



St. John's Messenger

December, 2013

from Fr. John W. Morris, Rector

ADVENT vs. CHRISTMAS

I try to imagine Christmas without Advent, and I can't. Even though there are a lot of Christians who do. There are millions of faithful followers of Jesus who have no awareness of Advent, who come from non liturgical traditions, from the "Prayer and Praise" part of the Christian family of faith. This fact evidences that Advent is not a central tenet of being a disciple of Christ. And yet for me Christmas would not be the same without Advent.

I am sure that part of my allegiance to Advent is due to particular Advent traditions. The Advent Calendar that I grew up with and shared with our children is one such practice that is Advent unique. Counting down the days to Christmas and affirming each of the days with a reward – a picture revealed on the calendar, a piece of candy – helped mark Advent as a special time in its own right. The lighting of the Advent Wreath in our home was an annual exercise of family good intentions. We usually got the first two Sundays nights right before routine worldly distractions eroded our initial fervor.

The Advent Event at St. John's is a great tradition of our parish. Even though, as is the case this year, it is sometimes held just before Advent, it embodies how Advent is interpreted and practiced at St. John's. There is, of course, the making of Advent Wreathes with its focus on liturgy and home worship and prayer. There are, however, those other activities unique to St. John's which center on ministries of service – the decorating of the Angel Tree for the gifting of children of our Jubilee Ministries, the packing of Care Packages for our teens away at college and taking final exams, making greeting cards to send to our homebound parishioners, and fun educational activities about the Millennium Development Goals. These offerings may be inspired by Christmas but we practice them in Advent.

For me, Christmas and Advent are completely intertwined and connected. They may be two distinct liturgical seasons but they reflect and reinforce the meaning of the Gospel in each other. Advent is like the salad course of a fine dinner. The salad is entirely different from the entrée that follows. Crunchy raw vegetables in contrast to tenderly cooked meat. Yet the salad somehow makes that entrée taste even better. Advent can also be compared with the overture of a symphony or musical. We hear in the overture snippets of the music that is to follow. The overture is not only pleasing in itself. It readies us to listen for the songs and musical themes that we will later again hear now enhanced by our feeling of anticipation.

Advent and Christmas share that kind of relationship. Independently they may be good or even great. But they are always better together. They are perfectly paired. Like peanut butter and chocolate. Like Sonny and Cher. Like peace and justice. Like Christ and the Church. Advent and Christmas belong together.

As we begin our annual countdown to Christmas, as we make our way through the four Sundays of Advent, may we savor these days. May we listen for those first notes in the song of our salvation. May we catch the opening lines in Christ's libretto of liberation. May we get a head start on the joy of serving Jesus and growing deeper in God's love. May we all have a blessed season of Advent.

John+

MDG CHALLENGES FOR DECEMBER

In the excitement of the month of December, broaden your vision to see those in our midst who are also our “family” and what we might do to honor them and gift them in this season of caring.

MDG Challenge for December 1st

St. Nicholas Day is celebrated this week on the 5th. St. Nicholas was a real-life bishop who lived many centuries ago. Children were to leave out their shoes and hopefully would be blessed with a gift. In appreciation of that gift, children were then to do a kindness for someone else. We are all Children of God. Save your shoes for our Souls to Souls gathering during Lent but feel the call to do anything helpful to those in our midst, who might be hungry. Our food bank would be most appreciative of any gift as would other Children of God who come to our doors.

MDG Challenge for December 8th

“Christmas is not a time nor a season, but a state of mind.
To cherish peace and goodwill, to be plenteous in mercy,
is to have the real spirit of Christmas.”

Calvin Coolidge

Ask yourself - “Who are the Christ-bearing strangers in our midst?”
How can you also add them to your Christmas list?

MDG Challenge for December 15th

Las Posadas – December 16th

Las Posadas (Spanish for "The Inns") is a nine-day Mexican tradition commemorating the part of the Christmas story in which Mary and Joseph must ask for a place to stay at every inn in Bethlehem before finding shelter in a barn when Jesus was born.

Imagine being without a place to stay, to sleep.

Imagine you are one of those having lost their home for whatever reason.

Not too late to give a gift that would support that stranger no matter where they live.

MDG Challenge for December 22nd

Today is the shortest day of the year - the shortest amount of sunlight.

Be the Sun! Be the Sun in someone's day.

As the birth of the Son of God is celebrated this week,
bring a gift of food for another of God's children to St. John's.

MDG Challenge for December 29th

A new year is just days away.

A new resolution is just a thought away.

Decide how will you resolve to be more caring to your brothers and sisters,
God's children, and then actively participate. Blessing to you ALL!

THE REV. JENNIFER E. LOOKER

I'm a person who loves to bake. I enjoy cooking, particularly when trying a new recipe, but what I really enjoy is an afternoon spent baking. There is something about the process of baking that captures my imagination. I become easily and happily lost in attention to the many details required; ingredients carefully selected, measured, sifted and mixed. An oven prepped and ready to bake. At the same time, I enjoy the creative challenge of baking. Of tweaking a recipe just so, attempting to add my own personal touch while retaining the original quality.

Central to this process, and to my love of baking, is the experience of waiting. Few things are more cozy and inviting than a kitchen warm and bright with the smell of fresh bread baking, the promise of cookies nearly finished, or a cake lovingly prepared for a birthday. The experience of waiting is one of joyful anticipation: the promise of good things yet to come.

As Advent draws near, I find myself longing for a spirit of waiting. Longing for a season of quiet anticipation. I love Christmas, yes, but I long for a time of genuine preparation. For quiet prayer and reflection. For an alternative to radio stations that debut Christmas songs in early November and department stores that bring out Santa before the great pumpkin has a chance to arrive. I long for something less harried: something quiet, something holy. I long to prepare. To wait.

It is a longing that many of us share. A longing that finds its roots in something deeper than anti-consumerism. Advent is a season that speaks to the hopes and dreams of humanity. A season that gives voice to a different set of values. A different kind of kingdom. One that is upside down and counter-intuitive, both fulfilled and perfected in the birth of the infant Jesus.

Christmas Day will arrive. And with it, the joyful culmination of longing and hope. But in the weeks yet to come, I wish you a season of quiet preparation. Of hearts filled with longing, and eyes set on the coming of Jesus. Of a world turned upside down and reclaimed as God's own.

Jennifer+

Don't miss the second annual Christmas College Reunion! Plan on staying after church on Sunday, December 29th for pizza and drinks in the parish hall. Share stories and catch up with old friends. Please RSVP to Bruce Morgan or Pastor Jennifer.

ST. JOHN'S ANNUAL PARISH RETREAT!

Sunday, February 22, 2014

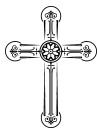
8:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Lancaster

Refresh your body and revive your soul! Explore the relationship between your physical and spiritual health. Learn new ways of being mindful, both in prayer and in personal well being. Renew your body and spirit as you walk a labyrinth or pray in one of the beautifully appointed rooms of the St. Thomas Spiritual Center.

Look for more information to come soon. Tickets will be available to purchase in the Parish Hall in January, 2014.

PARISH REGISTER



Baptized

Charles Joseph McGough

Parents—Paul & Jennifer McGough

Henry Leitzke Noble

Parents—Jay Nobel & Heidi Leitzke

James Woodrow Rhodes

Parents—James & Courtney Rhodes

New Members

Ty & Carol Humphrey

Deaths

Dorothy L. Lyet

December 28, 1925—November 2, 2013

Edwin A. Miller

March 21, 1922—November 12, 2013

Mary Lou Higgs

July 10, 1953—November 15, 2013

COMMUNITY MEAL



10th Annual New Year's Eve Community Meal

Join us on Tuesday, December 31st in the Parish Hall from 5:00-7:00 p.m. for another free community meal for all.

We will keep it simple again with a variety of soups in crock pots, breads, and brownies.

Anyone interested in providing food and/or volunteering in the kitchen or help with clean-up that evening, please contact Sue Heilman at either 717-951-0731 or heilmangirl@gmail.com

What makes this evening so special is the ambience of folks eating and relaxing together.

Anyone interested in playing an instrument as background music? We'd love to have you join us! Thank you.

Submitted by,

Sue Heilman

CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT ST. JOHN'S

December 24—Christmas Eve:

3:30 p.m.—Holy Eucharist, Rite I with St. John's Handbell Choir and Christmas hymns.

6:30 p.m.—Holy Eucharist, Rite II with Nativity Pageant and Christmas hymns.

10:30 p.m.—Festive Holy Eucharist, Rite II with Prelude of Carols with Lancaster Brass Quartet.
Incense will be used at this service.



December 25—Christmas Day: 10:00 a.m.—Holy Eucharist, Rite I

VESTRY'S WARDEN

Catching Our Breath at St. John's

What an interesting phrase — "catching our breath" — as if our breathing, one of the most natural and mindless of all our activities, had somehow gotten away from us and we had to *do* something to get it back. We talk about catching our breath after unusual exertion, or when we are startled by something unexpected, or — less precisely — when we need a "time out" from routine, or from chaotic periods in our lives.

Perhaps this is a time for us to catch our breath at St. John's. We have been doing some pretty heavy breathing lately: we've made changes in our governance structure and in our by laws; we are near the end of a significant recasting of our accounting system; our recent Parish meeting elected new members to our Vestry; and we have taken important first steps toward discerning the best path regarding the courtyard project. And I've only mentioned items that have passed through the Vestry. There's also the whole, ongoing program of scheduled ministry. Just look at our church calendar! Maybe it's time for a breather!

I'd like to propose that giving thanks might be a good way for a ministering parish to catch its breath. Catching our breath reminds us that breathing is one of those extraordinary gifts that we experience every second of our lives, usually without being aware of it. In a somewhat similar way, thanksgiving to God can be an occasion for realizing the many ways that God's Spirit has been quietly doing Kingdom work in our midst, sometimes scarcely perceived. And here we are, in the season of Thanksgiving — a perfect time to catch our breath . . . with very much for which to give thanks.

Then, before you know it, along comes Advent and the arrival of a new Church Year, bringing with it the rhythmic breathing of renewed activities and service at St. John's . . . and maybe bringing a few more moments of heavy breathing. Are you ready for it?

Submitted by,

John Herzog
Vestry's Warden

VESTRY RESOLUTIONS

Vestry Meeting: November 18, 2013

RESOLVED, that the St. John's vestry expresses their thanks and congratulations to the members of the Nominating Committee – Bob Kilp, Lois Kelley, Sue Heilman, John Herzog and Bruce Morgan – for their excellent work in securing a slate of quality lay leaders to serve on vestry and for providing the members of St. John's full and timely information to assist their deliberation and vote.

Debbie Carter moved to approve the resolution as amended. All approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Those of you that were able to attend the Fall Parish Meeting heard Charley Braught, your Vestry's Financial Steward, present the current state of our finances. As has been often the case in past meetings, there was good news and not so good news. The good news is that your Vestry, church staff and various committees are working hard to control our expenses. The not-so-good news is that our pledged contributions have fallen significantly behind our target budget levels. Normally at this time of year we are at approximately 94-95% of our target. This year we are at only 87% of our target. This equates to approximately \$36,000 in contributions. This spring our Vestry upon the recommendation of the Finance Committee, approved a procedure of paying half of our monthly Diocesan Fair Share at the beginning of the each month and using the quarterly draw from investment earnings to pay the remainder. This process was working extremely well through August. Unfortunately, the third and fourth quarter draws were needed to pay operating expenses. Our Diocesan Fair Share contributions are now 2 months behind. Our Financial Secretary is working hard to manage our cash flow in such a way as to pay some of those delinquent payments. Unless there is an increase in the pledged contributions, we are at risk of not being able to meet our diocesan pledge again this year. I know that this is not something that St. John's wishes to see happen. I ask everyone to check their statements when they are received. If there is an error, please let us know. If you are behind and have a situation that prohibits your being able to meet your pledge, just let us know that too. It is not our intent to cause anyone financial distress. However, we do need to know what our income stream will be in order to properly manage our cash flow.

I can also report that we are making significant headway toward our goal of getting all of our accounting practices to be GAAP compliant. I know this has caused some changes that have caused some unhappiness in some organizations. Please understand that everything that is being put into place is mandated by the National Church as well as the laws that govern corporation accounting practices. In reality, these changes are needed to protect all of our assets from being mishandled.

If you have any questions, please feel free to speak to myself, your Vestry Stewards, or any member of the Finance Committee. Thank you for your continued support of all of St. John's ministries.

Submitted by,

Steve Latshaw
Treasurer



ATTENTION SENIORS

Are you 70 ½ years or older and taking a distribution on your IRA? Did you know that you can direct your financial institution to send that distribution directly to St. John's and be eligible to deduct the contribution dollar for dollar on your federal income tax? You have only until the end of this year to take advantage of this tax break. After December 31, 2013, this deduction will be disappearing. Talk to your personal financial advisor to see if this will work for you. Don't miss an opportunity to help St. John's AND reduce your personal income taxes.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Pledges for 2014

Your Stewardship Team is pleased to share that we have received 133 pledges (plus 3 anonymous pledges) for a total of \$319,441 (an average pledge of \$2,416). We are about 88% of the way to our budgeted goal of \$360,000, and we are encouraged that about half of the pledges received are either first-time pledges or increases from the previous year.

While we will gladly accept your pledge at any time, the Vestry's budget will include only pledges that have been received by Sunday, December 1, so if you're reading this before then, we hope that we've convinced you to submit your pledge as soon as possible.

Additional pledge cards are available in the back of the church, or you may contact our church office (717-299-1188) and request that a pledge card be mailed to you. You may mail your pledge card to the church office using the provided envelope or place it in the offering plate.

Submitted by,

Debbie Carter

Vestry Steward for Stewardship

POPCORN THEOLOGY

"Promised Land"

Friday, December 13th—7:00 p.m.—Parish Hall

Promised Land is the new contemporary drama directed by Gus Van Sant (Good Will Hunting, Milk). Matt Damon plays Steve Butler, an ace corporate salesman who is sent along with his partner, Sue Thomason (Frances McDormand), to close a key rural town in his company's expansion plans. With the town having been hit hard by the economic decline of recent years, the two outsiders see the local citizens as likely to accept their company's offer, for drilling rights to their properties, as much-needed relief. What seems like an easy job for the duo becomes complicated by the objection of a respected schoolteacher (Hal Holbrook) with support from a grassroots campaign led by another man (John Krasinski), as well as the interest of a local woman (Rosemarie DeWitt). Promised Land explores America at the crossroads where big business and the strength of small-town community converge.

WEEKLY SUNDAY ALTAR FLOWERS



If you'd like to remember a loved one(s) with an altar flower or give thanks for a special occasion, please be sure to stop by the bulletin board in the Parish Hall and add your name to the Flower Chart. Details and donation envelopes will also be available at the chart. Please be sure to mark your check accordingly and a \$30 donation is appreciated.

If you are unable to travel to church but are interested in signing up, please contact our Parish Secretary, Patti Means. We are encouraging two (2) remembrances per Sunday. Following is the information we have received for the time-frame **December 2013—February, 2014**. The blank areas remain available. Thank you for supporting this ministry.

SUNDAY DATE	(1)	(2)
DECEMBER 1		
DECEMBER 8		
DECEMBER 15		
DECEMBER 22	Karen Straub	
DECEMBER 29		
JANUARY 5	Carroll Family	
JANUARY 12	Anita Bowers	
JANUARY 19	Cynthia Minnich	
JANUARY 26		
FEBRUARY 2	John & Helen Miller	
FEBRUARY 9	Ellen Meyer Trust	
FEBRUARY 16		
FEBRUARY 23		



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

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Sunday School News

Karen DiPace, Sunday School Director

Thank you to everyone for helping out with our Fall Food Drive! When you are grocery shopping please keep in mind that this is a need all year long. Another big thank you to all who helped with the Advent Event. I know the kids really enjoy this day, as well as the adults. I hope you were able to join us!

On Sunday, December 15th, we will be Christmas caroling at Willow Valley. This is a fun event for all ages! We usually have a little lunch together after church before heading down. You can pack a lunch, or pretzel sandwiches are available. You can also preorder one to ensure you get what you want!! After caroling you are invited back to my house for cocoa!

On Sunday, December 22nd, we will have a rehearsal for the Christmas pageant during Sunday School. Children will meet in the church.

On Christmas Eve, we will have a family dinner at 5:00 p.m. Lasagna, salad, bread and drinks are provided. Bring a dessert to share! Please RSVP to me by the December 22nd so we can be sure to have enough food! After dinner, we will get the kids ready for the Christmas Pageant which will take place at the 6:30 p.m. service. There will be no Sunday School classes on Sunday, December 29th- enjoy the holiday!

Don't forget to save the date for MLK Day events on January 20th from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. There will be some great activities for the school-aged children...look for more information next month!

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions about our church school program.

Karen DiPace

Journey to Adulthood

Mary Ellen Kilp & Leslie Morgan, Co-Youth Directors

Congrats to our **St. John's football players!** The competition was fierce and the athleticism impressive. Better yet was the spirit of the day: our teens elected to pass on the trophy to St. Thomas. We had a great turnout and enjoyed delicious chili with friends from St. Thomas and St. James.

Have you stopped by the pretzel sandwich table lately? Or the wreath sale table? If you have: thank you! Our teens and their families have been hard at work raising money for their pilgrimage in three years. These are small but reliable fundraisers that really add up over time. Many thanks to all those who have purchased a sandwich or wreath: every bit helps!

And speaking of thank yous: a great big thank you to all those who supported the **college care package ministry**. Whether you helped fill a package or mailed one, we are so appreciative of your support! Our college students love receiving these annual reminders of our care. This year's boxes included an invitation to the **College Christmas Reunion**, an opportunity for our college students to reconnect and enjoy pizza and drinks on **Sunday, December 29th, at St. John's**. Please rsvp to Bruce Morgan or Pastor Jennifer if you are interested in attending.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (CONTINUED)

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas.... or it will soon! Our J2A teens are planning a **Fall Clean-Up Lock-In on Friday, December 6th**, to support the Fall Parish Clean Up. Teens will gather at St. John's for dinner and then stay the night for an evening of games and fellowship. With the help of a little strong coffee our teens will wake up bright and chipper ready to help out for the morning clean up effort. Well, maybe not bright and chipper, but at least awake!

What would Christmas be without a little caroling? Everyone is invited to participate in an afternoon of **Christmas caroling at Willow Valley** with our own St. John's chancel choir on **Sunday, December 15th, at 12:30 p.m.** Bring a lunch and meet in the parish hall- and be sure to dress warmly! And what is Christmas without the annual **Christmas pageant**? Pastor Jennifer is always looking for teen and adult leadership to help support this ministry. Please let her know if you are interested.

My Lasting Memory of the London Pilgrimage

Joanie Kilhefner

While I loved Canterbury, I would say the favorite part of the whole pilgrimage for me was going to St. James in Piccadilly. There was an art and craft market there. The market had vendors that sold arts, crafts, antiques, donated jewelry, kitchen appliances, glassware, London souvenirs, homemade cell phone cases and collectables to help support the homeless that use the church as a shelter. I really liked it because it was helping the less fortunate. After shopping at the markets we went inside to see the church and on the side pews is where we saw people sleeping on the pews. It was so touching and heart-breaking at the same time. Really seeing how the homeless people managed to live each day was a shock to me. I know we should be thankful for what we have. Even though I may not have everything I want, I have what I need. I didn't know what their story was – where they came from, if they always were in poverty, if they were just like me only a few years ago. I lit candles and prayed that God would watch over these people and give them support. Our group decided instead of changing our pounds back to US money we donated our extra pounds to this cause. It was the first time that I ever really saw for myself what homelessness looks like. Through this hard experience, I gained hope that God will always be there, no matter what. God's presence is everywhere, even when you least expect it.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (CONTINUED)

YOUTH CALENDAR OF EVENTS: 2013-2014

Dec 7	Fall Clean Up
Dec 15	Christmas Caroling
Dec 24	Christmas Eve w/ Pageant
Jan 19	MLK Concert
Jan 20	MLK Event
Jan 26	Convocation Bowling Event (night)
Feb 2	Youth and Scout Sunday
Feb 14-16	Happening
Feb 22	All Parish Retreat
Mar 4	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
Mar 5	Ash Wednesday
Apr 17	Maundy Thursday Lock-In
Apr 18	Youth Good Friday Service
May 4	Graduation Sunday
June 1	Teacher Appreciation Sunday
June 8	Pentecost/Last Day of Classes/ Parish Picnic
June	Diocesan Youth Conference/ Camp Mount Luther
July 13-18	Vacation Bible School
July 19	Blueberry Festival

INTERESTED IN SERVING?

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO BECOME INVOLVED IN SERVING AT ST. JOHN'S:

For **Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Servers, Crucifers, or Torch Bearers**: Contact the Church Office
For **Eucharistic Visitors**: Contact one of the clergy.
For **Altar Guild**: Contact Cynthia Minnich
For **Ushers**: Contact Mike Gbur
For **Greeters or Coffee Hour Hosts**: Contact Bruce & Mary Waskowicz

- Contact telephone numbers for these people can be found in the Parish Directory and copies are available in the Welcome Center at the rear of the church.

SAFEGUARDING GOD'S PEOPLE

“The Diocese of Central Pennsylvania wants the Episcopal Church to be a safe Place for all people to live into the Love of our Lord Jesus Christ and to fulfill the vows and promises made in Baptism. We believe this can happen when everyone feels safe and that the leaders can be trusted.”

As with any statement of principles and policies, this is meaningless unless followed by a plan and measurable actions. We need only to read the papers and listen to other media to know that on this particular issue, a failure to address these forms of misconduct has been a primary cause of the loss of faith in many established institutions.

We at St. John's have taken the first of many steps in making the basic principle into a reality. We have begun with the Safeguarding God's Children training. To date 32 Lay members have taken the training and are individually and collectively thinking about what we can do better. The trained people are a part of almost every ministry at St. John's including Wardens and Vestry, Staff, Nursery, Sunday School, J2A, Eagles Nest, MLK Celebration, Building HOPE, and Community Breakfast.

The next step involves establishing and formalizing procedures as well as measurements of progress toward success. Our goal is to make St. John's as safe a place as we can for all people. We have begun with the children. After we have this as a model, we will then be broadening our horizon to address issues such as elder abuse, harassment of employees or other lay members, or any other form of the corruption of power.

“The mandates of our Baptismal Covenant included seeking and serving Christ in all persons, loving our neighbors as ourselves, striving for justice and peace for all people, and respecting the dignity of every human being. Because of these mandates of love, respect, service, and justice, we have acknowledged our obligation to articulate clear standards about sexual harassment, abuse and prevention for all ordained and lay leaders.”

1. Prevention and Response Policy Regarding Sexual Misconduct, Sexual Abuse and Other Boundary Violations for clergy employees and volunteers, Edition October 2012, The Diocese of Central Pennsylvania. Page 1
2. *ibid.* Page 8

Submitted by,

John Gouveia

**THE DEADLINE TO SUBMIT ARTICLES FOR THE
JANUARY, 2013 “MESSENGER”:**

DECEMBER 16, 2013

PROPERTY CORNER

“Deck the Halls!”

The Property Committee invites all parishioners to join us in preparing our church and grounds for the festive holiday season.

FALL CLEAN-UP: Saturday, December 7, starting at 9:00 a.m. Calling all leaf-rakers, window-washers and pew-polishers. No experience necessary. If you can bring your own yard tools, that would be helpful. A sign-up sheet is available in the Parish Hall.

CHURCH GREENING: Sunday, December 22, following the 10:15 a.m. service (approximately noon). Help us deck the halls...inside and out.



CHURCH FLOWERING: Monday, December 23 (time to be announced). The church becomes even more beautiful with the addition of poinsettias and window sill arrangements.

Questions?

Contact: Bill Gross at 717-405-0987

EAGLE'S NEST ELECTION DAY BAKE SALE!

Thank you to all supported the Election Day Bake Sale as bakers, pizza makers, and shoppers. We profited \$270 which can easily be used by this energetic program. Eagle's Nest operates on a "shoestring" with a weekly food budget of \$70. We feed supper to forty each week (kids, volunteers, teen mentors, LPN nursing students (two attend each week)) which is often difficult to stretch. Thanks to everyone who purchases grocery cards, much of the source of our funds.

As the holidays approach there are special projects that could use some extra funding. A small gift would be helpful for the individual pumpkin pies that each child makes from scratch, gingerbread houses, a ham dinner for Christmas on December 18th with a special dessert party for the families.

Submitted by, *Sue Martin*

JUBILEE MINISTRIES



COMMUNITY BREAKFAST—(Contact: Sue Martin)

"Volunteers Welcome!"

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21: 7:30-11:00 AM

A breakfast of pancakes, sausage, eggs, juice, cereal, and pastries will be served to the downtown community at **First Reformed United Church of Christ**, 40 East Orange Street, Lancaster. Volunteers are always needed to help prepare and serve the breakfast.

MARTHA'S MINISTRY (Contact: Jeannie Zeller)

Come and join us in the **Parish Hall** at St. John's on **Tuesday afternoons** from **2:00-4:00 p.m.** as we share fellowship and ideas!

Martha's Ministry needs your help! Please make us aware of any people in our church family who would like a prayer shawl. Help us to reach someone who might need the warmth and prayers.

The second part of the St. Nick's Knit Sale will be held on Sunday, December 1st (Thanksgiving weekend) between the services and also after the 10:15 a.m. service. Please stop by and check out the many different items crafted throughout this past year. Proceeds of our sale help to fund our after-school Eagle's Nest program and to replenish our supplies.

DOOR MINISTRY & FOOD BANK - (Contact: Aaron Spicher)

Non-perishable food donations can be delivered to the church office or given to the Ushers on Sunday. Weekly food bags/boxes are organized for families or single people and are distributed from our church office on Tuesday and Thursday to those in need.

FOOD BANK STAPLES

Peanut butter and jelly, pasta noodles, pasta sauce, canned tuna, Spam, boxed macaroni & cheese, "Helpers" (hamburger, tuna, etc.), rice, boxed rice mixes, canned soup (not packaged such as Ramen), canned vegetables, canned fruit, and cereal.

Cardboard boxes are also needed for the distribution of the food.



MOO MONEY BOTTLE CAPS - If you shop at a Turkey Hill store and purchase any of their milk items, **BE SURE TO SAVE THE "MOO" MONEY BOTTLE CAPS** and bring them to church on Sundays. There is a collection container at the Eagle's Nest area of the Parish Hall. We're also collecting Box Tops for Education, Printer Cartridges, and Campbell Soup Labels. Thank you.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN



St. John's Angel Tree



The tags which indicate names of one hundred needy children in the community will be available on the Parish Hall Christmas tree at the Advent Event on Sunday, November 24th until December 8th. Each tag has directions for returning the gift appropriately. It is requested that they are unwrapped in open gift bags with the ornament tag attached. We suggest spending \$10 to \$20 per child. If you feel generous, it is better to take two tags than lavish one child who easily may be part of a family group. **Serious request - please sign in on the clipboard next to the ornament tag number.** It is imperative that we track each child in the event a gift isn't returned. Best practice is to take a tag, sign in, shop ASAP, and return the gift immediately. They can be dropped off in the parish office during the week, especially if you don't plan on being in church on Sunday, December 8th, the deadline. Gifts will be delivered December 16-18. The angel coordinators have a huge task to organize all the gifts in their workshop, Sherman Study, by the nursery. Questions can be directed to the Angels: Leslie Tahsler, Anne and Helena Carroll.

Submitted by, *Sue Martin*

CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIAL



Remember Your Loved Ones

DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING NAMES FOR CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS IS DECEMBER 15.

Please complete and return to the church office, along with your check made payable to: **ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH.** You may also place your donation in the offering plate on any Sunday. Thank you for your contribution.

CUT HERE

REMEMBERING (Names only please, not association): _____

GIVEN BY: _____

AMOUNT: \$ _____

MY CHECK #: _____

JUBILEE MINISTRY

How will what we are doing here affect or involve those living in poverty?

At the 2013 Diocesan Convention, the delegates passed a resolution that every church meeting should begin with a discussion of this question. It is a deeper question than it first appears and so many of us (myself included) have not really dug into it beyond a quick thought and then dismissal. We are a Jubilee Center. However, there is no central definition as to what that means. My personal definition is “We are a ministry of joint discipleship in Christ with poor and oppressed people, wherever they are found, to meet basic human needs and to build a just society.” That definition may not be the same as yours. Over the next few months, I will be asking some of you to give me your thoughts on this. I hope that others who I may not ask will initiate this discussion with me and with others. Our Jubilee Ministries are not just a list of activities or causes that we support. Nor are the ministries limited by where they appear on an organization chart. We are all a part of Jubilee. At least, we should think that we are.

Submitted by, *John Gouveia*

PRAYERS DURING THE ADVENT SEASON

by Julie Gittens

Habakkuk 2:2. Then the LORD answered me and said: Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so that a runner may read it.

This passage is known as God’s response to the Prophet’s complaint. When we enter into the month of December, most of us are doing a lot of complaining. We’re complaining about finishing the things we started earlier this year, we’re complaining about no parking spaces at the mall when we do our Christmas shopping, and we’re complaining about the relative we can’t stand but have to see on Christmas Day.

What we rarely do during the month of December is celebrate the Advent season. We rarely remember to celebrate the coming of Jesus Christ. We rarely think about praying for joyous events to occur in the New Year because we’re too busy complaining about the annoying events still happening this year. Well, what if we decided to do something new this December? What if we all spend the next four weeks in prayer; in prayer for the New Year? What if we spend four weeks writing down our visions for the New Year and praying for ways to achieve them?

These four weeks are a perfect time to start what I like to call an “Advent” journal; a perfect time to write down our prayers and our goals for the New Year and, as they come to light, to share them with each other. (Remember, St. John’s website does have a blog.) Also, this is a perfect time to remember the rest of God’s reply: “For there is still a vision for the appointed time; it speaks of the end, and does not lie. If it seems to tarry, wait for it; it will surely come, it will not delay.” So during Advent, we must remember that our prayers for the New Year will come in time. We must remember to pray and to pray patiently. We must remember that patience is the great way to end this year and patience is the best way to start the New Year.

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.



*Harris Arnold
Abbie Asplin
Ralph Clare
Faith D'Urbano
Linda Frederiksen
Pablo Gouveia
Charles Gray
Mary Hartman
Bill & Lois Herzog
Betty Juslin-Asplin
Paul Kreider
Joan Lahr
Jane Lee
Liam Maloney
Nancy Nemith
Mary Power
Robert & Joan Power
Christian Stigelman
Judy Tighe
The Lange Family*

*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.

*Laurel Hobbins, Matthew James,
Howard Kane, III, Alex Kelly, Kyle Kulka,
Joseph Lombardo, Nicholas Lombardo,
Sean McCormick, Jamie Olejniczak,
John S. Waltz, Joshua Watkins*

GROCERY CARDS

Total sales for October gave \$485 to Jubilee. We gave \$50 less to Jubilee this month! This is not the direction that we want to go. We need to focus and continue with our better buying habits.

Our regular buyers, irregular buyers, and the rest of you need to participate. Everyone has to eat something. Let's make purchasing grocery cards the "in" thing to do!

Don't forget: It's easier to use a grocery card at the store than to peel out cash or write a check. Your using one of our cards gives 5% of its value to our Jubilee missions.

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

Submitted by, *Cynthia Minnich*

Participating Stores:
Darrenkamp's, Giant, John Herr's,

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>
Addicott, Sarah	7
Bedi, Mike	31
Braught, Charley	8
Brenton, Rich	26
Crothers, Jim	25
D'Urbano, Faith	17
Dorgan, Dan	29
Farmer, Richard	17
Gehman, Lin	7
Gross, Jill	9
Grove, Edgar	31
Hayford, Lynn	6
Honaman, Eleanor	8
Honaman, Fred	16
Jackson, Len	19
Jarba, Victoria	30
Kilp, Adam	30
Latshaw, Steve	24
Looker-Fenn, Anna Gail	2
McDivitt, Ruth	7
Means, Allen	29
Meikrantz, Marcia	2
Miller, Bonnie	10
Moyer, Brad	12
Parmer, Shirley	15
Schnee, Donna	25
Stonerook, Kendall	18
Westphal, Shannon	9
Zeller, Jeannie	29



DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

<u>Couple</u>	<u>Date</u>
Dissinger, David & Amy	12/17/1995
Grosh, Gary & Ann	12/27/1995
Kilhefner, Mike & Shelby	12/01/1984
Latshaw, Steve & Karen	12/28/1969
Schnee, Merle & Donna	12/26/1960



VOYAGERS



The Voyagers will meet on Saturday, December 28, from 10:00 - 11:30 am to tell stories about Christmases past, show favorite ornaments and gifts, and maybe even share some leftover cookies. Join us for fellowship and to say farewell to 2013.

Submitted by,

Barbara Graeter



NEW PARISH DIRECTORY

Copies of the new 2012-2013 Parish Directory are available in the 'Welcome Center' at the rear of the church and in the Parish Hall. You may also stop by the church office throughout the week. One per family, please! If you are unable to travel to church and would like to receive one, please call us.

SERVING SCHEDULE – DECEMBER, 2013

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!"*

DECEMBER 1	8:00 AM	10:15 AM
Eucharistic Minister	James Glazier	David Dissinger, C. Weaver-Gelzer
Eucharistic Visitor	—	Joanna Sweeney, C. Weaver-Gelzer
Lector	Bob Lee	Joel Cliff
Server	Joanie Kilhefner	Aaron Hasircoglu
Torch Bearer	—	Amelia Dissinger, Emma DiPace
Crucifer	—	Dave Pennell
Altar Guild	Team 1	Team 1
Bell Ringer	—	Conor Brenton
Ushers	8:00 a.m.	Team A
Greeter	—	Peter Novosel
Coffee Hour	Usher Teams C & D	Usher Teams C & D
Nursery	—	Andy Carroll

DECEMBER 8	8:00 AM	10:15 AM
Eucharistic Minister	Ricky Smith	Sue Purdy, Barbara McGraw
Eucharistic Visitor	Phil Becker/Ricky Smith	Don Durand
Lector	Fred Bush	Jeannie Zeller
Server	—	Emily DiPace
Torch Bearer	—	Danielle DiPace, Michael Thomson
Crucifer	—	Glenn Miller
Altar Guild	Team 2	Team 2
Bell Ringer	—	Brooks Morgan
Ushers	8:00 a.m.	Team B
Greeter	—	Carolyn Maxey
Coffee Hour	Property Committee	Property Committee
Nursery	—	Anne Gokey

DECEMBER 15	8:00 AM	10:15 AM
Eucharistic Minister	Laurie Eaton	Judy Arnold, Brad Moyer
Eucharistic Visitor	—	Phyllis Gbur, Sue Heilman
Lector	TBD	TBD
Server	Joanie Kilhefner	Rachel Hreben
Torch Bearer	—	Max Lester, Justice DeLeo
Crucifer	—	Dave Pennell
Altar Guild	Team 3	Team 3
Bell Ringer	—	Max Lester
Ushers	8:00 a.m.	Team C
Greeter	—	Ted Loose
Coffee Hour	J2A	J2A
Nursery	—	Janelle Stone

DECEMBER 22	8:00 AM	10:15 AM
Eucharistic Minister	Merle Schnee	Peter Novosel, Michael Stank
Eucharistic Visitor	—	—
Lector	Ricky Smith	Joel Cliff
Server	—	Julia Hasircoglu
Torch Bearer	—	Aidan & Sean Cliff
Crucifer	—	Adam Kilp
Altar Guild	Team 4	Team 4
Bell Ringer	—	Aaron Hasircoglu
Ushers	8:00 a.m.	Team D
Greeter	—	Bruce Waskowicz
Coffee Hour	Community Breakfast	Community Breakfast
Nursery	—	Leslie Morgan

DECEMBER 29	8:00 AM	10:15 AM
Eucharistic Minister	James Glazier	Sibyl Freeman, David Dissinger
Eucharistic Visitor	—	—
Lector	Sue Tobie	Fran Gouveia
Server	—	Amelia Dissinger
Torch Bearer	—	Kendall Morgan, Natalie Visco
Crucifer	—	Brad Moyer
Altar Guild	TBD	TBD
Bell Ringer	—	David Kilp
Ushers	8:00 a.m.	Team D
Greeter	—	Sue Martin
Coffee Hour	Lectors	Lectors
Nursery	—	Elspeth Moffatt

CHRISTMAS EVE

CHRISTMAS EVE	3:30 PM	6:30 PM	10:30 PM
Eucharistic Minister	Merle Schnee Sue Purdy	Eric Waskowicz Lauren Waskowicz	David Dissinger, David Kilp, Sibyl Freeman
Lector	Fred Bush	—	TBD
Server	Aaron Spicher	John Waskowicz	Dan Dorgan or Amelia Dissinger
Crucifer	Glenn Miller	Rachel Hreben	Dave Pennell
Torch Bearer	—	—	Aaron Hasircoglu Julia Hasircoglu
Thurifer	—	—	Judy Arnold
Ushers	John Miller Mike Kilhefner Julie Rodriguez Jim Snyder	Amy Dissinger Matt Lester Nick DiPace Bruce Waskowicz	Len Jackson Bob Kilp Charlie Rahe Brad Zuke

CHRISTMAS DAY

CHRISTMAS DAY	10:00 AM
Eucharistic Minister	Aaron Spicher
Ushers	Bill Gross, Mike Gbur

LOOKING AHEAD TO JANUARY, 2014

JANUARY 5, 2014	8:00 AM	10:15 AM
Eucharistic Minister	Ricky Smith	David Dissinger, Barbara McGraw
Eucharistic Visitor	—	Karen Latshaw, Sue Martin, Honamans
Lectors	TBD	Jeannie Zeller
Server	Joanie Kilhefner	Amelia Dissinger
Torch Bearer	—	Danielle DiPace, Max Lester
Crucifer	—	Glenn Miller
Altar Guild	Team 1	Team 1
Ushers	8:00 a.m.	Team A
Greeter	—	Brad Zuke
Coffee Hour	LEV's	LEV's
Nursery	—	Marla Lester

DECEMBER 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 ADVENT I Diocesan Family Retreat 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist Rite I 9:00 AM Coffee Hour & Knitters (PH) 9:00 AM Gathering Time (Aud) 9:00 AM - 10:15 AM St. Nick's Knit Sale (PH) 9:15 AM Adult Formation & Education (BH) 9:15 AM Classes 9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:15 AM Choral Eucharist Rite II 11:30 AM Coffee Hour (PH) 11:30 AM St. Nick's Knit Sale (PH)	2 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM NA (AP) 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM VA (AP) 7:00 PM Property Committee (BH) 7:30 PM Ministries Council (2nd FL BH)	3 11:00 AM Staff Meeting 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM Spiritus (PH) 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM Martha's Ministry (PH) 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM AA (AP) 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Building Hope (PH)	4 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM NA (AP) 12:05 PM Holy Eucharist/Healing Service 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM Eagle's Nest (PH) 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	5 10:00 AM Nominating Committee (2nd FL BH) 7:00 PM MDG Committee (1st FL BH) 7:00 PM Worship Committee (2nd FL BH) 7:30 PM Handbell Choir 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM St Augustine (AP)	6 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM NA (AP) 5:00 PM J2A Lock-in (PH)	7 Diocesan Training Day at St. Thomas 9:00 AM Fall Clean-Up 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM Private Gathering (PI & Aud)
8 Acolyte Sunday ADVENT II Wreath Sale Pick-Up (PH) 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist Rite I 9:00 AM Coffee Hour & Knitters (PH) 9:00 AM Gathering Time (Aud) 9:15 AM Adult Formation & Education (BH) 9:15 AM Classes 9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:15 AM Choral Eucharist Rite II 11:30 AM Coffee Hour (PH)	9 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM NA (AP) 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM VA (AP)	10 11:00 AM Staff Meeting 1:30 PM Executive Committee (BH) 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM Martha's Ministry (PH) 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM AA (AP) 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Building Hope (PH) 7:00 PM Jubilee Meeting (BH)	11 12:00 PM - 6:00 PM Eagle's Nest (PH) 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM NA (AP) 12:05 PM Holy Eucharist/Healing Service 6:30 PM Finance Committee (Qualls Home) 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	12 7:30 PM Handbell Choir 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM St Augustine (AP)	13 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM NA (AP) 7:00 PM Popcorn Theology (PH)	14
15 ADVENT III Advent Lessons & Carols Birthdays & Anniversaries 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist Rite I 9:00 AM Coffee Hour & Knitters (PH) 9:00 AM Gathering Time (Aud) 9:15 AM Adult Formation & Education (BH) 9:15 AM - 9:45 PM Parish Mini-Meeting 9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:15 AM Choral Eucharist Rite II 11:30 AM Coffee Hour (PH) 12:30 PM Christmas Caroling (PH) 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM Private Gathering (PH)	16 MESSENGER DEADLINE 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM NA (AP) 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM VA (AP) 7:00 PM Vestry Meeting (PH)	17 11:00 AM Staff Meeting 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM Martha's Ministry (PH) 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM AA (AP) 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Building Hope (PH)	18 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM NA (AP) 12:05 PM Holy Eucharist/Healing Service 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM Eagle's Nest (PH) 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	19 7:30 PM Handbell Choir 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM St Augustine (AP)	20 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM NA (AP)	21 7:30 AM St. John's Serves Breakfast @ 1st Reformed 5:30 PM Traditional Dance (Aud)
22 ADVENT IV Greening of the Church St. John's Sunday 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist Rite I 9:00 AM Coffee Hour & Knitters (PH) 9:00 AM Pageant Rehearsal (Church) 9:15 AM Adult Formation & Education (BH) 9:15 AM Classes 9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:15 AM Choral Eucharist Rite II 11:30 AM Coffee Hour (PH)	23 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM NA (AP) 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM VA (AP)	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 3:30 PM Holy Eucharist, Rite I 5:00 PM Parish Supper (PH) 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM AA (AP) 6:30 PM Family Service w/Pageant, Rite II 10:30 PM Choral Eucharist, Rite II w/Incense	25 CHRISTMAS DAY Jennifer (Vacation) Office Closed 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM NA (AP)	26 Jennifer (Vacation) 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM St Augustine (AP)	27 Jennifer (Vacation) 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM NA (AP)	28 Fr John (Vacation) 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM Voyagers (PH)
29 CHRISTMAS I Fr John (Vacation) 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist Rite I 9:00 AM Coffee Hour & Knitters (PH) 9:00 AM Gathering Time (Aud) 9:15 AM Adult Formation & Education (BH) 9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:15 AM Choral Eucharist Rite II 11:30 AM Coffee Hour (PH) 12:00 PM J2A Christmas Reunion (PH)	30 Fr John (Vacation) 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM NA (AP) 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM VA (AP)	31 Fr John (Vacation) 11:00 AM Staff Meeting 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM Martha's Ministry (PH) 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM Community Meal (PH) 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM AA (AP)	1 NEW YEAR'S DAY Office Closed 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM NA (AP)	2 7:00 PM MDG Committee (1st FL BH) 7:00 PM Worship Committee (2nd FL BH) 7:30 PM Handbell Choir 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM St Augustine (AP)	3 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM NA (AP)	4