



# *St. John's Messenger*

**January, 2015**

*from Fr. John W. Morris, Rector*

## **APPRECIATIVE INQUIRY**

Tell me a story about the high point experience you have had in your congregation. What made it an exciting experience for you?

What are the things that you value deeply ó specifically, the things you value about yourself, being a parishioner, in your church?

What do you think is the core value of your church ó the value that gives life to your church?

These are three of the key questions posed by Appreciative Inquiry. Appreciate Inquiry or AI is a positive strength based approach for designing leadership, team and organization development programs. It has been used by such institutions as the United Way and Penn State University as well as smaller organizations to develop new visions of positive change.

We at St. John's have been invited by the Diocese to participate in this new program offering. The training for AI requires thirty six hours of instruction over three weekends and involves the selection of a study project in an area of our parish's ministry.

Julie Gittens, newly elected to the vestry, and I have volunteered to be the AI representatives from St. John's and in December began our training. Gathering for our first weekend at Camp Hebron we joined with representatives from four other churches ó Christ Church, Williamsport; St. John's, Marietta; Christ Church, Berwick; and St. Luke's, Altoona ó to learn the AI principles and practices that lead to positive change.

Our study project is our ***St. John's Jubilee Ministries – Renewing our Vision for the Future***. We selected this area of our parish's ministries because of its history, its centrality to our church's identity and its present state of transition.

St. John's Jubilee Ministries is one of the original Jubilee churches in our diocese, established in 1988. It is one of the premier Jubilee Ministries in our diocese and is the active mission core of our congregation. It is also entering a period of change. Because of the new national church accounting requirements funding for Jubilee has now been integrated into overall ministry operations of our parish. This has brought the need for clearer communication and greater coordination. We are also entering a period of leadership transition as our founding figures begin to step back and look to the next generation for leadership and guidance.

In the months ahead, Julie and I will be reaching out to our Jubilee stakeholders, those in our congregation and community who have interest or influence in our Jubilee Ministries. These include but are not limited to vestry, staff, Ministries Council and the leaders of our fourteen Jubilee Ministries. In pairs, small groups and plenary gathers we will reflect on and discuss provocative questions designed to empower them to be agents of positive change, building on our core strengths, to draw out a vision for the future of Jubilee.

Together we will move through the four stages of Appreciative Inquiry. **DISCOVERY:** Study the best of what is. **DREAM:** Envision what might be. **DESIGN:** Decide the ideal organization. **DESTINY:** Living into a new future based on positive change.

The AI experience has the transformative power to carry the best of our Jubilee Ministry into the future. For twenty six years Jubilee has been a gift of God to our parish and to our neighbors in need in our community. May we all join together in helping to create a renewed vision for Jubilee that these gifts may continue to be a blessing for us and for all we seek to serve in the name of Jesus Christ.

*John+*

## THE REV. JENNIFER E. MATTSON

Two years ago I shared my identity with you as a survivor of sexual abuse. I was, and remain, profoundly grateful for the genuine love and support I received. I am also grateful for the commitment that our congregation has expressed to becoming a truly safe church. We have continued our work with the diocese in requiring and updating background clearances for all staff members, volunteers and parish leadership. An updated database is being maintained in our parish office. The vast majority of our volunteers, teachers and leaders have been trained in Safeguarding God's Children. The diocese will be providing further training opportunities in 2015.

Our vestry approved a policy (based on diocesan policy) at the December meeting for striving to become a truly safe church. This policy includes a vision statement and best practices and procedures for ensuring that St. John's is a safe place for all. In an effort to further strengthen this effort and deepen our commitment to being a safe community, our vestry expressed full support of participation in the Samaritan Counseling Center's Safe Church program, a nationally accredited and recognized education and training program to create safe churches and communities. This is a major commitment and a major step forward.

The Safe Church Project, as offered by the Samaritan Counseling Center, has theology at its core: *No longer will violence be heard in your land, nor ruin or destruction within your borders. You will call your walls Salvation and your gates Praise. Isaiah 60:18 (NIV)* They describe the project in this way: "No matter what our faith tradition, we can agree that Isaiah's vision is one to which we aspire for our churches, homes and communities. Making this vision a reality does not happen without intentional hard work. The Safe Church Project offers a path for churches to move toward this vision through a process of shifting congregational culture to one in which adults are equipped and inspired to be proactive in preventing child sexual abuse not only in the church, but in the broader community."

By participating in the Safe Church project, St. John's will receive:

- \* 24 hours of training for a core team
- \* Interactive policy template with best practices to create or upgrade church policy
- \* Two educational presentations for congregation at church
- \* Retreat for adult survivors of child sexual abuse in the congregation
- \* Awareness raising and worship resources
- \* Four hour training for staff and volunteers on mandated reporting, prevention and response
- \* Prevention curriculums for children

A committee of three to five St. John's members will meet once a month, beginning this February, with other local churches to learn, share and strive to become a safer place. We will continue to work with the diocese in maintaining national and diocesan standards and training. The Safe Church Project will strengthen and deepen our work. As the quote (unknown) so eloquently puts it: "It shouldn't hurt to be a child."

*Jennifer+*

# MDG CHALLENGES FOR JANUARY

*New Year, Changing World, New Visions, New Realities*  
*What can each of us do to make it more caring?*

## MDG Challenge for January 5th

January 6th is celebrated in the Christian church as the Epiphany when the Three Kings are to have visited the infant Christ. Brave enough to wander to a strange place, open to what they may find and then taking that message out into the world. In the Webster's definition of "epiphany", it is a moment in which you suddenly see or understand something in a new or very clear way. As we journey into a new year 2015, we step into strange environments daily. What "actions" to make this a more caring, peaceful world will you be taking?

## MDG Challenge for January 12th

It don't matter if you're black,  
White or yellow, if your brown or red.  
Let's get down to that  
Love is color-blind  
You're my brother, you're my friend.  
All that matters in the very end  
Is to understand  
Love is color-blind.  
Lyrics by Sara Connor

## MDG Challenge for January 19th

Martin Luther King Day is January 20th

"Life's most persistent and urgent question is: 'What are you doing for others?'"  
*Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.*

King had a vision. What is your vision? What can you do to make it reality?  
Pick one small action to make a change....bring an item for the food bank? Help at the Community breakfast? Share some clothes with those in need during this cold weather?

## MDG Challenge for January 26th

"There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." -  
*Galatians 3:28*  
So if I am "color blind" and void of prejudice of race or religion or nationality, or not holding onto what might be different and instead celebrate our connectedness as Children of God, we will be closer to being "one family".

## SENIOR WARDEN

### *Transitions*

In 2001, I was one of a half-dozen retiring Bethel University profs who were asked to address the student body as part of a "Last Lecture" series. I chose to spin my comments primarily to graduating seniors who, like me, were soon to face a significant change in their life patterns. I tried to look back over 35 years of teaching, and ahead to an unknown future, in such a way that the seniors might also reflect on their college years in anticipation of . . . of what? Little did I imagine when I wrote that speech that in a little more than a dozen years, I would watch my two sons move half-way across the country, put three houses on the market, move twice ô one of those being to a new city where I knew absolutely no one, change to a new church of an entirely different denomination, lose my wife of 45 years to cancer, and meet and marry another lovely woman ô and move to her home.

The remarks that I made in 2001 have returned to stare me in the face more than once. What I told the students is that transitions are uncertain times, but they also can provide remarkable opportunities to reaffirm values and priorities, and to ask again: what have I accomplished that is of true worth, and what should my life be like in order to be a life that is worth living? Transitions give us unique opportunities to address such questions and to change the way we go about living. Transitions can also threaten us because they may challenge cherished plans, threaten the status quo and nudge us out of our comfort zones.

In 2015, St. John's Church will go through a "feasibility study." These studies are typically viewed as processes that help us answer the question: do we have the resources to move forward on our new projects. I would like to suggest that such a view of our feasibility study is too narrow. We ought rather to be asking the question: are we ready to enter a period of significant transition? After all, projects of this magnitude can be full of surprises, unintended consequences ô good as well as not so good ô and new opportunities for ministry and growth. St. John's could change! So during 2015, perhaps we should be taking aim not only on our resources and financial capacities, but equally on our values and ministry potential. What are we doing that is of true value? Might God wish to redirect it? It is important to be asking: are we willing to manage this project. It is equally important to ask whether we are willing to have God's Spirit, working through this process, manage who we are and who we will become. Or is the status quo too comfortable?

Personally, I am now off on my own transition. I want to thank the St. John's family for the four and a half years that I have been with you. You have introduced me to, and welcomed me into, the Episcopal Church in the best possible way. I shall always remember this time and be grateful to you for the way you have received me into your hearts in a city where I knew no one. And now it's time for us both to move on . . . to what? Neither of us know, but I ask for your prayers ô as I promise you mine ô that we continue into that future of God's Spirit.

So off we go í up, up, and away!

Submitted by,

*John Herzog*  
Senior Warden

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Thank you to all who were able to attend the Parish Meeting. I hope that the information that I presented was both understandable and helpful. For those that were not able to attend allow me to give you a synopsis of the presentation.

We have completed our work of cleaning up the chart of accounts and have received the financial reviews for 2011, 2012 and 2013 from our independent accounts, Trout Ebersole & Groff. With the completion of these tasks, we are in a position to ask the Diocese for permission to incur debt (get a loan for the construction) and then to approach the appropriate financial institution. We are also in a position where we can more easily provide reports to the various ministries. Beginning this month, I am including a balance sheet report to our Vestry. The asset side of the balance sheet report was summarized for the meeting. I can report that the Parish has over \$7.5 million in assets. This report will also be useful as we investigate financing for our construction. Preliminary numbers were shown for the expense side of the 2015 budget. The income side will be set after December 1, when we have received nearly all of the pledges for 2015.

With respect to this year, I am happy to report that our pledged contributions at 97.8% of the expected level. This is better than last year by nearly 5%. Our cash flow continues to be a challenge, but we are meeting all of our bills.

The expenses continue to be managed extremely well. It is a tribute to your Vestry, Property Committee, Property Manager, and our Financial Secretary that we have been able to manage our cash flow so successfully. The monthly numbers are shown below. Please remember that the income includes approximately \$40,000 additional draw from the Endowment earnings.

	<u>November</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>To Date</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>Annual</u> <u>Budget</u>
Pledged contributions:	\$24,633	\$27,750	\$271,468	\$333,000
Non-pledged contributions:	\$2,275	\$3,333	\$26,111	\$40,000
All other sources:	\$14,766	\$16,266	\$237,668	\$203,390
Total income:	\$41,674	\$47,349	\$535,691	\$576,390
 Total Expenses:	 \$52,462	 \$55,265	 \$490,712	 \$663,189

Finally, I would like to express my appreciation to Ed Bednar for volunteering to be the Assistant Treasurer.

Please remember that if you have any concerns or questions, you may contact any member of your Vestry or Finance Committee.

Submitted by,

*Steve Latshaw*  
Treasurer

## MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. CELEBRATIONS

### *Volunteers Needed*

Come volunteer at our annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day event, 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. on Monday, January 19, 2015. Children from the ages of 5-12 will join us at Saint John's for a day filled with art, music, chili, stories, sharing, and a birthday cake. The theme for this year's event is: ***"The World We Want To Live In"***. We will be exploring who Dr. King's helpers were and how we can continue to be his helpers today. It's an exciting, high-energy day and volunteers always leave feeling that they've contributed to keeping Dr. King's legacy alive. We need volunteers for all sorts of jobs and everyone is welcome. Sign up online at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4AAFAB2DA20-saint> or look for the poster in the meeting hall. Contact Sue Dodge (lalimule@verizon.net or 717-368-7206) for more information.

Our MLK Day celebrations will be held on Sunday, January 18 and Monday, January 19 and will bring us another annual opportunity to provide education for community children about the words and their meaning from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday will reprise the afternoon concert (noted below) and Monday will provide a full day of activities, teaching, and lunch together for grade school children.

**Volunteers are in great need to help guide children, provide chili, support the lunch in the kitchen and dining room, and assist in mentoring the teachings planned for the day.** Sign-up sheets will appear during the first week of January. The next planning meeting is on Wednesday, January 7, beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Cindy Morris. More details will follow in future bulletins.

### MLK Concert

by

*J.P. McCaskey High School's*

### *"GOSPEL CHOIR"*

Sunday, January 18th - 3:00 p.m.

St. John's Episcopal Church  
(Free Will Offering)

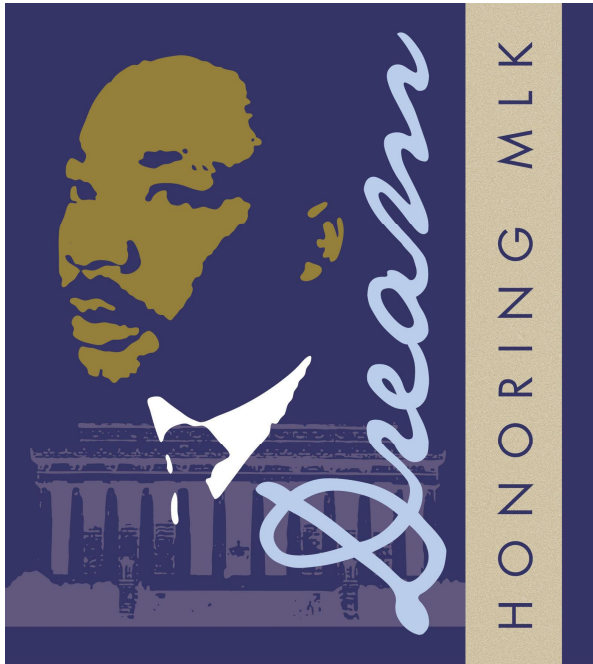
Reception to follow in the Parish Hall.



***No School?***    *Come join us as we honor the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

***“The World I Want to Live In”***

***Monday, January 19, 2015 • 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.***



- **PEACE-MAKING WORDS**
- **MOVEMENT WITH HULA-HOOPS**
- **PREPARE & SHARE LUNCH**
- **CRAFTS**

*This program day is appropriate for **children in grades 1-5**. It is open to the children of St. John's and their friends as well as our community neighbors. Participants are asked to arrive promptly at 10:00 a.m. and stay until the program concludes at 3:00 p.m.*

**DETACH** and return this form by **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2015.**

***Pre-Registration is Required.***

**DETACH HERE** =====

**Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Camp January 19, 2015**  
**St. John's Episcopal Church • 321 West Chestnut Street**

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Another Emergency Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies, Medical Concerns or Restrictions: \_\_\_\_\_

I give permission to have my child released to these persons: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Parent or Guardian)

## VESTRY RESOLUTIONS

**The following resolutions were passed at the Vestry meeting on December 15, 2014:**

1. 2015 Budget 6 Resolved, that the vestry of St. John's Episcopal Church, Lancaster approves for 2015 a spending plan with projected income of \$563,190 and projected expenses of \$731,183. *After a long discussion, with additional income and expense numbers added, and some changes to the budget, Glenn Miller moved that we accept the budget as amended. It was seconded by Bob Murphy. The motion carried.*
2. Amos Martin Fund - Resolved, that the vestry approves the expensing from the Amos Martin restricted fund a sum of \$1300.00 payable to Gerald Heilner for Christmas brass. *This resolution came out of the executive committee, requested from Paul Reese. John Herzog moved to approve the resolution. The motion carried.*
3. Additional December Endowment Draw - Resolved, that the St John's Episcopal Church, Lancaster authorizes the Treasurer to draw from St John's Episcopal Church, Lancaster's Unrestricted Endowment Funds up to \$90,000.00 to insure that all due accounts payable and payrolls are paid prior to December 31, 2014. This resolution is to assure expenses and required transfers incurred in 2014 are paid in 2014, and that St. John's Episcopal Church, Lancaster maintains its credit worthiness. *Charley Braught called the question, and it was seconded by Leslie Morgan. Leslie Morgan moved to make amendments to the wording in the original resolution. It was seconded by Peter Eaton. Bob Murphy called the question. The motion carried.*
4. Resolved, It is with great pleasure that the St John's Vestry expresses its sincere thanks to the members and friends of our Parish who made The Annual Fall Cleanup a smashing success! **We especially want to voice our deepest admiration for and commendation to the St John's Youth who jumped in and defined the meaning of a "good day's work". With their help, (and for the first time in recent memory), we accomplished every single task on cleanup agenda!** *This was presented by Peter Eaton, and seconded by John Herzog. The motion carried.*

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

There are opportunities for adults from St. John's to assist in facilitating an overnight shelter at the YWCA. The shelter is intended to provide women and children safe overnight accommodations when the Water Street Mission is full. St. James has volunteered to find volunteers for two weeks during the winter months. The coordinators are reaching beyond St. James congregation to fill the needed positions. The first week was December 1-7. Marylee Sauder along with Sue and Dave Martin participated in the December week. February 9-15 will be the next week for volunteer opportunities. Spots are available for that week. Questions about the shelter experience can be addressed to Marylee, Dave or Sue.

There are two levels of volunteer service available. Greeters which arrive at 6:30 p.m. and stay until 9:00 p.m. (6 persons are needed each night). Overnight volunteers report at 6:30 p.m. and stay until 7:00 a.m. the following morning (2 women and two men are needed each night). A training session for volunteers for February is scheduled for Sunday, February 8, at St James (11:45 a.m.) in the church Parish House. Wanda Stoltzfus is the February coordinator - [wanda.stoltzfus@gmail.com](mailto:wanda.stoltzfus@gmail.com), 717-283-4704. If interested contact Wanda directly. She will provide a link to a training video as well as a sign-up link.



## STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

We have now received 134 pledges for 2015, totaling \$332,518 (96% of the way to the Vestry's goal of \$345,000). **Many thanks to all who have pledged to support our mission and ministries!**

Submitted by, *Debbie Carter*

## PARISH REGISTER

*Transferred In*

Jeffrey D. Wendler, II

## FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

### Food Pantry Overflows with Wedding Love!

In response to a request from Pastor Jennifer and Bradley, we celebrated their union with contributions to the food pantry: overflowing tables and over \$2000 at last count!

This year's needs (among our neighbors) have vastly exceeded last year's needs (an average of 10.9 boxes/week as compared to 7.4 during 2013), and your generosity has allowed us to continue to meet those needs.

***Thank You!***  
***Thank You!***  
***Thank You!***



## PROPERTY CORNER

We have never had a cleanup as successful as the one a couple of weeks ago! Our task list is purposely over extended just to be sure we have enough work of varying difficulty to keep every one busy. And, everyone kept busy completing absolutely everything on our list and, then some. It is not often that such an event receives a Vestry commendation. Young and old of many talent ranges and varying commitments of time contributed to make this event the huge success. And, for this great effort, your property committee is extremely grateful.

While talking help, leave removal has taken considerable time and effort. The election day and weather related delays haven't helped. We have been blessed with people like John and Helen Miller donating their time to spruce up the grounds. I offer many thanks to all of those who have helped in this effort.

We had more of our copper downspouts stolen or damaged. While able to get the person apprehended, it is costing us hundreds of dollars to replace something for which the thief is getting just a small fraction in scrap value. It is costing hundreds of dollars just to replace these spouts with aluminum. I have been subpoenaed to appear in court as part of a cost recovery effort by a victim/witness program.

While considerable time has been spent evaluating and devising a solution for our underground downspouts, Klines was contacted to route the pipe to see if that would free the backflow of water from the undergrounds.

After considerable thought and record review, job descriptions were created for Property Manager and an Information Technician. These tasks were completed upon requests by members of the Personnel Committee for determining our parish's needs in the two technical arenas.

After a considerable review of our insurance documents, we will be contacting the Church Insurance Company of Vermont to review our policy(s). Of concern with them, are the \$9,000 contents values for the Becker House and the \$4 million umbrella coverage. We plan on using half of the building coverage as a value for the contents coverage. Policy changes have been difficult to track, as they have only been documented in cover pages at policy renewals and not entered into the policy coverage and exclusions portions of each policy year. So, unless one is able to track all of the changes in each of the policy years' changes, it is easy to overlook that which is covered and excluded, as it is not reflected in the current policy years' documents.

We were contacted by Steve Latshaw, our treasurer to switch our electricity provider. After looking into different company rates a decision will be forthcoming.

We have had a quote from Arborists Enterprises for the pruning of our trees for \$4,600. A post holiday trim is planned to remove large dead limbs and balance the weight of some of our larger trees, while they will be offering a 10% discount for all work being performed.

Your Property Committee wishes everyone the best during this holy season, with hopes of a safe and prosperous new year!

Submitted by, *Bill Gross*

Your Property Committee:

*Phil Becker, Peter Eaton, Bill Gross, Mike Heider, Janice Henry, and Cynthia Minnich*

## 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. A \$30 donation is appreciated and please make a notation on your check. If you are unable to travel to church but are interested in signing up, please contact our Parish Secretary, Patti Means at 717-299-1188.

**We would like to receive two (2) remembrances per Sunday and each will appear in both service bulletins.** Following is the information we have received for the time-frame between **January, 2015** and **March, 2015**. The blank areas remain available. Thank you for supporting this important ministry at St. John's!



SUNDAY DATE	(1)	(2)
JANUARY 4		
JANUARY 11	Mr. & Mrs. Richard Farmer	
JANUARY 18	Carroll Family	Cynthia Minnich
JANUARY 25		
FEBRUARY 1	John & Helen Miller	
FEBRUARY 8		
FEBRUARY 15	Ellen Meyer Trust	
FEBRUARY 22	Cindy Morris	Molly Moyer
MARCH 1		
MARCH 8		
MARCH 15	Ricky Smith	
MARCH 22		
MARCH 29		



### FOOD PANTRY STAPLES—ALWAYS WELCOMED!

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.

Bring your food donations to the rear of the church on any Sunday or to the church office during the week. **"THANK YOU!"**

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

## *Sunday School News*

*Karen DiPace, Sunday School Director*

I hope that you all have a very Merry Christmas! Thank you to all the helpers of the Christmas Pageant and dinner! We couldn't do it without all of your help!

Don't forget to save the date for MLK Day events on January 19<sup>th</sup> from 10am-3pm! There will be some great activities for the children!

We will be celebrating our Youth and Scouts on Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup>. If you have a scout please make sure I have their name to add to our scout list, and have them wear their uniform to church!

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions about our Nursery or Church School program.

~HAPPY NEW YEAR!~

*Karen*

## *Journey to Adulthood*

*Mary Ellen Kilp & Leslie Morgan, Co-Youth Directors*

In the midst of all that was busy and bright last December our teens spent time quietly praying and giving back. Fourteen young people explored the spiritual meaning of Advent during ~Nightwatch~, a special event held at St. John's December 12th-13<sup>th</sup>. This overnight event included prayers, fellowship, food and... cleaning! Our teens stayed the next morning to help out with the fall parish clean up, an effort that was greatly aided by generous amounts of coffee! The next week teens and children from our Church School presented gifts to families and children at Crispus Attucks, an event that included dinner and caroling. And as always, our Christmas pageant was a great success in large part because of the ministry of our J2A and Rite 13 teens, who put on costumes and shepherded flocks of angels, sheep and barn animals! If you missed it, check out the article in the Lancaster Newspapers published in the Faith and Values section on our pageant. Danielle DiPace and Sean Cliff represented our teens with grace and humor.

The next few months promise to be equally busy with opportunities for fellowship and ministry. The next J2A fundraiser will be a weekend Scrapbook event, held on January 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. Bring pictures and materials and leave with creative ideas and meaningful keepsakes. Please see Mary Ellen if you are interested in participating.

We will kick off February with Youth and Scout Sunday on February 1<sup>st</sup> during the 10:15 a.m. service. Our teens will be invited to participate at every level- including the sermon! The music will include songs experienced by our teens at Diocesan events (really fantastic stuff). And speaking of Diocesan events, the next ~Happening~, a special retreat for older teens, is scheduled for the weekend of February 13th-15th. A flyer with more information is included in the Messenger and is posted on the youth bulletin board. Many of our J2A teens have been a part of the planning committee and will happily share details about this amazing ministry.

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (CONTINUED)

And last, but certainly not least, what would February be without the smell of pancakes in our parish hall? Don't miss the annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on February 17<sup>th</sup>. Bring family and friends to enjoy homemade pancakes, sausage and applesauce. The food is good, the decorations are festive and the J2A group needs your support!

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 9-10 - J2A Scrapbook Event and J2A Lock-In  
January 23-25 - Happening Planning Meeting St. Stephen's Cathedral  
February 1 - Youth / Scout Sunday  
February 13 -15 - Happening (Snow Date is Feb. 20-22)  
February 17 - Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner  
February 27- March 1 PYE for Sr. High Youth at North Bay, MD  
March TBD - Middle School Retreat  
April 2 - 7:30 - Lock-In (Maundy Thursday)  
April 3 - Good Friday Service at 7:30 AM  
April 18 - Confirmation Retreat (J2A Only) Mandatory  
May 3 - Graduation Sunday  
Confirmation TBD



## POPCORN THEOLOGY

### Friday, January 16 at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall

***The Central Park Five*** (2012) In 1989, five black and Latino teenagers from Harlem were arrested and later convicted of raping a white woman in New York City's Central Park. They spent between 6 and 13 years in prison before a serial rapist confessed that he alone had committed the crime, leading to their convictions being overturned. Set against a backdrop of a decaying city beset by violence and racial tension, *The Central Park Five* tells the story of that horrific crime, the rush to judgment by the police, a media clamoring for sensational stories and an outraged public, and the five lives upended by this miscarriage of justice. (NR, USA)

Please join us for a movie and popcorn! Bring a friend and stay afterward for the discussion, if you'd like. And we invite you to bring a donation of food for St. John's food pantry.

Questions?

Contact: *Debbie Carter*



## JUBILEE MINISTRIES

**ANGEL TREE**—Thanks to all you shopping angels who gifted 90 community children with bright, happy gifts. This season was especially memorable because for as many years as we have included the Crispus Attucks Center on our tree tags, there has never been a suggestion that we are actually involved with the final giving, just drop off delivery. On Monday evening, Dec. 15, many of our Youth, Sunday School students, and parents accompanied the 50 gifts to complete the final step, that of actually handing the gifts to the children at the Center. Thanks to Mike Heider's sleigh, Mary Ellen Kilp, and Karen DiPace for coordinating this aspect of our wonderful Angel Tree tradition. Twenty five of Santa's newest elves experienced this Gift of Giving.



**COMMUNITY BREAKFAST** (Contact: Sue Martin) **SATURDAY, JANUARY 17**—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 often needed to help prepare and serve the breakfast (7:30 a.m. until 11:00 a.m.).

**EAGLE'S NEST**—(Contact: Sue Martin)

December was a busy month at Eagle's Nest with getting ready for Christmas. Cookie baking and fancy decorating (for which there was a contest), making snow globes, decorating the parish house tree, celebrating the season with a special dinner, sharing the spirit with Pastor Jennifer in the sanctuary, and receiving the Angel Tree gifts with visiting families all made for a "wild" time. Not all was happy though, as we sadly said good bye to our Director Rachel Eck who has resigned her position. Rachel has another very important job in the community as a director of Power Packs, a family food supplement for weekends (many of our Fulton families benefit from this program), and she has been stretched thin. We are thankful for her leadership during October, November, and December.

The position of Program Director for our wonderful After School Program is open in the event someone knows of a candidate looking for a part time job, mentoring fourth and fifth grade students please contact Sue Martin. **Volunteers** are also needed.

**FOOD PANTRY** - (Contact: Debbie Carter & Bill Cater)

Non-perishable food donations can be delivered to the church office or given to the Ushers on Sunday. Monetary contributions are also welcomed for buying food to fill gaps in food donations. Please write "FOOD PANTRY" in the Memo line on your check. Food bags/boxes are organized for families and single people and are distributed from our church office on Tuesdays and Thursdays to those in need.



**GROCERY CARDS** (Contact: Cynthia Minnich)

Total sales for November were **\$12,620** which allowed us to give **\$631** to Jubilee.

That is **TERRIFIC!!!** This month's total is **MORE THAN WE HAVE EVER SOLD BEFORE...** and Cynthia Minnich has the records since **2006!!!**

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Our regular buyers and irregular buyers are doing well! Now, 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. (continued on next page...)



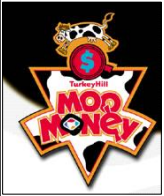
## JUBILEE MINISTRIES (CONTINUED...)

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

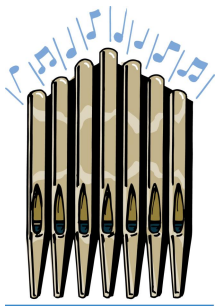
**Participating Stores:** Darrenkamp's, Giant, John Herr's, Oregon Dairy, Stauffer's, & Weis

### **MARTHA'S MINISTRY** (Contact: Jeannie Zeller)

*Praise be to God!!!* Many thanks to each and every person who helped in St. Nick's Knit sale this year. Whether you created or purchased any of our items, be happy. Our two week sale raised \$1700. which will go towards our Jubilee ministries, especially our awesome Eagles Nest program. Keep the faith as we begin a new year together!



**ROBERT FULTON SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP** - 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.



**JAN 24**

## VOYAGERS' MUSICAL PROGRAM

The Voyagers are pleased to invite all parishioners of St. John's to a very special program on **Saturday, January 24**. Paul Reese, our multi-talented Minister of Music, has graciously agreed to present an informal gathering to play your favorite church music and also some secular music on piano and organ. It will be held in the church, beginning at 10:00 a.m. There is no charge for the concert, but a free will offering will be gratefully accepted and will be used to buy sheet music for the music program.

*"We hope you will join us!"*



## CHORAL EVENSONG TO BENEFIT A.L.E.R.T.

*Sunday, January 11, 2015 - 5:00 p.m.*

*at*

*St. James Episcopal Church*

**Music by MiContraFa Choral Ensemble**

Freewill Offering to benefit A.L.E.R.T.

Reception to Follow in the Cloister Narthex

*(Free Parking on the Streets around the Church)*

## MDG GOALS UPDATE

*“The giver of every good and perfect gift  
has called upon us to mimic God’s own giving,  
by grace, through faith, and this is not of ourselves.”*

St. Nicholas of Myra (270-343)

We're writing this while preparing for Christmas. You're reading this while reflecting on recent memories of our Christmas worship and celebration. The spirit of Christmas begins early, and continues for a long time. As the giver of every good and perfect gift calls us to mimic God's own giving, continue that giving, always. We're writing this "thank you note" for the gifts you've given, and continue to give throughout the year, to support the initiatives and organizations working to eliminate extreme poverty - working to fulfill the Millennium Development Goals. Much has been accomplished, and much continues to be done.

Over the past seven years the MDG committee reviewed and selected partner organizations because they matched the criteria we laid out. We looked for organizations which (1) are doing work specifically targeting one or more of the Goals; (2) are accountable for their results; (3) have personnel with whom we could have direct contact; and (4) presented the possibility of meeting or being in communication with people directly involved in or benefitting from the organization's work. St. John's has done good work and touched many lives around the world. Look for the map illustrating our impact, on display in the Parish Hall in the next few weeks.

This year we are reassessing these organizations and our involvement with the goal of developing global partnerships with one or several of them, and we'd like your ideas, too. In addition to the first four criteria, we're looking closely at (5) how much of an impact our involvement and support makes in the work of the organization; and (6) how we can become more personally involved in the work being done, and the lives being affected? We are looking for opportunities to involve folks of all ages in the congregation. We're looking to develop Sunday School curriculum, newsletter and website information, adult discussion and bible study materials that will give each of us opportunities to learn, discuss our interests, and discern our roles in giving our gifts, by grace and through faith. We're looking forward to having meaningful discussions with you and getting your input. So thank you for all your gifts, and thank you in advance for your work and support to come.

Submitted by,

*Brad Zuke*



# FORGIVENESS LEADS TO RECONCILIATION

Submitted by, *Julie Gittens*

*A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?"*

Isaiah 40:6

*Are you crying out?  
Are you shouting out?  
Or are you remaining silent?*

If you remember, last month, Pastor Jennifer gave a very moving sermon the Sunday after a Staten Island grand jury decided not to indict any NYC police officers in the killing of Eric Garner, a man accused of selling tax-free cigarettes; a death that was ruled a homicide by the Richmond County coroner. Eric Garner's death followed the shooting death of Michael Brown in Ferguson, MO. The St. Louis grand jury also decided not to indict the police officer involved in the shooting. Although these killings happened in different cities, two things remained the same: the killed were Black men and the killers were White police officers. These killings have driven most of us to our breaking points. We're upset, we're angry, we're frustrated and we don't know what to do.

Surprisingly enough, I found solace in an article written eighteen years ago by Archbishop Desmond Tutu, titled "Forgiveness is Liberating." In 1995, the South African government passed the Promotion of Nationality Unity and Reconciliation Act, one part of this act was the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). People thought this new law and the TRC panel (Archbishop Tutu was a member) were both disappointing and doing nothing to solve the problem of racism in South Africa. Archbishop Tutu wisely replied, "The TRC is NOT required to achieve unity and reconcile our nation - it is required to promote it, to contribute to it." He also stated the reconciliation would only occur if everyone was willing to forgive one another. Here's one example of forgiveness and reconciliation he gave: "In Bisho, some former Ciskei Defense Force officers testified about the Bisho massacre. One of them alienated the people with his insensitive tirade. Then another confessed his part and asked for forgiveness. In the audience were people who had been wounded in that incident, people who had lost loved ones; but when that white army officer asked for forgiveness, they did not rush to strangle or assault him. Unbelievably, they applauded." The audience forgave the second officer because rather than try to justify his actions, he admitted he had done wrong. The humbleness of his confession allowed the people to forgive him. The first step towards reconciliation.

However, in order to reconcile with the other side, you have to learn about the other side. And the only way to do this by meeting with them and talking to them. This is why I am urging all the members of St. John's (teenagers and adults) to take next month's (2/7) THRIVE class at St. Edward's on Harrisburg Pike. The theme is Overcoming Racism: Cultivating Transformation. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Felicia Brown-Hayward, the chairperson of Diversity and Educational Equity Committee at Penn State Harrisburg. A few of the workshops will be: Modern church through the eyes of Absalom Jones; the myth of the post-racial society, Anti-Oppression, Music from Lift Every Voice and Sing (LEVAS) and What is racism. These workshops should be used as a first step toward achieving the Diocesan goal of eliminating racism and increasing racial justice work here in Central PA.

So, I ask again:

*Will you cry out?  
Will you shout out?  
Or will you remaining silent?*

## PRAYER LIST

*For those who we offer our continued prayers:*

Darlene Bentley  
Kay Bush  
Vera Clarke  
Linda Frederiksen  
Dyls Glew  
Mary Hartley  
Bill & Lois Herzog  
Anne Johnson Horn  
Mary Beth Markovich  
Barbara McGraw  
Andrew Miller  
William Miller  
Jeff & Mary Power  
Robert & Joan Power  
Christian Stigelman  
Joanna Sweeney  
Leeton Thomas  
Chris Thompson  
Alan Tobie  
Torres Family  
Franklin Walker  
Melissa Williams  
Bruce  
Danielle  
Jackie  
Molly & Family  
Wil



*...and for our  
Homebound  
Parishioners*

Nelson Craige  
Margaret Crothers  
Faith D'Urbano  
Paul Davis  
Nancy Eckenrode  
Providence Eshelman  
Michael Frantz  
Betty Juslin-Asplin  
Paul Kreider  
Joan Lahr  
Stefan Latshaw  
Fritz Lawrence  
Donna Lawson  
Betty McCaskey  
Barbara McKee  
Paul Merker  
Nancy Nemith  
Peter Plaxa  
Nancy Puffer  
Virginia Rainey  
Barbara Rich  
Gray Sellers  
Helen Souders  
Joanna Sweeney  
Sandra Wengert  
Poppy Youngquist

*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.*

## 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.

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

*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](mailto:patti@stjohns-lancaster.org)*



**Copies of the Messenger are in the Welcome Center at the rear of the church.**

**Copies of the Vestry reports are posted on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall.**

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>
Arnold, Judy	10
Bailey, Lyn	23
Breitegan, Loie	8
Burch, Connie	29
Di Pace, Nick	10
Durand, Emily	23
Gbur, Andrew	28
Gordon, Jean	25
Hasircoglu, Chris	27
Henk, Alice	25
Hogg, Linda	10
Kilhefner, Shelby	23
Kilp, David	2
Latshaw, Ally	12
Latshaw, Andy	27
Magagna, Aubrey	16
Mattson, Bradley	27
Mausolf, Lily	29
Miller, John	29
Murphy, Norma	26
Purdy, Sue	28
Rhodes, Penney	28
Rivera, Deborah	14
Smith, Ricky	21
Springer, Mark	18
Stone, Dylan	4
Strickler, Kent	25
Suliveras, Zoe	7
Tahsler, Bruce	10
Tahsler, Martha	22
Van Aulen, Ben	15
Watts, Ken	16

## JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

<u>Couple</u>	<u>Date</u>
Bush, Fred & Kay	01/09/1954
Crothers, Jim & Margaret	01/31/1953
Farmer, Richard & Mary Suzanne	01/10/1948
Honaman, Fred & Eleanor	01/10/1953
Sellers, Gray & Ellen	01/26/1957
Stonerook, Tom & Kendall	01/26/1985



## Messenger Deadline

THE DEADLINE TO SUBMIT  
ARTICLES FOR THE

FEBRUARY  
"MESSENGER" IS:

**JANUARY 19**

PLEASE NOTE THIS DATE  
ON YOUR CALENDAR!





# SERVING SCHEDULE – JANUARY, 2015

## **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.

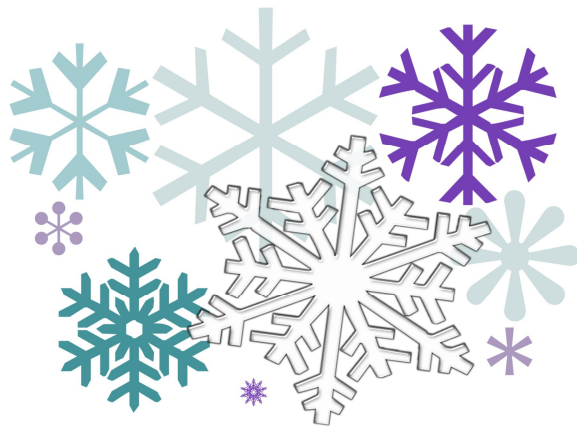
Please avoid contacting Aaron Spicher, personally, with this type of information. Aaron will receive your information through the Church Office. *"Thank you for your cooperation!"*

<b>JANUARY 4</b>	<b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>10:15 AM</b>
<b>Eucharistic Minister</b>	Peter Eaton	Peter Novosel, Katie Mausolf
<b>Eucharistic Visitor</b>	ô	Fred & Eleanor Honaman
<b>Lector</b>	TBD	TBD
<b>Server</b>	Joanie Kilhefner	Emma DiPace
<b>Torch Bearer</b>	ô	Danielle DiPace, Natalie Visco
<b>Crucifer</b>	ô	Glenn Miller
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Team 2	Team 2
<b>Steeple Bell Ringer</b>	ô	Brooks Morgan
<b>Ushers</b>	8:00 a.m.	Team A
<b>Greeter</b>	ô	Sue Martin
<b>Coffee Hour</b>	Lectors	Lectors
<b>Nursery</b>	ô	Anne Gokey

<b>JANUARY 11</b>	<b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>10:15 AM</b>
<b>Eucharistic Minister</b>	Merle Schnee	David Kilp, Michael Stank
<b>Eucharistic Visitor</b>	ô	Phyllis Gbur, Sue Heilman
<b>Lector</b>	Fred Bush	Jane Lee
<b>Server</b>	ô	Brooks Morgan
<b>Torch Bearer</b>	ô	Kendall Morgan, Ella Suliveras
<b>Crucifer</b>	ô	Dave Pennell
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Team 3	Team 3
<b>Steeple Bell Ringer</b>	ô	Lorraine Nolan
<b>Ushers</b>	8:00 a.m.	Team B
<b>Greeter</b>	ô	Peter Novosel
<b>Coffee Hour</b>	Hand Bell Choir	Hand Bell Choir
<b>Nursery</b>	ô	Janelle Stone



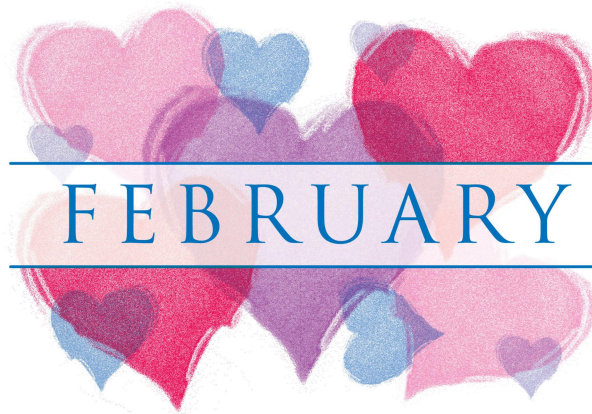
<b>JANUARY 18</b>	<b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>10:15 AM</b>
<b>Eucharistic Minister</b>	Laurie Eaton	Judy Arnold, Emily Gross
<b>Eucharistic Visitor</b>	Phil Becker, Ricky Smith	Fred & Eleanor Honaman
<b>Lector</b>	Ricky Smith	Phil Purdy
<b>Server</b>	Joanie Kilhefner	Aaron Hasircoglu
<b>Torch Bearer</b>	ô	Max Lester, Ian Thompson
<b>Crucifer</b>	ô	Bob Kilp
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Team 1	Team 1
<b>Steeple Bell Ringer</b>	ô	Emma DiPace
<b>Ushers</b>	8:00 a.m.	Team C
<b>Greeter</b>	ô	Bruce Waskowicz
<b>Coffee Hour</b>	Community Breakfast	Community Breakfast
<b>Nursery</b>	ô	Leslie Morgan



<b>JANUARY 25</b>	<b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>10:15 AM</b>
<b>Eucharistic Minister</b>	Ricky Smith	Brad Moyer, Peter Novosel
<b>Eucharistic Visitor</b>	ô	Peter Novosel, Julie Gittens
<b>Lector</b>	Merle Schnee	David Dissinger
<b>Server</b>	ô	James Woolson
<b>Torch Bearer</b>	ô	Kylie Stone, Claire Thompson
<b>Crucifer</b>	ô	John Waskowicz
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Team 2	Team 2
<b>Steeple Bell Ringer</b>	ô	Danielle DiPace
<b>Ushers</b>	8:00 a.m.	Team D
<b>Greeter</b>	ô	Carolyn Maxey
<b>Coffee Hour</b>	Ushers Teams: 8am & B	Usher Teams: 8am & B
<b>Nursery</b>	ô	Elspeth Moffatt

## LOOKING AHEAD TO: FEBRUARY, 2015

FEBRUARY 1	8:00 AM	10:15 AM
Eucharistic Minister	Laurie Eaton	David Dissinger, Katie Mausolf
Eucharistic Visitor	ô	Phyllis Gbur, Sue Heilman Fred & Eleanor Honaman
Lector	Peter Eaton	Fran Gouveia
Server	Joanie Kilhefner	Aidan Cliff
Torch Bearer	ô	Sean Cliff, Greyson Way
Crucifer	ô	Glenn Miller
Altar Guild	Team 3	Team 3
Steeple Bell Ringer	ô	Amelia Dissinger
Ushers	8:00 a.m.	Team A
Greeter	ô	Brad Zuke
Coffee Hour	Scouts	Scouts
Nursery	ô	Marla Lester



## 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 the Church Office

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.