



St. John's Messenger

April, 2016

from Fr. John W. Morris, Rector

FIFTY SHADES OF EASTER

Easter tide, the fifty days from the celebration of Easter to Pentecost Sunday, is a unique season in the life of the church. All fifty days are celebrated as one joyful feast. One non-stop, every day and all of the night, fifty day long occasion that is sometimes referred to as "the great Lord's Day".

In church, we represent this symbolically with the Paschal Candle that we light in the darkness of the Great Vigil of Easter Eve and then is meant to be burned continuously throughout the fifty days leading to Pentecost. It is a reminder to us of the fifty days following his resurrection that the Risen Lord spent with his disciples, leading to his ascension and concluding with the giving of the gift of the Holy Spirit. It is a statement of our faith in Christ's night and day, every day presence with us. For us, every day of the fifty days from Easter to Pentecost is Easter Day.

So it is, then, that each Sunday of Easter is a celebration of Christ's resurrection. We begin each eucharistic celebration with the words, "Alleluia! Christ is risen!" and our response, "The Lord is risen, indeed! Alleluia!" Every Sunday of Easter is a celebration of a different aspect or shade of Easter Sunday.

Our Gospel readings, all from the Gospel according to St. John, recount stories of Christ's resurrected appearances in the Upper Room and by the Sea of Galilee, and offer us St. John's varied reflections on Christ's resurrection. Each reading gives us another perspective on the Easter story of resurrection to consider.

At St. John's, all of our Sundays of Easter are their own resurrection celebrations. Each Sunday capturing its particular expression of the joy, hope and promise of Easter. Lector Sunday, April 3rd, we affirm all those who share with us each Sunday in the proclamation of the Word of the Lord. April 10th, Operation Understanding Sunday, we show our commitment to those ministries in our diocese that are making a difference in the lives of people in need. Jubilee Sunday, April 17th, we will be joined by The Rev. Loretta Collins, our diocesan Jubilee officer, as we celebrate St. John's family of Jubilee ministries. April 24th, will be Earth Sunday when we give particular thanks to God for the richness and diversity of life on planet Earth, our island home.

Our Easter celebration continues into May with the exuberance of Youth Sunday on May 1st, with the loveliness of Mother's Day on May 8th, and with Holy Baptism and the Renewal of our Baptismal Vows on Pentecost Sunday, May 13th, "the birthday of the Church," marking the final day of our fifty days of Easter.

Easter is not our liberation from Lent. Easter is what propels us into the work of the Spirit. Our joy, hope and promise of Easter is not meant to be stored up or saved just for Sunday. Sunday, the first day of the week, is meant to be how we begin and then continue through each day of our week. Our Sunday celebration of Christ's resurrection is meant to carry over to Monday and stay with us to make every day an Easter Day.

Let us use the fifty days of Easter to discover those places of resurrection in our lives. Let us see in each Sunday of Easter another reason for joy, hope and promise. Let us find the signs of new life in every day of our life as we look for the fifty shades of Easter.

THE REV. DR. BARBARA J. SERAS

Alleluia! Christ Is Risen!

Most of us know that the General Convention of the Episcopal Church meets every three years. It is a time when our lay and ordained leadership meets to discuss, discern and make decisions that reflect the direction of our Church in most every aspect of our life together. Fewer among us may know that our Bishops meet twice a year in the years between General Conventions. The Bishops met in retreat recently at Camp Allen Conference Center in Navasota, Texas. They issued the following Letter to be circulated widely throughout the Church.

Our Bishop, +Audrey Cady Scanlan remarked on the importance of the Church playing a prophetic role in the Town Square, adding that this statement offers a commentary on the current political and social climate and the way that we conduct ourselves in public discourse.

I believe this Letter speaks to the Spirit here at St. John's where we pray weekly for "reconciliation in places of social unrest and violence, seeking a spirit of forgiveness, courage, and wisdom to confront racism and spiritual brokenness that plague our hearts, this nation, and the world."

I offer the Bishops' letter here with the hope and prayer that we at St. John's go to the next step to claim our prophetic voice in all places to engage others in this call to civil discourse.

*Meeting in retreat, the House of Bishops " unanimously approved the following
"Word To The Church--Holy Week 2016"
March 15, 2016*

On Good Friday the ruling political forces of the day tortured and executed an innocent man. They sacrificed the weak and the blameless to protect their own status and power. On the third day Jesus was raised from the dead, revealing not only their injustice but also unmasking the lie that might makes right.

In a country still living under the shadow of the lynching tree, we are troubled by the violent forces being released by this season's political rhetoric. Americans are turning against their neighbors, particularly those on the margins of society. They seek to secure their own safety and security at the expense of others. There is legitimate reason to fear where this rhetoric and the actions arising from it might take us.

In this moment, we resemble God's children wandering in the wilderness. We, like they, are struggling to find our way. They turned from following God and worshiped a golden calf constructed from their own wealth. The current rhetoric is leading us to construct a modern false idol out of power and privilege. We reject the idolatrous notion that we can ensure the safety of some by sacrificing the hopes of others. No matter where we fall on the political spectrum, we must respect the dignity of every human being and we must seek the common good above all else.

We call for prayer for our country that a spirit of reconciliation will prevail and we will not betray our true selves.

The House of Bishops of The Episcopal Church

As we enter now into the season of the Resurrection, how will we witness as St. John's Parish and as a People of the Prince of Peace? It is not an easy question but one that as we live into the answer we can rest assured of God's grace and the leading of the Spirit to follow Christ's Call. May it be so.

Barbara+

CONGRATULATIONS - to the following individuals who were elected at our Parish Meeting to represent St. John's at the 2016 Diocesan Convention in Lancaster County on October 14 and 15. They are: Charlotte Weaver-Gelzer (Chair), Rob Ashton Julie Gittens, Fran Gouveia, Lorraine Hayford, and Kathy Kyper.

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP CHALLENGES

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

April, 2016

öWhat is a friend? A single soul dwelling in two bodies.ö
Aristotle

Look back over our Lenten adventure this year and ask yourself what you learned.

We learned that we have more connections than we imagined as people with personal experiences all over Africa surfaced to share their stories. We learned that there isn't just a school of kids to connect with but also a community and environment to explore. Food, fun, adventure, learning, gardening, and so much more. We are all God's children and excited to learn from each other.

GPC Challenge for April 3rd World Health

In the U.S., we focus on every tiny particle in our food. In countries around the world and here at home, there are many happy to just have something to eat.

Make a pledge to yourself to bring something to church each week to put a smile on the face of an unknown friend who is your brother or sister in God.

GPC Challenge for April 10th

Reflect on what happened at the Last Supper. People gathered together, very likely varied beliefs and backgrounds, listening with what we believe is an open heart and mind.

There is our example. Gathering together, appreciation of varied views but caring, none the less, for the well-being of our brothers and sisters.

GPC Challenge for April 17th Earth Day Focus

Make a commitment to do one thing to save this gift of the Earth from God.

Recycle, take your own bags when grocery shopping, have a concern for electric, lights, running water. In this large world of God's children, not all are as blessed as many of us reading this message.

GPC Challenge for April 24th

As we make new friends in various parts of Africa, make a pledge to learn something new about the country. Tyler Brenton is educating his new friends about the world by making a map of the world. Take a spare moment and revisit Rafiki info, ECHO and World Bicycle and see how they are teaching and learning every day.

PARISH INFORMATION

Transferred Out

Julia Arnold

Deaths

Dale Thomas Landis
July 2, 1945 - March 8, 2016

SENIOR WARDEN

During my search for a church eighteen years ago, one of the reasons that I was so impressed with St. John's was the presence and inclusion of the children in the service. At the recent Welcome Brunch, many newcomers mentioned a similar positive experience seeing so many of our teens attending services and participating in worship.

On Palm Sunday, I was privileged to assist in the nursery. Here, I was reminded of how even our youngest members are integrated into the service. When one of the children wanted to color, Miss Maria found a coloring book with pictures associated with Easter. She even identified the palm leaves in the picture and provided a summary of what happened on Palm Sunday. Then she pointed to the TV screen, and the children were able to see the palms on the altar. Since the service started in the Parish Hall, Miss Maria held hands with those who were interested in hearing the music from the hallway. Several little ones took her up on the offer. A teen brought the children palms to wave as we watched the parade of the processional.

Young minds have short attention spans, and dinosaurs, Legos, and cars soon replaced the processional and the story of Palm Sunday. That's not, however, where the lessons ended. There were many lessons about how we treat others when we want something that someone else has or if we want a turn.

A few parents came to gather their children for communion blessings. Those children that remained looked at the TV screen again to find their families. They knew the rhythm of the service, and started to pick up their toys and get their coats. It was amazing to see how St. John's teaches our youngest members about our beliefs, societal expectations, and our rituals.

Father John often speaks to the importance of the spiritual work done in our nursery. Today this responsibility clearly made an impression on me.

Submitted by,

Leslie Morgan
Senior Warden

VESTRY RESOLUTIONS

The following resolutions were passed at the Vestry meeting on: March 21, 2016

Discernment Committee ó Resolved, that the St. John's vestry receives the recommendation of the Discernment Committee, that Julie Gittens should continue her personal discernment, but not be presented to the Commission on Ordained Ministry at this time; and be it further resolved that the vestry expresses their genuine thanks to the members of the Committee ó Carolyn Maxey, Peter Novosel, and Sue Heilman, Chair ó for their year-long commitment; and discharges them from their duty with the vestry's appreciation. *This resolution came from the Discernment Committee to the Executive Committee. Leslie Morgan called the question. The motion carried.*

Journey to Adulthood Pilgrimage ó Resolved that the St. John's vestry authorizes the expensing of up to \$22,220 from the Journey to Adulthood fund to cover the balance of the costs for the 2016 J2A Pilgrimage to Peru. *This resolution came unvetted by the executive committee, so it was seconded by Leslie Morgan. After discussion, Leslie Morgan called the question. The motion carried.*

SAFECHURCH



Child Protection Committee

SAVE THE DATE:

Sexual Assault Prevention Adult Forum - Sunday, April 17

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Please join us on Sunday, April 17 between services ó from 9:15 to 10 in the Becker House ó to hear the director of the YWCA Lancaster's rape crisis center talk about sexual assault prevention and the affirming work being done at the YWCA Lancaster.

Lori Yelk was named director of the YWCA's Sexual Assault Prevention and Counseling Center in February after years of work as a counselor there. The center is the official rape crisis center for Lancaster County, and it provides counseling services to sexual assault survivors from toddlers through adults. It also provides sexual assault prevention education throughout Lancaster County.

Please join us for this informative forum. Lori will talk about sexual assault prevention initiatives nationwide as well as the YWCA's sexual assault counseling, its prevention work, and its work with populations such as the Amish and people with disabilities.

This forum has been organized by the Child Protection Committee, which is chaired by Anne Carroll. If you have any questions, please talk with Anne or Marylee Sauder.

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!

Stay up to date on the very latest at St. John's by "liking" our Facebook page. Don't miss a mid-week snow cancellation, event reminder, or inspirational message. And...if you haven't subscribed to our blog to receive email notifications on a variety of topics (Events, Worship, Mission Fields, Pastoral Messages, Reflections from the Pew), go to www.stjohns-lancaster.org and click on NEWS/BLOG in the upper right. There's a lot happening at St. John's and our social media presence is growing. Be a part of it!



CHECKS

Our weekly volunteer counters would like to request that whenever you submit checks to St. John's for various contributions (annual pledge, Capital Campaign, Jubilee, Martha's Ministry, etc.) **please write separate checks** for each one, rather than combining all on one check. Combining your contributions on one check makes it difficult for the counters to separate those amounts for entry work. Thank you for your cooperation and our counters thank you too!

VOYAGERS



You are invited to join the Voyagers meeting on Saturday, April 23rd at 10:00 a.m. in the church to our Minister of Music, Paul Reese, who will play the Violin for us, than afterward for some good fellowship and light refreshments.

BAKE SALE!



BAKE SALE

Primary Election Day - April 26

The semi-annual Bake Sale to benefit our after-school "Eagle's Nest" program will take place on Tuesday, April 26th amid all the hoopla of the candidacies available for both parties. Please think about donating baked goods to keep everyone a little happier as they cast their ballots that day.

Our Fulton School students will be baking cookies. Breads, bars, cakes, gluten-free items, and healthy choices are appreciated! Your donated bake sale items can be delivered to church on Sunday, April 24th or dropped off in the Courtyard on the 26th. See Sue Martin with questions. Thank you for your

PROPERTY CORNER

Thank you to all who gave part of their Saturday to help with our Spring Clean-up. The building and grounds looked especially beautiful for Easter because of you! Another big thank-you to Andy Carroll who continues to work with Bill Gross to evaluate and look for ways to extend the life of our HVAC system.

Bill is in the process of securing annual requests for proposals for trash removal, janitorial services, and fire alarm services. We look forward to working with Younger Realty Group, selected to manage St. John's rental properties on Concord Street, beginning April 1.

Andy, Marylee Sauder and Dave Martin are investigating options to handle our additional parking needs on Sundays.

Construction News

Committee members had a positive meeting with the City's Historic Architectural Review Board (HARB) to review our building renovation concepts.

More Engineering reviewed our existing heating/cooling plants and the proposed addition. They recommend a stand-alone system for the addition due to its unique construction characteristics, including the glass walls and roof features.

Following Vestry approval, Ron Crawford accepted the position of project manager for the construction project. Ron brings more than 40 years of experience from Wohlsen Construction, where he most recently acted as job superintendent.

Bill worked with Soft-Dig, a utility locator company, to mark our utilities. Harbor Engineering then mapped out the markings, which are still available to see on our campus. This reduces risks associated with digging.

The construction committee is currently working with Marrotta/Main architects to address issues involving trees, the columbarium, security, and parking during construction.

"Happy Spring" from the Property Committee:

*Andy Carroll, Bob Fields, Jeff Gromis, Bill Gross, Janice Henry, Jane Lee,
Dave Martin, Cynthia Minnich, Marylee Sauder, and Deb Smith*



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 **April** and **June, 2016**. The blank areas remain available. Thank you for supporting our flower ministry at St. John's!

DATE	(1)	(2)	CHAPEL
APRIL 3	John & Helen Miller		
APRIL 10	Barbara Landis	John & Barbara Graeter	Patti Means
APRIL 17	Frankvert Family		
APRIL 24			
MAY 1	Kilhefner Family	Burnett Family	
MAY 8	John & Barbara Graeter	Meikrantz Family	
MAY 15	Gross Family	Luck Family	Marianne Eckert
MAY 22	Patti Means	Ricky Smith	John & Helen Miller
MAY 29			
JUNE 5	Kilhefner Family		
JUNE 12	Charles Alexander		
JUNE 19	John & Barbara Graeter	Scott & Sherry Qualls	
JUNE 26	J & L Hartman Trust		Phil & Hilary Becker

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 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

Thank you to everyone who helped us reach our goal- we raised \$150 to help Tyler Brenton with his Mural. The kids at Nyoni Primary School in Nyoni, Tanzania can now learn about our world with the help of this beautiful Mural on their school!



Happy Spring everyone! Thank you all for your support of our canned meat drive and our Tanzania Penny drive.

We had a great time bowling! I hope everyone can join us for the next outing we plan. If you have ideas for an outing I would love to hear from you!

The kids are busy planning some fun for Earth Sunday, April 24th. Keep an eye out for their creations!

We are planning our annual church picnic for Sunday, June 5th. We will again be at County Park, Pavillion#3 starting at noon till whenever we want to leave. If you would like to help plan an activity for the day let me know.

Vacation Bible School (VBS) is coming! This year, we will be doing something new: a convocational VBS is joining forces with St. James, St. Edwards, and St. Thomas to create an even bigger, better VBS! Save the dates: Sunday, June 26th thru Thursday, June 30th from 6-8pm at St. Thomas Episcopal Church! Our theme is "All the Saints!" This will be an exciting week for all involved and we invite you to be a part of our team. Please let me know if you can help. Kids ages 5-11 are invited to attend- older youth are encouraged to help. Adults are needed! Please let me know if you can help- dipace5@verizon.net or 717-464-9124.

Karen

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (CONTINUED)

Journey to Adulthood

Mary Ellen Kilp & Leslie Morgan, Co-Youth Directors

Thank you to everyone who supported our youth this past month at our Scrapbook event, Dinner, Talent show and Auction, and all who bought the wonderful chocolate eggs. Thank you to all the parents and youth that helped to organize these events. A big thank you to Joe & April Way for their leadership role with our J2A youth and taking on the job of planning the pilgrimage to Peru.

Fr. John, Cindy, Joe & April along with 11 youth from St. John's and St. Paul's Columbia will be leaving on July 23 to branch out in their faith and in their lives as they visit another country. They will be traveling the mountains from Lima to Cusco where they will spend the day with Youth with A Mission. They will be going to Aguas Calientes, climbing mountains, visiting Machu Picchu, celebrating Peruvian Independence day. These are a few things that are being planned. We will keep you updated on the travel plans as we get closer to the pilgrimage.

Our youth had fun at the PYE event learning about The Prodigal Son, and doing all the activities at Northbay Adventure center.

Attention youth grades sixth to ninth, there is a retreat on April 1-3, 2016 the theme this year is Narnia. The retreat will be held at Camp Mount Luther. It is going to be an amazing weekend please see Mary Ellen Kilp if you are interested in going.

Do you have someone graduating from College or High School? If so please let Mary Ellen Kilp know so we can recognize them and all their accomplishments in our Messenger. Please e-mail Mary Ellen at mekilp@yahoo.com with their information.



ST. JOHN'S YOUTH CALENDAR - 2016

April 1-3, 2016	Middle School Retreat youth 6-9 grade
May 1, 2016	Youth Sunday/Graduation Sunday and Mini Golf
June 3, 2016	First Friday at St. John's
June 5, 2016	Teacher Appreciation/ picnic
June 16-19, 2016	Diocesan Summer Youth Retreat grades 6 -12
July 17, 2016	Pilgrimage send off
July 22 . 31	Pilgrimage to Peru
August 5-7, 2016	Knoebel's Reunion / family camping trip
October 16, 2016	Pilgrimage Presentation

"THANKS TO EVERYONE!" **from the J2A Kids!**

Thanks to families, friends and businesses who contributed time, talent and treasure to the Journey to Adulthood (J2A) Spaghetti Supper, Talent Show and Silent Auction held on Saturday, March 12. Proceeds exceeded \$2,000 and will support the J2A pilgrimage to Peru in July.

- Longenecker Family - 2 St. Johns 100th anniversary plates
- Loose/Martin - Vacation Home rental
- Woolson Family - 3 baskets of assorted Japanese porcelain items
- Bradley Matson - Handmade Wooden Cheese Board
- Bill Gross - 3 hours of Handyman Service
- Brad Zuke - Will prepared by Apple Yost
- Emma DiPace - an evening of babysitting service
- Sight & Sound tickets to Sampson's (2 tickets, 2 winners)
- Matt Lester - Family photo session with prints
- Fran Gouveia - Hand Knit Socks & Barbeque tool set
- Cherry Crest Adventure Farm tickets (admission for 4)
- Strasburg Railroad Tickets (2 passes, 2 winners)
- J2A Service Day
- Carol Stigelman - Vera Bradley Items
- Maria Sauder - Hand Knit Baby Sweater & Hat
- Dissinger Family - Wilton Armetale Bowl
- Lancaster Co. Financial Group - Financial Planning Session
- Faith D'Urbano - Study Bible
- Weis Markets \$50 gift card - dinner contributor

JUBILEE MINISTRIES

COMMUNITY BREAKFAST (Contact: Sue Martin) **SATURDAY, APRIL 16**—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.).

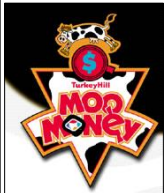
There are so many faithful volunteers, but occasionally we find ourselves short of help. We have always been able to scramble and fill in the need. It is helpful to know ahead of time who might be missing, so please let Sue Martin know about absences, if possible. Thank you.

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

The program ends on April 27. Thanks to the volunteers, Director Maria, and young adult support from Maria Sauder, Tierza Mendez, and Lexi Smith.

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

GROCERY CARDS (Contact: Cynthia Minnich)

Total sales for February gave \$412 to Jubilee. Sales were down but I know we can fix that! Spring is coming. It's almost time to get out the grill! Now, the rest of you need to get involved. 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!

Grocery cards, also, make great gifts for your college student. 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.

Darrenkamp's, Giant, John Herr's, Musser's Market, Oregon Dairy, SKH, & 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!

We have the yarn and we would like more helping hands to knit or crochet prayer shawls. Join in the fellowship on Tuesdays in the Parish Hall from 2-4 pm. Or pick out some yarn and knit on your own time.

FOOD PANTRY

St. John's food pantry continues to serve the needs of our Lancaster neighbors, and we want to give you an update, a bit more of a glimpse into this very personal ministry to our neighbors.

While demand in 2015 dropped from our all-time high in 2014, we see some new faces nearly every week, along with familiar faces of neighbors who continue to come to us for a small supplement to their food supply. And, perhaps due in part to our new listing on **foodpantries.org**, we've recently seen a bit of an upswing. (FYI: There are 5 listed food pantries between 1/2 mile and 1 mile of St. John's but nothing else in our immediate neighborhood.)

Despite the lower demand, we spent \$514 in the first two months of 2016, to fill the gap between food donations and the needs of our neighbors. So we continue to welcome monetary donations, in addition to donations of food.

We were grateful for a couple of unexpected bonuses in 2015: Mike Kilhefner gave us \$500 in Giant grocery cards that he had won in a radio contest, and Joe Way's Boy Scout troop offered us 900 lb. of collected food, because they had exceeded the capacity of the troop's host church's pantry!

Donated funds: In February, our youth completed another successful Souper Bowl of Caring fundraiser, which, including matching funds, brought in over \$1800! We also have several parishioners who earmark donations for the food pantry, either regularly or occasionally. We're able to stretch those dollars by carefully shopping at some stores that are a bit out of the way for weekly grocery shopping but that offer low prices on a variety of foods. While the selection usually varies from visit to visit, we have a pretty good idea of where we're likely to get the best prices on specific types of foods.

Bonus offerings: When our parish garden is producing, and/or Amy Dissinger's chickens produce more eggs than she can sell, we also offer fresh food to our guests. And in other months, we offered "extras" that we've received but that are outside of our normal giving categories (ex: sauerkraut, cake mixes, seasonings, and sardines). We received some unusual foods from the Boy Scouts' food drive, and we suspect that we may occasionally be the recipients of someone's pantry clean-out efforts. As long as foods are within their "sell by" date, we're happy to offer them as bonuses. And in other months, we've offered toothbrushes (one per family member) or toiletries (mostly travel-sized packages but some full-sized packages). In April, we'll offer bar soap - we've already received nearly 100 bars as the result of bulletin notices!

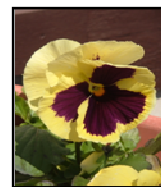
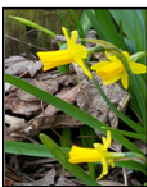
So, once again, thank you for the many ways that you contribute to this ministry that is very much appreciated by our neighbors!

Submitted by,

*Debbie Carter
and
Bill Cater*



GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE UPDATE



*“Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own;
but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on
toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus”*
----*Philippians 3:13*

Happy 1st day of Spring! Spring is finally here, at least according to today's calendar. We have been *hoping* and somewhat *straining* for it. We can finally see new buds, new flowers and new palms! The signs and sounds of new life and renewal of life can be seen and heard despite the obstinate exit of Winter. As much as we desired it and welcome it, the changing of the season is really just another step in our life's continual journey. Our lives changing as the seasons change, as we journey as a child of God, toward the goal, to be what he intended each of us to be. The journey to this point took us through the **Lenten season** and, before we forget *what is behind us and press on*, it would be beneficial to reflect and share our experiences.

Saint John's Global Partnership Committee hosted 5 Sunday evening Lent events full of information, sharing and good food! Our guest speakers shared stories of their journeys involving not only travel but, personal growth, research, learning, educating and improving health and education throughout various connections here and in Africa.

Our focus was to not only learn more about the continent of Africa but, about the people, the communities, their challenges, their needs, our connections there and the partnerships that are there and here. All this learning and sharing gave us the basis for St. John's global partnership planning. Now, we are not taking on the task of building a partnership with the entire continent of Africa. We are focusing on the community of Alendu, Kenya where the **Rafiki foundation** has the **Lighthouse Academy**. It was important to learn about the connections already there, some of which are people from St. John's. It was important to learn not only about the journeys of those who have gone to Africa but, those who have come from there and the daily journeys of those who live there now. Some wonderful things occurred during Lent through the efforts of St. John's parish. Money was raised for an educational map project in Tanzania, Apple computers were donated to the Lighthouse Academy and sent back with Dorothy Dulo, as she returned to Alendu and, much needed first aide type supplies were donated and await delivery by the next group traveling to Alendu. And, once again this year, St. John's partnered with others to collect shoes for the **Soles for Souls** organization.

Through it all, I have to say my favorite Lent event was the final night. The last evening together had a wonderful sense of community, sharing and discussing what we learned. Affirming our commitment to learn, share and build not just a partnership but, relationships here and there. We also, experienced a variety of African food choices, prepared by the **Rafiki Shoppe** <http://www.rafikishoppe.com>. I wasn't kidding about the good food! But, even more educational, inspirational and moving for me was the experience of walking the Labyrinth. I had never done it before and it always seemed mysterious. Laid out on the auditorium floor, in a darkened room lit by candle, with soft music playing ever so quietly its meant to allow you to walk and reflect, be thoughtful and meditate. The experience was extraordinary.

What appears to be a maze of paths is actually one long continuous path with one way in and one way out. As you focus on breathing in and out, you slowly walk, thoughtfully, purposefully and meditatively.

GPC UPDATE (CONTINUED)

The symbolism of our life's journey and walking the Labyrinth is immediately apparent. I wasn't walking the Labyrinth alone as we are never really alone walking through life. There are people in front of you, behind you and as the path twists around you realize there are people beside you, even if only for a short while. There are people walking toward you on the same path & pass by. The path is narrow, courtesy and sharing the small space appears necessary, lest someone falls off the path. Everyone is quiet, no one has to stop or say anything but, sometimes as people are beside each other or crossing paths, one recognizes the other needs support and they stop and quietly embrace.

The path is long, as you make your way to the center and then back out. There are short sections, long sections and many twists and turns as you go from beginning to end. You are sometimes tempted to walk faster through the long sections but, it is not about how fast you finish or who finishes first, it is about *how you walk*. It's about the thoughtful and purposeful act of living as we walk our journeys. We need to walk with courtesy to other travelers, with compassion and support for those in need we meet along the way. It is about walking one step at a time doing what needs to be done as God has chosen us to do, not looking back, not straining forward but, just pressing on.

A Labyrinth gives us the opportunity to focus on our journey and how we walk. We have the connections and we have the willingness to be partners with others in their journeys. As we make the next turn, keep watching and listening for our Global Partnership updates. If you are inspired, consider joining the journey of this ministry, as we walk the path stopping and embracing those in need along the way, giving them hope as we and they *press on*. Our next **Global Partnership Committee** meeting is **April 14, 2016 at 7pm** in the Becker house. Please look for the **Global Partnership Challenges** and consider how you may incorporate them into your daily lives. And, if you have the opportunity to walk a Labyrinth, I highly recommend it.

Submitted by,

Tammy Collier

"I Am, We Are.....One World—Creating A Global Partnership"

ANTI-RACISM BOOK STUDY

The YWCA Lancaster and St. James Episcopal Church are collaborating on a book study, and St. John's and Holy Trinity Lutheran Church have been invited to participate. The book study will be held on Wednesdays: April 6, 13, and 20 from 7-8:30 p.m. in the library at Holy Trinity (35 South Duke Street, Lancaster). The book used will be *"Between the World and Me"* by Ta-Nehisi Coates. For more information and to register, contact Brenda Buescher at brenda.buescher@gmail.com or Meredith Calien at 717-397-6134.

Peace is Powerful: A Workshop Series to Inspire Hope

BISHOP AUDREY SCANLAN, introducing to us the House of Bishops' letter,* a collective document that names the bishops' troubled-ness at the violent forces in our country, wrote:

"My hope is that this message (the Bishops' letter) would serve to inspire and empower us all to claim our own prophetic voices and to engage all those - inside and outside the Church - who would appreciate and benefit from a call to civil discourse."

Given the House of Bishops' letter, and Bishop Audrey's expressed hope, the following series is timely.

Peace is Powerful: A Workshop Series to Inspire Hope

Dr. John Reuwer is a medical doctor and adjunct professor of nonviolent conflict resolution. He has been teaching alternatives to violence in many settings for 30 years, including his work with Christian Peace Teams. He is currently volunteering in Harrisburg to address the high incidence of street violence.

Focused on reducing the high homicide rate he is partnering with locals in a peacemaking model of neighborhood watches & a public health program called Cure Violence. <http://cureviolence.org/the-model/the-model/>

To share his hope in a peace powerful enough to defeat darkness, John is facilitating a workshop series in April at Harrisburg Friends Meeting (1100 N. 6th St., Harrisburg 17102).

In three lively multimedia and interactive sessions Dr. John Reuwer will share his experience with medicine, nonviolent communication, and nonviolent action. His work and insights impart hope that we can live more peacefully with ourselves, others, even our enemies, and can help seed in our world *respect for the dignity of every human being*.

Sundays: **April 3**, **April 10**, **April 17** (6:30pm to 8pm)

Each is a 90-minute workshop that can stand alone, or serve to enrich the others.

All are welcome without regard to ability to pay. Suggested donation is \$10 per session or \$25 for the series.

E-mail registration: 3peacesessions@gmail.com

General questions? Call 717-545-4050 Pat Moore. Registration questions? Call 717-433-7308 Melissa Manning.

Please pre-register for childcare provided on site.

I. Nonviolence from A to Z

A simple model for understanding conflict and conflict management.

Useful ways to think about peace, violence, and nonviolence

A glimpse of tools for making peace



II. An introduction to nonviolent communication (NVC), a language of peace

Discover how changing the way we speak can give us much more power in valuing ourselves, our loved ones, our neighbors, our co-workers and even our opponents.

III. An introduction to nonviolent action (NVA) - meaningful peace and justice in a world of physical violence

Presentation: Nonviolence around the globe: what makes it powerful?

Real world conflicts ó what does active nonviolence look like?

Imagining security without violence in real life situations.

*See "A Word to the Church" House of Bishops, Holy Week, 2016.

<http://www.episcopalchurch.org/posts/publicaffairs/episcopal-bishops-issue-word-church>

Submitted by Faith D'Urbano

Women's Gathering & Discussion at St. John's Church

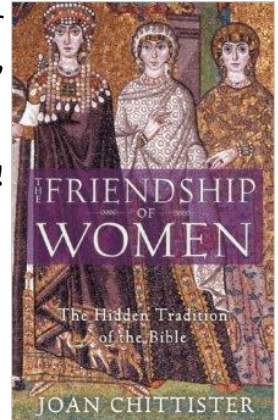
First Meeting: Tuesday March 29, 2016
6:30 pm—8:00 pm
St. John's Parish Hall

For six (6) Tuesday evenings, we will explore the Women of the Bible and their unique spiritual qualities. The book "Friendship of Women" by Joan Chittister, will guide our discussions. Evening will include social time, study and prayer.

The sessions are designed to allow you to attend one or all. Bring a Friend! Beverages will be provided; brown bag your supper if pressed for time!

Books are available from Mother Barbara or any book vendor.

Co-Conveners: Mrs. Linda Bruce (293-1441) and
The Reverend Barbara Seras (385-2667)



LANCASTER COUNTY COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

These are the present needs of the Lancaster County Council of Churches.



Thank you for your donations!



CLOTHING BANK NEEDS revised 3/8/2016

URGENT NEED:

- Summer Clothing for GIRLS size 4 - 16
- Summer Clothing for BOYS size 4 - 18
- Shoes for Men, Girls & Boys - all sizes
- Summer Plus Size Clothing for Women sizes 16 - 4X
- Summer Plus Size Clothing for Men sizes XL - 4X
- Mens Jeans and Pants sizes 28-34 and sizex 44+
- NEW Underwear:
 - Men's T-Shirts S/M/L/XL
 - Men's Boxer Shorts S/M/L
 - Women's Underwear sizes 4, 5, 6, 7, 8
 - Socks for Men/Women

We always appreciate donations of:

- * Good quality summer clothing for all members of the family
- * Jeans
- * Pajamas
- * Clothing for school uniforms
- * New Pillows
- * Athletic Type Attire (sweat pants & shirts, hoods)
- Blankets all Sizes

For our Hygiene Bank:

- * Shampoo/Conditioner, Toothpaste, Deodorant, Body Wash
- * Paper Towel, Tampons, Dish Detergen, Laundry Detergen

Lancaster County Council of Church's official address is 812 N. Queen Street, Lancaster, 17603
Clothing drop off location is around the corner from main entrance on Clay Street.
 Drive North on Queen St to stop light at intersection of Queen & Clay St.
 Turn left onto Clay Street at the traffic light...go past the Turkey Hill main entrance to the brick warehouse...there are double glass doors with blue signage indicating clothing donation door
 The street parking at these doors is an official loading zone
Donations hours: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm Monday - Friday

For additional information, contact: Raquel Rivera, Clothing Bank Coordinator
 email: resto@lccchurches.org 717-690-8048 (direct)

PRAYER LIST

For those who we offer our continued prayers:

Ron Barton
Ellen Beck
Emory Billingsley
Michael Brogan
Ken Brown
Vincent Delevega
Dorothy Dulo
Judy Durand
Helen Farruggia
Linda Frederiksen
Sarah Gordon
Gill & Mary Hartley
Susan Herr
Anne Johnson Horn
Cricket Johnson
Ellen Keller
Marge Kern
Joyce Landis
John Lechowicz
Ernie Leffler
Isaac Markovich & Family
Ruth McFarland
Kathy McNamara
William Miller
Anna Mize
Jodi Myers
Jane Naegele
Mary & Jeff Power
Robert & Joan Power
Scott Qualls
Steven Schwartz
Stephanie Smith
Aaron Spicher
Bob Stanton
Christian Stigelman
Martha Stroh
Joana Torres & Kids
Gary Weaver
Melissa Williams
Paula S. Wolf
Mary Woolson
Ginny Young
Fred
Camille
Richard Zell



...and for our Homebound Parishioners

Ellen Beck
Jim Breitegan
Miriam Cromis
Margaret Crothers
Providence Eshelman
Bette Lou Forsyth
Michael Frantz
Dyls Glew
Susan Herr
Betty Juslin-Asplin
Paul Kreider
Joan Lahr
Stefan Latshaw
Fritz Lawrence
Don Lovett
Betty McCaskey
Barbara McKee
Nancy Nemith
Darlene Pfeiffer
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.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>
Barton, Ron	15
Beck, Ellen	7
Becker, Hilary	18
Brogan, Gabe	6
Brown, Sophie	23
Cuthbert, Angela	13
Dodge, Sue	20
Faust, John	2
Frantz, Michael	15
Gokey, Madeleine	19
Gross, Bill	12
Grove, Sandra	17
Heider, Doreen	6
Henry, Janie	14
Henry, Kevin	7
Herr, Codi	21
Hogg, Robert	25
Humphrey, Ty	27
Lee, Drigan	23
Lee, Maggie	29
LeFevre, Wayne	15
Linton, Ron	22
Mann, Gwynneth	23
Miller, Glenn	14
Sauder, Maria	3
Scheetz, Aliya	5
Seras, Barbara	18
Souders, Helen	24
Stank, Michael	12
Suliveras, Gabriella	20
Tahsler, Leslie	26
Thompson, Claire	27
Van Aulen, Beth	18
Van Aulen, Jack	6
Waskowicz, Eric	16
Way, April	1
Weaver-Gelzer, Charlotte	18
Wendler, Owen	9
Williams, Rob	23



APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

<u>Couple</u>	<u>Date</u>
Gbur, Mike & Phyllis	04/30/1971
Graeter, John & Barbara	04/12/1958
Gross, Bill & Jill	04/20/1985
Heider, Mike & Doreen	04/20/1985
Kilp, Bob & Mary Ellen	04/22/1989
Ogwang, Alice & Benson	04/12/1972
Springer, Bob & Maggie	04/24/1982
Way, Joe & April	04/19/1997
Zimmerman, Phil & Louise	04/26/1980

Messenger Deadline

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THE DEADLINE TO SUBMIT
ARTICLES FOR THE

MAY
“MESSENGER” IS:

APRIL 18

PLEASE NOTE THIS DATE
ON YOUR CALENDAR!
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"Taste of Jazz!"

What? An afternoon of fabulous live jazz performances featuring The Paul Bratcher Trio, Tim Warfied (Saxophone), Diane Monroe (Violin) and more over a catered lunch in the beautiful and scenic environment of the Civil War Museum, One Lincoln Circle, Harrisburg, PA.



When? Sunday, April 24, 2016 from 1-5 p.m.

Cost? \$50 - Proceeds to benefit St. Barnabas Center and the Beacon Clinic.

Questions? Contact Julie Gittens

SERVING SCHEDULE – APRIL, 2016

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!"*

APRIL 3	8:00 AM	10:15 AM
Eucharistic Minister	Laurie Eaton	David Dissinger, Brad Moyer
Eucharistic Visitor	ô	Julie Gittens, Peter Novosel
Lector	Peter Eaton	Jane Lee, Paula Wolf
Server	ô	Emma DiPace
Torch Bearer	ô	Helena Carroll, Nicholas DiPace
Crucifer	ô	Brooks Morgan
Altar Guild	Team 1	Team 1
Steeple Bell Ringer	ô	Amelia Dissinger
Ushers	8:00 a.m.	Team A
Greeter	ô	Brad Zuke
Coffee Hour	Property	Property
Nursery	ô	Phyllis Gbur

APRIL 10	8:00 AM	10:15 AM
Eucharistic Minister	Merle Schnee	David Kilp, Katie Mausolf
Eucharistic Visitor	Phil Becker, Ricky Smith	--
Lector	Sue Purdy	Danielle DiPace, Charlotte Weaver-Gelzer
Server	--	James Woolson
Torch Bearer	--	Frances Brogan, Ella Suliveras
Crucifer	--	Dave Pennell
Altar Guild	Team 2	Team 2
Steeple Bell Ringer	--	Lynn Hayford
Ushers	8:00 a.m.	Team B
Greeter	--	Carolyn Maxey
Coffee Hour	Ushers	Ushers
Nursery	--	Beth Van Aulen

APRIL 17	8:00 AM	10:15 AM
Eucharistic Minister	Ricky Smith	Peter Novosel, Sibyl Seachrist
Eucharistic Visitor	Stephanie McGovern	Phyllis Gbur, Sue Heilman
Lector	Fred Bush	Aidan Cliff, Joel Cliff
Server	--	Amelia Dissinger
Torch Bearer	--	Helena Carroll, Claire Thompson
Crucifer	--	Aaron Hasircoglu
Altar Guild	Team 3	Team 3
Steeple Bell Ringer	--	Garth Alexander
Ushers	8:00 a.m.	Team C
Greeter	--	Leslie Morgan
Coffee Hour	Community Breakfast	Community Breakfast
Nursery	--	Janelle Stone



APRIL 24	8:00 AM	10:15 AM
Eucharistic Minister	Peter Eaton	Brad Moyer, Charlotte Weaver-Gelzer
Eucharistic Visitor	Karen Latshaw, Sue Martin	--
Lector	Laurie Eaton	David Dissinger, Brooks Morgan
Server	--	Michael Hreben
Torch Bearer	--	Miriam Lester, Natalie Visco
Crucifer	--	Glenn Miller
Altar Guild	Team 1	Team 1
Steeple Bell Ringer	--	Aaron Hasircoglu
Ushers	8:00 a.m.	Team D
Greeter	--	Bruce Waskowicz
Coffee Hour	Rite 13	Rite 13
Nursery	--	Leslie Morgan

LOOKING AHEAD TO: MAY, 2016

MAY 1	8:00 AM	10:15 AM
Eucharistic Minister	Ricky Smith	Sibyl Seachrist, Michael Stank
Eucharistic Visitor	--	Julie Gittens, Peter Novosel
Lector	Bob Lee	Fran Gouveia, Bob Kilp
Server	--	Aidan Cliff
Torch Bearer	--	Greyson Way, Nicholas DiPace
Crucifer	--	Brooks Morgan
Altar Guild	Team 2	Team 2
Steeple Bell Ringer	--	Toni Ehrhart
Ushers	8:00 a.m.	Team A
Greeter	--	Sue Martin
Coffee Hour	Lectors	Lectors
Nursery	--	Jennifer Gustafson

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.

Deadline Dates!

WEEKLY BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS:

WEDNESDAYS

"MESSENGER" ARTICLES:

3rd MONDAY OF EACH MONTH