



St. John's Messenger

December, 2015

from Fr. John W. Morris, Rector

ADVENT CALENDAR GOES VIRAL

The Advent Calendar has entered the 21st century in a major way. Gone (though not entirely) is that old style calendar of simply opening little windows day by day to reveal words of Holy Scripture telling the story that leads to Christ's birth. Now we have high tech ways to make the countdown to Christmas.

For those who live an on-line life style, Jacquie Lawson has an internet Advent Calendar that greets you on your computer everyday. The inspiration for her charming 2015 version is the Victorian Period. If your taste for Advent is still more traditional, you might want to try the Vermont Christmas Company. They claim to have the largest selection of over 300 of Advent calendars including those that can be considered holiday classics.

For those who prefer a more home spun and crafty texture to their Advent, the Pottery Barn has a nice selection of calendars each with that old timey feel. However, if you are looking for an Advent calendar for the hipster in you, then Starbucks is the place to go. Not only is the Starbucks Advent calendar now politically trending, thanks to Donald Trump, but it comes with twenty five reusable tin ornaments each containing a sweet treat plus a five dollar gift card.

But my personal favorite has to be the Disney *LEGO STAR WARS* Advent Calendar. This takes you on a twenty four day journey through the galaxy that includes two holiday themed Droids, an Ewok weapons rack, an A-wing Starfighter and a sleigh. Sith Lords love it.

The Advent calendar has traveled a long way from its humble origin in the German Lutheran church of the nineteenth century to becoming the commercial success of today. And I am okay about that. I think our superficial popular culture is deepened and enriched by each encounter with genuine Christian witness. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is and always has been the church's gift to the world. I take it as a complement that those who have a secular view see value in the traditions of our faith. I don't mind sharing.

It is, however, incumbent upon us as Christians to remember where all this comes from and why it exists in the first place. It is up to us to gather and to recall the Good News we have been given of how the love of God has come into the world. It is up to us to celebrate and to nurture that love wherever and in whatever ways we can. It is up to us to share with others the stories of how the love of God has touched each of us and come into our lives.

That is what Advent means of coming. Not just the coming of a holiday on December 25th. The true meaning of Advent is the coming of Christ daily into our lives bearing the blessing of the eternal gift of God's love.

It is the job of the market place to sell stuff. It is what they do best during these Advent days before Christmas. It is the calling of the followers of Jesus to tell the story. Sharing the Good News of the love of God is what we do best.

When we do, it is the love of God that goes viral. *John+*

THE REV. DR. BARBARA J. SERAS

This past Sunday, we marked a milestone in "Honoring our Past-Welcoming our Future" Campaign as we offered our pledges, our financial commitments to St. John's for the financial support of the day-to-day ministry AND to the exciting opportunity to make the church property attractive and barrier free to all God's people.

At the 10:15 offertory, many left their pews to place their pledges in the alms basin held by two of our co-chairs, Rosemary Coverly and Kent Stickler. From the chancel, I watched from a special perspective as the congregation moved...two by two...shoulder to shoulder...the line extending at one point from the crossing at the front of the church nearly to the door of the entrance. For me, it was the image of God's people on the move! It will long remain with me.

These past weeks I have thought mightily about my own commitment...and about my thankfulness for my life and for community, security, family, health, laughter...

And a quote I heard many years ago often surfaced. It loudly spoke to my understanding of prosperity: "If you own two coats, a pair of shoes; if you have transportation to go where you want (not necessarily own a vehicle but have a ride) and if you have a choice of what to eat today, you are one of the richest people who ever walked the face of the earth."

I have wrestled with this quotation many times. Early on I challenged the accuracy of such a statement; I questioned its relevancy to these modern times. Sometimes, I just plain ignored the message. Other times, I wondered if I really heard it right. I quibbled with the statement until the stark reality of these words eventually hit me squarely in my heart: I have all these things and so so so much more. I am one of the richest people who ever walked the face of this earth.

And for this I am thankful. Yet in these past weeks a new reality in my life evolved: giving thanks extends beyond mere response to the good prosperity I enjoy in life. Giving thanks is not an ebb and flow response to how good things are going but a constant way of faithful living. For gratitude is a grace from God to use what I have to extend God's glory in my life and in the lives that cross my path. In Greek, "grace" is *charis* which is root for "thanks" or *eucharisto* from which comes our word "Eucharist." And giving is a matter of growing into that grace...

As one new to St. John's, I am amazed as I experience the gifts given, the commitment expressed, the optimism overflowing. I expect amazement and delight will be my constant companions here. And I am most grateful to find community that challenges me to dig deeper, to watch more closely, to act more deliberately and to pray more sincerely.

I think we have embarked on an amazing adventure: Yes, to respond to the needs of the buildings that house this community and give life to ministry...and to live ever more deeply in the ways God graces us to live with a prosperity of thankfulness. May God's grace unfold in ways unimaginable for us all!

Blessings and thanks,

Barbara+

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES

I Am, We Are.....One World - Here, There, Everywhere

December, 2015

I Am, WE Are, One World - Here, There, Everywhere

öMaybe Christmas, the Grinch thought, doesn't come from a store.ö *Dr. Seuss*

It seems like öChristmasö focus starts earlier every year, with shopping and gift buying appearing well before Halloween. Pause a moment and think about times when a handshake, a smile, a hug, brought you to tears. The importance of that depth of genuine caring and love meant a great deal. In a world that makes it difficult to watch the evening news because of the violence, feelings and expressions of peace, caring, and love for all are examples of what the gift of love from God was to us at Christmas.

MDG Challenge for December 6th

Pearl Harbor Day, 1941

öDarkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.ö *Martin Luther King, Jr.*

In simplistic response to all that you have been given, let your thanks be demonstrated in the giving of any food item to our food bank for the hungry, the usage of grocery cards which help Eagles Nest and kindness to all - here, there, everywhere.

MDG Challenge for December 13th

“Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love.ö

Francis of Assisi

No other gift is necessary other than loving care and respect for those in our presence regardless of any differences. We are ALL brothers and sisters and children of God. Remember those who come to our community breakfast this week, hold them in your prayers, that our community will embrace their wellbeing as brother and sisters in God and their lives can move positively forward.

MDG Challenge for December 20th

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

Romans 15:13

MDG Challenge for December 27th

The Feast of St. John the Apostle

If a man say, öI love Godö and hates his brother, his is a liar, for he that loveth not his brother who he has seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?

And this commandment we have from him, that he who love God love his brother also.

John the Apostle

Let us move into a new year with a demonstration of love for ALL our brothers and sisters regardless of colors, faith, or any differences.



St. John's Will Continue Having "Safe" Conversations

St. John's has now completed its 2015 participation in the SafeChurch program – a 10-month endeavor designed to help create the safest environment possible for our children. With guidance from Samaritan Counseling Center professionals, St. John's SafeChurch Committee participated in monthly meetings with eight other local churches to learn ways to enhance the culture of safety within our parish and to write a comprehensive policy aimed at keeping our children safe. That policy has been completed and approved by Vestry, and it will be made available to everyone in the parish.

On Saturday, November 14 at a SafeChurch training session, 24 staff and volunteers from St. John's spent four hours listening to presentations and having discussions on topics related to preventing child sexual abuse and following through as mandated reporters if a child in our care discloses that he or she has been abused.

With the completion of the SafeChurch policy, the SafeChurch Committee will disband and a new committee, called the Child Protection Committee, will continue the work. The new committee, which will be formed before year's end, will be responsible for ensuring that the SafeChurch policy is a living, breathing document and that our parish is informed and knows how to support our children and each other.

A special thanks to every member of St. John's. You have embraced this initiative with love and open minds, and together we are strengthening our parish family – at church, and in our everyday lives.

Submitted by,

Marylee Sauder

TREASURER'S REPORT

If you were able to be at the parish meeting, you heard Sherry Qualls describe how we have needed to tap our Endowment Fund in order to pay bills. Because the market has been full of ups and downs this year, our earnings have not been as great as some other years. If you look at the performance of the market over the last several decades you will see many boom years as well as many bust years. Only 2 years ago our Endowment Fund made an amazing 23%. This year will not be as good. However, over time, the market has shown a continued upward growth. Our investment strategy is sound and will allow our financial investment adviser to take advantage of the lows as well as the highs to maximize our earnings. I am confident that St. John's will weather these challenging times and will come through in a stronger financial position.

I have been asked to outline the basic duties that go along with being Treasurer. My background is primarily in data processing. I have a bachelor degree in engineering and a master in business administration. Neither of these is necessary for this position. A degree or experience in accounting would be nice, but a fundamental understanding of business finances and budgeting is more than sufficient. The basic responsibilities are to work with the financial secretaries to ensure bills are paid. The Treasurer is the primary signer for all of the parish accounts. Working with the Finance Committee and the Vestry Stewards, the Treasurer prepares the budgets for each year. In my experience, the most important duty is to be a part of the Executive Committee. This committee plays an important role in the day to day operation of the parish.

I would strongly encourage anyone with a financial or accounting background to prayerfully consider volunteering for the position of Treasurer. If interested please speak to any member of Vestry or Finance Committee.

I am looking forward to my new responsibility as a member of the Construction Committee. Those of you that have known me for a long time know that making the parish accessible has been my dream for over 40 years. I am very excited to be part of the team that is making that dream come true. Thank you all for your support over the last 8 years.

Submitted by,

Steve Latshaw, Treasurer

PARISH INFORMATION

Baptized

Harold Francis Williams

Robert James Williams

Transferred Out

Joe and Sue Hurlburt

Norma Murphy

SENIOR WARDEN

What a beautiful autumn we have been blessed with here in Lancaster County this year. The leaves were brilliant and overall the temperatures mild. Life in our parish is a reflection of that brilliance. Even though Mother Nature is quieting down for the winter, our parish continues to be vibrant, active and alive.

Please welcome new vestry members that were elected at the Parish Meeting on Sunday November 15. Amy Dissinger, Lorraine Hayford, Leslie Tashler, Bruce Waskowicz, Jennifer Hreben and Marylee Sauder are your new vestry members. Please thank them for their commitment to the family of St John's and for taking a role in leading our parish forward. What an exceptional group of people bringing their talents, time and dedication to St. John's. I want to thank also members of the Nominating Committee, including Sue Heilman, Glenn Miller, and Bob Kilp for all of their effort in bringing this wonderful group of people together for election.

The Capital Campaign continues to gain momentum. The initial advance commitments made by 30 families totaled \$433,530 is now surpassed. Honoring our Past. Welcoming Our Future is a wonderful reflection of the core of this campaign. The people in our parish are wonderful and vibrant. We need to have our physical plant be able to match the needs of the future. This campaign will help make our church more beautiful, but more so it is vital in addressing physical needs our property has as well as making our church and all its facilities assessable to everyone.

Our youth continue to be involved and active in St John's and in the Convocation. Diocesan events involving our youth include Jr. High PYE, Winter Retreat, Diocesan reunion for young adults as well as a reunion here at St. John's for J2A.

Twenty four parishioners attend a Safe Church Training on Saturday November 14th at Highland Presbyterian Church. This brings St John's closer to be a complete safe place for all. Also for those who were not able to be in attendance, Marylee Sauder is now able to offer this training at St John's in the future. Please thank her for all of her tireless work in spearheading this necessary program forward.

These are just a few highlights of life at St. John's. Please keep everyone in your prayers and ask öLord, what do you want to do with me?ö

Submitted by,

Bob Murphy
Senior Warden

VESTRY RESOLUTIONS

The following resolutions were passed at the Vestry meeting on: November 16, 2015

1. Boiler Repair ó Resolved, that the St. John's Vestry confirms their prior affirmation by email to authorize the expensing from line item 01-5140 Building Repairs of up to \$3000.00 from the unrestricted endowment fund for boiler repairs. *This resolution comes from property committee (Bill Gross). Bob Murphy made a motion that we accept the repair as presented. The motion carried.*

2. Water Heater Replacement ó As the Parish House's hot water is heated by a 1999 (yr.) 75 gallon and a 2001(yr.) 50 gallon gas hot water heaters in a room that offers no safe release or containment of a slow and/or catastrophic failure, which can result in damage to the floors and walls in the Sunday School area, lower level restrooms and the All Purpose Room.

Resolved that, the Property Committee requests the Vestry to approve the removal and replacement of both the 75 and 50 gallon gas water heaters in the Parish House at a cost not to exceed \$2,500. This expenditure is to be funded via the Unrestricted Endowment Investment Account, as a capital expense in 2016, unless there is an emergency that constitutes the need to replace it before that time. *This resolution came from the property committee. There was a discussion that Finance had recommended that this be in the 2016 budget. If this can be put off until 2016, we should purchase it from the 2016 budget. The units are currently not leaking, and they are being monitored daily. There is only a threat that there could be a leak. Charley Braught seconded the motion. Leslie Morgan called the question. The motion carried.*

3. Rental Property Lease ó Resolved, in order to renovate and improve the rental property located at 211 North Concord Street, Lancaster, Pa., the vestry directs that the Lease Agreement of October 1, 2005 providing for a month-to-month tenancy with Joan Austin be terminated by written 60 day notice to the Tenant, sent by both standard postal service and postal service return receipt. Notice is to be sent to the Tenant at the 211 Concord Street address in 2016 and post marked no later than January 15, 2016 requesting that the Tenant vacate on or before April 1, 2016. *This came from the property committee, then came before the executive committee, who reworded the resolution to include all proper legal language. Charley Braught made a motion to table this resolution.*

4. Peter Eaton ó Resolved, that the Vestry of St. John's Episcopal Church, Lancaster, PA, accepts the resignation of Peter Eaton as the Property Committee Chairman, with recognition and gratitude for his graciously given gifts of time and talent. *This resolution comes from the Executive Committee. Leslie Morgan called the question. The motion carried.*

5. Construction Committee ó Resolved, that the Vestry of St. John's Episcopal Church establishes a parish Construction Committee to interview and recommend to the Vestry a general contractor, and to meet regularly with the general contractor to oversee the building project; and be it further resolved that Doug Brown be appointed chair of the Construction Committee and that the committee shall include Janice Henry, Andrew Carroll, Steve Latshaw, Ted Loose and Tom Stonerook. *This resolution comes from the Executive Committee. Bob Murphy called the question. The motion carried.*

VESTRY RESOLUTIONS (CONTINUED)

6. Marotta/Main Proposal ó Resolved, that the St. Johnø Episcopal Church vestry accepts the October 30, 2015 Proposal from Marotta/Main Architects for professional services ó renovations / additions to St. Johnø Episcopal Church, pending any amendments and/or recommendations from the Construction Committee. *This has been reviewed by, both the Property Committee and the Finance Committee. After a lengthy discussion it was decided to amend the resolution, as above. Toni Ehrhart called the question. The motion carried.*
7. 2016 Fairshare ó Resolved, that the Vestry of St. Johnø Episcopal Church, Lancaster, hereby certify that this 2016 Fairshare Pledge of \$50,000 is made on behalf of our congregation; and that it is our intention to pay this pledge for Fairshare on an equal monthly basis. And be it further resolved, that the 2016 Fairshare Pledge represents a tithe of our anticipated annual operating revenue for the coming year. *Pam Loose called the question. The motion carried.*
8. St. Johnø Sunday ó Resolved, that on this St. Johnø Sunday, December 20th, 2015 the Vestry of St. Johnø Episcopal Church, Lancaster, Pa, on behalf of the members of the congregations, offers their most heartfelt thanksgiving to God and expression of deep appreciation to these saints among us:
- Hilary Becker*, for her dedication and commitment as a member of the St. Johnø Handbell Choir, and for her liturgical leadership as chair of the St. Johnø Flower Guild.
- Phil Becker*, for his years of service and leadership on the St. Johnø Property Committee, his pastoral ministry as Lay Eucharistic Visitor, his constancy as an 8:00 AM Usher, his years in office as a member of the St. Johnø vestry, and his passionate co-chairing of the St. Johnø Capital Campaign.
- Marylee Sauder*, for her service on St. Johnø vestry, her guidance on the Communications Committee, ministry of outreach as a Womenø Winter Shelter volunteer, and her visionary effort as chair of the SafeChurch Committee to make St. Johnø Church safe and secure for people of all ages. *This resolution comes from the Executive Committee. Pam Loose called the question. The motion carried.*
9. Resolution to Authorize the Treasurer to Withdraw Additional Unrestricted Endowment Funds ó Resolved that at the recommendation of the Finance Committee, the Vestry authorizes the Treasurer to withdraw, from the Unrestricted Endowment Fund, an up-to-\$50,000 of additional funds before the end of calendar year 2015, to ensure that all unpaid expenses incurred during 2015 are paid before the close of the year. *This came from the Finance Committee, but came out after the Executive Committee met. The motion was seconded by Bob Murphy. Bob Murphy called the question. The motion carried.*



"ANNUAL FALL CLEAN-UP DAY "
Saturday, December 12th at 9 a.m
Join us as we prepare for Christmas!

PROPERTY CORNER

It is with the deepest feeling of loss that the property committee learned of Peter Eaton's resignation from our committee earlier this month. Peter is a saltwort supporter of our committee's efforts to remediate problems while they are small to reduce higher expenses for repairs and maintenance, having served as the Vestry Steward of Property and the Chair of our committee. We wish Pete our warmest wishes as he continues in his other ministries at St. John's and thank him for his dedicated service to our committee and congregation. We ask that you do the same.

We are pleased to report that the leaking pump in the boiler room has been replaced. It had been leaking since firing the boilers up this year at a rate of 1 gallon per hour at times. During the bidding process, we also received a quote from Steven Hahn, our plumber for our water heaters in the Parish House. These heaters are well over their life expectancy of 12 to 14 years and could cause significant damage to the lower level of the Parish House and All Purpose Room should they fail. Although receiving a very good quote of \$2,500 from Hahn to replace these units, our finances will have us continuing to monitor these units and replace them when needed, preferably in 2016.

An RFP was drafted for the replacement of damaged curb on Concord Street. There exists all but one 8-foot length of curb, which is not damaged on Concord Street, the rest of which continues to be hit by vehicles, as was the case during recent construction on Chestnut Street. As such exposure leaves conventional concrete curbs subject to damage, we have researched other materials to use for the curb to no avail. Due to our current finances and the fear that any conventional repair would be short lived, the committee felt it better to place this repair on hold.

Considerable time has been spent with the City in a couple of areas. For one, the repaving of West Chestnut Street at Concord Street has resulted in water draining onto our sidewalk. This situation will result in icing of the sidewalk and faster deterioration of the walkway from the colder months of the year. We will continue to monitor and work with the city on this situation. The second area of concern regards the leaning sycamore tree on West Chestnut Street. On October 22, we met with Jim Bower, City Arborist to discuss our concerns with the tree falling, especially after we remove roots opposite the lean to keep our sidewalk level. He indicated that the tree appears to be healthy and that he was not authorized to make a decision regarding removal. He recommended that we bring our concerns to the Shade Tree Commission, which we did on Tuesday November 17. We shared with the commission our concerns regarding the hazards, lack of insurance, and renovation/accessibility plans where the tree would present some challenges. We were very clear that all we want is a root friendly tree. The commission tabled our request while we discuss our situation with, our architect, city planning and the insurance industry. The one thing that was made very clear was, if approved, a replacement tree would be placed on the Chestnut Street side of our property.

Despite the numerous hours expended on the 2016 Property Budget by this committee, we were tasked to prioritize the capital expense items by the Finance and the Personnel Committees. In following ex-Chairman Eaton's philosophy, it was made very clear that there is nothing on this list that would be nice to do; everything listed is considered to avoid a larger expense in the future. Everyone's patience has been greatly appreciated during our budget process, which we have been working on since July. This process was borne out of this committee's plan to share anticipated repair/maintenance expenses over a 20 - 25 year period, as part of a predictive maintenance program to allow financial planning in the process. A special thank you is due to Deb Smith, who has worked tirelessly on the budget process.

PROPERTY CORNER (CONTINUED)

Our committee is working with our Finance Committee regarding the management of our rental properties. Last month, the Vestry passed a Finance resolution to study the feasibility of a rental manager for these properties. Current plans call for making improvements to increase their value and marketability as monthly sources of income. A list of recommended repairs has been created. Repointing of some of the missing/loose mortar joints and bricks was performed already. Masonry areas of the church campus were also addressed to prevent water infiltration over the cold months of the year.

Since our SafeChurch Sunday meeting last month, much time has been spent reviewing the electrical circuit for the Parish House AV closet. This work has involved a number of hours of troubleshooting and contact with our electrician to correct this situation. We hope to have this situation corrected, but will continue to monitor it.

Please join us for our Fall Clean-up at 9 a.m. on Saturday December 12 as we prepare God's House for Christmas. And, feel free to join us when we meet the first Monday of every month at 7 p.m. in the Becker House.

Blessings,

Your Property Committee,

Phil Becker, Andy Carroll, Jeff Gromis, Bill Gross, Janice Henry, Cynthia Minnich, and Deb Smith

VOYAGERS



The Voyagers will **not** be meeting in December. Please check your January "Messenger" for information about the January 23, 2016 program.

GREENING OF THE CHURCH!



Sunday, December 20th

Please stay after the second service on Sunday, December 20th, to help place the wreaths and greens inside and outside the church. We need able-bodied helpers to carry decorations and place them at the appropriate areas. Ability to climb a ladder a plus!

We will be placing the poinsettias and window sill decorations on Wednesday, December 23rd, beginning at 3:00 p.m.

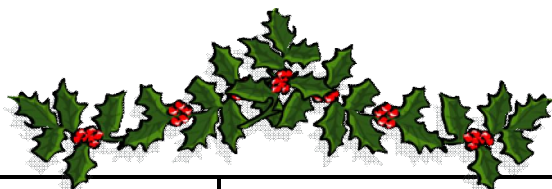
All decorations will be removed after the second service on Sunday, January 3rd, and we welcome as much as help as possible to accomplish this task. Thank you.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact Hilary Becker of the St. John's Flower Guild.

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 for the church altar and one (1) for the chapel**. This information will appear in **both service bulletins**. Following is the information we have received for the time-frame between **December and February, 2015**. The blank areas remain available. Thank you for supporting our flower ministry at St. John's!



Indicates Greens Only

Date	(1)	(2)	Chapel
DEC 6	Patti Means		Dave Pennell
DEC 13			
DEC 20			
DEC 27			
JAN 3			
JAN 10	Loie Breitegan		
JAN 17	Cynthia Minnich		
JAN 24	Barbara & Dale Landis		
JAN 31	Helen & John Miller		
FEB 7			
FEB 14			
FEB 21			
FEB 28			

FOOD PANTRY STAPLES—ALWAYS WELCOMED!



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

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 everyone enjoyed the Advent Event! Before we know it, Christmas will be here! If you ordered a wreath from the J2A please remember pick up is December 6th. Also on December 6th we will have training for new Acolytes. If you are interested please let me or Aaron Spicher know.

Sunday, December 13th we will be Christmas caroling. Please look for more information to come about this date!

Our Church School children have again been invited to help pass out the Angel tree gifts at Crispus Attucks on Tuesday, December 15th. If you are interested, please see me or Mary Ellen Kilp.

Sunday, December 20th we will have a rehearsal for the Christmas pageant during Sunday School. Children will meet in the church by 9:15 a.m.

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 R.S.V.P. to me by December 20th 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. If you will not be at the dinner, please arrive by 6:00 p.m. for costumes.

There will be no Sunday School classes on Sunday, December 27th - enjoy the holiday! Classes will resume at 9:00 a.m. on January 3rd.

Don't forget to save the date for MLK Day events on January 18th from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. There will be some great activities for the children! look for more information next month!

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

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas!

Karen



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (CONTINUED)

Journey to Adulthood

Mary Ellen Kilp & Leslie Morgan, Co-Youth Directors

A group of youth from the Lancaster convocation spent a beautiful fall day at the Betty Finney memorial garden cleaning it up, pulling weeds, raking leaves and preparing it for the winter with the direction from Sue & Dave Martin. We then went to St. Thomas for a pizza party, more youth joined us and we went to Oregon Dairy for Flash light Corn Maze. A great time was had by all who attended.

The Journey to Adulthood enjoyed our annual Battle of the Saints game at St. Thomas. We did not bring the trophy home but that is ok, (we need to share it sometimes). St. James was the lucky church this year with the big win! We had a great turnout with over 60 people to cheer and play. Thank you to St. Thomas for hosting everyone and making the wonderful chili and to all who participated!

Thank you to the J2A group for the wonderful video they put together for the Celebration service on November 8. Thank you to Joe and April Way for all your support and wonderful leadership with this group of awesome youth.

Danielle Di Pace was our youth who represented us at the Province III youth retreat held at North Bay Retreat Center. It was attended by 4 youth and 3 adults from our Diocese. Thank you David Kilp for the awesome leadership you gave to these Jr. High youth.

Attention Jr. & Sr. High youth join us for a weekend December 4 -6 at Camp Mount Luther! The theme is Light in the Darkness: Advent Experience. This program provides youth with an opportunity to meet other Episcopal young people and explore their spiritual side during Advent. Please see Mary Ellen Kilp for more details.

We will be going to Crispus Attucks on Tuesday December 15, to join the children in a night of Christmas Celebration. Please plan to join us! We will be meeting at St. John's at 6:00 and then going to Crispus Attucks for dinner and night of singing.

J2A reunion will be on December 20. Anyone who has graduated is welcomed to join us following the 10:15 service for a pizza party in the back of the Parish hall. If you would like to bring pictures it is always fun to share them.

Thank you to everyone who supports the J2A during the fall with purchasing sandwiches and buying the greens. They are so excited for their pilgrimage to Peru. We will be sharing details with you as they become available.

Submitted by,

Mary Ellen Kilp
Co-Youth Director





ST. JOHN'S YOUTH CALENDAR 2015/2016

December 4-6

Diocesan Retreat Rite 13
and J2A

December 6

Wreath Pick-Up
First Fruit Offering (CC)

December 13

Rite 13 Coffee Hour
Christmas Caroling



December 15

Gift Giving, Crispus Attucks

December 20

J2A Reunion

January 8 -10, 2016

Diocesan Young Adult Retreat
Happening Planning Meeting



February 9, 2016

Shrove Tuesday Dinner

**SHROVE
TUESDAY**

February 12-14, 2016

Happening

February 21, 2016

Scout Sunday

February 26 - 27, 2016

Scrapbook Weekend

March 4, 2016

Sr. High PYE



March 12, 2016

Auction/Dinner/Talent Show

March 24, 2016

Maundy Thursday Lock In

April 3, 2016

Middle School Retreat

May 1, 2016

Youth Sunday/Graduation Sunday

July 17, 2016

Pilgrimage send off

July 22 - 31

Pilgrimage to Peru



August 6, 2016

Knoebel's Reunion

PERU

October 16, 2016

Pilgrimage Presentation

(CC - Capital Campaign)

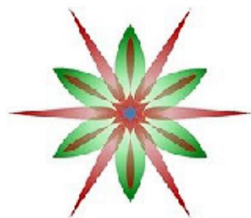


2015 J2A WREATH SALE

PICK-UP DATE: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6

LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS: ADVENT EXPERIENCE

CPA YOUTH WINTER RETREAT
DECEMBER 4 - 6, 2016
CAMP MOUNT LUTHER, MIFFLENBURG PA



Grade 6 -12

\$100: E-MAIL ABOUT SCHOLARSHIP!

REGISTER at youth.diocesepa.org

Sponsored by the Episcopal Diocese of Central PA,
221 N. Front Street, Harrisburg, PA

Youth Committee Co Chairs: Mary Ellen & Bob Kilp and Theda & Jon Tallman

"ST. NICK'S KNIT SALE"

The annual "St. Nick's Knit Sale" will be here before you know it! Mark your calendar and be sure to visit the members of our Martha's Ministry in the Parish Hall on either of the following Sundays for their **BIG** knit sale!



NOVEMBER 29 & DECEMBER 6

The sale will be held after each of the services on those Sundays and all profits will be directed to our Jubilee ministries with a focus on our after-school program, ðEagle's Nestö. Please help to support our knitters, as they support our many ministries at St. John's.



DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY EVENT

Volunteers Needed for 2016 MLK Day Event!

Come volunteer at our annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day Camp on Monday, January 18, 2016 from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. 40 local children (ages 5-12) will join us at St. John's for a day filled with art, music, chili, stories, sharing, and birthday cake.

The theme for this year's camp is "*Space for Grace*". We will be exploring what grace is, how it inspired Dr. Martin Luther King and how we can share grace with others.

We need volunteers for all sorts of jobs. Volunteers must have clearances. Sign up on the poster in the Parish Hall.

Please either Sue Dodge at lalimule@verizon.net or 717-368-7206 or Cindy Morris for more information.

It's an exciting, high-energy day and volunteers always leave feeling that they've contributed to keeping Dr. King's legacy alive.

JUBILEE MINISTRIES

COMMUNITY BREAKFAST (Contact: Sue Martin) **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19**—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 (7:30 a.m. until 11:00 a.m.).

There are so many faithful volunteers, but occasionally we find ourselves short of help. We have always been able to scramble and fill in the need. It is helpful to know ahead of time who might be missing, so please let Sue Martin know about absences, if possible. Thank you.

EAGLE'S NEST AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM (Contact: Sue Martin)

Our Christmas program will be held on Wednesday, December 16 with the decorating of the Angel Tree, setting up the Parish Hall crèche, time in church with Mother Barbara, a debut performance of the Radical Ringers, Angel Tree gifts, and all parents are invited for ice cream and cookies!

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.

FULTON SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP (Contact: Dave or Sue Martin)

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 are also collecting Box Tops for Education, Printer Cartridges, and Campbell's Soup Labels.

GROCERY CARDS (Contact: Cynthia Minnich)

Total sales for October gave \$481 to Jubilee. September and October were both good months but we can do better! Eagle's Nest has started again and we need the funds. Let's **Step Up** and buy grocery cards everyone. Show Jubilee that we really care!

Don't forget: It's easier to use a grocery card at the store than to peel out cash or write a check. And the amount remaining on your card is recorded on your receipt. And your using one of our cards gives 5% of its value to our Jubilee missions. It is truly a **win, win** situation!

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.**



We carry the following grocery cards and they also make **great Christmas Gifts!** They are: **Darrenkamp's, Giant, John Herr's, Musser's Market, Oregon Dairy, and Weis.**

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!



Simplify
THE HOLIDAYS

GIFTS THAT GIVE HOPE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2015
10:00AM - 4:00PM
LANCASTER FARM & HOME CENTER
1383 ARCADIA ROAD
LANCASTER PA 17601



FEATURED NONPROFITS

INTERNATIONAL	LOCAL
<p>2 SECONDS OR LESS ZIMBABWE BRITTANY'S HOPE VIETNAM, KENYA, ETHIOPIA CHAP LIBERIA DINING FOR WOMEN NEPAL FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN SOMALIA, BELIZE, HAITI GHANA INITIATIVE GHANA HEIFER INTERNATIONAL PERU, BOLICIA, ECUADOR & MORE HOPE INTERNATIONAL DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, RWANDA & MORE HORIZON INITIATIVE KENYA LOVE 146 USA & PHILIPPINES RAFIKI AFRICA KENYA SARI BARI INDIA SUDAN REBIRTH MINISTRY SUDAN</p>	<p>AARON'S ACRES ASSETS LANCASTER CHURCH WORLD SERVICE CLARE HOUSE GIRLS ON THE RUN HABITAT FOR HUMANITY HOPE WITHIN LANCASTER COUNTY REACH OUT AND READ MENTAL HEALTH AMERICA MUSIC FOR EVERYONE NEW CHOICES NURSE FAMILY PARTNERSHIP POWER PACKS PROJECT SAMARITAN COUNSELING SWAN THE FORGOTTEN INITIATIVE WATER STREET MINISTRIES</p>

CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT ST. JOHN'S

December 24—Christmas Eve

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

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

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

December 25ô Christmas Day

11:00 a.m.ô Holy Eucharist, Rite II (*Spoken*)



CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIALS

Remember Your Loved Ones



DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING NAMES FOR CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS IS **DECEMBER 14**

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 #: _____

PRAYER LIST

For those who we offer our continued prayers:

Ed Bednar
Emory Billingsley
Michael Brogan
Amelia Dissinger
David Dissinger
Judy Durand
Helen Farruggia
Linda Frederiksen
David Gelzer
Gill & Mary Hartley
Tony Herr
Anne Johnson Horn
Cricket Johnson
Ellen Keller
John Lechowicz
Ernie Leffler
Joyce Landis
Isaac Markovich & Family
Kathy McNamara
Andrew Miller
William Miller
Jodi Myers
Jane Naegele
Darlene Pfeiffer
Mary & Jeff Power
Robert & Joan Power
Christian Stigelman
Steven Schwartz
Stephanie Smith
Bob Stanton
Martha Stroh
Thomas Family
Joana Torres & Kids
Carolyn Weaver
Gary Weaver
Melissa Williams
Ken Zeller
Joe

*...and for our
Homebound
Parishioners*

Ellen Beck
Jim Breitegan
Miriam Cromis
Margaret Crothers
Faith D'Urbano
Providence Eshelman
Betty Lou Forsyth
Michael Frantz
Susan Herr
Betty Juslin-Asplin
Paul Kreider
Joan Lahr
Stefan Latshaw
Fritz Lawrence
Betty McCaskey
Barbara McKee
Nancy Nemith
Peter Plaxa
Nancy Puffer
Virginia Rainey
Gray Sellers
Marjorie Seachrist
Helen Souders
Joanna Sweeney
Sandra Wengert
Isabell Yackly
Poppy Youngquist

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,
Kirby Kinderwater, Kyle Kinderwater,
Kyle Kulka, Joseph Lombardo,
Nicholas Lombardo, Sean McCormick,
John S. Waltz, and 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*



**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.**

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>
Addicott, Sarah	7
Brought, Charley	8
Brenton, Rich	26
Crothers, Jim	25
D'Urbano, Faith	17
Dorgan, Dan	29
Drew, Natalie	24
Farmer, Richard	17
Gehman, Linda	7
Gipe, Eliana	10
Gross, Jill	9
Grove, Ned	31
Hayford, Lynn	6
Honaman, Eleanor	8
Honaman, Fred	16
Jackson, Len	19
Kilp, Adam	30
Latshaw, Steve	24
McDivitt, Ruth	7
Means, Allen	29
Meikrantz, Marcia	2
Miller, Bonnie	10
Moyer, Brad	12
Parmer, Shirley	15
Schnee, Donna	25
Stonerook, Kendall	18
Watts, Cameron	9
Watts, Wyatt	3
Zeller, Jeannie	29

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

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



Happy Birthday **Birthday Card Shower!**
for:
Ruth McDivitt

Join in the fun to surprise Ruth with a birthday card for her **"99th"** birthday on December 7!

Ruth McDivitt
941 Maple Avenue, Lancaster, PA 17603

Unknown to Ruth, we will sing and share a cake with her during the Coffee Hour on Sunday, December 6!



Messenger Deadline

THE DEADLINE TO SUBMIT ARTICLES FOR THE

JANUARY

"MESSENGER" IS:

DECEMBER 21

SERVING SCHEDULE – DECEMBER, 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!"*

DECEMBER 6	8:00 AM	10:15 AM
Eucharistic Minister	Laurie Eaton	Peter Novosel, Sibyl Freeman
Eucharistic Visitor	ô	Peter Novosel, Julie Gittens
Lector	Bob Lee	Fran Gouveia, Bob Kilp
Server	ô	Dylan Stone
Torch Bearer	ô	Nicholas DiPace, Kendall Morgan
Crucifer	ô	Dave Pennell
Altar Guild	Team 2	Team 2
Steeple Bell Ringer	ô	Brooks Morgan
Ushers	8:00 a.m.	Team A
Greeter	ô	Brad Zuke
Coffee Hour	Hand Bell Choir & Patti Means	Hand Bell Choir & Patti Means
Nursery	ô	Katie Mausolf

DECEMBER 13	8:00 AM	10:15 AM
Eucharistic Minister	Ricky Smith	Katie Mausolf, Michael Stank
Eucharistic Visitor	Phil Becker, Ricky Smith	ô
Lector	S. Purdy, P. Purdy, F. Bush M. Schnee, B. Lee, T. Bond	A. Cliff, D. Dissinger, J. Cliff, B. Kilp, D. DiPace, C. Weaver-Gelzer
Server	ô	Emma DiPace,
Torch Bearer	ô	Helena Carroll, Sophia Thompson
Crucifer	ô	Aaron Hasircoglu
Altar Guild	Team 3	Team 3
Steeple Bell Ringer	ô	Lynn Hayford
Ushers	8:00 a.m.	Team B
Greeter	ô	Carolyn Maxey
Coffee Hour	Rite 13	Rite 13
Nursery	ô	Mary Waskowicz

DECEMBER 20	8:00 AM	10:15 AM
Eucharistic Minister	Merle Schnee	David Kilp, Peter Novosel
Eucharistic Visitor	Stephanie McGovern	Phyllis Gbur, Sue Heilman
Lector	Ricky Smith	Jane Lee, Paula Wolf
Server	ô	James Woolson
Torch Bearer	ô	Max Lester, Ella Suliveras
Crucifer	ô	Brooks Morgan
Altar Guild	Team 1	Team 1
Steeple Bell Ringer	ô	Emma DiPace
Ushers	8:00 a.m.	Team C
Greeter	ô	Bruce Waskowicz
Coffee Hour	Community Breakfast	Community Breakfast
Nursery	ô	Jen Hreben



Christmas Serving Schedule

See Page 23

DECEMBER 27	8:00 AM	10:15 AM
Eucharistic Minister	Laurie Eaton	Brad Moyer, Sibyl Seachrist
Eucharistic Visitor	Phil Becker	Karen Latshaw, Sue Martin
Lector	Peter Eaton	David Dissinger, Brooks Morgan
Server	ô	Dylan Stone
Torch Bearer	ô	Ian Thompson, Kylie Stone
Crucifer	ô	Glenn Miller
Altar Guild	Team 2	Team 2
Steeple Bell Ringer	ô	Danielle DiPace
Ushers	8:00 a.m.	Team D
Greeter	ô	Dave Martin
Coffee Hour	Lay Eucharistic Visitors	Lay Eucharistic Visitors
Nursery	ô	Tracy Cliff

CHRISTMAS EVE

CHRISTMAS EVE	3:30 PM	6:30 PM	10:30 PM
Eucharistic Minister	Merle Schnee Ricky Smith	Julia Hasircoglu Selena Hasircoglu	David Dissinger, David Kilp Sibyl Seachrist
Lector	Sue Purdy	Aidan Cliff, Danielle DiPace	Fran Gouveia, Bob Kilp
Server	Aaron Spicher	Emma DiPace	Amelia Dissinger
Crucifer	Glenn Miller	Aaron Hasircoglu	Dave Pennell
Torch Bearer	ô	ô	TBD
Thurifer	ô	ô	Judy Arnold
Ushers	Phil Becker John Miller Julie Rodriguez Jim Snyder	Tracy Cliff Nick DiPace Bruce Waskowicz Brad Zuke	Paul Dorgan Toni Ehrhart Len Jackson Charlie Rahe

CHRISTMAS DAY

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

Deadline Dates!

**WEEKLY BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS:
WEDNESDAYS**

**"MESSENGER" ARTICLES:
3rd MONDAY OF EACH MONTH**

LOOKING AHEAD TO: JANUARY, 2016

JANUARY 3	8:00 AM	10:15 AM
Eucharistic Minister	Peter Eaton	David Dissinger, Charlotte Weaver-Gelzer
Eucharistic Visitor	ô	Peter Novosel, Julie Gittens
Lector	S. Purdy, P. Purdy, S. Tobie, M. Schnee, B. Lee, T. Bond	D. DiPace, D. Dissinger, J. Lee, B. Kilp, F. Gouveia, B. Morgan
Server	ô	Amelia Dissinger
Torch Bearer	ô	Miriam Lester, Greyson Way
Crucifer	ô	Bob Kilp
Altar Guild	Team 3	Team 3
Steeple Bell Ringer	ô	Brooks Morgan
Ushers	8:00 a.m.	Team A
Greeter	ô	Leslie Morgan
Coffee Hour	MDG	MDG
Nursery	ô	Phyllis Gbur



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.