



St. John's Messenger

December, 2016

from Fr. John W. Morris, Rector

A DIFFERENT KIND OF CHRISTMAS

Christmas 2016 will be different from most other Christmases. This year Christmas Day, December 25th, falls on a Sunday. This raises the question, "Do we celebrate following our usual Sunday practice of services at 8:00 AM and 10:15 AM, or do we follow our usual Christmas Day practice of one service at 11:00 AM?"

After lengthy discussion by Liturgy Team and the Worship Committee, and in consultation with Vestry, the decision was reached that this year we should celebrate Christmas Day with an **11:00 AM service of Holy Eucharist, Rite II**.

Because it will be Christmas Day and Sunday, the service will be a little different. It will be a little more quiet, a little more reflective. We will not have a choir but we will have music. We will not use the organ but we will sing Christmas carols. We will have a sermon but we will also have time for silence.

We envision a Christmas Day Sunday service that will be a unique worship offering in its own right. For those who attend a Christmas Eve liturgy with all its pomp and excitement, Christmas Day Sunday will be an experience of simplicity and calm. For those who chose not to attend a service on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day Sunday will still be their chance to celebrate Christ's birth with the traditional readings of scripture and singing of nativity hymns. For those seeking to practice their spiritual discipline of regular worship on Sunday, Christmas Day at St. John's will be special sabbath observation of the Lord's Day.

Another Christmas difference will be the nativity creche. St. John's has many parish traditions associated with the creche. Some will stay the same this season. Others may see some changes. We will continue having a crèche in the sanctuary and in its customary location by the lectern. We will also have the Sunday-to-Sunday procession of the figures of Mary and Joseph from window sill to window sill through the season of Advent.

What will change may be the arrangement of the creche to make it more simple and requiring less space. This is to accommodate other liturgical offerings like the expanded handbell tables to make room for more and larger handbells. This may also affect the tradition at the early service on Christmas Eve of processing the figure of the Christ child to the nativity scene. Another possible change might be the weekly progression of the silver Moravian Star up the side aisle of the nave.

Traditions like these take root in a church because they help us to connect our lives with the living narrative of the Gospel. They assist us in making the story of Jesus our own. That means to keep these customs alive we need to claim them as a parish. They cannot be just one person's practice. They need to be more than just something we have always done. To be true traditions they need to be something we all share and have a share in.

That is why traditions change. Because we change. As we change, we find new ways to discover our connection with Christ. The past does not so much disappear as it evolves. What is perceived as new is more accurately understood as the outgrowth of what has gone before. As Jesus once observed, "You cannot put new wine in old wine skins or the wine skins burst. New wine needs new wine skins."

This Christmas season at St. John's will be different from years past. Together we will look for and find new ways to keep our faith fresh. While this may be a different Christmas, it is always the same Christ we celebrate - Jesus, the Son of God, born for us and for all.

John+

THE REV. DR. BARBARA J. SERAS

Being a People of Prayer – Be Still and Know that I am God

Intercessory prayer can penetrate the hearts of those we cannot open and shield those we cannot guard and teach where we cannot speak and comfort where our hearts have no power to soothe. Prayer with its unseen hand, can enter where we may not.

I found this Truth many years ago taped to the wall of the convent guesthouse kitchen next to the calendar where the daily meal count was recorded. Having no copier, I scratched these words on a scrap of paper. The message has shaped and challenged my life since.

Intercessory prayer and petition is responding to God by thought or deed, with or without words, bringing before God the needs of others as well as our own needs that God's will may be done.
(adapted from Book of Common Prayer Catechism)

ö...responding to God...that God's will may be done...ö It is a mighty endeavor to offer our own needs and concerns, seeking God's response, guidance and care. And these days, it seems an indispensable thing to do. For the gift of prayer might well be the greatest gift we can give to one another.

I have always said my life has been good and stable...no matter what...because of the prayers of my own mother. My spiritual mother, Catherine Grace, used to tell me she went to chapel for a time of silent prayer once a day and when a day became out-of-control or too demanding or chaotic, she would go pray a second time...or third. Things she said seemed always to iron out a little better.

Often we hear in scripture that öJesus went to a place apart to pray.ö And universally in all the major faiths the routine of prayer is honored: Praying the Hours, reciting Mantra, gathering in Minyan, The Jesus Prayer, The Rosary, Japa Mala, a Prayer Rope

If you have found your prayer practice, continue. If you are beginning, may you find the prayer of your heart. If you are uncertain, ask for ideas.

And it need not be fancy: Each day sit quietly in a favorite chair for 10 minutes; or read a passage of scripture or a daily meditation at your kitchen counter or table; listen like öPray-as-you-goö (Jesuits) or World Community for Christian Meditation (WCCM) on your way to work.

Perhaps this offerings seems naïve or unmanageable in the öreal world.ö We have so many commitments and responsibilities that keep us running. There is no time! Yet I have come to know and trust that it is just the opposite. On my good days, when I am faithful to my prayer, the days rolls out better. And I am more grateful and steady because of it. Ask anyone who knows me well.

And it will transform us...transform the world. And as I recently read: öTransformation is not the same as mere change. Change comes and goes, like headaches. As the labels on the pills say, if the symptoms don't go away, see a doctor... But to change the pattern permanently and resolve the issues for an enduring good, we need commitment to a transformative practice. We need to engage and collaborate with the process of transformation which, whether we know it or not, is at the core of life. We are born to be transformed. ~*Meditatio, Laurence Freeman, OSB*

Barbara+

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP CHALLENGES

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

DECEMBER, 2016

"...she...put in
everything -
all she had..."
Mark 12:44



It's December and so a focus on "gift giving." What if we thought and acted on our larger family and what we "really" need. Friendship, peace, caring - imagine if someone had not "loaned" their stable to Mary and Joseph. Imagine that someone brought them food, blankets, etc., allowing them to be as comfortable as possible in a stable. Remember the joy you feel when you share, when you gift someone else and so consider and act on what you can do for any of our brothers and sisters this Christmas season and beyond.

December 4th

"Maybe Christmas, the Grinch thought, doesn't come from a store." *Dr. Seuss*
Please remember our Food Pantry Ministry and bring something to gift our larger family.
Don't forget to check your closets for shoes wanting to move on.
Know that for many "passing the Peace" is more important than you could imagine.

December 11th

"Holding on to anger is like drinking poison and expecting the other person to die." *Buddha*
As we step closer into this season of gifting and caring,
let go of any negativity up into the air to float away and disappear.
Then, act on sharing and gifting your caring with ALL.

December 18th

"When someone steals another's clothes, we call them a thief.
Should we not give the same name to one who could clothe the naked and does not?
The bread in your cupboard belongs to the hungry; the coat unused in your closet
belongs to the one who needs it; the shoes rotting in your closet belong to the one who has no shoes;
the money which you hoard up belongs to the poor." *Basil the Great*
Imagine and act on who else could feel the love from your caring.

December 25th

As we gather around our tables today, rememberí
And the angel said unto them: "Fear not: 'Behold I bring you good tidings of great joy
which will be to ALL people. Unto you is born this day a Savior which is Christ the Lord.'" *Luke 2:11*
Scripture says to "ALL" people...I Am, We Are...One World - Here, There, Everywhere

Blessings to ALL Everywhere!

BISHOP SCANLAN'S REQUEST



Our Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Dr. Audrey Scanlan, has requested our prayers and assistance for the Rev. Janis Yskamp and her family whose house was destroyed by fire. Gratefully, no family member was injured, however, they lost everything, including their pets.

Bishop Scanlan suggested (and our Vestry approved) that Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Walmart, and Lowe's gift cards be collected to meet immediate and long term needs. Please do not send checks. The cards will be collected by her home church, St. Paul's, Wellsboro and should be sent to the church at P.O. Box 701, Wellsboro, PA 16901-0701, Attn: Yskamp Gift

Thank you for your response to Bishop Scanlan's request.

UNITED THANK OFFERING

Dear Member of St. John's Family,

Sunday, December 4th, will be our Fall United Thank Offering ingathering. From my Sunday School days, I remember, "Advent tells us Christ is near." This is a time of preparation. Giving thanks for all our blessings can surely be a part of this preparation to welcome the Christ Child.

The United Thank Offering uses our outward gifts of thanks to help people in communities far and near. Every cent donated is passed on to help others in need.

As we continue to give prayers of thanksgiving and contribute to this important ministry, may we all be blessed with the hope of "Christ is near."

With my thankfulness for each of you, most sincerely,

*Phyllis Gbur
UTO Coordinator*

PARISH INFORMATION

Baptized - November 6, 2016

Theodore Tahsler Bowser

Parents: Michael James & Susan Tahsler Bowser

Avelene Ruth Lawrence Stigelman

Parents: Christian Stephen Lawrence Stigelman &
Rachael Jo Lightner Stigelman

Cierra Justice Marie Stigelman

Parents: Christian Stephen Lawrence Stigelman &
Rachael Jo Lightner Stigelman

Deaths

Paul H. Kreider

September 8, 1944 - November 10, 2016

Helen Souders

April 24, 1923 - November 27, 2016

VESTRY RESOLUTION

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

1. Resolved that on this St. John's Sunday, December 18, 2016 the vestry of St. John's Episcopal Church, Lancaster, PA, on behalf of the members of this congregation, offers their most heartfelt thanksgiving to God and deep appreciation to these saints among us:

Sue Heilman for her six years serving on the St. John's vestry, her commitment to pastoral care as a Lay Eucharistic Visitor, her guidance in Jubilee ministries and as a member of the Martin Luther King Day events, her selfless service with community members living on the margins and with refugee families joining our community, her guidance with the Millennium Development Goals, and most recently her work with our Global Partner, Rafiki Africa;

Charlotte Weaver-Gelzer for her service on the vestry and as Junior Warden and Senior Warden, her leadership in liturgy as a Lector and a Lay Eucharistic Minister, her work as a member of the Personnel Committee, her commitment to the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania as a representative on Diocesan Standing Committee, a consultant for parishes in discernment and most especially for her leadership in the calling of the Rt. Rev. Audrey Cady Scanlan as our bishop.

SENIOR WARDEN

Stewardship is the care and management of something. At St. John's each vestry person is referred to as the vestry steward for community, property, finance, and all the other areas. We also just experienced the stewardship campaign in which all the parishioners prayerfully considered what they could give financially to support the mission of the church.

On Sunday, November 19th, a new group of concerned church members met between the services to brainstorm ways to take care of our facility given our current budget deficit. As was highlighted in the Parish Meeting, the vestry stewards and their committees have done an excellent job of managing expenses. The parish has faithfully pledged what they can. Now we are working on addressing the shortfall in thoughtful and creative ways.

At this first meeting, the Brainstorming group started talking about how to better invite newcomers to join us. This is something that we can all do a better. First, let's wear our name-tags. There is nothing harder than trying to make connections in a place where you know no one's name. When we have a dedicated space in our Atrium, this will be even easier, but we need to get back in the habit of wearing our nametags from the minute we walk in the door, to the minute that we leave.

We also need to all take part in greeting newcomers. This can be as simple as, "Have we met before?" or "Hi. I don't believe we've met before. My name is Leslie." It is talking to someone you don't know in line to exit the church or during coffee hour. It is greeting people when they walk into the Parish Hall looking confused. We have a warm congregation, but it is all too easy to fall into conversations with are current friends, forgetting to be stewards of welcoming and greeting our guests.

This Brainstorming group will be meeting again on Sunday, December 11th at 9:00am in the Becker House. We would love to have more folks join us in considering ways to better use our facilities to generate income to help us reach our budget goals. Please consider joining us to learn more and share your ideas. Together we can accomplish our dreams.

Submitted by,

Leslie Morgan, Senior Warden

VOYAGERS



The Voyagers will not be meeting in December but would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a blessed Christmas season and good health and happiness in the New Year. Look for the announcements of future meetings in the January "Messenger" and in the weekly Sunday bulletins.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIALS

Remember Your Loved Ones



DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING NAMES FOR CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS IS **DECEMBER 11.**

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 #: _____

CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT ST. JOHN'S

December 24—Christmas Eve

3:30 p.m.ô Holy Eucharist, Rite I
with St. John's Handbell 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
and 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*)



PROPERTY CORNER



MULBERRY STREET IS NOW: *Two-Way*!!!!!!!!!!

We ask everyone to please exercise caution when turning left from Chestnut Street onto Mulberry Street. And, be sure to look left before leaving our Mulberry Street parking lot. We have been blessed not to have any accidents with this new traffic pattern. We figure the signage, cones, and announcements about two-way traffic must be working along with everyone's diligence.

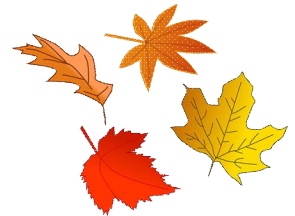
Did we say signage? If the committee felt that the signage, cones and caution tape were providing enough in the way of demarcation and warning of the uneven walking surfaces in the courtyard, eliminating the need to patch these surfaces at a cost of \$1,400.

A special thanks goes to Vestry Steward, Bruce Waskowicz for his donation of a sandwich sign board that he crafted to replace the original one which was stolen last Christmas.

Access to the leaking Lady's Room floor drain was obtained and it confirmed a corroded drain trap. The entire floor drain system was installed at the same time. So, the current leak may just be an indication of the two other traps becoming compromised, as well. Fortunately, the drainpipe itself appears to be in good condition. Bill hopes to have the leaking trap replaced with a non-corroding PVC one soon. Please excuse the appearance of the lower level restroom while we pursue this repair. We hope to have it back to normal as soon as possible.

We discussed estimates from Carol Fontaine for the cleaning of our spaces. Notice was given to end our current contract with Jan-Pro and hire Carol Fontaine for \$225/week. Our new cleaner will start at the beginning of the new year. That budget line was modified to reflect this change.

Just a reminder about **FALL CLEAN-UP STARTING AT NOON ON SUNDAY DECEMBER 18th.** We may also be helping with the greening of the Church that day. And, although it should go without saying, everyone's help is always appreciated, as more hands make for lighter work. We hope that you can join us!



Speaking of joining us, St. John's Property Committee is one of the few ministries that aids St. John's many other ministries. Our committee is a collaboration of many different perspectives, offering solutions to the repair and maintenance of our mid-1800's church campus. We would love to have you share your perspective with us. We meet in the Becker House at 7 p.m. on the first Monday of every month. We hope you can join us.

We wish everyone a Blessed Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year!

Your Property Committee,

*Andy Carroll, Jeff Gromis, Bill Gross, Jane Lee,
Dave Martin, Cynthia Minnich, and Marylee Sauder*

SERMONS ONLINE!

St. John's Sermons Are Now Available Online!

If you subscribe to our blog, you probably already know this, but anyone with Internet access can now listen to selected sermons from St. John's leaders. Here's how:

Go to St. John's website: stjohns-lancaster.org

Click on **NEWS/BLOG** in the upper-right corner.

Scroll down to "Categories" on the left side; click on **Sermons** below that heading.

Sermons page: All sermons will be listed, each with its title.

Click on a sermon title, which will take you to a page for that sermon.

Click on the underlined link, which will take you to the audio page.

Click on the triangle to **PLAY** the audio recording.

When you have finished, close the audio window.

Click the back arrow on the individual sermon page to get back to the main **Sermons** page.

Many thanks to Joe Way for his guidance in setting up this process!



The Communications Committee is looking for volunteers to help record sermons during either the 8:00 or 10:15 a.m. services. Training provided, and it's fairly simple. Please contact Leslie Tahsler for more details. Thank you.

JOIN 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!



ST. JOHN'S FOOD PANTRY

Would you like to help with our "Food Pantry" by meeting and giving prepared boxes of food to members of our community on Tuesdays or Thursdays from 2:15-3:30 p.m.? If so, please contact Lynn Hayford. A brief training will be provided for this rewarding St. John's ministry!

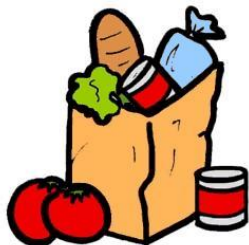
WEEKLY SUNDAY ALTAR FLOWERS

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, 2016** and **February, 2017**. The blank areas remain available. Thank you for supporting our flower ministry at St. John's!

DATE	(1)	(2)	CHAPEL
<i>Advent: Altar Greens</i>			
DEC 4	Patti Means		
DEC 11			
DEC 18			
JAN 1			
JAN 15			
JAN 29			
FEB 5			
FEB 12			
FEB 19	Charles Alexander		
FEB 26			

FOOD PANTRY



FOOD PANTRY STAPLES—ALWAYS WELCOMED!

Peanut butter, pasta noodles, pasta sauce, canned tuna, canned chicken, boxed macaroni & cheese, "Helpers" (chicken or tuna), rice, boxed rice mixes, canned soup, canned vegetables, canned fruit, and cereal.

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

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

ALL LANCASTER EPISCOPAL RESPONSE TEAM

The circle of friends, which is the group helping with the Sudanese family is in the need of a volunteer who will assume the role of handling Mariam's finances and teaching her how to navigate through a checking account, writing checks and forming a budget with her expected income. The need is great to pick up this ministry. If anyone from St. John's would feel called to pick up this ministry, contact either Don Durand or Dave Martin.

The ALERT group will provide refreshments for a party where the Angel Tree gifts will be distributed to the six refugee families which are being sponsored by Church World Service. A meeting was scheduled for November 16 including two members of ALERT with the Islamic Community Center of Lancaster to determine how the ALERT and Islamic Center can coordinate assistance to the Sudanese family.

The Work Mass was very successful. We had 24 volunteers who helped with the cleanup, and we got done in no time at all. We pruned, mulched, raked, weeded and planted red tulip bulbs. Twenty-five yard waste bags full of debris were collected and set out for the city to pick up. Pete Greenfield discussed replacing two of the missing memorial stones at a cost of \$30 each. Since there is an endowment for the maintenance of the AIDS garden, it was decided to pursue other avenues of funding for this. Pete Greenfield moved and David Martin seconded a motion that we clean up the AIDS garden every year during our fall Work Mass, which will be held on the Saturday closest to November 1/All Saint's Day. The motion passed unanimously.

It was noted a Refugee Discussion Group is being held on 11/30, 12/7, and 12/14 from 6:30 -8:00 p.m. at Holy Trinity Church in Lancaster. Use the following link to register:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f4ba5af2caafc1-adiscussion>

Reminder! The Winter Shelter is being covered by people from all the churches in Lancaster County. The dates: 12/7-12/14 and 2/22-3/1 at the Lancaster YWCA. You can sign up to staff the shelter at the following link.

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f4ba5af2caafc1-winter1> Help is needed, especially during the second session.



A Helping Hand!

There have been numerous inquiries about how one might volunteer to help with the refugee Sudanese family in the way of tutoring. My recommendations follow. One of the most effective ways is to work at creating teaching moments, by making personal contact with the family to establish an informal relationship and build trust.

There are 6 children - Khadidja - 18 years, Nouracham - 15, Ibrahim - 13, Djalale - 10, Rania - 5 and Hawaa - 1 year old. All are struggling with English. The five older children are eager to have new and interesting experiences. Each one of the children has needs which can be ascertained by getting to know them. Inviting any one of them to visit a museum, or a sporting event, take a hike or go for a bus ride, are activities which create times for education beyond their school work. A drop-in at their home on evenings may find any one of the children willing to share with you their school work. One can easily build on that. The children have ample materials their teachers have provided for them to work on at home. A volunteer does not need to have more than a picture book or a very easy read book to have with them as a back up. When I visit I try to have a food item with me. They love fruits, especially apples and as always veggies. Any arranged formal tutoring, after the kids have been at school all day would be difficult to implement, in my opinion.

The family lives on Green Street in Lancaster. If you would like to visit or contact Mariam, the mother, see me for the house number and her phone number; for security reasons, they're not included here. The family needs assistance in navigating stores and pricing of items, especially Mariam and Khadidja, who do most of the shopping. If anyone has any interest in helping the family through the adjustment to life in this country and you have more questions on how to implement these suggestions, I would be happy to have a conversation with you. *Dave Martin*

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Sunday School News

Karen Di Pace, Sunday School Director

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving! Thank you to everyone who helped out with our Advent Event; it was a great turn out!

If you ordered a wreath from the J2A, please remember pick-up is December 4.

Sunday, December 18, 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 20 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 Christmas Day or January 1, so enjoy the holidays! Classes will resume at 9:00 a.m. on January 8, 2017.

Don't forget to save the date for MLK Day events on January 16 from 9:00 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" & "Happy New Year"

Karen

Journey to Adulthood

Mary Ellen Kilp & Leslie Morgan, Co-Youth Directors

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 because our very own Emma DiPace made the winning touchdown for St. James. St. James was the lucky one this year with the big win! We had a great turnout with over 50 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 YAC group for the wonderful presentation they did for their pilgrimage to Peru at St. John's and St. Paul's in Columbia.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (CONTINUED)

ATTENTION: ALL JR. & SR. HIGH YOUTH

This year we are excited to have both our middle and high school together for PYE (Province Youth Event)! Join us on January 6-8, 2017 with other students from around Province III for a weekend of faith and fellowship. Our theme is *Uncaged*: It is about Forgiveness, Freedom, and Peace! The Rev. Randy Callander is our guest speaker for the weekend. PokeøHunt will be the worship band. There will be team building and Zip Lining available! We will be building community at Camp Claggett through large and small group activities, and explore what it means to be a Christian through worship, prayer, and reflections. You can sign up at www.youth.diocesepca.org. The cost is \$150.00 and scholarships are available. Deadline to sign up is December 14, 2016. Please see Mary Ellen for more details.

ADVENT NIGHT WATCH

Please join us for a night of fun and creativity at the Night Watch, December 16-17, 2016. Join other young people from around the Convocation for a night of fun and creativity. This program provides youth with an opportunity to meet other Episcopal young people and explore their spiritual side during Advent. The program includes a Curated Liturgy, Games, Snacks, Breakfast and more... Doors open at 7:00 p.m. and dismissal is at 9:00 a.m. the following day.

WHAT IS A CURATED EUCHARIST?

A Curated Eucharist combines the beauty of the Eucharistic Liturgy from the Book of Common Prayer, and the creativity and encounter of an interactive art exhibit. The Eucharist follows Rite II, until it comes to the Liturgy of the Word. Here the individual members are invited in to explore the unique stations set up throughout the liturgical space. These stations incorporate Scripture, reflection questions and an interactive component (action, art, movement, etc.). After a period of time, the young people are invited to come back together and share their thoughts and reflections as the sermon for the community.

The goal is to allow young people to experience God deeply within the context of a recognizable and familiar worship service.

ATTENTION: YOUNG ADULTS

Attention: Past Journey to Adulthood leaders and young adults! We are going to have a reunion on December 18. Anyone who has graduated from high school is welcomed to join us following the 10:15 service for a pizza party in the back of the Parish Hall. Please RSVP to Mary Ellen at mekilp@yahoo.com if you are planning on coming.

Thank you to everyone who supports the J2A during the fall with purchasing sandwiches and buying the greens. We are so blessed by all of you at St. Johnø for your continued support for our wonderful youth.

ST. JOHN'S YOUTH CALENDAR

2016/2017

December 2-4 Diocesan Retreat Rite 13 & J2A
 December 4 Pick up wreaths
 December 11 J2A Coffee Hour
 December 16 Advent Night Watch
 December 18 J2A Reunion (Have pizzas ready for after the service)
 December 24 Pageant (Have stations with costumes)

January 6 - 8 PYE Jr. & Sr. High Claggett Center, MD
 January 13 & 14 Game Night and Lock-In
 January 20 – 22 Happening Planning Meeting
 January 29 Coffee Hour YAC

February 5 Souper Bowl of Caring
 February 11 Snow Tubing (Joe)
 February 17 - 20 Happening
 February 28 Shrove Tuesday

March 1 Ash Wednesday
 March 3 - 4 Scrapbook Weekend
 (Start Easter Eggs)
 March 17 – 19 Diocesan Jr. High Retreat

April 1 Dinner / Talent Show
 April 9 Palm Sunday
 April 13 Maundy Thursday
 April 14 Good Friday
 April 16 Easter
 April 23 Earth Day
 April 30 Youth Sunday/ Graduation Sunday

May 7 Mini Golf (Scoops)

June 4 Pentecost
 Church Picnic
 June 11 Teacher Appreciation

July 7 Berry Festival
 July 10 – 14 EYE Oklahoma

August 5 Knoebels Reunion



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

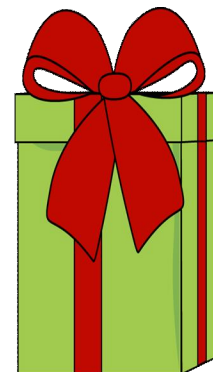
Honoring Our Past... Welcoming Our Future: Capital Campaign Update

Here's a quick update (as of November 18) on the financial support for our building renovations:

	Amount Received
Received toward total pledges of \$777,553	\$ 349,695
One-time gifts (unpledged)	\$ 1,645
Earnings on your contributions	\$ 10,451
Bequests from Eckenrode & Craige families	\$ 150,000
Total received (as of November 18, 2016)	\$ 511,841

Thanks to everyone for your generous support of our goal of making the doors a little wider and the invitation a little warmer!

If you have a question about your pledge, please contact Gina Keiser, our Financial Secretary at: gina@stjohns-lancaster.org or 717-299-1188 on Tuesdays and Fridays.



DECEMBER COMMUNITY SHOPPING & DINING

On the first 3 Thursday evenings in December, we all have the opportunity to not only support fair trade crafts people all over the world, but 3 great local nonprofits. Between 5:00 and 9:00 p.m. on December 1st, 8th and 15th, the Ten Thousand Villages store in Ephrata will donate 15% of ALL purchases to Lancaster Interchurch Peace Witness, RMO (the Re-entry Management Organization of Lancaster, which helps folks leaving Lancaster County Prison become productive Returning Citizens again) and Rafiki Africa. Also, on each night, you are invited for a meal in the café, which will also support each group.

Sue Heilman is selling tickets for the dinner, so do contact her if interested at least a week beforehand. The cost is \$15/adults; \$14/seniors (65 & up); \$8 kids aged 5-10. The menu is Chicken Zanzibar with rice, Roasted Veggies, Salad, Baklava or Cinnamon Apple, Coffee or Tea. Supporters for the RMO dinner and shopping night on December 8th and the Rafiki Africa night on December 15th are especially needed. If you can't come but would like to sponsor folks who can't afford the dinner, that would be wonderful. Call Sue at 717-951-0731 or heilmangirl@gmail.com and thank you!

JUBILEE MINISTRIES

COMMUNITY BREAKFAST (Contact: Sue Martin) **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17**—A breakfast of pancakes, sausage, eggs, juice, cereal, and pastries will be served to the downtown community at First Reformed United Church of Christ, 40 East Orange Street, Lancaster (7:30 a.m. until 11:00 a.m.).

Community Breakfast is in need of fresh volunteers, especially those that wish to be on a substitute list. Not only have we lost the lives of several faithfuls recently, we seem to have busy elders as well as youth. After 16 years, this is bound to happen! It's a wonderful Jubilee Ministry that makes everyone feel good, servers as well as guests. Please consider joining us.

EAGLE'S NEST (Contact: Sue Martin)

Eagle's Nest After School Program continues to engage selected 4th and 5th graders from our neighboring Fulton Elementary School on Wednesday afternoons. Volunteers are always welcomed to help out either on a regular or substitute basis. PA State Child Abuse Clearances are required. Thank you for the amazing support of the Election Day Bake Sale. An all-time high of \$500 was raised to support the program!

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 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: Sue Tobie)

Total grocery card sales for **OCTOBER: \$8,600** Total earned by Jubilee Ministries: **\$430.00**

Did you know that 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? Whenever you use one of our cards, 5% of its value goes to our Jubilee missions. It is truly a **"WIN WIN"** situation! Grocery cards also make great gifts!

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.

Stop by the Parish Hall on any Sunday to purchase cards for any of the following stores and they also make **great Christmas Gifts!** They are:



Darrenkamp's, Giant, John Herr's, Oregon Dairy, SKH, & Weis

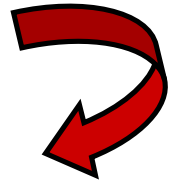
JUBILEE MINISTRIES (CONTINUED)

MARTHA'S MINISTRY (Contact: Jeannie Zeller)

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

If you know of someone who would enjoy receiving a prayer shawl to comfort them through difficult times, please contact Jeannie Zeller or any member of Martha's Ministry.

Be sure to support Martha's Ministry through their annual knit sale! .see details below.



ST. NICK'S KNIT SALE!

The annual "St. Nick's Knit Sale" is scheduled this year for the following dates, so be sure to visit the members of our Martha's Ministry in the Parish Hall between services or after the 10:15 a.m. service and purchase some beautifully handmade items for your loved one(s).

NOVEMBER 27 & DECEMBER 4



As always, sale profits go directly to our Jubilee ministries, with an emphasis on Eagle's Nest. A special word of thanks to those of you who are creating prayer shawls: "Keep up the good work!" There is an ongoing need for the shawls.

As always, our thanks to each and every one of you for your continuing support of our ministry!





J2A WREATH SALE

PICK-UP DATE:
DECEMBER 4th



Angel Tree Ministry

Our annual opportunity to provide Christmas gifts for community children is making great progress. The due date for delivering your gifts to the Parish Hall is **December 4th**. Gift recipients will be children from our after-school "Eagle's Nest" program, our Food Pantry Ministry, and this year, a new agency: Church World Service (CWS).

In keeping with the Global Partnerships developed with Africa, we are asking you to gift all members of seven (7) recent refugee families from different African nations. They have no welcoming teams and are being shepherded by CWS. These families are indicated on the tags with similar colored stars. Questions can be answered by Anne Carroll, Leslie Tahsler, or Sue Martin. *Be sure to sign your name next to the number tag you take so a record can be kept.* Thank you!

Messenger Deadline



THE DEADLINE FOR THE JANUARY, 2017
"MESSENGER" IS:

DECEMBER 19



STEWARDSHIP: MAKING A DIFFERENCE

We've heard from Fr. John and some of our parishioners about how St. John's has made a difference in the lives of our neighbors, both near and far, and how we at St. John's have made a difference in each other's lives.

So how do we make sure we can continue to **Make a Difference**?

As of November 22, we have received 115 pledges, for a total of \$296,016, and half of these are increased pledges (compared to 2016) or new pledges! However, we're only about 88% of the way to our goal of \$335,000, and we still haven't heard from 12 people who pledged for 2016.

Ongoing updates are made to our website's new **Stewardship** page (look under **Ministries / Acting in Service** or at <http://stjohns-lancaster.org/acting/stewardship-making-difference/>).

It's not too late to submit your pledge! You can get a pledge card from an usher, by calling the church office (717-299-1188) or on the Stewardship web page. Or contact Gina Keiser, our Financial Secretary (in the church office or at gina@stjohns-lancaster.org).

If you haven't pledged in the past, any amount is a start. ***Please join us in helping to make a difference!***

Questions? Contact Bruce Waskowicz or Debbie Carter



"Hanging of Greens"

Sunday, December 18

Please join us after the late service on Sunday, December 18 to help hang the greens and wreaths in the church and place the outside roping.

If you have greens to spare, we can surely use them for the Christmas church decoration. Please let us know what you can contribute.

ALL ARE WELCOME to help the FLOWER GUILD decorate the church with poinsettias and greens on FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23 AT 9:00 A.M.

Contacts: Hilary Becker or Tom Bond

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE UPDATE

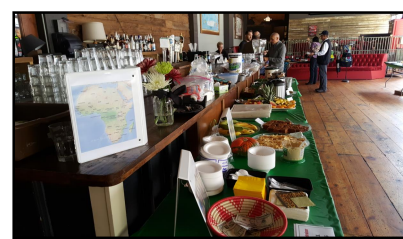
“.....To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.”---Revelation 21:6

Thanks to all who attended and supported the fundraising event for **the Rafiki Well project**, held at Tellus360 on October 23rd ! St. John's Parish was able to successfully raise an additional **\$570+** to help Rafiki reach their goal to **Un-Cap the Well!**

We had a smaller turnout than what was hoped for, but all enjoyed the generous contributions of African food dishes. Video presentations were made available to us from Water Missions, the organization that is constructing the Well in Alendu. This provided additional information about the water crisis around the world and the testimonials of those who are benefiting from having clean water.



BeadsforLife provided their products for sale and a percentage of sales went toward the **Well** project. Our guest speaker, Dr. Amanda Kemp, a lifelong poet-performer and advocate of racial justice and equality, shared two readings with our gathering. Thanks again, to all who shared their time, their talents and their support. And, to Tellus360 for their wonderful space for our **Well** event!



There will be additional events and opportunities to show our support for our global partner: **RafikiAfrica.org**. The upcoming Gifts that Give Hope Fair on Saturday, December 10th at the Farm & Home Center from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., is one such opportunity.

Keep watching and listening as we continue to work together daily to help where needed, to advocate and serve as we build our global partnership with Rafiki Africa (**rafikiafrica.org**). Follow us for what will be next, keep reading the GPC challenges, considering how you may incorporate them into your daily lives. And if you are inspired to join us, our regularly scheduled GPC meetings are on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m., in the Becker House.

“I am, we are, one world, here, there, everywhere”—Submitted by, Tammy Collier



GIFTS THAT GIVE HOPE
LANCASTER PA

List of participating nonprofits:

2 Seconds or Less
Aaron's Acres
ASSETS of Lancaster
Brighter Day Foundation
Brittany's Hope
CASA of Lancaster County
Center for Community Peacemaking
CHAP International
Church World Service
Clare House
Dining for Women (Darfur Refugees Fund)
Feed My Starving Children Mobile Pack- Lancaster 2017
Ghana Initiative
Heifer International
HOPE International
Lancaster County Reach Out and Read
LIFECYCLES
North Star Initiative
Nurse Family Partnership
Operation Homefront, Inc.
Orphan Rescue and Relief
Power Packs Project
Rafiki Africa
Samaritan Counseling Center
Sudan Rebirth Ministry
SWAN: Scaling Walls a Note at a Time
The Drew Comrey Memorial Foundation
The Forgotten Initiative
TNT Youth Ministry
World Bicycle Relief

Honor everyone on your holiday list
with gifts that change lives.

Do you wish for a simpler, more meaningful way to give gifts to friends and loved ones? Buying gift donations from our 30 nonprofits provide life-changing benefits for people in our community and the world. Imagine providing a life-sustaining gift in the form of food, shelter, education, medicine, social justice (and more!) for those in need. You will feel good giving. Your friends and family will feel good receiving. Those you help will feel hope and restoration. Gifts That Give Hope change lives and brings lasting impact!

LOCATION:

LANCASTER FARM AND HOME CENTER
1383 ARCADIA ROAD
LANCASTER, PA 17601

CONTACT:

LANCASTER@GIFTSTHATGIVEHOPE.ORG

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10
10 AM-4 PM



FESTIVE FOOD



MARKETPLACE



30+ NONPROFITS

PRAYER LIST

For those who we offer our continued prayers:

Bob Bailey
Emory Billingsley
Robert Bray
Michael Brogan
Steve Burg
Patricia & Ralph Clare
Graham Cliff
Faith D'Urbano
Paula DeBrill
Vincent Delevega
Shaphan Dulo
Judy Durand
Anna Ester
Linda Frederiksen
Alina Grobicki
Gill & Mary Hartley
Lynn Hayford
Anne Johnson Horn
Howard Kane
Ellen Keller
Marge Kern
Joyce Landis
Marty Laubenthal
John Lechowicz
Wayne LeFevre
Ernie Leffler
Kelly Lynch
Kathy McNamara
William Miller
Cynthia Minnich
Anna Mize
Jodi Myers
Jane Naegele
Kevin & Mary Nourie
David Overbagh
Plummer Family
Robert & Joan Power
Riddle Family
Madison Riggs
Ricky Ross
Gloria Schnee
Merle Schnee
Steven Schwartz

Stephanie Smith
Christian Stigelman
Martha Stroh
Teresa Sullivan
Joana Torres & Kids
Gary Weaver
Melissa Williams
Mary Woolson
Ella & Family

*...and for our
Homebound
Parishioners*

Ellen Beck
Providence Eshelman
Richard Farmer
Bette Lou Forsyth
Michael Frantz
Dyls Glew
Cricket Johnson
Joan Lahr
Stefan Latshaw
Fritz Lawrence
Don Lovett
Betty McCaskey
Barbara McKee
Nancy Nemith
Peter Plaxa
Nancy Puffer
Virginia Rainey
Gray Sellers
Marjorie Seachrist
Joanna Sweeney
Sandra Wengert
Johnnie Wheeler
Isabell Yackly

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,
Alex Kelly, Kirby Kinderwater,
Kyle Kinderwater, Kyle Kulka,
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
available in the Welcome Center
at the rear of the church and in
the Parish Hall.**

**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
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
Moyer, Brad	12
Parmer, Shirley	15
Rahe, Anita	2
Rahe, Renee	2
Schnee, Donna	25
Stonerook, Kendall	18
Watts, Cameron	9
Watts, Wyatt	3
Westphal, Shannon	9
Zeller, Jeannie	29

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

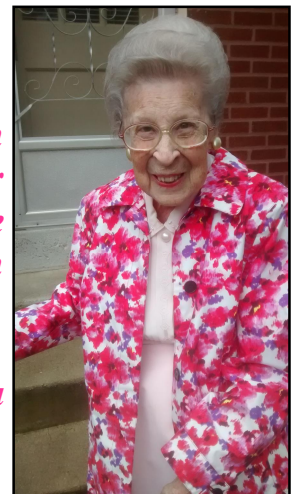
<u>Couple</u>	<u>Date</u>
Dissinger, David & Amy	12/17/1995
Kilhefner, Mike & Shelby	12/01/1984
Latshaw, Steve & Karen	12/28/1969
Schnee, Merle & Donna	12/26/1960



"100th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION!!!"

RUTH McDIVITT will celebrate her "100th" birthday on December 7th. Ruth is our oldest parishioner and we will honor her at both church services on Sunday, December 4th. During the Coffee Hour that day, we will sing "HAPPY BIRTHDAY" to Ruth and share with her, a birthday cake!

*To help make this an extra special birthday, join in the fun for a "Card Shower" and mail your well wishes to Ruth at:
Ruth McDivitt, 941 Maple Avenue, Lancaster, PA 17603*



SERVING SCHEDULE – DECEMBER, 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.

DECEMBER 4	8:00 a.m.	10:15 a.m.
Eucharistic Minister	Sue Purdy	Michael Stank, Sibyl Seachrist
Eucharistic Visitor	--	Julie Gittens, Peter Novosel
Lector	Merle Schnee	Jane Lee, Paula Wolf
Server	--	James Woolson
Torch Bearer	--	Elijah Mendez, Natalie Visco
Crucifer	--	Glenn Miller
Altar Guild	Team 1	Team 1
Steeple Bell Ringer	--	Danielle DiPace
Ushers	8:00 a.m.	Team A
Greeter	--	Brad Zuke
Coffee Hour	Property	Property
Nursery	--	Janelle Stone

DECEMBER 11	8:00 a.m.	10:15 a.m.
Eucharistic Minister	Ricky Smith	Emma DiPace, Michael Stank
Eucharistic Visitor	Phil Becker, Ricky Smith	--
Lector	Bob Lee, Sue Purdy, Phil Purdy, Barbara Landis, Sue Tobie, Merle Schnee	Danielle DiPace, Aidan Cliff, David Dissinger, Fran Gouveia, Joel Cliff, Charlotte Weaver-Gelzer
Server	--	Danielle DiPace
Torch Bearer	--	Helena Carroll, Nicholas DiPace
Crucifer	--	Brooks Morgan
Altar Guild	Team 2	Team 2
Steeple Bell Ringer	--	Toni Ehrhart
Ushers	8:00 a.m.	Team B
Greeter	--	Dave Martin
Coffee Hour	J2A	J2A
Nursery	--	Janelle Stone

DECEMBER 18	8:00 a.m.	10:15 a.m.
Eucharistic Minister	Sue Purdy	David Dissinger, Charlotte Weaver-Gelzer
Eucharistic Visitor	Stephanie McGovern	Phyllis Gbur, Sue Heilman
Lector	Bob Lee	Brad Moyer, Sibyl Seachrist
Server	--	Amelia Dissinger
Torch Bearer	--	Kylie Stone, Hal Williams
Crucifer	--	Bob Kilp
Altar Guild	Team 3	Team 3
Steeple Bell Ringer	--	Lynn Hayford
Ushers	8:00 a.m.	Team C
Greeter	--	Peter Novosel
Coffee Hour	Community Breakfast	Community Breakfast
Nursery	--	Jennifer Gustafson

CHRISTMAS EVE

CHRISTMAS EVE	3:30 p.m.	6:30 p.m.	10:30 p.m.
Eucharistic Minister	Merle Schnee, Ricky Smith	Sibyl Seachrist, Peter Novosel, David Kilp	Emma DiPace, David Dissinger
Lector	Sue Tobie	Danielle DiPace, Brooks Morgan	Jane Lee, Fran Gouveia
Server	--	Dylan Stone	Aidan Cliff
Crucifer	Glenn Miller	Aaron Hasircoglu	Bob Kilp
Torch Bearer	--	Miriam Lester, Greyson Way	Sean Cliff, Kylie Stone
Thurifer	--	--	Dave Pennell
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	11:00 a.m.
Lector	Tom Bond
Ushers	Mike Gbur & Bill Gross

LOOKING AHEAD TO: JANUARY, 2017

JANUARY 1, 2017	8:00 a.m.	10:15 a.m.
Eucharistic Minister	Molly Moyer	David Dissinger, Michael Stank
Eucharistic Visitor	--	--
Lector	Bob Lee, Sue Purdy, Phil Purdy, Barbara Landis, Fran Gouveia, Merle Schnee	Paula Wolf, Aidan Cliff, David Dissinger, Sue Tobie, Joel Cliff, C. Weaver-Gelzer
Server	--	Amelia Dissinger
Torch Bearer	--	Helena Carroll, Natalie Visco
Crucifer	--	Glenn Miller
Altar Guild	Team 2	Team 2
Steeple Bell Ringer	--	Lorraine Nolan
Ushers	8:00 a.m.	Team A
Greeter	--	Bruce Waskowicz
Coffee Hour	Usher Teams A & D	Usher Teams A & D
Nursery	--	Katie Mausolf

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**