



St. John's Messenger

December, 2017

from Fr. John W. Morris, Rector

OUR DECEMBER TO REMEMBER

December 2017 at St. John's Church will be memorable for many different reasons and in many different ways. For one, we will continue to be a church under construction. But we will be in our final phase. That in itself will make this Christmas at St. John's like no other.

Another need to remember. This year the Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve are both on December 24th. That will put a wrinkle in our service schedule that you will need to be alert to and remember as noted below.

Add to that the fact that all of our Advent Sunday and Christmas services in December are unique and memorable in their own right.

The First Sunday of Advent, December 3rd, commences with the **Lighting of the Advent Wreath** by a family from the congregation. The Nativity Scene will also be in place as the figures of the holy family of Joseph and Mary begin their procession from the rear of the nave guided by a star.

The Second Sunday of Advent, December 10th, a service of **Advent Lessons and Carols** with Holy Eucharist, will be celebrated at 8:00 and 10:15 a.m. The telling of "The Story Before Christmas" is combined with beautiful Advent hymns.

The Third Sunday of Advent, December 17th, **St. John's Sunday** will be observed. We will honor at both our services those whom we recognize as "saints among us": the Cuthbert-Brown family, Angela, Doug, Chloe and Sophie; and Joe and April Way. Add to that, the 1915 date stone will be cracked open by our resident stone mason, Doug Brown, at 9:15 a.m. in the Parish Hall, revealing the 102-year-old contents of the time capsule.

The Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 24th, will be observed with an 8:00 a.m. Rite I Eucharist only. There will **NOT** be a 10:15 a.m. service.

Christmas Eve celebrations will begin at 3:30 p.m. with a Rite I Eucharist featuring the St. John's Handbell Choir. At 6:30 p.m. will be our family service of a children's Nativity Pageant and Eucharist Rite II. Our service of Festive Choral Eucharist Rite II, with accompaniment by the Lancaster Brass Quintet, begins with a Prelude of Music and Carols at 10:30 p.m.

ST. JOHN'S WILL BE ACCESSIBLE TO ALL for Christmas Eve services. While we will not have an occupancy permit for the atrium, we will be provided safe passage to the sanctuary. The atrium will be roofed and glassed in. The Chestnut St. ramp will be usable. Handrails and lighting will be installed. For the first time since June we will all be able to worship God together in our sanctuary.

THE REV. JOHN W. MORRIS (CONTINUED)

Christmas Day, December 25th, a service of Holy Eucharist Rite II, with sermon and Christmas music and hymns, will be offered at 11:00 a.m. One of the few Christmas Day services in town, the music of Paul Reese makes it the best Christmas Day service in town.

The First Sunday of Christmas, December 31st, our liturgy will be a service of **Christmas Lessons and Carols** with Holy Eucharist at 8:00 and 10:15 a.m. We hear the whole story of Christ's birth as we sing Christmas hymns for the last time until next year.

That is much to remember and all of it will be unforgettable. What is more memorable still is the reason for our recollection - Jesus Christ. Through Jesus we recall the message of the prophets. In Jesus we are reminded of the tender love of God for us. With Jesus we commemorate God's saving grace. Because of Jesus we are a people God never forgets but always remembers and keeps forever.

John+



THE REV. DR. BARBARA J. SERAS

An Advent Tradition

Every year about this time I reach for a book *Donkey Bells: Stories, Traditions and Meditations from Catherine Doherty*. Catherine, born in Tsarist Russia, was baptized and raised in the Russian Orthodox Tradition; she later became Roman Catholic. Over her lifetime, through her writings and uncompromising spirit, she introduced the great heritage of Russian Orthodoxy to the West.

Reading her book every year is my way of preparing for Advent leading to Christmas. It gives a special meaning to the season in my home, a special reminder of this time of Advent Waiting.

My most treasured tradition and story is *Bells and the Donkey*, which Catherine's mother did for her children every Advent. There are many practices to prepare for Advent—the Coming of Christ among us—such as Lighting the Advent wreath. Revisiting this story and tradition is mine:

A little donkey carried Mary as she traveled from Nazareth to Bethlehem with Joseph. She soon would give birth to the Christ Child. The little donkey had bells around his neck and as they traveled, the little bells would tinkle. Imagine it. Mother Mary riding on this little donkey, carrying Christ in her. She was the "first church!" And the little donkey, carrying Mother Mary and sounding the bells: the "first church bells."

Around the second week of Advent, Catherine's mother wore a little bracelet with tinkling bells. As she moved about the house, the children heard the bells. Each week a few more bells made the sounds much louder. And as the Advent weeks passed, the children imagined stories of Mary and Joseph traveling to Bethlehem. They talked about how they too could prepare to go to Bethlehem. And as Christmas approached, the bells became a bit louder and the children's excitement grew.

THE FIRST CHURCH BELL

by Catherine Doherty

Is your heart quiet?
Your mind at rest
In Nazareth?
Your soul as joyous as a child's
Before a flower or a toy?

Then listen!
It will take a while
But you will hear
The clearest sound
Of the first church bell.

You have to be
Very quiet and full of peace,
The sound will
At first be slight—distant.
It will travel
Slow...slow...slow...
But then, quite suddenly
It will sound clear,
As if it were quite near.

But if your joy is very great
Your soul all ready
Then you will see
A little donkey
Full of humility
With little bells
Around his neck!

The sound, so clear now,
Will take you in
And lift you up
And you will know
That God's first church bells
Were the ones a donkey wore
Around his neck!



Barbara+

CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIALS

Remember Your Loved Ones



DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING NAMES FOR CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS IS **DECEMBER 12.**

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



GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP CHALLENGES

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

DECEMBER 2017

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

“Maybe Christmas, the Grinch thought, doesn’t come from a store.” *Dr. Seuss*
While many are possessed with buying presents this month, think a moment of how full your heart feels as you watch someone open something you got for them.
Perhaps think about being “selfish” and wanting that heart explosion more, but not in your familiar surroundings but in unfamiliar ones as you share food gifts with those hungry, clothing gifts with those who might be so grateful for a coat, a hat, a sweater, a donation to someone without a tree or expecting Santa.
Think of those in our world who have experienced such loss this year.... they are our brothers, sisters, family! Anything would be appreciated.

Global Partnership Challenge for December 3rd

“Love is our true destiny. We do not find the meaning of life by ourselves alone - we find it with another.” *Thomas Merton*
The Shepherds, the Wise Men, locals visiting the Nativity, were ALL family.
We at St. John’s are ALL family, also those outside our doors.

Global Partnership Challenge for December 10th

“A tree is known by its fruit; a man by his deeds. A good deed is never lost; he who sows courtesy reaps friendship, and he who plants kindness gathers love.”
Saint Basil
Our Community Breakfast time fills the hearts of the helpers as they absorb the smiles, the thank you’s, the feeling of being in exactly the right place at the right time.
Blessings to All!

Global Partnership Challenge for December 17th Posadas Celebration

In Mexico, and among Mexican-Americans, the celebration of Posadas, meaning “shelter,” is a highlight of the pre-Christmas season,
In imitation of Joseph and Mary’s search for shelter, pilgrims knock on doors and ask for shelter on this night and every night until December 24th.
Perform an Advent act of love for Christ today by doing something for all those who lack Posadas, the homeless of our time.

Global Partnership Challenge for December 24th

As Christ is a gift to us from our Father, let us ALL be a gift to others...Here, There, Everywhere.



SERVING SCHEDULE – DECEMBER 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.

DECEMBER 3	8:00 a.m.	10:15 a.m.
Eucharistic Minister	Nicole Pham	Brooks Morgan, Michael Stank, Charlotte Weaver-Gelzer
Eucharistic Visitor	---	Don Durand, Sibyl Seachrist
Lector	Phil Purdy	Fran Gouveia, Bob Kilp
Server	--	Ian Thompson
Crucifer	--	Glenn Miller
Torch Bearer	--	Natalie Visco, Campbell Way
Altar Guild	Team 1	Team 1
Steeple Bell Ringer	--	Hal Williams
Verger	--	Kathy Kyper
Ushers	8:00 a.m.	Team A
Greeter	--	Brad Zuke
Coffee Hour	Handbell Choir	Handbell Choir
Nursery	--	Marla Lester

DECEMBER 10	8:00 a.m.	10:15 a.m.
Eucharistic Minister	Sue Purdy	David Dissinger, Brad Moyer, Sibyl Seachrist
Eucharistic Visitor	--	--
Lector	Barbara Landis, Bob Lee, Nicole Pham, Phil Purdy, Sue Purdy, Gretchen Walden	Megan Howell-Brogan, C. Weaver-Gelzer, David Dissinger, Jane Lee, Brooks Morgan, Sibyl Seachrist
Server	--	Hal Williams
Crucifer	--	Brooks Morgan
Torch Bearer	--	Frances Brogan, Fiona Mausolf
Altar Guild	Team 2	Team 2
Steeple Bell Ringer	--	Rob Williams
Verger	--	Ben Creighton
Ushers	8:00 a.m.	Team B
Greeter	--	Bruce Waskowicz
Coffee Hour	J2A	J2A
Nursery	--	Leslie Morgan

DECEMBER 17	8:00 a.m.	10:15 a.m.
Eucharistic Minister	Tom Bond	David Kilp, Peter Novosel, TBD
Eucharistic Visitor	Stephanie McGovern	--
Lector	Barbara Landis	Brad Moyer, Sibyl Seachrist
Server	--	Rob Williams
Crucifer	--	Dave Pennell
Torch Bearer	--	Nicholas Di Pace, Greyson Way
Altar Guild	Team 3	Team 3
Steeple Bell Ringer	--	Garth Alexander
Vergers	--	Ben Creighton
Ushers	8:00 a.m.	Team C
Greeter	--	Peter Novosel
Coffee Hour	Community Breakfast	Community Breakfast
Nursery	--	Janelle Stone

*There will be only one (1) morning service on
Advent 4, Sunday, December 24.
Christmas Eve Services listed on next page.*



DECEMBER 24	8:00 a.m.
Eucharistic Minister	Molly Moyer
Eucharistic Visitor	--
Lector	Bob Lee
Server	--
Crucifer	--
Torch Bearer	--
Altar Guild	Team 4
Steeple Bell Ringer	--
Vergers	--
Ushers	8:00 a.m.
Greeter	No Greeter
Coffee Hour	No Coffee Hour
Nursery	No Nursery

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

CHRISTMAS EVE	3:30 p.m.	6:30 p.m.	10:30 p.m.
Eucharistic Minister			
Lector			
Server			
Crucifer	<i>Ministers to be Determined.</i>		
Torch Bearer			
Thurifer			
Ushers			

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICES

CHRISTMAS EVE	11:00 a.m.
<i>Ministers to be Determined.</i>	

DECEMBER 31	8:00 a.m.	10:15 a.m.
Eucharistic Minister	Nicole Pham	Brooks Morgan, Michael Stank, Charlotte Weaver-Gelzer
Eucharistic Visitor	--	--
Lector	Barbara Landis, Bob Lee, Nicole Pham, Phil Purdy, Sue Purdy, Sue Tobie	Meagan Brogan, David Dissinger, Fran Gouveia, Bob Kilp, Brad Moyer, Paula Wolf
Server	--	Sean Cliff
Crucifer	--	Glenn Miller
Torch Bearer	--	Helena & Evelyn Carroll
Altar Guild	Team 1	Team 1
Steeple Bell Ringer	--	Lorraine Nolan
Verger	--	Tom Verger
Ushers	8:00 a.m.	Team C
Greeter	--	Sue Martin
Coffee Hour	Usher Teams C & D	Usher Teams C & D
Nursery	--	No Nursery

SERVING SCHEDULE - LOOKING AHEAD TO JANUARY, 2018

JANUARY 7	8:00 a.m.	10:15 a.m.
Eucharistic Minister	Sue Purdy	David Dissinger, Brad Moyer, Sibyl Seachrist
Eucharistic Visitor	--	Sibyl Seachrist
Lector	Sue Tobie	Danielle Di Pace, Charlotte Weaver-Gelzer
Server	--	Kendall Morgan
Crucifer	--	Bob Kilp
Torch Bearer	--	Claire & Sophia Thompson
Altar Guild	Team 1	Team 1
Steeple Bell Ringer	--	Lorraine Nolan
Verger	--	Kathy Kyper
Ushers	8:00 a.m.	Team A
Greeter	--	Brad Zuke
Coffee Hour	Lectors	Lectors
Nursery	--	Tracy Cliff

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 Toni Ehrhart

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

Deaths

Stefan K. Latshaw, Jr.
September 17, 1970 - November 2, 2017

Donald J. Sterling
October 1, 1951 - November 14, 2017

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Search Committee has been meeting monthly to help us plan for gathering the information that will be used to guide us in finding our next priest. This involves a three-pronged plan to gather information. First, there will be a whole-congregation gathering on March 11, 2018, called Appreciative Inquiry, to participate in a thoughtful discussion of some key questions. Mark your calendar for this event. Next, we will gather in small interest groups to further refine our goals and needs for a new priest. Finally, there will be an important survey to determine our priorities. If you have questions or concerns about the process, please contact one of the following committee members: Jeannie Zeller, Sue Heilman, Joel Cliff, Fran Gouveia, Alice Ogowang, Andy Welaish, Leslie Morgan, Glenn Miller, Betsy Hasircoglu, Joe Way, Debbie Carter, and Ruth McFarland.



More than a Corner Stone?

Yes, perhaps a time capsule! During Doug Brown's removal of the corner stone of the Parish House, he noticed a cover placed over the top of the rather large marble stone. Of course, there is only one way to find out what, if anything, is inside. It was felt that removing the cover to see what is inside would be an appropriate St. John's Sunday event on December 17th. We hope you can make it as we look inside!

SENIOR WARDEN

Advent will soon be upon us and with it the messages of hope and joy. It couldn't come at a more needed time. I try not to listen to the news or even read the news, but even so, news of mass shootings are hard to avoid, along with the news of men of power taking advantage of and treating women poorly, the racial divide that still exists in this country, and the devastating wildfires and hurricanes that so many are still recovering from. We are so in need of those messages of hope and joy.

I was looking through an Advent and Christmas meditations book for the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd entitled, "Living in Joyful Hope." It begins with Isaiah's Prophecy of the Light: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light." How fitting for our current times. I'd like to share with you the prayer that accompanies this reading.

It begins with verses from Psalm 119, verses 105, 111, 130:

*Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path.
Your decrees are my heritage forever;
they are the joy of my heart.
The unfolding of your words gives light;
it imparts understanding to the simple.*

The prayer then continues:

*When all around me is darkness, O Lord.
I turn to your word. I open
my heart to your ancient teaching,
to the sacred mystery of your scripture.
One verse from the Bible imparts
joy beyond all telling. I will turn
again and read of how you commanded
the light to be light,
I will arise;
my own light will shine
because your Word is within me.
One day your Word will overtake the world
completely.
What a light it will be
when all have arisen
and all shine with your glory!
Amen*

As we prepare to move through Advent, let us continue to keep up the good work Jesus has asked us to do and spread the light through the darkness that surrounds us.

Submitted by,

Jenn Hreben, Senior Warden

VESTRY RESOLUTIONS

The following resolutions were passed by the Vestry on November 20, 2017:

1. Floor Repair ó Resolved, that the Vestry of St. Johnø receives gratefully the directed gifts from Kathy Kyper and Shirley Shaheen, and directs that a sum of up to \$6000 be expensed from the Liturgical Arts Fund to Marblelife of Delaware Valley for the purpose of repairing and refinishing the marble floor of the chancel, choir and chapel.

This resolution comes from Property and Finance Committee. Bruce Waskowicz called the question.

2. St. Johnø Sunday ó Resolved, that on this St. Johnø Sunday, December 17th, 2017, the Vestry of St. Johnø Episcopal Church, Lancaster, PA, on behalf of the members of the congregation, offers their most heartfelt thanksgiving to God and expression of deep appreciation to these saints among us:

The Cuthbert ó Brown family, Doug, Angela, Chloe and Sophia, for Dougø service to St. Johnø as an usher, for his leadership on the Property Committee, for his chairmanship of the Construction Committee, and most especially for the familyø team efforts tending the Jubilee Ministries vegetable garden, serving at the community breakfast, and respectfully removing, by hand, and securely storing over six thousand, five hundred pounds of sacred soil from the St. Johnø Memorial Garden.

Joseph and April Way, for Joeø sharing of his communications technology expertise, for Aprilø making of thousands of chocolate covered Easter Eggs, for their shared leadership of the Journey to Adulthood youth ministry program, and most especially for their organization and chaperoning of the J2A pilgrimage to Peru.

*This resolution comes from Executive Committee. Pam Loose called the question.
The motion carried.*

SHOP FOR CHRISTMAS!



9th Annual “**GIFTS THAT GIVE HOPE FAIR**”

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9th - 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Lancaster Farm and Home Center
1383 Arcadia Road, Lancaster, PA

Many local and international non-profits will have information including:

WORLD BICYCLE RELIEF and RAFIKI AFRICA

Vendors present will be BEADS FOR LIFE and fair trade chocolate, coffee, tea, candles, and baskets from Ghana. Also, yummy hot food from many countries, along with an educational and fun Children's Activity room.

Father John's Leave-Taking

Friday February 23—Sunday February 25, 2018

Friday—St John's Community Night

Saturday—Evening Prayer and Reception with the Rt. Reverend Audrey Scanlan

Sunday—Holy Eucharist 8 & 10:15 and Service of Leave-taking

TWO BIG WEEKENDS at SAINT JOHN's — MARK YOUR CALENDAR



Saint John's Transfiguration Weekend

A Lenten offering of Reflection ~ Learning ~ Prayer

Theme: *Stepping Ahead . . .*

Where is God calling us to move forward in ministry and parish life?

Friday March 2—Sunday March 4, 2018

Welcoming The Rt. Reverend Robert W. Ihloff, Retired Bishop of Maryland



PROPERTY CORNER

Our HVAC contractor was called to make repairs to our boilers. Due to all of the construction work, both unit required cleaning to provide efficient firing. Through our construction effort, our comfort and electrical systems have been redesigned to increase efficiency and access for maintenance. This effort was included as part of the system redesign for the new addition.

With upgrading our electrical service, handling our Parish House and Church, the old panel had to be removed and replaced with a new panel. The new panel had to be inspected by a construction official, prior to PPL restoring power to these areas of our campus. This process took a little longer than anticipated, resulting in restricted use of our Parish Hall for meetings. The upgrade was necessary to accommodate the additional electrical demand for our addition, especially the elevator. Again, we appreciate everyone's understanding as we navigate through this and our other temporary construction challenges during the usual busy use of our facilities by our many ministries, including support groups.

We took the opportunity to remove the tulip poplar tree and will be repairing the sidewalk on the Mulberry Street side of our campus, both required by the City of Lancaster. Although not being funded by the capital campaign, it was felt that using the contractors available through the construction project would be the most cost effective means of meeting our needs and those of the city. We apologize for the temporary inconvenience this effort has posed to our members and those whom we serve. Everyone's understanding in this effort is appreciated.

As you have already figured, our construction project has occupied much of your Property Manager's time. October saw the relocation of the gas service for the Church building. Much time was spent evaluating effective options for the drain lines of our roof downspouts and rain gardens to improve efficiency while dealing with root-clogged underground drainpipes. We thank the city for their assistance in locating viable options for our overflow from our proposed rain gardens.

As part of our package insurance policy, the builder's risk policy was renewed at our 10/02 renewal. Other coverage features, such as payments, exclusions and limits, are now handled through the Finance Committee. A cursory review of our policy revealed limited, if any, changes from the policy last year.

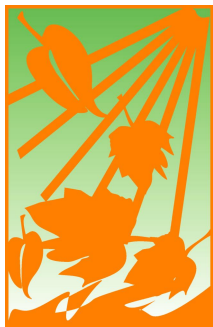
This month's Life Safety inspection was completed on November 1st and required batteries to be replaced in two emergency lighting units and bulbs to be replaced in one. Select Security has relocated the fire alarm panel to the lower level of the Parish House stairtower. This relocation was required to provide a streamlined system, where the main alarm panel and related equipment would be located away from the new Atrium, while being located on the lower level of the Parish House. The panel will also be updated to handle the additional devices required for our new addition and the elevator.

With the City of Lancaster recently passing a lead ordinance for rental properties, we reached out to Younger Realty Management Company for their perspective on the City's requirements. We are in the process of getting that information as of this writing. But, provided the lead remains undisturbed, we should only require testing.

We are always looking for new or different perspectives on our committee. Our meetings are held on the first Tuesday of every month, with our next meeting being Tuesday, December 5th, 2017, at 7 p.m. in the Becker House. We'd love for you to join us! And, don't forget our Fall Clean-up will be Saturday, December 9th, from 8:00 - 11:00 a.m. in preparation for Christmas. We look forward to seeing everyone then, as many hands make for light work!

Submitted by *Bill Gross*, Property Manager

FALL PARISH CLEAN-UP DAY



Saturday, December 9th
8:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Please join us from 8:00 - 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 9th, as we spruce up the church for the Christmas season. All ages are invited and encouraged to help with chores, both inside and out. Bring a rake, a broom, a bucket and a friend to help with the clean-up project. Contact Bruce Waskowicz or Dave Martin with questions.

RAFIKI AFRICA

This holiday season, Rafiki Africa is sharing the story of our student **Esther Akoth**.

As a child, Esther and her family lived in Kisumu, where her mother sold vegetables and her dad was a city TukTuk driver. When Esther was 12, her mother died in childbirth. Her family had to move from Kisumu town slum to the village, where living is less expensive but has limitations such as access to health care, education and water.

Since Esther was the oldest sibling, she now took the responsibility of her mother for her family. She started to budget daily for food, go to the market to shop, prepare meals, clean the home and collect water from the river a half mile away from home. After her mother's funeral, she and her siblings did not attend school for several months. Their maternal grandmother knew of LightHouse Academy (LHA) but was not sure if they could be admitted, since it would be very difficult for Esther's father to afford taking all of them to school. One day, she sent them with their father and we immediately fell in love with the family, and admitted all 3 siblings to LHA. Rafiki has helped this family access good education and meals for the kids while at school. We have also helped with family support by providing resources for a better home, meals at home and health care.

Finally this November, Esther graduated from 8th grade, which will allow her to attend high school and eventually college. She says "I am so blessed to be a student at LightHouse and for my siblings to go to the same school. I have learnt so much including how use computers. I am so thankful for all my school sponsors." Esther has very impressive leadership skills that she has used to help her father take care of her family and at school. She wants to be a nurse and go back to help her community. Currently she is in student government and helps coordinate a lot of activities on campus.

Esther is one out of 19 students graduating from LightHouse in 8th grade. Each of her classmates has a story. They need support to be able to continue with their education in high school. Please consider partnering with Esther and her classmates to reach their goal of \$10,500 by the end of the year. You also have the opportunity to be a sustaining partner for their four years of high school education.



Peace,

Sallie McCann



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 2017 and February 2018**. The blank areas remain available. Thank you for supporting our flower ministry at St. John's!

DATE	(1)	(2)	CHAPEL
December 3			
December 10			
December 17			
December 24	<i>Christmas Memorials</i>	<i>Christmas Memorials</i>	<i>Christmas Memorials</i>
December 31			
January 7			
January 14			
January 21			
January 28			
February 4			
February 11			
February 18			
February 25			

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!"

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; I hope you all had fun.

If you ordered a wreath from the J2A, please remember pick-up is December 3 in the All Purpose Room.

On Sunday, December 17, 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 be sure to arrive by 6:00 p.m. for costumes.

There will be no Sunday School classes on Sunday, December 24, or Sunday, December 31. Enjoy the holiday! Classes will resume at 9:15 a.m. on Sunday, January 7 - hopefully back in our classrooms!!

Don't forget to save the date for MLK Day events on January 15 from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. There will 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



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (CONTINUED)

Journey to Adulthood

Mary Ellen Kilp & Leslie Morgan, Youth Co-Directors

Journey to Adulthood enjoyed our annual Battle of the Saints game at St. Thomas. The weather did not co-operate this year so we ended up have an indoor game day. Thank you to St. Thomas for hosting everyone and making the wonderful chili and to all who participated!

Thank you to everyone who donated and bought jewelry at our Jewelry Sale. It was a successful fundraiser.

All youth grades 6 ó 12: Join us for the Diocesan Youth lock-in on December 1-3, 2017. Prepare the Way: A Path to Peace. We will be going to Camp Mount Luther. The cost of the event is \$125.00, and scholarships are available. Register at diocesecpa.org or contact Mary Ellen Kilp if you are interested in going or have any questions.

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.



CAN YOU HELP US SPREAD THE GOOD NEWS? NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED

We are happy to report that our new web streaming camera is up and running!

We are looking for members who would be interested in helping with the web streaming of our church services for all to see. *No experience required.* The time commitment is small and is whatever you can offer. Joe Way, a church member and tech consultant, will provide training.

We are a dedicated group that works to highlight all the good news and happenings at St. Johnø and we hope that you will join us.

For additional information please contact a committee member:

Debbie Carter, Jill Gross, Leslie Tahsler, or Joe Way

ST. JOHN'S YOUTH CALENDAR 2017-2018

December 1 . 3	Diocesan Winter Retreat (grades 6 . 12)
December 17	Christmas Caroling
January 6 . 8	PYE Jr. & Sr. High, Claggett Center MD
January 13 & 14	Game night and lock in (Convocation)
January 20 . 22	Happening Planning meeting (Diocese)
January 28	Rite 13 Ceremony
February 4	Scout Sunday Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday
February 13	Shrove Tuesday
February 14	Ash Wednesday
February 16 . 19	Happening (Diocese)
February 24 . 26	Bishop visit
March 2 . 4	Transfiguration Weekend
March 9 . 10	Scrapbooking Weekend
March 16 . 18	Diocesan Jr. High Retreat
March 25	Palm Sunday
March 29	Maundy Thursday (Convocation)
March 30	Good Friday
April 1	Easter
April 7	Dinner / Talent Show
April 29	Graduation Sunday
May 4	Confirmation
May 6	Teacher Appreciation Mini Golf (Convocation)
July 6	Berry Festival



JUBILEE MINISTRIES

ANGEL TREE (Contact: Anne Carroll or Annie Lattanzio Hale)

Please remember that the due date for returning your Angel Tree gifts is Sunday, December 3. Be sure to use a gift bag rather than boxes. Thank you for taking part in this rewarding ministry.

COMMUNITY BREAKFAST (Contact: Sue Martin) **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16**

A breakfast of pancakes, sausage, eggs, juice, cereal, and pastries will be served to the downtown community at First Reformed United Church of Christ, 40 East Orange Street.

Volunteers: Please let Dave or Sue Martin know if you won't be helping so they can reach out to those on their substitute list, not be caught short of help. Thank you!



EAGLE'S NEST (Contact: Jean Gordon)

A small group of eager Fulton School and Wickersham Elementary School students are now spending Wednesday afternoons in our Parish Hall and Auditorium for St. John's 16th season of this amazing neighborhood ministry. Under the direction of parishioner **Jean Gordon**, 10 volunteers and 2 teens are getting to know this happy new group of students.

FOOD PANTRY (Contact: Debbie Carter & Linda Wallace)

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)

Please continue to donate Box Tops for Education, Turkey Hill Moo Caps, and spent printer cartridges. There are collection containers on the Eagle's Nest table under the photo gallery in the Parish Hall. Thank you for your donations.

MARTHA'S MINISTRY (Contact: Jeannie Zeller)

St. Nick's Knit sale is coming to our Parish Hall on Sunday, **November 26th & December 3rd** between services and after the 10:15 a.m. service. This year, we are hoping that some of you might be willing to contribute crafted items for our table. We are looking for crochet, knit, patchwork, quilted items, woodworking, jewelry or any other craft items you may want to introduce us to.

We need your participation this year. Our numbers are few but our spirit is strong and we really want to make this year's sale a big success. Proceeds go towards our Eagle's Nest program. Thank you!

Please note that during the construction at St. John's, Martha's Ministry group will be meeting in the Parish Hall or Becker House on Tuesdays from 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m.

Come and join us as we share fellowship and ideas while enjoying good conversation, knitting, and/or crocheting! Thanks to all who have continued to help our ministry, whether by prayer or by contribution of time and/or materials. We are always in need of prayer shawls.

If you know of someone who would enjoy receiving a prayer shawl to comfort them through difficult times, or if you have questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact Jeannie Zeller.

JUBILEE MINISTRIES (CONTINUED)

GROCERY CARDS (Contact: Sue Tobie)

Total grocery card sales for: **OCTOBER: \$7,520 & \$376 for Jubilee Ministries**
NOVEMBER: \$4,580 & \$229 for Jubilee Ministries

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

A.L.E.R.T.

WINTER SHELTER OPPORTUNITY

The Winter Shelter at the YWCA will again be in operation during the upcoming cold season. St. James has volunteered to obtain volunteers to help operate the shelter from December 4 thru December 13. ALERT churches have been asked and encouraged to supplement the needed volunteer positions. St. John's in past years has assisted in filling many of the volunteer positions. If interested in serving, online registration may be done through the SignUpGenius website. There are still a few open positions; contact Dave Martin for specifics on how to access the SignUpGenius website.

SUGGESTIONS FOR HELPING THE REFUGEE FAMILY

The Issa family is made up of 7: Mother Mariam; 2 teen daughters, Khadidja and Nourascham; 2 boys, Ibrahim and Djalale, both in Middle School; a kindergartner, Rania; and a 3-year-old toddler, Hawaa. There exists a variety of ways to help the ALERT Circle of Friends meet the ongoing needs of the family. The November bulletins were full of ways in which YOU can become involved. Visiting the home and helping with homework, reading to the young ones, taking one or more of the children to movies, sports events, helping with transportation. The list could go on and on. Contact Dave Martin, if interested in becoming involved.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

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

Here's a quick update (as of November 8, 2017) on the financial support for our building renovations, which began in mid-June:

	Amount Received
Received toward total pledges of \$781,553	\$ 571,561
Non-pledged (one-time or above pledged amt.)	35,082
Bequests	150,000
Total received	\$ 756,643

Total anticipated (pledges + other giving): \$ 966,635

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

The capital campaign fulfillment period runs through 2018. However, if you are able to join the 36 families who have already completed their pledges, that will reduce the amount that we need to borrow from the bank during construction. (And that, of course, will reduce the interest we have to pay.)

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.

-- Submitted by Debbie Carter

THANK YOU

Dear St. John's Family,

On behalf of Karen, Andy, Ally, Alex, Andrei and myself, I would like to thank our St. John's family for the outpouring of love and support you have given to us during this most difficult time. To those who helped prepare the church for Stefan's service, it was exactly what we wanted. Paul, the music was wonderful, and thank you for playing Stefan's favorite piece. Fr. John and Mother Barbara, your support in the hospital allowed Karen and I to be at peace with the knowledge that we were doing the right things for Stefan. Finally, to everyone that lifted us up in prayer, I can only say thank you. There are no words that express our gratefulness for your support.

May God bless each and every one of you.

The Latshaw Family

EYES TO SEE

This fall I scooped up a poster, wanting to share it with you all. The poster shows a renowned figure, with the image balanced by few words.

The figure's likeness to the likeness I am used to seeing is vague at best. Not enough mitre nor reindeer to make the bishop easily recognizable. This rather young looking figure cradles a sphere ó the sphere, undoubtedly, earth. Is that you, old St. Nick?

The poster's words few, simple, direct í maybe too direct for some í sit above and below this odd facsimile of our beloved, familiar, warm and cuddly legend.

Despite its drawbacks, the poster does something I would do, but can't do as well.

I've invited St. Nicholas to help me invite you to recognize the fact that we, people of God on earth, have agency on this earth, and for this earth. We have God-given reason, responsibility and power to affect the health of the fragile island on which we and others live.

In his time, St. Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, could not turn his face from children in need and danger. He was truly a man of wisdom and, in his day, remarkable perspective. Yet, I wonder if in his time he might have been bemused to conceive there'd be any connection between the children in his protection and the earth's North Pole í a connection that commands both near and far-sightedness today. But, now, however, if he were informed perhaps by science data* or by his own sleigh sightings of polar ice sheet disintegration, I wonder if this patron saint of children, sailors and others - in colorful red trim of his Episcopal office - would send RED ALERT alarm that earth's network of life (as he knew/we know it) is in full jeopardy.

In a sentence í (eh, make that three sentences) We are the subject. Reversing climate disruption is the object. The Spirit predicates all.

Can we turn our eyes from the havoc, now and future, of climate disruption? Sure, we could. Will we?

RED ALERT urgency?

Urgency - yes, for several reasons í Here's one: It isn't just that warming raises sea levels. The question is not how high, but how fast levels rise unchecked. Warming's resulting rapid population retreat from coasts, experts predict, will throw human society into chaotic crisis for which our political and economic and technology systems are unprepared.

Here comes the ðaskö: I ask, ðDo we have the spiritually armed will to move together toward solutions?ö St. John's has been environmentally attuned: Recycling, replanting trees, expanding permeable surfaces and gardens to manage storm water, hosting Citizens' Climate Education sessions, and participation by parish leadership and individuals in our national church's conferences on climate. That is good, but it is imperative for each of us individually to grapple with the responsibility to pray and act, alone and together, for the good of the Creation we're given to steward.

In praying ðCome Holy Spirit, renew the face of the earth!ö could we add, ðSaint Nicholas, aid our hearts and souls and wills to be servants of the common good.ö?

** Rapid Arctic ice-melt releases methane from permafrost in the soil – a greenhouse gas 85 times more harmful than carbon dioxide. Of note: The Guardian Newspaper wrote that NASA engineers observing the glaciers visibly losing mass, sighed and wondered aloud if America has lost eyes to see what they were seeing, has lost eyes to see the facts. (The Guardian, 7/27/17).*

EYES TO SEE (CONTINUED)

Resources: To read The Rev. Canon Jeff Golliber's article, "A life together: The need for urgent action on the climate and environmental crisis" go to <http://www.anglicannews.org/blogs/2017/10/a-life-together-the-need-for-urgent-action-on-the-climate-and-environmental-crisis.aspx>

To visit Lancaster's Climate Education chapter, see "Citizens Climate Lobby of Lancaster" on Facebook. For lots of researched info on climate disruption and solution, go to: www.citizensclimatelobby.org

Submitted by, *Faith D'Urbano*

PRAY FAST ACT FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCY

*From the Episcopal Public Policy Network (EPPN) and
Presiding Bishop Michael Curry:*

Join the Episcopal Church to [Pray, Fast and Act](#) for climate resiliency.

PRAY for our nation's elected leaders to invest in sustainable recovery and preparedness, and in infrastructure designed for an uncertain and dangerous future.

"Almighty God, in giving us dominion over things on Earth, you made us fellow workers in your creation: Give us wisdom and reverence so to use the resources of nature, that no one may suffer from our abuse of them, and that generations yet to come may continue to praise you for your bounty; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

For the Conservation of Natural Resources, The Book of Common Prayer

FAST to remember the damage wrought for so many around the world by environmental degradation and natural disaster. Share on social media using #PrayFastAct and [@TheEPPN](#).

ACT by urging our elected leaders to support strong policy solutions that address the increasingly urgent preparation and reconstruction needs of communities threatened by extreme and unpredictable weather.

[Tell Congress to Address Climate Resiliency!](#)

The Episcopal Church Office of Government Relations

Speak out for those who cannot speak, for the rights of all the destitute. Speak out, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy.

Proverbs 31: 8-9

PRAYER LIST

We offer our continued prayers for:

John Anders
Camilla Anderson
Bob Bailey
Phil & Hilary Becker
Michael Brogan
Frank Burris
Patricia & Ralph Clare
Paul & Molly Clark
Nancy Cook
Linda Frederiksen
Carol Greenfield
Alina Grobicki
Shannon Hickman
Marge Kern
Terry Koogle
Kelly Lynch
Kathy McNamara
Kevin & Mary Nourie
Robert Power
Ricky Ross
Gloria Schnee
Merle Schnee
Stephanie Smith
Christian Stigelman
Martha Stroh
Joana Torres & kids
Gary Weaver
Melissa Williams
Paula Wolf
Angelica Zander
Paul
Sister Jacqueline, CT
Dianna
Khyzeer
Benny



*...and for our
homebound
parishioners*

Margaret Crothers
Providence Eshelman
Bette Lou Forsyth
Michael Frantz
Dyllys Glew
Cricket Johnson
Ellen Keller
Joan Lahr
Fritz Lawrence
Don Lovett
Barbara McKee
Nancy Nemith
Peter Plaxa
Joan Rahe
Gray Sellers
Marjorie Seachrist
Ricky Smith
Joanna Sweeney
Sandra Wengert

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 contact Patti Means in the church office.

*Laurel Hobbins, Matthew James,
Alex Kelly, Kirby Kinderwater,
Kyle Kinderwater, Kyle Kulka,
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>
Brenton, Rich	26
Crothers, Jim	25
D'Urbano, Faith	17
Dorgan, Dan	29
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
Meikrantz, Marcia	2
Moyer, Brad	12
Parmer, Shirley	15
Schnee, Donna	25
Stonerook, Kendall	18
Watts, Cameron	9
Watts, Wyatt	3
Zeller, Jeannie	29

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

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



VOYAGERS

The VOYAGERS will not be meeting in December, but would like to take this opportunity to wish for all of you and for yours, a Very Merry Christmas and the Happiest of New Years.

We'll be looking forward to our January get-together!

Watch for the announcement in the January ðMessengerö for further details.

