



# St. John's Messenger

February, 2017

*from Fr. John W. Morris, Rector*

## MANIFESTING MISSION

Epiphany is my favorite season of the church year. I love how the story of the Gospel unfolds following the birth of the Savior. First, strange and exotic foreigners who have the wisdom of the stars, majestic powers and regal splendor discern the birth and location of the new King of Israel. This infant grows to be a man and beginning with his baptism spreads God's good news in ever widening circles. In the call of the first disciples by the Sea of Galilee In the vision of the reign of God proclaimed in the Sermon on the Mount. In the teaching of the people who gathered around him. In the preview into his future through his Transfiguration. Jesus is manifesting the mission of God.

At St. John's in February, each Sunday represents the manifestation of God's mission. Sunday, February 5th, we celebrate **Scout Sunday** and our young boy and girl scouts who are learning the meaning of commitment and service. In addition, all are invited following the 10:15 AM service to a "Soup Bowl" of Caring luncheon of a soup buffet with a freewill offering collected to support the ministry of our Food Pantry.

On **Absalom Jones Sunday**, February 12th, we honor Black History Month with a special guest preacher - Reverend Anthony Alexander, a retired pastor of the United Methodist Church and character actor. Pastor Alexander will share with us, in costume, his portrayal of Absalom Jones, the first African American to be ordained a priest in the Episcopal Church.

We welcome the Rev. Canon Robyn Szoke-Coolidge, our diocesan Canon for Formation and Dean of the Bishop Dean T. Stevenson School for Ministry, on Sunday, February 19th, **Theological Education Sunday**. Robyn brings her passion and almost 30 years of experience in congregational development and ministry with children and youth.

**Transfiguration Sunday**, February 26th, will be our annual dedication of Thanksgiving and Memorial gifts. Three special ministries will be recognized.

We honor the liturgical arts with the rededication of one of our Mary Chapel oil paintings. Much in need of conservation, the painting was cleaned and repaired by Lancaster Arts Gallery with gifts given to the new St. John's Liturgical Arts Fund.

We honor the ministry of our first verger, Aaron Spicher, with the dedication of new verger chimeres, and the blessing of African-inspired vestments introduced to St. John's by Aaron.

We will also dedicate a memorial plaque given in thanksgiving for the ministry of the Right Reverend Earl M. Honaman, Suffragan Bishop of the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania. Bishop Honaman was a son of St. John's, being baptized here in 1904. His memorial plaque will be mounted next to that honoring Bishop Heistand, our other St. John's bishop, and beneath the plaque honoring our parish's founder, Bishop Bowman.

God's mission is alive at St. John's. We are a church whose history is rich in mission. We are a parish with a passion for Christian formation for children, youth and adults. We are a congregation with a deep commitment to the values of equality and opportunity for all. We are a people who love to serve in Christ's name and welcome all to share with us in manifesting God's mission.

The unfolding story of the Gospel does not end. The light of Epiphany continues to expand. The proclamation of Christ's love for all people and desire for each of us reaches to the farthest star. We follow in the footsteps of Jesus as together we manifest the mission of God.

*John+*

# THE REV. DR. BARBARA J. SERAS

## SAINT JOHN'S TRANSFIGURATION WEEKEND

Friday March 10 to Sunday March 12, 2017

*A Lenten Offering of Reflection ~ Learning ~ Remembering ~ Prayer*

### Welcoming Sister Jacqueline, CT, and Oblate Kimberley Fonner

Yes. There are religious communities in the Episcopal Church and Anglican Communion: convents and monasteries, monks and nuns. These Communities are households of distinct character, not unlike the unique diversity of our Episcopal parish churches. And all the Communities maintain a spirited balance of prayer and service, good times and serious business. Radical Hospitality and The Hours, that is, designated times of prayer, have been and continue to be at the heart of these religious orders.

The number of religious houses is fewer today and the sizes of the Communities have dwindled somewhat. But then religious Orders in the Anglican tradition were never oversized. There are residential communities, dispersed communities: The Order of the Holy Cross, The Society of St. John the Evangelist, The Brotherhood of St. Gregory, the Order of Saint Helena, The Order of Julian of Norwich, the Community of St. John Baptist and the Community of the Transfiguration (to name only a few).

Saint John's Church has a deep relationship with the CT Sisters, the Community of the Transfiguration in Cincinnati, Ohio, dating back to the time when Father Becker was Rector of this parish. Often Sister Mary Helena would visit and offer guidance in areas of parish life. It is our reaching back to this relationship in our parish DNA that initiated plans for a Transfiguration Weekend.

But there is more than reaching back to the past. As we welcome Sister Jacqueline and Oblate Kimberley, we have the unique opportunity to learn more about our life together now as a parish of prayer, mission, worship and good fun. Sister will lead discussions on our personal and corporate prayer. Friday Night is for ALL of US! All Parish Night. Beginning with supper and special activities like prayer flags. Sister will present on various Prayer practices and a very special program is planned for our grade school kids. There is nursery care. The evening will conclude with a unique Labyrinth Compline.

On Saturday morning, Kimberley will offer a special introduction to Centering Prayer. Please come and learn about this amazing form of prayer--and experience the beauty of stillness. Next a unique offering in the spirit of Mary and Martha of Bethany: "*Creating a Mary Moment: Preparing for Sunday Worship as a Spiritual Practice.*" Every one of us participates in the Liturgy (from the Greek meaning the work of the People.) and Sister Jacqueline will lead us in a discussion of how we all prepare for worship as a spiritual practice. This program is for EVERYONE: altar guild, flower guild, ushers, choir, LEMS, lectors, teachers, vergers, bell ringers, and worshippers.

"*A Time of Sharing our Stories,*" and lunch hosted by Voyagers will follow. Sister and Kimberley will bring stories of CT and their own personal faith stories.

Finally, on Sunday Morning, our youth (and all of us) will have the opportunity to hear more about how we can connect with these Episcopal Convents and Monasteries in our everyday life.

*(Continued on the following page.)*

## THE REV. DR. BARBARA J. SERAS (CONTINUED)

Our planning team, Pam Loose, Barbara Landis, Linda Bruce, Sue Purdy and Mother Barbara, look forward to hearing your ideas, suggestions, and questions about this weekend. And a sign-up board will soon appear in the Parish Hall. So please mark your calendars now, and on March 10<sup>th</sup>, COME AND SEE.

Blessings,

*Barbara+*



**Sister Jacqueline, CT**

**Oblate Kimberley Fonner**



# GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP CHALLENGES

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

**FEBRUARY, 2017**

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

Mention the word "February" and almost instantly people think of Valentine's Day.

A few days after Christmas, there were already gifts of candy in heart-shaped boxes displayed in stores.

Think about who you could share your "heart/caring" with that would be so appreciated beyond a simple box of candy.

It would make you smile and your new friend.

I Am, We Are, One World - Here, There, Everywhere and I want to be your friend.

## **Global Partnership Challenge for February 5th**

"Let us always meet each other with smile, for the smile is the beginning of love." *Mother Teresa*

Remember, that you never know how important your smile, your genuine greeting, can be to those whose history we know and those we don't. Healing for you, healing for them.

## **Global Partnership Challenge for February 12th**

### **Valentine's Day on 14th**

"There is no such thing as Jew and Greek, slave and freeman, male and female; for you are all one person in Christ Jesus." (*Gal 3:28*).  
And you are ALL loved! Let us follow that example and share our caring, regardless of any differences.  
Great cardiac healing for ALL.

## **Global Partnership Challenge for February 19th**

"Love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into a friend." *Martin Luther King, Jr.*

Since WWII, there have been more than 117 wars in the world and there are only 165 countries in the entire world.

Not a good track record for us humans.

We CAN be the change!

## **Global Partnership Challenge for February 26th**

"Did I offer peace today? Did I bring a smile to someone's face? Did I say words of healing?"

Did I let go of my anger and resentment? Did I forgive? Did I love?

These are the real questions.

I must trust that the little bit of love that I sow now will bear many fruits, here in this world and the life to come.

*Henri Nouwen*

Share food, share shoes, share smiles, Support peace!

You are more powerful than you think!



## VESTRY RESOLUTION

The following resolutions were passed at the Vestry meeting on January 16, 2017:

1. **Interim Rector** - Resolved: That the Vestry of St. Johnø approves a new line item in the budget for \$3,000 for an interim search consultant. It will be placed under Vestry ministries.
2. **2017 Budget** - Resolved: That the Vestry of St. Johnø approves a revised 2017 budget with total revenues of \$720,890 and expenses of \$720,890, including an additional withdrawal of \$184,886. Revision required because the income and expenses for Global Partnership, while shown in the budget, were inadvertently not included in the totals.
3. **Souper Bowl** ó Resolved: That the Vestry of St. Johnø approves a parish fundraiser to benefit the Food Panty on Sunday, February 5, 2017, öSouper Bowl Sundayö, with a) a freewill collection at a Sunday soup luncheon; and b) a congregational collection using pew envelopes at the 8:00 AM and 10:15 AM services.
4. **Flower Fund** ó Resolved: That the Vestry of St. Johnø approves the disbursement from the Flower Fund reserve account \$2,668.50 to KimRick Garden Center for 2016 Sunday altar flowers.
5. **HVAC Systems in Rental Properties** ó That the Vestry of St. Johnø approves the disbursement from the endowment fund of up to \$13,172 to cover the expense of replacing the HVAC systems and hot water heaters at 209 and 211 North Concord Street. These upgrades will be handled as a capital expense that is currently not funded in our current rental budget for 2017. This work is necessary because there are irreparable cracks in the chimneys of both properties, thus posing a carbon monoxide hazard.

## ALL LANCASTER EPISCOPAL RESPONSE TEAM

A major part of the January 17 ALERT meeting was devoted in discussion about how to increase congregational participation in helping with the Sudanese refugee family. As expressed in previous *Messenger* articles from the ALERT group, the needs continue, especially with the finances and teaching the mother how to navigate through a checking account, writing checks and forming a budget with her expected income. Please stay in touch with opportunities which may arise through the Sunday bulletins or in church announcements.

The ALERT Circle of Friends Group will be meeting at a separate time with the Church World Service Case Worker on the third Tuesday of the month to discuss the progress of working with the Sudanese family.

The Winter Shelter for the time period (February 22 - March 1) has a number of open positions which need to be filled. Several St. John's folks have already committed to an overnight watch. More overnights are needed as well as greeters in the evening and morning good-byes. If interested the best way to sign up is through the SignUpGenius website. It is easy to use. Please see Dave Martin, Brian Gross, or Don Durand who will give you the access to the website to enroll.

## SENIOR WARDEN

The gray days of winter can sometimes lead us to cocoon and hibernate, wishing for the warm days of Spring, but at St. John's we are doing nothing of the sort. I am always amazed at the vitality and energy associated with the different areas of ministry at our church.

I am writing this final message on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, and I am reminded of his dreams and hopes for our future. I am in no way as eloquent a speaker or writer, but I share his desires for dignity and equality for all. So much of our work here at St. John's does just that. For this week alone we have celebrated with a MLK Day sermon and performance by Dr. Amanda Kemp, the McCaskey Gospel Choir program, and MLK Day camp. Perhaps, even more importantly, are the ongoing programs that reach out to those people who are struggling in some way, such as the Community Breakfast programs, the food pantry, and the partnerships that we offer to AA and NA to meet in our space. The Global Partnerships look to Rafiki Africa and recognize that something as simple as water, is only simple if you have access to it.

Earlier this week, I found out that one of our parishioners keeps what she calls "Blessing Bags" in her car. This bag is a large ziplock bag that she fills with a toothbrush, toothpaste, a razor, shaving cream, body wash, shampoo, socks, and a granola bar. She passes these out bags when she sees people along the road asking for money, food, or work. There is always something that you can do or give if you only go searching, and with your association with St. John's, you don't have to look very far.

Submitted by,

*Leslie Morgan, Senior Warden*



## EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN

St. John's Episcopal Church Women will hold their annual Spring plant sale in March. Pansy bowls and primroses will be available for pick up on Sunday, March 26. They must be pre-ordered on either March 12 or 19, in the Parish Hall. Prices will be available in the March *Messenger* and other forms of publicity. This plant sale is our only fundraiser during the year. At the recent Annual Meeting, it was decided to continue making early spring plants an annual project. Of the many women attending that meeting (in November), I would like to know who might be available to assist with this project. Please see me, **Sue Martin**, and I can outline the diverse duties connected with the success of the sale. Thank you!

## PROPERTY CORNER

We were very pleased to hear of your Vestry passing our resolution to replace the heating units in our rental properties. You may recall that the chimneys to these units were deteriorated to the point where they could cause a Carbon Monoxide issue. We hope to have this situation resolved within the very near future with the installation of a new furnace and hot water heater in each unit.

As we reported in our last *Messenger* article, we were reaching out to the City's Traffic Commission to see if there is anything that could be done to improve our site distance of Mulberry Street traffic when leaving our parking lot. During a meeting with the commission on January 10<sup>th</sup>, they eliminated parking north between our neighbors and our driveways and a distance of ten feet south of our entrance. There was no time given as to when these restrictions would take affect. However, we ask that no one park in these areas to improve the visibility and everyone's ability to turn right without entering the opposite lane of oncoming traffic. Also, stay on the lookout for when these new restrictions take place.

Your Vestry and Property Committee have been working hard to come up with an acceptable solution for dealing with the deteriorating asbestos tiles in the undercroft of the Church. Although placed on our long-range agenda, they have suddenly started to accelerate their deterioration, due to the heaving concrete subflooring and the moisture below them. We hope to arrive at an acceptable solution in the very near future.

With our start of a new year, it's a great time for those who are looking to fulfill some resolutions of service by joining your Property Committee. This ministry is one of the few that serves all of the other ministries of your Church. We are a collection of talent in different areas of expertise to help keep things working at your Church. We usually meet on the first Monday of every month at 7 p.m. in the Becker House office building. We hope to see you then!

Your St. John's Property Committee:

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

## "HELP WANTED!"

How would you like to be a member of a vital St. John's committee that primarily works behind the scenes?

Are you tech savvy? Do you like to write? Could you meet one (1) Sunday a month for one (1) hour?

Want to help with the web streaming/recording of our church services for the world to see/hear?

If you answered yes to any (not necessarily all) of the above, please think about becoming a part of the St. John's Communication Committee. We are a dedicated group that work to highlight all the good news and happenings at St. John's.

For additional information please contact a committee member.

*Debbie Carter, Jill Gross, Jenn Hreben, Bruce Morgan, Leslie Tahsler, or Mary Woolson.*

## 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](http://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](http://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 **February and April, 2017**. The blank areas remain available. Thank you for supporting our flower ministry at St. John's!

GREEN SHADING REPRESENTS LENT - ALTAR GREENS

DATE	(1)	(2)	CHAPEL
FEB 5	John & Helen Miller		Nancy Nemith
FEB 12	Barbara Landis		
FEB 19	Charles Alexander	Lynn Hayford	
FEB 26			
MARCH 5			
MARCH 12	Barbara Landis		
MARCH 19			
MARCH 26			John & Helen Miller
APRIL 2			
APRIL 9			
APRIL 16	All Easter Memorials	All Easter Memorials	All Easter Memorials
APRIL 23			
APRIL 30			

## 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.

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

## FOOD PANTRY MINISTRY: SOUPER BOWL OF CARING



Most of us are at least somewhat aware that a football game is being played on February 5. Years ago, the Souper Bowl of Caring started at a church in South Carolina with a simple prayer: *"Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat."* This prayer has inspired a youth-led movement to help hungry and hurting people around the world.

Our youth have adopted this program to support our **St. John's Food Pantry ministry, which serves the needs of our Lancaster neighbors.** Here's an update, a bit of a glimpse into this very personal ministry to our neighbors.

**We distributed nearly 400 boxes of food in 2016,** an average of 7.6 boxes each week. This was higher than 2015 (5.6/week) but lower than our all-time high of 10.6/week in 2014.

**Who are the people we serve through this ministry?** We gave food to 197 different people last year; about half of them are in households of 3 or more people. Only 10 were "regulars," coming 8 or more times during the year. (We limit people to one box per month, but only 2 people actually came every month of 2016.) And 133 of those 197 came only once during 2016.

**We spent just under \$2,700** last year to fill the gap between food donations and the needs of our neighbors. We welcome monetary donations, in addition to donations of food. When you donate money to the food pantry, 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.

**On "Souper Bowl" Sunday, our youth will host a soup luncheon at noon,** to raise funds for our Food Pantry. We'll have specially-marked envelopes in the pews, and you may use them to place donations in the offering plate or in the big soup pot in Parish Hall.

**Thank you for the many ways that you contribute to this ministry that is very much appreciated by our neighbors!**

**Volunteers:** As you may know, Aaron Spicher (who was our longtime Verger and died in June, 2016), used to handle nearly all of the distribution of food from our Food Pantry. This is now handled by a group of important volunteers, coordinated by Lynn Hayford. If you would like to help with this effort by giving out food on Tuesday or Thursday afternoons, or by packing food boxes (between distribution dates) when our regular packers aren't available, please contact any of us. Thank you!

*Debbie Carter, Bill Cater, and Lynn Hayford*

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

## *Sunday School News*

*Karen Di Pace, Sunday School Director*

We will be celebrating our Scouts on Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup>. All scouts are encouraged to wear their uniform to church and be a part of the service. Join us in acknowledging the scouts of St. John's.

### BOY SCOUTS:

**Nicholas Di Pace** enjoyed making model rockets.

**Brooks Morgan** spent the summer as an employee at Bashore Scout Camp acclimating the newest scouts through the Blue Mountain Men program. He is on track for earning his Eagle Scout rank by the fall, and his project will enhance our church courtyard.

**Rob Williams'** favorite memory is his Ordeal weekend, when he completed the challenges to become a member of the Order of the Arrow, Scouting's honor society.

**Hal Williams'** favorite memory is also from Order of the Arrow, when he completed his Brotherhood weekend, sealing his membership with the group.

### CUB SCOUTS:

**Luca Suliveras** loved participating in distributing food bags and then collecting food a week later. His route donated 75 items- he was pretty proud. He also reached his popcorn sales goal of \$300.

**Greyson Way** is a Webelos II Cub Scout this year but will be crossing over to Boy Scouts in a few months. He has earned God and Me, and God and Family religious awards & enjoys swimming, nature, archery. He has done many exciting things this year, including lots of camping, selling popcorn, helping with Scouting for Food and many more activities.

### GIRL SCOUTS:

Emma Di Pace, Danielle Di Pace, Helena Carroll, Evelyn Carroll, Zoe Suliveras, & Campbell Way.

**Evelyn Carroll** is a Brownie Girl Scout.

**Helena Carroll** is a Junior Girl Scout.

**Danielle Di Pace** is a Cadette Girl Scout. Helping her troop create a community garden this year was one of the highlights of scouting for her.

**Emma Di Pace** is an Ambassador Girl Scout. Her favorite part of scouts is singing and leading younger scouts in campfire songs.

**Zoe Suliveras** is a Daisy and loved going to Foxfire. She's taking care of a school garden and really likes getting muddy. She's excited to start selling Girl Scout cookies.

**Campbell Way** started her first year of Brownies. She has been having a blast earning her badges and making new friends. She has been doing fun things like going to corn mazes, visiting an animal rescue group, Christmas caroling at a retirement home and learning how to cook and make crafts. She looks forward to selling cookies coming up soon!

A special thank you to all current and former scout leaders in our congregation! You will see many of them hosting coffee hour that day.

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

Submitted by,

*Karen Di Pace*

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (CONTINUED)

### *Journey to Adulthood*

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

I would like to thank all the youth who helped with the pageant on Christmas Eve. It is so great that all of you help with this play. St. John's is blessed to have each one of you. Thank you!

The children and youth of St. John's had a fun night playing Clue, Apples to Apples and Scattergories with youth and children from St. Paul's Columbia.

Three youth attend the Jr. & Sr. High PYE event at Claggett Center. The theme was Uncaged. We talked about Forgiveness, Freedom and Peace. The Rev. Randy Callander was the speaker for the weekend. The youth participated in small and large group activities and met other youth from our Province. We even got to zip line in 0 degree weather!

On Sunday, January 15th, youth from The Unitarian Universalist Church of Lancaster joined our Rite 13 and J2A to explore the Episcopal Faith and participate in our Martin Luther King, Jr service. The teens shared what they believe it means to be an Episcopalian. They discussed differences and similarities between our religions like holidays, communion, and the church service. We invited the teens to participate in future youth events and we hope to visit their church in the coming months.

#### **SOUPER BOWL LUNCHEON**

We will kick off the month of February with our Souper Bowl soup and salad luncheon on February 5. The youth will be preparing the luncheon. Please join us after the 10:15 service for soup and salad, all proceeds will benefit our food pantry at St. John's.

We will also be celebrating our Scouts at St. John's on February 5.

#### **ATTENTION SNOW TUBERS!**

Please join us for a night of family fun at Avalanche Express. Enjoy six lanes of high speed tubing fun at Heritage Hills in York on Friday, February 10th from 6-10pm.

Cost for the event is \$18 per person, providing we have at least 20 participants. Please sign up at the J2A sandwich table. Deadline for sign up is February 5!

#### **HAPPENING!**

Five of our youth have been busy planning for the Happening event that is being held February 17-19, 2017, for senior high youth of the Diocese. Emma Di Pace is the Rector for the event and she has been doing an amazing job preparing for this event. Happening is a three-day weekend retreat led by youth for youth in 9th-12th grade. It is a spiritual journey and a time for finding, reconnecting, and growing closer to God. Happening is not a completely "churchy" weekend - we will sing, dance, laugh, play games, and make lifelong friends - with a few surprises thrown in along the way! This year's theme for Happening #10 is "Revealing the Mystery." We hope you will be there to help us reveal the mystery! We will be exploring biblical text along with fun activities and talks from our high school leaders. Registration is now open now in the diocese youth page. Check the website to keep up to date in the "Happenings" at <http://youth.diocesecpa.org/>. Adults are welcomed to participate in this event also.

If anyone is interested in writing a Caritas for our youth who are attending the Happening retreat, please contact Mary Ellen Kilp at [mekilp@yahoo.com](mailto:mekilp@yahoo.com) for a list of youth that are participating.

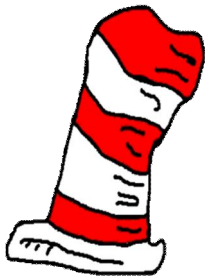
## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (CONTINUED)

### SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER!

Do not miss the annual "Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper" on Tuesday, February 28th. The menu will include pancakes, sausage, applesauce and fruit salad. The food is good, the company fantastic and the money raised all benefits the J2A pilgrimage. Join us at 7:00 in the church for Evening Prayer.

### SCRAPBOOKING!

Do you have pictures just thrown into boxes and unorganized? Join us for our annual Scrapbooking event on March 3 and 4. You can make an album, organize your pictures or just come and hang out with us. See the attached flyer for more details. It is a fun time-sharing stories and pictures. All proceeds will benefit the J2A pilgrimage.



### ATTENTION JR HIGH YOUTH, GRADES 6 - 9:

We will be having a diocesan youth retreat  
March 17 - 19 at Camp Mount Luther.

The retreat is Seussology 101:

A Seussical Look at Life.

Come explore the Wospel in the Gospel

Join other Episcopalian youth!

The importance of retreats can be seen in the life of any spiritual person and we believe it's especially important for teens to get away from their super-scheduled lives. Retreats provide the necessary time and space to spend quality time with God, sacred scripture and community. Our Diocese creates opportunities for overnight retreats throughout the year for middle and high school students.

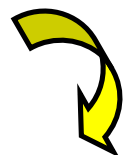
Thank you for all the support with our Journey to Adulthood Program. We could not have the wonderful program without the great adult leaders and congregation that we have.

Submitted by, *Mary Ellen Kilp*



Calling..... **ALL ACOLYTES!!!**  
**PIZZA & TRAINING**

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26**  
**11:30AM-2PM - PARISH HALL**



**ALL ACOLYTES are EXPECTED TO ATTEND**  
**to be scheduled to serve.**

**RSVP by FEBRUARY 16 to Mother Barbara at**  
**maxthecat.bjs@gmail.com**

Father John ~ Mother Barbara ~ Tom Bond, Lead Verger ~ Dave Pennell, Acolyte Master



# Diocese of Central PA Jr. High Retreat

March 17 – 19, 2017, Camp Mount Luther, Mifflensburg, PA

For young people in 6-9<sup>th</sup> grades

Hosted by Diocese of Central PA Youth Committee

## Seussology 101:



### A Seussical Look at Life

Come explore the Wospel in the Gospel  
With other Episcopalian Youth!

Cost \$100.00 with Special Discounts for siblings:

1 sibling- \$25 off; 2 sibs - \$50 off

Registration Deadline March 5, 2017

Please Contact [cpayouthcom@gmail.com](mailto:cpayouthcom@gmail.com) with any questions.

"If you Never did, You Should.  
These Things are Fun and Fun is Good!" ~Dr. Seuss

Diocese of Central Pennsylvania

# Happening #10

February 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>, 2017



Happening is a three-day weekend retreat led by youth for youth in 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade. It is a spiritual journey and a time for finding, reconnecting, and growing closer to God. Happening is not a completely churchy weekend- we will sing, dance, laugh, play games, and make lifelong friends- with a few surprises thrown in along the way!

This year's theme for Happening #10 is "Revealing the Mystery." We hope you will be there to help us reveal the mystery! We will be exploring biblical text along with fun activities and talks from our high school leaders.

Registration is now open now in the diocese youth page. Check the website to keep up to date in the happenings at <http://youth.diocesecpa.org/>

We hope that you can join us for this wonderful weekend!

If you have any questions you can email [cpayouthcom@gmail.com](mailto:cpayouthcom@gmail.com) or [emma.dipace@gmail.com](mailto:emma.dipace@gmail.com)





# ST. JOHN'S YOUTH CALENDAR

## 2017

February 5	Scout Sunday
	Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday
February 11	Snow Tubing (Joe)
February 17 – 20	Happening
February 26	Acolyte training/Pizza party
February 28	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
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 Sunday
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



# JUBILEE MINISTRIES

**COMMUNITY BREAKFAST** (Contact: Sue Martin) **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18**—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.

**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)

Thanks you for the support of Campbell Soup labels in the past, but be informed that the company is terminating this method of fundraising, and we will no longer collect them. Box Tops and Turkey Hill Moo Caps are welcomed. There are other needs for Fulton School that we can support. 1) Clock your minutes of reading (as we did last year) to help the students reach a goal. They are "stepping across the US" with minutes being transferred to steps. Starting next Sunday, a sign in board will be available in the Parish Hall on which to jot down the minutes you have read in the preceding week. Approximates are encouraged, for example, an hour per day times 7, or whatever you feel honest in putting down. The challenge ends on February 13, so February 12 will be the last collection day. 2) St. John's, through the generosity of Debbie Carter, has provided at least 12 new winter coats recently to needy students. You can add to this thoughtful giving by donating used out-grown children's coats that are still in good condition. 3) A book fair is being held at the school January 30 to February 3. Many opportunities exist for us as partners to allow needy students to have the thrill of picking out and buying a new book, or by supporting a teacher's classroom requests. Please see **Sue Martin** to see how you can help.



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 and printer cartridges.

## JUBILEE MINISTRIES (CONTINUED)

### GROCERY CARDS (Contact: Sue Tobie)

Total grocery card sales for **DECEMBER: \$7,200.00** Total earned by Jubilee Ministries: **\$360.00**

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 ministries. 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:

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

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



It's a new year and we are focusing on knitting for several worthy causes:

We are knitting hats for the "Little Hats, Big Hearts Initiative" sponsored by the American Heart Association.

Our other new endeavor is something called a "Twiddlemuff." Twiddlemuffs are recognized as being a great therapeutic tool for people living with dementia. They are a knitted muff with items attached so that a patient with dementia can twiddle their hands. People with dementia often have restless hands and like to have something to keep their hands occupied. It provides a wonderful source of visual, tactile & sensory stimulation and at the same time keeps hands snug and warm. The soft knitted muffs contain strands of textured ribbons, beads, zips, pom poms and various craft items which are attached both inside and outside. This is a great way to use up your left over yarn from previous projects. The idea and basic pattern comes to us from England.

We have the yarn and patterns for anyone who would like to help!

<http://www.whh.nhs.uk/store/documents/twiddlemuffsknittingpattern.pdf>

For knitting instructions, see next page.



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.



# Twiddlemuff Instructions

Copyright Linda J Walter  
<http://www.KnittingOnCircularNeedles.com>

## 1. Materials

This muff pattern is perfect for using up left over and odd balls of wool.  
Needles: 8mm circular, (I preferred to use 6.5mm straight needles).

## 2. Directions

### Cuff:

Cast on 40 stitches using 2 strands of double knitting wool,  
(you can also use 1 strand of chunky wool).  
Work in stocking stitch (knit a line pearl a line) for 11 inches.

### Muff Body:

Continuing with stocking stitch and using up oddments of various textures of wool,  
ie: chunky, mohair, ribbon.  
Until work measures 23 inches.  
Cast off.

## 3. Decoration and finishing

Now is the time if you want to decorate the muff body with beads, flowers, zips, loops  
etc.

Neatly join side sides together with pearl side facing you.  
Turn inside out.  
Push the cuff up inside the muff body  
Neatly sew together the two ends as pictured above.



**\* MARK YOUR CALENDAR \***

*Come meet Sister Jacqueline, CT – Our Guest Speaker  
(Sisters of the Transfiguration in Cincinnati, Ohio)  
and  
Kimberley Fonner, Oblate of the Transfiguration Community*

## **Saint John's Transfiguration Weekend**

*A Lenten Offering of  
Reflection ~ Learning ~ Remembering ~ Prayer*

**Friday, March 10 to Sunday, March 12, 2017**

**Friday Evening 5:30 to 8:30 ~ Supper ~ Program for all ages:  
Special Program for Youth ~ Nursery Care ~ Labyrinth**

**Saturday Morning 9:30 to 11:30 ~ Program for ALL**

**who serve, sing, read at our Sunday Eucharists**

**Saturday Noon ~ a Special Lunch for ALL**

**and a time to share stories**

**Sunday Morning 9:15 ~ Program with Sister Jacqueline**

## **VOYAGERS**



The **Voyagers** welcome you to the **February 25<sup>th</sup>** meeting in the Parish Hall from 10:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. to meet and greet **Verger, Tom Bond** who will speak on what worship means to him and will tell stories from his wide experience as a teacher of religious studies in Roman Catholic schools in Columbus, Ohio, and as Director of the Office of Worship for the Diocese of Des Moines, Iowa. Tom is a graduate of Notre Dame with a Master's Degree in Theology. He will share both the serious and the humorous sides of his vocation. Please join us for fellowship and light refreshments.

## CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

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

Here's a quick update (as of January 17, 2017) on the financial support for our building renovations:

	<b>Amount Received</b>
Received toward total pledges of \$777,553	\$ 414,396
One-time gifts (unpledged)	\$ 2,245
Earnings on your contributions	\$ 12,187
Bequests from Eckenrode & Craige families	\$ 150,000
Total received (as of January 17, 2017)	\$ 578,828

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](mailto:gina@stjohns-lancaster.org) or 717-299-1188 on Tuesdays and Fridays.

## 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 January 6, we have received 121 pledges, for a total of \$308,986, and nearly half of these are increased pledges (compared to 2016) or new pledges! This is about 92% of our Finance Committee's goal, and *the good news is that it's not too late to submit a 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](mailto:gina@stjohns-lancaster.org)), to make a pledge by phone or email.

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*

## GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE UPDATE

*“Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change”*

-----James 1:17

In our world today, changes are inevitable. And, there are so many great, inspiring quotes out there about *change* and, too little room in this article. The beginning of a new year always brings on a time of reflection and the potential for changes. Despite some changes being unwanted, going backwards is not an option; we can only move forward, faithfully. We can review what has happened this past year: what did we accomplish, or not? And ask what goals do we want for this year? We review and resolve to change something, to add something and to continue growing. We are thankful for the gifts we have received and that we can share. But, sometimes seeing and choosing the path to follow  $\hat{o}$  who, when and where to share with  $\hat{o}$  can be challenging.

So, who said building a Global Partnership was easy or that the path was certain? One thing is clear for our Global Partnership Committee: we are resolved to being committed and renewing ***“I am, we are, one world, here, there, everywhere.”*** If you are still trying to figure out how you might incorporate that statement into your life, there certainly is no shortage of choices. In reflection, at our last GPC meeting, our group shared a Thomas Merton prayer from *Thoughts in Solitude*

$\hat{o}$ My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it. Therefore I will trust you always, though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone. $\hat{o}$

Reflecting on the past year, our St. John's parish committed to a Global Partnership with Rafiki Africa and the students and families of Alendu, Kenya. During Lent we spent time learning about the continent of Africa and our connections there and here. On GPC Sunday in October, we had the pleasure of having Roger Godfrey visit with us and hear him speak about the Rafiki programs and projects. We embraced the culture with a wonderful display of African foods at the coffee hours, shared information about the LightHouse Academy students; provided handmade items from Alendu for sale and information about their Well project and potable water needs. This was followed up by an event at Tellus360 to raise money towards the Well project.

So, what has happened in Alendu this past year? Here are some numbers shared in the 2016/2017 Winter Newsletter for Rafiki Africa

[https://gallery.mailchimp.com/05bb573c8cfdae720828eb6d0/files/Rafiki\\_Africa\\_Newsletter3\\_Winter\\_2016\\_.pdf](https://gallery.mailchimp.com/05bb573c8cfdae720828eb6d0/files/Rafiki_Africa_Newsletter3_Winter_2016_.pdf)

## GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE UPDATE (CONTINUED)

- 190 students received nourishment daily through our feeding program at LightHouse Academy.
- 162 students received sponsorship to attend LightHouse Academy, including school supplies and health care.
- 21 students received sponsorship to attend high school.
- 8 students received sponsorship to attend college.
- 6 students enrolled in our new computer class.
- 12 students joined the leadership student program.
- 4 missionary volunteers travelled to LightHouse Academy to support and train our students.
- 362 individuals partnered with Rafiki Africa to give their time and resources to support the work in Alendu.
- 18 local businesses and organizations partnered with Rafiki Africa.
- 5 local churches partnered with Rafiki Africa.
- 4 local colleges partnered with Rafiki Africa.
- The 8<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders' graduation and national exam completion were *all successful*.
- The LightHouse Academy is *excited* to have a full staff at the school.

Did you know the LightHouse Academy has their own farm that provides the food for most of the students' meals?

Rafiki Africa is feeling blessed and thankful and like the rest of us, they are faced with many paths and directions to choose from, to move forward. This year is an election year for Kenya, which can be a turbulent time, and prayers for a peaceful and decisive election are requested. Meeting the many needs of those of Students, completing the Well, as well as staffing and administration are some of the ongoing challenges. Building partnerships and relationships has been a key component.

Building our relationship, beyond our friendship with Dorothy and Roger, is more challenging than we might imagine. For one thing, there is no mail system to send a letter to Alendu. Now, one might think, in this age of technology, using email and Skype would be the logical path. However, considering the remoteness of Alendu, the internet service does not meet what we expect everyday and then there is the issue of electricity. But remember we are resolved and committed, so some patience may be needed. We can continue to be thankful, share our gifts and care about our neighbors; the relationships will just take a little longer to grow.

In the upcoming months there will be opportunities for "Sharing and Caring." During the weeks of Lent that will be upon us soon, mark your calendars for Sunday nights, 3/5, 3/19, 3/26 & 4/2. We will share more details in the coming weeks and are hopeful there is a Book Sale in the future (that Well still needs tapped!). Whether you share food, shoes, prayers or books, every step forward helps us to grow our partnership and relationship with Rafiki Africa.

Keep watching and listening as we continue to work together to help where needed, to advocate and serve as we build our global partnership with Rafiki Africa ([www.rafikiafrica.org](http://www.rafikiafrica.org)). Follow us for the next steps forward; 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at 7 pm, in the Becker House.

*Submitted by,*

*Tammy Collier*



## ABSALOM JONES DAY - FEBRUARY 12, 2017



*Absalom Jones,  
blessed pioneer and prophet.*

*"May your story long be told!"*

Absalom Jones was born into slavery in Delaware in 1746. When he was 16, his new owner brought him to Philadelphia where he served as a clerk and handyman for a retail store. He used some of the money he made to buy books and he taught himself how to read. In 1770, he married Mary Thomas and purchased her freedom. He obtained his own freedom in 1784. During this period, Jones met Richard Allen and they became lifelong friends. In 1787, they organized the Free African Society as a social, political and humanitarian organization. They were also both lay preachers at St. George's Methodist Episcopal Church in Philadelphia. However, due to racial tensions, Jones and Allen (and most African-American members) left St. George's church. In 1792, "The African Church" became an outgrowth of the Free African Society. Because the majority of the Church's members favored the Episcopal Church, Richard Allen left and started his own congregation. Absalom Jones, on the other hand stayed, and applied for his congregation to join the Protestant Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania. After it became a member, the church's name was changed to The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas; it still has the same name today. When the church started, Absalom Jones was a Lay Reader and Deacon. In 1802, Jones was ordained by Bishop William White as the first African-American Episcopal Priest. One of Absalom Jones's main goals was Evangelism. He spread the words of Jesus Christ as a way to help other people.

Interestingly enough, Absalom Jones's goal of Evangelism in the Episcopal Church is still being worked on today. Last year, our Presiding Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Michael Curry, announced that "We are the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement." He has asked us all to step out and share the good news of God and Jesus Christ, to step out and work as agents and instruments of God's reconciliation and to let the world know there is a God who loves us and His love can set us free. The same message Absalom Jones shared with his congregation.

On February 12, we're celebrating Absalom Jones Day with guest preacher, the Rev. Anthony Alexander. The Rev. Alexander, a retired Methodist preacher, is now a member of St. Stephen's Cathedral in Harrisburg and an active member of the Union of Black Episcopalians. To quote him directly, "I have been called to a ministry of reconciliation" to sensitize and to be a presence among people who have virtually no contact with racial ethics." The Rev. Alexander will be preaching at both services and he looks forward to meeting with you and answering any questions during our coffee hours.

Submitted by,

*Julie Gittens*  
Vestry Steward - Evangelism



## "COME SCRAPBOOK WITH US!"

### Join the J2A for their 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Scrapbook-A-Thon!

Friday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> 6:00 PM - 11:00 AM

&

Saturday, March 4<sup>th</sup> 7:30 AM - 10:00 PM

Join us for hours of cropping, stamping, and scrapbooking. Are you new to scrapbooking? No problem, we'll be happy to help you get started on preserving all your precious memories.

Doors open at 6:00 pm Friday evening and light refreshments will be available all evening. We usually order pizza for everyone to share. Crop until 11 pm! Leave all your items where they are and head home. We will open the doors again at 7:30 am Saturday. Breakfast will be served from 7:30 until 9:30 am. Pretzel sandwiches will be available for sale during lunch and a light supper will be provided Saturday night. Crop until 10:00 pm Saturday.

#### The cost will be:

Friday only: \$25

Saturday only: \$35

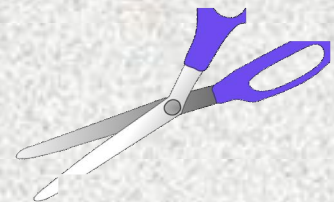
Both days: \$45

Door prizes and raffles will be awarded throughout the event.  
We look forward to seeing you there!

Register early as seating is limited!

Registration will close on Feb. 24<sup>th</sup>!

All proceeds will go towards the J2A pilgrimage fund.



# J2A SCRAPBOOK-A-THON REGISTRATION

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

TABLE BUDDY: \_\_\_\_\_



You can mail registrations and payment to:

Jenn Hreben  
81 Den Mar Drive  
Holtwood, PA 17532

Make checks payable to:

St. John's Episcopal Church with "J2A" in the memo line.

...BE SURE TO INVITE A FRIEND OR TWO!

## WHAT WOULD LUTHER DO TODAY?

### *An Online Course & In-House Conversation*

A free, ChurchNext, pre-recorded online class, "What Would Luther Do Today?" with Elizabeth Eaton, is taught by the Presiding Bishop of the Lutheran Church (ELCA), who is inviting the world to commemorate the life, legacy, and relevant teachings of reformer Martin Luther. Her class is rich in resources and inspiration and will be offered for free to all January 16-30. (As the *Messenger* is being published, we're near the end of the time this course will be open, but there's still time!)

*"Jesus is asking the Church to pay more attention to the issues of poverty, climate change, human rights, and ecumenism – and Martin Luther offers a profound message to us in this regard,"* says Eaton, *"My hope is that Christ will use this class to inspire and invigorate Christians to follow Jesus more closely, engage in positive social change, and enter the next 500 years with a renewed faith in God's grace and providence."*

In this course, students will learn more about Luther and make relevant connections that can lead to changes in our own days. The class is a series of video lectures, self-correcting question and answer, and discussions.

No special software is required. It takes about 45 minutes for a learner, at average pace, to complete. Registration is free and open to all.

[Click here for more information](#) and to register, or go to **churchnext.tv > Menu > The Big Class**

St. John's will hold two (2) adult conversations, between services on January 29 and February 5, to share thoughts about the course content, which has potential connections to our outreach, evangelism, stewardship (environmental), and other ministries. Join us for one or both sessions in Becker House!

*(Note: Registration is FREE and ChurchNext does not share contact information with other organizations.)*

## REFLECTING ABOUT "WHAT WOULD LUTHER DO TODAY?"

*By, Faith D'Urbano+*

Dating from Martin Luther nailing his 95 theses to the door of the Church in Wittenberg, the Reformation now marks 500 years. The Episcopal Church and St. John's are inviting parishioners to reflect on Luther and his legacy.

*(Continued on the following page.)*



## REFLECTING (CONTINUED)

Why might Episcopalians be excited about a course on Luther? I can tell you my own excitement. It was as a seminarian I first learned that Episcopalians and Lutherans had been for years and years in serious dialog for their churches to sculpt a visible, action union of witness and service to the world.

As a student, I not only learned history, I watched the walk-up to this fabulous unity. Having studied the Lutheran-Episcopal document, "Called to Common Mission," I reveled in its co-signing by the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America and the Episcopal Church of the United States. And I, with others, cried in jubilation during the very first and most significant outcome of the officially adopted agreement - a joint Episcopal-Lutheran celebration of Holy Communion, New York City, 2001. How palpable Christ's call "that all may be one"!

More close to home yet, because of the relationship between the denominations, exchangeability of clergy and members was permitted. As a priest, I came within inches of a call to witness and serve with a Lutheran congregation in a nearby inner city. Though this dream did not transpire due to health reasons, I am still ever grateful for experiencing the process of discerning mutual call with those brother and sister Christians. What an opportunity to learn from each other's faith!

I am eager to take a course about Luther today. This one is short, and, if similar to other ChurchNext offerings, the course promises to be quite worthwhile.

Won't you join me? Catch the course at home (January 16-30). Come to Adult Formation (January 29 and/or February 5) in Becker House and discuss the question "What would Luther do today?" Bring a cup of coffee!

## SHROVE TUESDAY "PANCAKE SUPPER!"

February 28, 2017

5:30-7:00 p.m.—Parish Hall

\$5.00 Adults \* \$2.00 Children

The supper will be prepared by our Journey to Adulthood Youth and include pancakes, sausage, applesauce, and fruit salad.

We hope you'll join us!



## PRAYER LIST

*We offer our continued prayers for*

Dave Arnold  
Bob Bailey  
Robert Bray  
Michael Brogan  
Patricia & Ralph Clare  
Paula DeBrill  
Vincent Delevega  
Shaphan Dulo  
Linda Frederiksen  
Lionel Gouveia  
Carol Greenfield  
Alina Grobicki  
Gill & Mary Hartley  
Anne Johnson Horn  
Ellen Keller  
Marge Kern  
Vonda Kirchner  
Marty Laubenthal  
John Lechowicz  
Wayne LeFevre  
Ernie Leffler  
Kelly Lynch  
Ruth McDivitt  
Kathy McNamara  
William Miller  
Cynthia Minnich  
Jane Naegele  
Dee Norman  
Kevin & Mary Nourie  
Robert & Joan Power  
Ricky Ross  
Jesse Rutledge  
Gloria Schnee  
Steven Schwartz  
Stephanie Smith  
Sister Connie Sophy  
Christian Stigelman  
Martha & John Stroh  
Joana Torres & Kids  
Gary Weaver  
Melissa Williams  
Ella & Family  
Meredith  
Chuck & Barbara



*...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  
Liam Maloney  
Betty McCaskey  
Barbara McKee  
Nancy Nemith  
Peter Plaxa  
Nancy Puffer  
Virginia Rainey  
Barbara Ramella  
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](mailto: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.**

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>
Alexander, Garth	1
Brenton, Nancy	12
Burlingame, Susan	18
Carroll, Andy	22
Carroll, Anne	28
Clark, Natalie	23
Cliff, Sean	19
Coverly, Rosemary	4
Di Pace, Emma	21
Farmer, Dan	8
Glazier, Mary	19
Glew, Dyls	23
Gordon, Emily	24
Johnson, Alan	17
Kilhefner, Joanie	7
Latshaw, Alexandru	9
Le, Thong	10
Lyon, Bob	9
Maxey, Carolyn	17
Morris, John	2
Murphy, Bob	26
Ogwang, Alice	2
Qualls, Scott	12
Rahe, Joan	24
Springer, Kate	24
Stone, Kylie	3
Stonerook, Chris	24
Sullivan, Teresa	10
Thompson, Joe	16
Tobie, Alan	12
Way, Greyson	14
Way, Joe	13
Wendler, Callen	12
Wendler, Isabella	14
Woolson, Mary	21
Yackly, Isabell	21
Zuke, Sue	3



## FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

<u>Couple</u>	<u>Date</u>
Henry, Kevin & Janice	02/20/1982
Kane, Howard & Edith	02/24/1962



### *Hassle-Free—and FREE Parking for St. John's Sunday Services!*

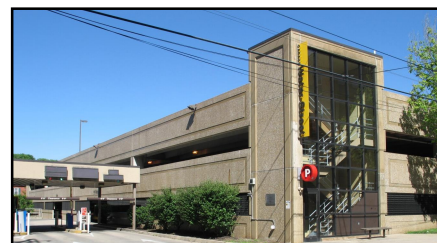
When you attend Sunday services at St. John's, you don't have to worry about finding a parking space or honing your parallel parking skills. While limited parking is available in St. John's lot off of Mulberry Street, you can park at the [Water Street Garage](#) just a block south of the church off of Chestnut Street at no cost.

Thanks to an agreement with the Lancaster Parking Authority, **if you enter the garage between 7:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. on Sundays mornings, you receive 3 hours of free parking.** Just take a ticket when you enter and place it in the slot when you exit. No payment will be required. Simple and convenient.

While there were some initial growing pains late last summer as the process got underway, everything is now operating smoothly. Thank you, Andy Carroll, from our Property Committee, for making this happen. And thank you to the Lancaster Parking Authority for being a great neighbor.

*Note: If you arrive prior to 7:30 or after 10:30 a.m., free parking will not apply. If you remain in the garage beyond 3 hours, you will need to pay for the additional time at the garage's regular rates.*

We encourage use of the Water Street Parking Garage rather than the private lot across from the church on Chestnut Street. This lot is reserved for residents of the Stevens School Apartments.



## SERVING SCHEDULE – FEBRUARY, 2017

### 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.

FEBRUARY 5	8:00 a.m.	10:15 a.m.
<b>Eucharistic Minister</b>	Merle Schnee	Michael Stank, Charlotte Weaver-Gelzer
<b>Eucharistic Visitor</b>	--	Phyllis Gbur, Sue Heilman
<b>Lector</b>	Phil Purdy	Brad Moyer, Sibyl Seachrist
<b>Server</b>	--	Michael Hreben
<b>Torch Bearer</b>	--	Ella Suliveras, Natalie Visco
<b>Crucifer</b>	--	Glenn Miller
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Team 1	Team 1
<b>Steeple Bell Ringer</b>	--	Aaron Hasircoglu
<b>Ushers</b>	8:00 a.m.	Team A
<b>Greeter</b>	--	Brad Zuke
<b>Coffee Hour</b>	Scouts	Scouts
<b>Nursery</b>	--	Tracy Cliff

FEBRUARY 12	8:00 a.m.	10:15 a.m.
<b>Eucharistic Minister</b>	Molly Moyer	Emma Di Pace, David Dissinger
<b>Eucharistic Visitor</b>	Phil Becker, Ricky Smith	--
<b>Lector</b>	Ricky Smith	Danielle Di Pace, Charlotte Weaver-Gelzer
<b>Server</b>	--	James Woolson
<b>Torch Bearer</b>	--	Greyson Way, Hal Williams
<b>Crucifer</b>	--	Brooks Morgan
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Team 2	Team 2
<b>Steeple Bell Ringer</b>	--	Toni Ehrhart
<b>Ushers</b>	8:00 a.m.	Team B
<b>Greeter</b>	--	Peter Novosel
<b>Coffee Hour</b>	Altar Guild	Altar Guild
<b>Nursery</b>	--	Phyllis Gbur



<b>FEBRUARY 19</b>	<b>8:00 a.m.</b>	<b>10:15 a.m.</b>
<b>Eucharistic Minister</b>	Sue Purdy	Peter Novosel, David Dissinger
<b>Eucharistic Visitor</b>	Phil Becker, Stephanie McGovern	Peter Novosel, Julie Gittens
<b>Lector</b>	Bob Lee	Aidan & Joel Cliff
<b>Server</b>	--	Danielle Di Pace
<b>Torch Bearer</b>	--	Nicholas Di Pace, Miriam Lester
<b>Crucifer</b>	--	Dave Pennell
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Team 3	Team 3
<b>Steeple Bell Ringer</b>	--	Glenn Miller
<b>Ushers</b>	8:00 a.m.	Team C
<b>Greeter</b>	--	Leslie Morgan
<b>Coffee Hour</b>	Community Breakfast	Community Breakfast
<b>Nursery</b>	--	Janelle Stone



<b>FEBRUARY 26</b>	<b>8:00 a.m.</b>	<b>10:15 a.m.</b>
<b>Eucharistic Minister</b>	Ricky Smith	Sibyl Seachrist, Brad Moyer
<b>Eucharistic Visitor</b>	Karen Latshaw, Sue Martin	--
<b>Lector</b>	Sue Purdy	David Dissinger, Brooks Morgan
<b>Server</b>	--	Aidan Cliff
<b>Torch Bearer</b>	--	Kylie Stone, Helena Carroll
<b>Crucifer</b>	--	Bob Kilp
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Team 1	Team 1
<b>Steeple Bell Ringer</b>	--	Ian Thompson
<b>Ushers</b>	8:00 a.m.	Team D
<b>Greeter</b>	--	Dave Martin
<b>Coffee Hour</b>	Voyagers & Sunday School Teachers	Voyagers & Sunday School Teachers
<b>Nursery</b>	--	Leslie Morgan



## LOOKING AHEAD TO: MARCH, 2017

MARCH 5	8:00 a.m.	10:15 a.m.
<b>Eucharistic Minister</b>	Merle Schnee	Michael Stank, Charlotte Weaver-Gelzer
<b>Eucharistic Visitor</b>	--	Phyllis Gbur, Sue Heilman
<b>Lector</b>	Sue Tobie	Fran Gouveia, Bob Kilp
<b>Server</b>	--	Kendall Morgan
<b>Torch Bearer</b>	--	Elijah Mendez, Frances Brogan
<b>Crucifer</b>	--	Aaron Hasircoglu
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Team 2	Team 2
<b>Steeple Bell Ringer</b>	--	Hal Williams
<b>Ushers</b>	8:00 a.m.	Team A
<b>Greeter</b>	--	Bruce Waskowicz
<b>Coffee Hour</b>	Handbell Choir	Handbell Choir
<b>Nursery</b>	--	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**