In 2014, parishioner Soledad Jacques hand-carried monetary donations from St. Margaret's Church to the director of the boys and girls scout camp at St. André's Episcopal Church in Cazale, Haiti. The children and adult directors sent us a delightful handwritten thank you note along with this beautiful photo.



2014 boys and girls scout camp at St. André's.

St. Margaret's Outreach Summer Drive for St. André's Church

Now that you've read about Soledad's efforts, it's our turn to take it to the next level. We are asking all of you for your help with this donation drive - which will take place during three of the Sundays in July: July 2, July 9 and July 16. The children in St. André's church school are ages 6-14. We are looking for the following donated items for both school and after-school activities:

Backpacks

Notebooks



Rulers & Pencil Cases

Pens, Pencils, Crayons

Board Games

Coloring Books

(sample games: Chess, Checkers, Candy Land, Jenga, etc.)

And of course, we will gladly accept any financial donations you'd like to make. (Please make checks payable to St. Margaret's Church with the words – St. André's Outreach – in the memo.)

We'll hang a poster in the Narthex to remind you of the items needed and a large bin will be nearby where you can drop off your donations. Outreach checks can be given to either me, Kim or Debbie. Soledad will be shipping our donations down to Haiti toward the end of July and will be traveling there with her Mom in mid-August to hand-deliver the donations and set up the program. I can't think of a better way to reach out to help God's children.

Thanks so much and God Bless!

~ Dan McG. for St. Margaret's Outreach Committee

ALTAR GUILD

Wouldn't it be lovely to see the flowers you raised add beauty to our worship space on summer Sundays? If you have blooms to contribute, please contact the office by Thursday morning before the Sunday they will be used. Sharing your bounty with others is a joyful gift! Do you have a talent for arranging flowers or want to learn more? New Flower Guild/Altar Guild members are always welcome. And why not snap a photo of eyecatching arrangements at churches you visit while on vacation – we love to see new ideas. May you have moments of peace, joy and happiness in the weeks ahead!

~ Jane Ames

"DID YOU KNOW" that ...

- ... It is crucial to continue bringing in non-perishable items for the **Food Basket** as food donations drop off drastically during the summer months?
- ... We had the most beautiful weather ever for our **Annual Church Picnic**, with delicious food shared and enjoyed by 50 or so parishioners, friends and family?
- ... On the 3rd Wednesday of every month, the **"Lunch Bunch"** *with brown bag in hand* meets in the Undercroft at noon for an informal "chew & chat" get-together that is open to *everyone*?
- ... Even in the summer months, **Coffee Hour** continues each Sunday will you think about signing up as a host or finding a partner to help you?
- ... The first "Did You Know" question above refers to making food donations for our hungry brothers and sisters, but the following three questions concern ways we enjoy our abundance of food hmmm ... something to think about when food shopping each week?

~ Loretta S.

VESTRY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS – JUNE

Special Presentation: Paul Smitelli presented specs for his Eagle Scout project to the Vestry. Paul has been consulting with Will Shaw concerning his project, which consists of constructing a gate at the entrance to the heavy truck road leading to the Cemetery (west side of parking lot, near shed area). Following a question and answer session, preapproval by the Vestry was given to Paul and he will now proceed with further research before actual construction starts.

Buildings & Grounds: Our stained glass windows need repair. After researching companies, we voted to hire Somers, the company that installed the windows originally, to do the repairs. We are looking for a company to do a new survey of our church property. The survey will help guide plans to improve our curb appeal and visibility for worship, events and activities. We're still searching for an appropriate and cost-effective double-sided LED sign. Landscaping of the center island in the parking lot will take place soon.

Safe Church: We'll host a Safe Church seminar. Further information for parishioners will be coming shortly.

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FRANCISCAN CORNER In the Beginning Was Love

Isn't it interesting how relevant ancient thought can be in our own times? I especially appreciate how St. Augustine's thinking resonates when we feel surrounded by negativity, conflict and social injustice. Augustine uses the idea of "weight" as a metaphor for the quality of our love and its effects.

He suggests that how we love and what we love becomes our center of gravity. If our loves are based on fears or wants, then their weight pulls us away from the Heart of the Beloved. If, however, our love is centered in God, then we are drawn "upward" toward our higher selves.

Building upon Augustine's reflections, St. Bonaventure talked about God's expansive goodness as the foundation of the universe, compelling its movement toward ever-greater love and consciousness. May your time this summer be filled with real communion with God through the natural world His love created.

~ Brother Anton Armbruster

SAFE CHURCH TRAINING - July 8

To be in compliance with diocesan guidelines, St. Margaret's will host a **Safe Church Training session on Saturday July 8, 2017**. The course will begin at 9:30 a.m. and lunch will be provided. This training is for vestry members, employees, keyholders, lay leaders and volunteers who regularly supervise children.

PB&J OUTREACH - Wed., July 19 at 7:00 p.m.



It's that time again! Please come down and lend your support to this ongoing outreach event. The sandwiches we make feed hundreds of hungry clients of The Inn in Hempstead. We need every helping hand we can get! We meet at 7 p.m. at the Plainview Reformed Church on Old Bethpage Road in Old Bethpage.

GRACE KONTJE RECEIVES BISHOP'S CROSS

Grace Kontje, a founding member of St. Margaret's Church, was awarded the Bishop's Cross on



June 4. In a citation from Bishop Provenzano, Grace was honored for her decades of service. She was the first female member of the Executive Committee and held many lay leadership roles including Warden, Treasurer, and Altar Guild Directress, in addition to being a member of the Outreach and Rector Search Committees. Grace's church family presented her with a framed image of St. Margaret's and an album filled with photos and hand-written memories.



JULY

- 03 John F.
- 03 Robert B.
- 05 Lauren McG.
- 09 Bill H.
- 09 Emily H.
- 23 Brad A.
- 23 Linda Wink
- 27 Mary F.
- 28 Grace M-Z
- 31 Kevin B.

AUGUST

- 01 Derek G.
- 11 Michael C.
- 12 Jane A.
- 13 Norbert J.
- 17 Arthur S.
- 17 Dean K.
- 23 Gina D.
- 23 William F.
- 23 Christine K.
- 28 Joseph C.
- 28 Hagerman, E.



JULY

- 16 Joseph & Nancy C.
- 16 Victor & Eileen R.
- 20 George & Christine K.

AUGUST

- 12 Chuck & Heather B.
- 15 Tom & Eileen D.
- 16 Ken & Gerry L.
- 27 Bill & Barbara A.

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INTERCESSORY PRAYERS FOR SUMMER

JESUS TOLD HIS DISCIPLES, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me ... I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it." — John 14

- ➤ Pray to the God of love and peace for Father Isaias, our lay leaders, staff and parishioners, past and present;
- Pray to the God of love and peace for our bishops Lawrence and Geralyn, and all churches and clergy in the Diocese;
- Pray to the God of love and peace for the well-being of Christine, Marshall, Linda, Lorraine, George, Kathleen, and for those whose needs are known to God alone;
- Pray to the God of love and peace in thanksgiving as healing continues for Hyacinthe, Mary, Rick, Evelyn, Chet, Bob, Jim, James, Forrest, Pastor Cheri;
- For those who have no one to love them enough to pray for them. Wherever and whoever they are, give them a share of our blessings, and in thy love let them know that they are not forgotten;
- Pray to the God of love and peace for those we love and see no more, for Tom, Juan and Stephanne;
- ➤ Pray to the God of love and peace in gratitude for the sacrifice of those men and women protecting us as they serve in the military, especially Sean, James B., Matt, James P., Keith, Owen and Matthew;
- Pray to the God of love and peace for the unity, safety and direction of our Nation under President Donald J. Trump;
- Pray to the God of love and peace for world peace;
- Pray to the God of love and peace for your own special intentions.

"... And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Matthew 28

"Jesus loves you. If you didn't wake up today with that awareness, Jesus has news for you, good news.

God loves you and has big plans for you that span all eternity. In the meantime, where will this good news lead you? Where will Jesus lead you? I wouldn't know. His invitation to all of us is simply to follow." ~ Br. Curtis Almquist, SSJE

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

During our Sunday service on Aug. 27, the children and youth who worship with us are invited to have themselves and their backpacks blessed for the new school year.

In the months ahead, these backpacks will contain work to be done, work that's been returned, books to be studied, and tools to complete homework. Notebooks, pencils, pens, protractors, compasses, crayons, rulers, scissors, glue sticks, lunches and all manner of items will find their way in and out of these backpacks.

Some days, they'll be hard to carry because they're filled with so much stuff. Other days, they will be light and nearly empty. But on each and every day, these backpacks represent work required of the students gathered here. And as with every aspect of our life, we bring these things before God for blessing.

Please invite your children and grandchildren to be with us for the Blessing of Backpacks.

MUSIC NOTES

As we finish up with our choir year, I'd like to thank our faithful singers and wish them all a happy summer. Many thanks to Kim, Ayla, Mary, Janet, Jackie and Dan. Without these dedicated singers, we would truly feel the lack of sung worship.

We will start up choir the third Sunday in September. Please join us!

~ Susan Isherwood

"Without music, life is a journey through a desert."

- Pat Conroy

J<u>ULY</u> ASSISTING WITH WORSHIP

SUMMER SCHEDULE

9:30 a.m.

AUGUST ASSISTING WITH WORSHIP

SUMMER SCHEDULE 9:30 a.m.

JULY 2 - FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

ACOLYTE June I., Janet L. CHALICIST Lois B., Barbara H.

INTERCESSOR Dan McG. LECTOR Fal G.

USHERS Jane A., Ken R.

JULY 9 - FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

ACOLYTE Barbara H., Gavin I.

CHALICISTS Barbara A., Anton A.

INTERCESSOR Judy S. LECTOR Maureen D.

USHERS Barbara F., Richard W.

JULY 16 - SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

ACOLYTE June I.

CHALICISTS Jane A., June I.

INTERCESSOR Tom D. LECTOR Jackie P.

USHERS Barbara H., Judy S.

JULY 23 - SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

ACOLYTE Karen H., Gavin I.
CHALICISTS Lois B. / June I.
INTERCESSOR Debbie McG.

LECTOR Bill H.

USHERS Jane A., Maureen D.

JULY 30 - EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

ACOLYTE Kathleen C., Gavin I. CHALICISTS Lois B./ June I.

INTERCESSOR Dee Dee F. LECTOR Gina D.

USHERS Jane A., Maureen D.

AUGUST 6 - THE TRANSFIGURATION

ACOLYTE Gavin I., Keelyn I. CHALICIST Fal G., June I. INTERCESSOR Tom D.

LECTOR Barbara F.

USHERS Maureen D., Ken R.

AUGUST 13 - TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

ACOLYTE June I.

CHALICISTS Lois B., Barbara H.

INTERCESSOR Judy S. LECTOR Maureen D.

USHERS Jane A., Barbara F.

AUGUST 20 - ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

ACOLYTE June I., Janet L. CHALICISTS Jane A., Fal G.

INTERCESSOR Ron S. LECTOR Anton A.

USHERS Lois B., Judy S.

AUGUST 27 - TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

ACOLYTE Barbara H., Gavin I.
CHALICISTS Lois B. / June I.
INTERCESSOR Karen H.

LECTOR Jane A.

USHERS Ken R., Richard W.

JULY / AUGUST ALTAR GUILD

July 2 and Aug. 6 - Barbara A and Barbara H.

July 9 and Aug. 13 - Jane and Mary

July 18 and Aug. 20 - Lois

July 23 and Aug. 27 - Fal and Loretta
July 30 - Fal and Loretta

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The Episcopal Church of St. Margaret 1000 Washington Avenue Plainview, New York 11803-1831



JULY-AUGUST 2017

JULY/AUGUST SCHEDULE St. Margaret's Episcopal Church 1000 Washington Ave., Plainview, NY 11803

Sunday Service at 9:30 a.m.

Thursday: Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m. & BIBLE STUDY 10 a.m. Saturdays at 8 a.m. – TAI CHI (except July 22)

July 2-16	Collection for After-School Project, Haiti
July 8	9:30 a.m. Safe Church Training (lunch provided)
July 9	Acolyte Training & Refresher Course after church
July 11	7:30 p.m. Vestry Meeting
July 19	Noon - Lunch Bunch
	7 p.m PB&J Outreach, Plainview Reformed Ch.
July 26	7:30 p.m Fall Fair Meeting
Aug. 8	7:30 p.m. Vestry Meeting
Aug. 16	Noon - Lunch Bunch
Aug. 27	Blessing of the Backpacks