



St. John's Messenger

March, 2009

from Fr. John W. Morris, Rector

LENT: OLD AND NEW

Therefore every scribe who has been trained in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of the household who brings out of his treasure what is old and what is new.

Matthew 13:52

I am always surprised by what Jesus says about the kingdom of God. It is almost always not what I expect. Sometimes I think Jesus is going to champion something new. New wineskins are better than the old. Sometimes I think he wants a return to days gone by. That old time religion. I suspect, however, that what Jesus wants is to have it both ways. The old and the new. I suspect that what Jesus wants isn't one or the other but the merger of both. What Jesus wants for us is that which is complete, comprehensive, full.

This season of Lent at St. John's will be something like that. A blending of things old and new. A combination of the tried and true with the novel and experimental in our ministries of worship, Christian education, fellowship and outreach.

Beginning March 1, the First Sunday of Lent, we will be using Lenten Worship Booklets at the 8:00 AM and 10:15 AM services. These booklets will be kept in the pew racks and will be colored coded for easy identification – Green covers for 8:00 AM and Blue covers for 10:15 AM. The booklets will contain the Prayer Book portions of the Rite I and Rite II liturgies. Hymns will be found in the hymnal. For each service the ushers will distribute an order of service with the scripture lessons of the day. The psalm will be included and will be “pointed” or highlighted to facilitate the chanting of a new psalm tune written by our Minister of Music, Randy Day.

Sunday, March 1, will also mark the first of our Sunday evening Lenten Study series, “Come to the Table: What Feeds Us”. This year's offering is the original creation of our own Barbara Landis. It combines a booklet of daily spiritual quotes to spark personal reflection and possibly journaling with a Sunday program of fellowship and presentations including guidance in the use of the labyrinth.

Friday Lenten Luncheons and Worship will again be offered this year by the churches and clergy of the Northwest Ecumenical Cluster. Each Friday, a different church will host and a different member of clergy will speak. The theme for this year is “Lenten Journeys”. The luncheons begins at 11:15 with the services following at 12:20 PM. The cost is \$4.00 with proceeds going to the Lancaster County Council of Churches Winter Shelter Program. St. John's will be the host church on Friday, March 13 with the Rev. Larry Leister of Covenant United Methodist offering the sermon.

Coffer Hour will be different on Sunday, March 8. Between 9:15 and 9:30 AM we will be treated to a sample of “Music with Randy”. Typically the children and teachers of our Church School meet in the All Purpose Room at this time with Randy for music and a lesson. Randy has been teaching them an instructed Holy Eucharist. It has been so well received that we thought we might try it as an intergenerational offering.

LENT: OLD AND NEW *(continued)*

Our Spring Parish Meeting will be Sunday, March 15 from 9:15 to 10:00 AM in the Parish Hall. Our order of business will be the election of delegates of Diocesan Convention. There will also be presentations on our 2009 financial plan and a status report from our Refugee Resettlement Committee on our family, the Chimariyas, from Bhutan.

Growth in the kingdom of God does not come in just one way. It comes in many ways. All-ways, ways old and ways new. This Lent at St. John's, we hope to help one another find our ways as we seek a deeper, fuller life with Christ in the kingdom of God.

John+

FROM PASTOR JENNIFER E. LOOKER

I love March. Call it a quirk of my personality, but something about the sometimes snowy, sometimes rainy, sometimes sunny, often windy, always changing month of March appeals to me. Both ground and sky seem to stir with movement. Long dormant seeds begin to open with life, even if covered by late winter snow. The river swirls with loud, cracking ice and is suddenly alive after months of frozen quiet. The sky is punctuated by endless streams of migrating birds. The air itself seems to breathe with new life – even if occasionally on the cold and damp side.

After weeks of late winter nesting, of time spent reading books and sipping hot chocolate, March signals the beginning of something new. Spring is around the corner. I find myself daydreaming about rows of bright tulips and daffodils, of pansies that add an early touch of color. I find myself comforted that after months of stark winter landscape the world will burst with color and life again. It is a comfort that barren trees will slowly give way to tiny green buds. It is a comfort to be reminded that life goes on!

I will confess it is a comfort I have longed for. In the midst of anxious economic times, it is reassuring to watch the cycle of life unfold. It is reassuring to remember that barren winter months do not last forever. That seeds planted eventually give way to new life. What a comfort spring is!

In the same way, I find myself eagerly anticipating many of the new and exciting ministries that will unfold this spring at St. John's. Of those new initiatives, I am particularly excited about the special **Church School Coffee Hour** being featured on **March 8th**. **Randy Day, our Minister of Music, will be showcasing his ministry with our children in the parish hall, between 9:15 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.** This is an excellent opportunity for our larger parish family to experience what Randy does every Sunday morning. Church school families will provide food and beverages for coffee hour. Teachers will be available for questions and one-on-one interaction. Following the special coffee hour, all are welcomed and encouraged to join our teachers and children for church school classes. Later that morning, at the **10:15 a.m. service**, our children will make a brief presentation about the **Pennies to Peace program**. It promises to be an enriching Sunday morning; I hope many of you will participate (with extra pennies in tow!).

I'm equally excited about the J2A youth calendar for the month of March: **intergenerational ice skating at Barnstormer Stadium on March 1st**, a movie about **refugee resettlement on March 8th**, and a personal favorite: the annual **"Lenten Escape" to Middle Creek Wildlife Park on March 15th**. This intergenerational, afternoon event provides the opportunity to witness thousands (literally!) of migrating birds in a beautiful natural setting. It is in an incredible spiritual moment- not to mention a great chance to spend time with other Episcopalians in our Lancaster Convocation. Look for more details to come.

All this to say: March has arrived, and with it, new life is springing forth. What a joy!

Jennifer+

HOLY WEEK

Holy Week Services at St. John's

April 8 - *Wednesday in Holy Week*

12:05 p.m. Healing Service and Holy Eucharist

April 9 - *Maundy Thursday*

7:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist, Foot Washing, and Stripping of the Altar

8:45 p.m. Vigil until after the 12:00 p.m. Good Friday Service

April 10 - *Good Friday*

7:00 a.m. Good Friday Liturgy with Communion

12:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross with Communion

7:30 p.m. Choral Good Friday Liturgy with Communion

April 11 - *Vigil of Easter*

7:30 p.m. Easter Vigil with Renewal of Baptismal Vows (*Incense*)

April 12 - *Easter*

7:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I

8:30 a.m. Choral Holy Eucharist Rite II with
Renewal of Baptismal Vows

9:30 a.m. ALL PARISH BREAKFAST

10:30 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt (*for Toddlers through 3rd grade*)

11:00 a.m. Choral Holy Eucharist Rite II with Holy Baptism



Anyone wishing to remember a loved one(s) at
Easter through an Altar Flower Memorial
should please contact:

Betty Juslin-Asplin
717-392-1015

The deadline for receiving Easter Flower Memorials is:

Sunday, March 29, 2009.

LENTEN LUNCHEONS & WORSHIP

Northwest Ecumenical Cluster 2009 Lenten Luncheons & Worship Schedule

LUNCH: Begins at 11:15 a.m.

WORSHIP: Begins at 12:20 p.m.

COST: \$4.00 per Person

OFFERING: To benefit Lancaster County Council of Churches' "Winter Shelter Program"

DATE	LOCATION	SPEAKER
February 27	St. Joseph's RC Church	Dave Bushnell Hamilton Park UCC
March 6	Covenant UM Church	Scott Fisher Lancaster Co. Council of Churches
March 13	St. John's Episcopal Church	Larry Leister Covenant UM Church
March 20	Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church	Tom Smith St. Joseph's RC Church
March 27	Faith UCC	John Morris St. John's Episcopal Church
April 3	Hamilton Park UCC	Paul Eyer St. Luke's UCC
April 10	St. Peter's UCC	Cathy Shiley Hamilton Park UCC

REMEMBERING BISHOP HAINES

You are invited to a service of Evensong, remembering the life of the Rt. Rev. Ronald H. Haines on the first anniversary of his death, March 21, 2009, at 3:30 p.m. in the sanctuary at St. John's Episcopal Church, Lancaster.

At Evensong's conclusion we will view a recording of the funeral service for Bishop Haines at the National Cathedral, Washington, D.C., the Rt. Rev. Jane Dixon preaching.

Our gathering of friends of Bishop Haines will share light refreshments and reflection, concluding at 5:30 p.m. We look forward to being together with you on this occasion.

VESTRY EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Vestry's Warden Message

After spending a productive day together at our annual retreat, your Vestry is looking forward to 2009.

Please plan on attending the Parish Meeting on March 15 at 9:15 a.m. in the Parish Hall. We will share our visions, goals, and address your questions and concerns about the challenges and opportunities that await us in 2009.

At our February meeting, the Vestry resolved to honor and thank two long term members of the St John's Flower Guild ; Betty Juslin-Asplin and Loie Breitegan. Thank you Betty and Loie.

Our Diocesan Convention will be held at Bucknell University in Lewisburg on June 12 & 13. If you are interested in serving as a delegate, please contact Molly Moyer. We will be voting for Diocesan delegates at our March Parish Meeting.

I am pleased to report that Shirley Shaheen, Vestry Secretary, and Steve Latshaw, Parish Treasurer, were unanimously elected to serve the congregation for another year. Thank you Shirley and Steve, your dedication and commitment is greatly appreciated.

As always, if you have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to speak with myself or any member of the Vestry. Our contact information can be found on the back of the weekly bulletin.

Submitted by,
Ted Loose, Vestry's Warden

GROCERY CARD "ALERT!"

Stauffer's of Kissel Hill has kindly ordered \$20 gift cards just for us. They have requested that we convert to all \$100 cards. We would like to honor their request. If this is going to cause a hardship for anyone please contact Cynthia Minnich at: 717-413-7030.

Thank you for your support!

LENTEN GATHERING

Come To The Table

"What Feeds Us?"

Lenten Gathering Begins March 1

The Lenten focus this year will be on how "we are fed" by faith, through prayer, in the use of our gifts and talents and in the participation of caring for ourselves and other children of God.

The Sunday evening gathering will begin on Sunday March 1 at 5:00 p.m. with a light supper and then a gathering following dinner each week through Palm Sunday. Topics of the different presentations weekly will be announced as the time nears.

Beginning March 8, the labyrinth will also be available at 4:00 p.m. prior to coming to the table for anyone interested.

There will be an individual prayer/journal format available for participants to use at home for which there is a sign-up poster in the Parish Hall. Study packets which start February 22, the Sunday prior to Ash Wednesday and extend through Easter Monday can be found on the piano.

In lieu of buying a book this year, we are requesting participants to bring a food item weekly for donation through the Food Bank here at church consisting of canned soup, vegetables, pasta, etc. Owing the economic times for some of our brothers and sisters in the community, it seemed most fitting for us to respond in this way.

During our Sunday evenings, we will investigate various ways in which we are "fed" by the Spirit, as we come to the table, entering the circle of friendship and community.

Do consider "coming into the circle by coming to the table" as we contemplate how we are fed.

May you be nourished and fed by the Spirit during this Lenten season.

Submitted by, *Barbara Landis*

TREASURER'S REPORT

“Change” is a word that we all have been hearing often these past few months. Fiscal year 2008 was not a particularly good year for our national, personal, our church economics. I will be providing the details of last year at the parish meeting in March. I had hoped that I would be reporting a “change” in our financial direction. Unfortunately, that is not possible.

Pledged income for the month of January was \$21,129.50 against a budget amount of \$28,333.33. The shortage is \$7,203.83. Historically, we have been blessed by several pledging unit paying their entire pledge in January. With the national economy in crisis, it is understandable that this cash boost did not occur this year. This makes the shortage in pledge income even more of a problem. The lone bright note was a larger then expected payment of 2008 pledges.

With respect to our expenses, there were no surprises. Property maintenance funds are low as is the norm for this time of year. This is also true for many of the operational ministries, such as Christian Education and Music Ministries.

Careful stewardship of our resources must be continued. I can only ask each and every member of St. John's to remember how vital your pledged or non-pledged contribution is to maintaining the various missions supported by St. John's.

Faithfully yours,

Steve Latshaw, Treasurer

PARISH REGISTER

Births

Lily Charlotte Mausolf

Transferred In

Sandra J. Wengert

Deaths

Robert J. Fulmer

*To mail a sympathy card to
Peggylee Fulmer:
1959 Halle Road
John's Island, SC 29455-8187*

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Upcoming Training

There will be a training offered for all Eucharistic Ministers on Sunday, March 8, 2009 immediately following the 8:00 a.m. service. The training will take place in the nave and will be offered by Betty Finney.

**THE DEADLINE FOR
SUBMITTING INFORMATION FOR THE**

APRIL MESSENGER:

MARCH 16, 2009

STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship Committee Report: We began the year by discussing 2nd Corinthians 9:7

*“Each of you must give as you have made up your own mind,
not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”* (NRSV)

Our questions were:

- Most of us are reluctant to give because...
- Most of us experience compulsion to give because...
- If the answer to our fears or reluctance to give is God’s ever-loving care providing everything we need, then what do we really believe about God’s ever-loving care? How do I live this out in my life?

Please take a few minutes to consider this before moving on in this article.

In 2004, some of our leaders came together and crafted the following Vision statement for St. John’s. This may have been in conjunction with our search effort.

- *To be a place where all people may freely come to worship God through Jesus Christ, to learn His teachings, to be instructed in how to follow His commandments, and to receive the Blessed Sacraments.*
- *To be a community of fellowship where people may express and discuss their problems, doubts, fears, disagreements, intercessions, and thanksgivings in an atmosphere of mutual trust and understanding;*
- *To be a force that will spread the Gospel toward all people through personal effort and dedication;*
- *To be a reservoir of strength to serve all people with any need, in any place, at any time, from an endless source of love, hope, and inspiration; and*
- *To provide pastoral leadership for worship, guidance, and counseling; and for representing the parish as part of the community,*

How are we doing? Is this still our vision from your personal perspective? Is there anything missing? Is there anything that no longer applies?

Our purpose in Stewardship this year can be wrapped up in a two part question:

What do we do throughout the church year to educate one another on what it means...

- to accept Jesus and our Lord and Savior, and
- to invite one another to make a personal commitment to offer thanks for all of our blessings and to support God’s work in the world.

If these questions intrigue you, I invite you join our discussions and help plan our actions.

Submitted by,

John Gouveia
Stewardship Chair

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is the Sunday school program we offer to our 3-6 year olds as well as our 6-9 year olds. What is this Catechesis of the Good Shepherd? Basically, the goal of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is to nurture the child's relationship with God. The 3-6 year old child is particularly capable of receiving and enjoying the most essential elements of our faith – the announcement of God's love, in the person of the Good Shepherd, who died and is risen.

Just how do we go about nurturing their relationship with God? Well, in our atrium (that's what we call our special place) we have materials on the life of Christ and his teachings which help make the mystery of God concrete for the child. The geography materials establish Jesus as a real person in time and space and Israel as the land through which God realized salvation for all. Infancy narratives announce the Incarnation with the words of Scripture, moving from the Annunciation, to the Birth of Christ, to the Flight into Egypt. The model of Jerusalem and of the empty tomb are the starting point for the Paschal narratives which the child lives in a special way in celebrating the Liturgy of the Light.

Selected parables serve as keys to unlock the mystery of the kingdom of God and to nurture the child's natural sense of wonder. How beautiful and precious is the kingdom of God! How small it begins! How slowly it grows! How magnificent it becomes!

Through the arranging of the chalice, paten, altar cloth, candles, and cross, the child becomes familiar with the articles of the Eucharist. The child lives his relationship with God in a particular way in the liturgy. The 3-6 year old child enters the mystery of the Eucharist through the most important gestures including the preparation of the chalice, the epiclesis and offering, and the gesture of peace. From these gestures the Eucharist emerges as the Sacrament of the Gift. The child becomes acquainted with the historical character of the liturgy through the events of the Last Supper, Christ's death, and His resurrection.

The liturgical colors and calendar situate the child in the church year expressing the Pascal Mystery – Christ has died, Christ is risen, and Christ will come again. A prayer corner reflects the liturgical cycle with appropriate colors, prayers, songs, banners, and readings to enhance the rituals and celebrations of the seasons.

This year we are once again planning a Liturgy of Light service for the children. This is a service for the children and conducted by the children. The final details are still being worked out. Keep watching for more information on this very special service. **ALL** are welcome and encouraged to join us. We hope to see you there.

We hope this has been helpful in enlightening the mystery of 'what is Catechesis of the Good Shepherd?'. We invite you to visit the atrium and experience the wonder and joy as these young members of our church 'just get it'. It is truly amazing how much they understand, often times more so than the adults! You too may have an 'AHA' moment as we did many times during our training. This is truly a blessed gift we have to share with our children and they have to share with us in return. Watch for us in the Parish Hall on Sunday March 8th. We welcome you to join us in a Catechesis lesson.

Blessings,

Sibyl Freeman and Jenn Hreben

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (CONTINUED)



Sunday School News

Karen DiPace, Sunday School Director



March promises to be a very exciting and eventful month for our Sunday School children. We will begin the month by kicking off a spring food bank drive. We will once again offer themes for our weekly donations. March 1 is canned meat & fish week, March 8 is canned fruits and vegetables, March 15 is cereal week, March 22 is pasta week, March 29 is soup week. Look for our children to be presenting their offerings weekly.

March 8th the Sunday School will host coffee hour. The Sunday School children will hold their music time with Randy in the Parish Hall so everyone can join in, or just listen. This same day the children will present their Pennies for Peace collection to the church during the 10:15 service. Bring your pennies to add to theirs!

The children's cocoa hour has been a wonderful time for our children to gather together each week before classes begin. We would like to invite parishioners to host. You would get to spend time with the children, and listen to their music lessons with Randy. All you would need to do would be to help serve cocoa to the kids. How fun is that!! If you are interested please contact Pastor Jennifer or me for more information. This would be a great opportunity to get to know our youngest members a little better!

Vacation Bible School is coming!! I know its early....but not too early to begin planning. We are going to hold VBS from Sunday, July 12 to Thursday, July 16 in the evening...save the date! If you are interested in helping to plan, taking a leadership role, or just helping out during this time please let myself or Pastor Jennifer know. We need group leaders, along with many helpers. You WILL have a great time joining us at Camp E.D.G.E (Experience and Discover God Everywhere). Look for previews to come!



Journey to Adulthood

Mary Ellen Kilp, Youth Director

A group of nine youth and three adults attended the winter youth conference about Defeating Doubt at the Christian Retreat Center in Waterford PA for a weekend. It was an awesome weekend; making new friends from other churches in the diocese, singing new songs, dancing and learning new games. Some of the kids loved the hug lines and others felt it was too personal. The talks the young adults did about doubt and faith were unbelievable and very touching; our Sarah Ginolfi gave the most awesome talk about Defeating Doubt. We had fun with snowball fights, and just being together as a youth group. Joanie's favorite song was the Ice Cream and Cake song and dance. Most of us are looking forward to the summer conference in June at Messiah College.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (CONTINUED)

The rest of the Journey to Adulthood has been busy with classes each week having great discussions. We had a Wii Tournament at St. James, made some new friends and had a great time. Thank you to the J2A group Bob, Betty, and Pastor Jennifer for making the wonderful MLK banners. We also had our first St. John's family game night with a potluck dinner. Everyone had a great time. Pictionary seemed to be a great hit.

Please mark your calendars for the great activities we have planned:

- **March 1, Ice Skating** at Clipper Magazine after the 10:15 service, bring a bagged lunch or get a sandwich from Max Heider to support his Eagle fundraising.
- **March 8, Learn more about refugees:** after the 10:15 service, we are going to meet in the parish hall to view a documentary about refugees who come to the US. The film, called "God Grew Tired of Us". If nothing else, it will make you realize how much you take for granted in your day-to-day world. Please join us! Bring a bagged lunch or get a sandwich from Max.
- **March 15, YAC** has coffee hour
- **March 15, Lenten Escape** to Middle Creek, bring a bagged lunch or get a sandwich from Max Heider.
- **April 8, Live Stations of the Cross** at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Columbia.
- **April 9, Maundy Thursday lock in, Good Friday Service**
- **April 25, Sound of Music singalong and dinner from 5:00 – 8:30 PM** Bring a hearty appetite and voice for an evening of family fun to raise funds for our J2A youth. Enjoy bratwurst, kielbasa, Hot dogs and macaroni and cheese for kids, followed by an audience sing-along of a short version of the *Sound of Music* movie, led by our various youth and Sunday school classes. Lyrics and lederhosen (for our sing-along leaders) will be provided.
- **April 26, Graduation Sunday**

Please see Mary Ellen or Pastor Jennifer with any questions.



"2009 YOUTH WINTER RETREAT!"

...from left to right

Lounging: Julia Hasircoglu

Kneeling: Rachel Hreben, Joanie Kilhefner

Middle Row: Adam Kilp (wearing hat), Sarah Ginolfi, David Kilp, Molly Brenton

Back Row: Bob Kilp, Mary Ellen Kilp, (Will from St. Andrew's), Dan Dorgan, Brian Gross, Selena Hasircoglu

JUBILEE MINISTRIES

DATES TO KEEP IN MIND

Meal Ministry Dates— “Volunteers Are Always Welcomed!”

Dinner Out—(Contacts: Dave Martin & Janice Henry)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11—4:30-6:00 p.m. St. Paul's United Methodist Church, South Queen and Farnum Streets, Lancaster.

Community Breakfast—(Contact: Sue Martin)

SATURDAY, MARCH 21—7:30-11:00 a.m. at First Reformed United Church of Christ, 40 East Orange Street, Lancaster.

OTHER MINISTRIES

Blankets & Sew On - (Contact: Jeannie Zeller)

Meets every Sunday morning at 9:15 a.m. in the Parish Hall and every Wednesday evening at 6:30 p.m. in the Becker House to knit hats, scarves, etc. for donation to those less fortunate.

Pocket Prayer Shawls: What are they? How are they made? Our group recently embarked on a project that hopes to include many of you. A pocket prayer shawl is only 3" x 5", but contains the prayers of a traditional-size prayer shawl. It can be knitted or crocheted very quickly and uses only a small amount of yarn. Its size enables it to be used by those in need who might not have the ability to use the larger shawl: persons serving our country overseas, patients in hospitals or nursing homes, etc. Patterns are available any Sunday at our table in the Parish Hall. We welcome church school teachers and students to get involved in this new facet of our ministry. As always, we welcome your prayers and ideas. *Questions?:* Contact Jeannie Zeller at 717-464-0725 or jeanniez@comcast.net.

Door Ministry & Food Bank - (Contact: Bill Thompson & Julia Groom-Thompson)

Non-perishable food donations can be delivered to 1.) church office, or 2.) given to the Ushers on Sunday mornings. Weekly food orders are then organized for “families” or “single” people and are distributed from our church office on Tuesdays and Thursdays to those in need.

Eagle's Nest After School Program - (Contact: Dave & Sue Martin)

An after-school program for 4th and 5th graders from Robert Fulton School held every Wednesday throughout the school year from 2:00-5:00 p.m. Volunteers help with reading, academic support, crafts, games and cooking. ***Help with this program is always welcome!*** Contact Sue Martin if interested in volunteering.

Grocery Cards - (Contact: Cynthia Minnich)

TOTAL SALES FOR JANUARY, 2009: \$8,340.00



This is a great start for the new year! If we can sell at least this amount each month, we can meet our goal of \$100,000 for 2009. You can purchase your cards in the Parish Hall on Sunday mornings. Remember that a \$100 card can be used as often as it takes to use it up. You don't have to spend it all at one time and...

JUBILEE MINISTRIES (CONTINUED)

YOU ARE NOT LOSING ANYTHING. YOU ARE GETTING "FULL VALUE" FOR YOUR CARD. THE STORE SELLS CARDS TO US AT A 5% DISCOUNT WHICH BENEFITS JUBILEE MINISTRIES.

Participating Stores: **Darrenkamp's, Giant, John Herr's, Oregon Dairy, Stauffer's, and Weis.**

Recycling - (Contact: Sue Heilman)

Recycling containers for cans, plastic, glass, and styrofoam are available at St. John's. You can park in the Becker House parking lot (on Concord Street between Walnut and Chestnut) and walk to the left side of the dumpster where you will find the recycling containers sitting just outside the rear Parish Hall door.

Refugee Considerations - (Contact: Mike & Mary Lou Higgs)

Please see a separate article in this publication.

Robert Fulton School Partnership—(Contact: Dave & Sue Martin)

Collection of the following items can be found on the ledge next to the kitchen counter in the Parish Hall. Moo Money (bottle caps), Box Tops for Education, Printer Cartridges, and Campbell Soup Labels.

Shalom Ministry—(Contact: Fran Gouveia)

This ministry is the guiding force for responding to the Millennium Development Goals. Action groups are continually forming. Please consider participating.

Shalom Ministry is in the early stage of plans for a community-wide forum on the Millennium Development goals. If you are interested in serving on the committee for this exciting project, please contact Fran Gouveia at 717-392-1655 or franggo47@hotmail.com.


Volunteering for Missions

Refugee Resettlement Update: The Chimariya Family Has Arrived!

By the time you read this, the refugee family whom St. John's is welcoming to this country will be on their way to Lancaster. In mid-February the St. John's community agreed to sponsor a family of three – a married couple and their young adult daughter – from Bhutan. Here are the details that we know so far from Church World Service:

Kamal Prasad Chimariya is the husband. He was born in 1961. **Punya Mata Chimariya** is the wife. She was born in 1962. They both speak Nepali, they speak no English, and Church World Service has no record of their work history.

Their daughter, **Tila Rupa Chimoriya** (the last name is spelled differently), was born in 1986. She has studied at the university level. The agency that processed her says her reading, speaking and writing English levels are "good." The family is Lhotsampa Bhutanese and they have lived in Sanischare, Nepal, since May of 1992. They are Hindu.

Wow! What this means is that after nearly 17 years in a refugee camp in Nepal, the family flies to JFK Airport on March 2 and travels to Lancaster Airport via taxi service later that day.

Committee Update: We have an active committee of St. John's parishioners and some neighbors, and the group is dividing up roles and responsibilities so we can juggle the myriad needs of our family without burning out our volunteers. The St. John's community has been generous with donations, and we have almost enough household furnishings to furnish an apartment sparsely. We will get back in touch with the parish regarding need for clothes (especially warm ones) and food and other material things. Financial help to settle the family will come from several resources. A one-time payment of \$450 from Church World Service for each family member, donations from individuals, and help from the Jubilee Ministries of St. John's are expected to cover expenses for resettlement.

If you are moved to help, checks made out to St. John's (with "refugee resettlement" in the memo line) are always welcome. Prayers are very welcome, too. It's difficult to imagine how much courage the Chimariya family is going to need in the weeks and months ahead.

Learn more about refugees: On Sunday, March 8, after the 10:15 service, everyone is invited to the parish hall to view a documentary about refugees who come to the US. The film, titled "God Grew Tired of Us," is a moving documentary about three young refugees from Sudan and their first, awe-inspiring encounters with the modern world. It is being shown primarily for the J2A group, but everyone is welcome. If nothing else, it will remind all of us how much we take for granted in our day-to-day worlds. Please join us!

If you have questions, comments, or donations for the committee, please contact Mary Lou Higgs at mlehiggs@earthlink.net or Sue Hurlburt at sahurlburt@comcast.net. Thank you!

Submitted by,

Mary Lou Higgs

PROPERTY

The Property Corner

1. The Boiler Room Wall will be re-pointed and a penetrating epoxy applied per Jack McSherry, Jr., a Structural Engineer.
2. A new cleaning service is being addressed with the use of Orlando's Janitorial Services.
3. Vestry Retreat: Discussed some priorities items which Property Committee will revisit:
 - a. More efficient HVAC system.
 - b. Auditorium use potential.
 - c. Geothermal use with J.K. Mechanical.
 - d. Easier use of light panel.
 - e. Slate roof maintenance.
 - f. Upkeep of stained glass.
4. We welcome new members to Property Committee. We have the privilege of Jim Crothers as our Vestry representative and parishioner Kevin Henry with his engineering background.

Submitted by,

Phil Becker, Property Chair

NEW STAFF MEMBER

Meet Our Nursery Caregiver!

Hello my name is Stephen Stitzel, and I'm 20 years old. I was born and raised in Lancaster County. I graduated from Hempfield High School and live with my mother (Carolyn), father (Theodore), and younger brother (Matthew). We have two cats and a dog that live with us. I work at The New School of Lancaster. I really enjoy cooking and have had a few cooking jobs in the past. I enjoy just about all sports but my favorites are baseball and basketball. Most of all, I enjoy working with children. I have spent only a semester at Slippery Rock University studying to be a Physical Education Teacher. I hope to start taking classes again this summer at HACC.

Thank you,

Stephen Stitzel

MUSIC MINISTRY

...from the Music Desk

Waiting rooms are not my favorite hangout, for waiting is simply not native to my genetic code. Yet a recent trip to a specialist who requires a once-a-year appearance gave me another chance to wait in the Waiting Room. Being the only patient not back with one of the physicians, the available reading material was mine alone to enjoy, helping the next minutes to seemingly move a bit faster.

The medical periodical I chose to peruse was a freebie entitled *Neurology Now*, a new publication I'd never seen. The final article, written by an educator who has lived with MS for 35 years plus, garnered my full attention. After reading the synopsis of her life story and how she had learned to embrace her medical status and the accompanying impact on her daily activity, I was curious as to how she'd wrap this one-page anecdote. She did so by referencing Maya Angelou's novel **I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings**. Having read the book while a member of my high school's book club (and I recommend it to anyone who hasn't), this author's final sentence was made even more poignant. "The caged bird doesn't sing because it has an answer; it sings because it has a song."

What song do you/I/we sing? From what limitations (or diminishment, as the article quoted) would our melody and words emanate? What structure or form would we use? What singular instrument or ensemble might convey our deepest selves and our most personal message? While yet quite young my memory recalls hearing the gospel hymn that begins "I know not why God's wondrous grace to me He hath made known" and ends with the statement in the refrain "For I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I've committed unto Him against that day." Later on down life's path my ears heard the unforgettable choral setting of Handel's "I know that my Redeemer liveth." Both anthems by two different composers cited two separate scripture references, yet spoke of a deeply held belief in the One who provides us ultimate grace and eternal life. How might we musically personalize that today?

St. John's Music Department has begun an adventure with our Children's Choir this 2009. Every two weeks we sing together, preparing a choral anthem to share in worship. The other two weeks we are ringing our ChoirChimes. This past Sunday we actually did our third ringing session, this time with the full tables, pads, and music stands. What a delight to hear them ring out the strains of "Simple Gifts", their first anthem. Watch and listen for this offering in worship!

Like the caged bird, keep on singing...even in Lent!

Yours,

Randy Day,
Minister of Music



EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN

During each Lenten Season, we are called upon to offer a luncheon for the Friday Northwest Cluster programs. We have been asked to provide this on Friday, March 13. It is our chance to host neighboring churches. Volunteers are needed to prepare, serve, and clean up for this event.

If you're interested in helping, please be sure to contact Sue Martin.



"Welcome Spring!" The annual early spring plant sale will be held on Sunday, March 22. Orders for pansies and primroses will be taken on March 8 and March 15 in the Parish Hall. Distribution will also be in the Parish Hall on March 22. There will be very few extras available for sale, so if you plan to start the season with these hearty favorites, please order them now.

Future Dates To Remember

April 1-3, 2009—Lenten Retreat at Camp Hebron *"Jesus' Healing Ministry"*

The 28th ECW Lenten Retreat will be presented by Pat Ster, who will bear witness to Jesus' healing. The Rev. Virginia Dunn, Deacon, ordained for the ministry of healing, will companion us as we find ourselves on our own journey with Jesus. Cost: \$150.00 includes two nights lodging (double occupancy) and six meals. A non-refundable deposit of \$80.00 is due upon registration, the remainder due March 23, 2009. Make checks payable to "Diocese of Central PA-ECW" and mail to: Mrs. Dodie Houser, 1806 Valley View Avenue, Lewistown, PA 17044 (Phone: 717-248-9866).

April 25, 2009—The 104th ECW Annual Meeting at St. Stephen's Cathedral, Harrisburg. Keynote Speaker: The Rev. Mpho A. Tutu from 'The Tutu Institute for Prayer and Pilgrimage' in Alexandria, Virginia. A block of rooms has been reserved at the Harrisburg Hilton, under Episcopal Church Women, for \$129.00 per night for double occupancy until March 24, 2009. There may be an additional cost for more than two people in a room. To make your reservations now, call 717-233-6000.

September 25-27, 2009—The 14th ECW Cape May Retreat at the Marquis de Lafayette Hotel, 501 Beach Avenue, Cape, May, NJ.. Additional details on a speaker and theme will be forthcoming.

Submitted by,

Sue Martin

If Your Personal Information Changes...

Please be sure to contact the church office with changes to your personal information:
change of address, telephone, or e-mail.

"Thank you for your cooperation!"

Patti Means, Parish Secretary
717-299-1188 or patti@stjohns-lancaster.org

ST. JOHN'S SENIOR NEWS



We meet on the 4th Saturday of
Each Month in the Parish Hall (10-11:30 am)

* * *

“Come and join us on March 28!”

A highly successful planning meeting on Saturday, February 14, has launched a new organization that will be supportive of our 60+ group. The most important outcome of putting our heads together was to discover a common interest in what this group can provide.

Our focus will be sharing a journey, much the way that the J2A group shares this particular time in their lives. As a group we have special perspectives and unique needs. We also have an abundance of talent, energy and wisdom that we would like to share with each other and the entire parish. We are planning to share resources for seniors, and also to be a self-advocacy group that works toward providing transportation, health advocacy, meals, and regular contact.

As those who are familiar with loss at this age, both physically, and in our social relationships, our seniors will be bringing in speakers to deal with issues like Elder Law, death and dying with dignity, preparing Living Wills, and learning about alternative therapies that are effective to improve quality of life. But we will also enjoy presenters from among our own ranks and opportunities to laugh and socialize. The Lancaster Speaker's Bureau and local colleges and universities can provide a long list of topics to be chosen by a planning committee.

We will also share our own histories with each other and with journal projects that include preserving family stories and writing for grandchildren. With the talents of an experienced tour guide in our membership, we will also plan day trips and discount group attendance to theaters and local performances.

In the group of over a dozen seniors who attended the planning meeting, would you be able to guess who:
1) trekked the jungle in the Amazon? 2) performed in Fulton musicals including “Carousel”? 3) sang the lead in Gilbert and Sullivan operettas? 4) ran the first TV exercise group for women in the 1940's in Cleveland? 5) is a jig saw puzzle freak? 6) owns a large library of Civil War books and many Civil War antiques 7) loves Elvis, rock and roll music, classical music and operas? 8) has played the harp? 9) was homeless with their family during the 1950s recession and learned at the age of 12 to become an expert egg candler on a large poultry farm?

Come to our next meeting on Saturday, March 28th from 10-11:30 a.m. in the Parish Hall to meet these folks and share your own special talents. A program will be announced in the bulletin and we will vote on our official name. Snacks and drinks will be shared. Look for the sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall. We look forward to seeing you there. If you need transportation, we will provide. Call Kathy Novosel at 717-299-9738.

Submitted by,
Kathy Novosel

PRAYER LIST

If you would like to add someone to the Prayer List, please contact the church office and that particular person will be prayed for, for four (4) weeks. Continued prayers for that person necessitates another contact with the church office.



REMEMBER IN PRAYER

*Ron Barton
Jean Brown
Chet Connor
Patricia Constein
Kate Dwyer
Linda Frederiksen
Lonnie Gouveia
Lauren Kulka
Carolyn Leitheiser
Kim Lempp
Thomas Ludwig
The Macrone Family
Bonnie Miller
Ken Nolan
Ted Schell
Ingrid Smith
Christian Stigelman
Mikayleigh Stigelman
Clifford Yackly*

For Our Homebound Parishioners

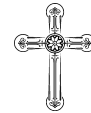
and

For Those Suffering from Addictions

SERVING IN THE MILITARY

Please remember those who are serving in our armed forces. If you would like to add or delete anyone from this list, please be sure to contact Patti Means in the church office.

*Tim Graeter
Brian Hobbins
Matthew James
Alex Kelly
Kyle Kulka
Joseph Lombardo
William May
Sean McCormick
Karl Miller
David Smith
John S. Waltz
Joshua Watkins*



A Prayer For Those in the Armed Forces of our Country

Almighty God, we commend to your gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad. Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face the perils which beset them; and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Please share with us information about your loved one(s) who are serving our country.

If you are in need of either an Episcopal service medal or Anglican rosary, please contact the church office.

SERVING SCHEDULE - MARCH, 2009

FOR ALL THOSE SERVING AT ST. JOHN'S: PLEASE NOTE!

If you are unable to fulfill your serving duties, it will be your responsibility to find a replacement.

Once you have located a replacement, please be sure to call the Church Office with your name, the name of your replacement, and the date you were scheduled to serve. If you reach our voice mail system, **simply dial "0"** to leave your message. If you call the Church Office after working hours, your call will still be received by a staff member prior to the Sunday service.

Please avoid contacting Aaron Spicher, personally, with this type of information. Aaron will receive your information through the Church Office. *"Thank you for your cooperation!"*

MARCH 1 - SERVERS	8:00 AM	10:15 AM
Eucharistic Minister	Bill Moyer, Ricky Smith	Peter Novosel, Adam Kilp
Eucharistic Visitor	Stephanie McGovern	Joanna Sweeney, C. Weaver-Gelzer, Fred & Eleanor Honaman
Lectors	Bill Moyer	Ellie Walsh
Server		Eric Freeman
Crucifer		Garth Alexander
Torch Bearer		Kaitlin Grosh, Michael Hreben
Altar Guild	Team 5	Team 5
Ushers	Team 1	Team A
Greeter		Jill Gross
Coffee Hour Host	Refugee Resettlement Committee	Refugee Resettlement Committee
Nursery		Jen Hreben

MARCH 8 - SERVERS	8:00 AM	10:15 AM
Eucharistic Minister	Kathy Novosel, Merle Schnee	Barbara McGraw, Sue Purdy
Eucharistic Visitor		Jan Brown, Don Durand
Lector	Kathy Novosel	Eric Waskowicz
Server	Max Heider	Sarah Gordon (Brian Gross)
Crucifer		Phil Becker
Torch Bearer		Rachel Hreben, John Waskowicz
Altar Guild	Team 1	Team 1
Ushers	Team 2	Team B
Greeter		Sue Martin
Coffee Hour Host	Sunday School Teachers	Sunday School Teachers
Nursery		Tracy Cliff

SERVING SCHEDULE - MARCH, 2009 (CONTINUED)

MARCH 15 - SERVERS	8:00 AM	10:15 AM
Eucharistic Minister	Bill Moyer, Ricky Smith	Brad Moyer, C. Weaver-Gelzer
Eucharistic Visitor	Bill Moyer, Kathy Novosel	Phyllis Gbur, Sue Heilman, Eleanor Honaman
Lector	Sue Breneman	Jeanie Zeller
Server		Ellie Walsh
Crucifer		Dan Dorgan
Torch Bearer		Emma DiPace, Dylan Stone
Altar Guild	Team 2	Team 2
Ushers	Team 1	Team C
Greeter		Robin Ott
Coffee Hour Host	YAC	YAC
Nursery		Phyllis Gbur

MARCH 22 —SERVERS	8:00 AM	10:15 AM
Eucharistic Minister	Kathy Novosel, Merle Schnee	Michael Stank, Brian Gross
Eucharistic Visitor		Karen Latshaw, Sue Martin
Lector	Peggy Craige	Paula Wolf
Server		Lauren Waskowicz (Brian Gross)
Crucifer		Adam Kilp
Torch Bearer		Kaitlin Grosh, Joanie Kilhefner
Altar Guild	Team 3	Team 3
Ushers	Team 2	Team D
Greeter		Bruce Waskowicz
Coffee Hour Host	Jubilee Ministries	Jubilee Ministries
Nursery		Emily Gross

MARCH 29 —SERVERS	8:00 AM	10:15 AM
Eucharistic Minister	Bill Moyer, Ricky Smith	Jan Brown, Karin Bleecker
Eucharistic Visitor	Phil Becker, Ricky Smith	Peter Novosel, Robin Ott, Fred & Eleanor Honaman
Lector	Ray Manlove	Phil Purdy
Server		Selena Hasircoglu (Adam Kilp)
Crucifer		Dave Pennell
Torch Bearer		Michael Hreben, Rachel Hreben
Altar Guild	Team 4	Team 4
Ushers	Team 2	Team D
Greeter		Leslie Morgan
Coffee Hour Host	Ushers: 8:00 a.m.	Ushers: Teams A & D
Nursery		Janelle Stone