



# DIOCESAN DIGEST

## for Central Pennsylvania

February 8, 2010

### FROM THE DESK OF..... BISHOP NATHAN BAXTER

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ;

Please pray for the clergy of our diocese as we gather this week at the Holiday Inn East in Harrisburg for our annual Winter Clergy Conference. This will be the first year in a long time that we have not held the conference at the Precious Blood Retreat Center, since the closing of that facility. We will all miss that beautiful setting and the gracious hospitality of the Sisters there. Please also pray for safe journeys for all travelling home with the expected snow.

I wanted to take this time to thank you for reading this Diocesan Digest, sharing it with your congregations, and contributing to it to help to keep everyone up-to-date on what is happening around the diocese.

I would like to outline what we have determined are appropriate guidelines for the kinds of announcements that should be shared with the diocese through the Digest. If an event is to be held in a particular parish but is organized by the Convocation, or several parishes in the convocation, it would be appropriate to request publication in the Digest. Otherwise, events or announcements that are of widespread diocesan interest should be what is covered in this newsletter. That is, diocesan special events, workshops, conferences, or events or meetings organized by diocesan commissions or other such diocesan-focused groups.

As you know, the space that we have for this Digest is limited. We have deliberately tried to keep it to just 2 pages to make it more convenient for you to read and to keep costs down for those who receive it by mail. With that in mind, please note that we cannot highlight upcoming individual parish events, as there just would not be enough room to fairly cover all the great ministry you are doing in your own communities.

Thank you for your understanding as we continue to strive to keep you informed of what is happening in our diocese.

May God continue to bless you as we approach the Lenten Season.

+Nathan

P.S. Stay safe in the snow!

### UPCOMING EVENTS...January-March

- Feb 14** Bishop to African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas, Philadelphia for Absalom Jones services
- Feb 15** Resolutions due to Comm. Chair, The Hon. Susan Caravaggio
- Feb 15** Diocesan Office closed for Presidents Day
- Feb 20** Ordination to Priesthood of Matt MacDougall in Youngsville, PA
- Feb 21** Bishop visits St. John's, Bellefonte
- Feb 25** 7pm Celebration of New Ministry and Installation of the Rev. Cn. Kate Harrigan at St. Paul's Harrisburg
- Feb 27** 10am-12pm Sacred Stitches at St. James, Lancaster
- Feb 27-28** Bishop visits All Saints, Brookland and Christ Church, Coudersport
- Mar 2** Bishop to Church of the Redeemer, Squirrel Hill (Dioc. of Pittsburgh) to preach in Lenten Preaching Series
- Mar 7** Bishop visits Christ Church, Berwick
- Mar 10-12** ECW Lenten Retreat, Camp Hebron (see p. 2)
- Mar 11** 2pm Finance Committee meeting
- Mar 14** Bishop visits St. Andrew's, Shippensburg
- Mar 17** Council of Trustees (11:00am conference call)
- Mar 19-25** Bishop at House of Bishops, Camp Allen, Texas
- Mar 27** Warden's Conference, Trinity, Williamsport
- Mar 28 Palm Sunday** Bishop visits St. Paul's, Wellsboro
- Mar 30** Renewal of Ordination Vows service and Clergy & Spouse luncheon, St. Stephen's Cathedral, Harrisburg
- Apr 1** Nominations by Petition due to Chair, The Rev. Veronica Chappell
- Apr 3 & 5** Diocesan office will be closed for Good Friday and Easter Monday
- Apr 11** Bishop Baxter visits Mt. Calvary, Camp Hill
- Apr 18** Bishop Baxter visits All Saints, Hanover
- Apr 18** Bishop Creighton visits St. John's, Huntingdon
- Apr 20** Spring Convocation meeting for Southern, Harrisburg & Lancaster
- Apr 22** Spring Convocation Meeting for Altoona
- Apr 25** Bishop visits St. Thomas, Lancaster
- Apr 28** Spring Convocation Meeting for Northern Tier, West Branch and Susquehanna

*If you have an event of interest to the diocese that you would like to have listed on the Diocesan website calendar, please contact Deacon Pat Strohl at [pstrohl@diocesecpa.org](mailto:pstrohl@diocesecpa.org) or 888-236-5959*

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### REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS...

**Bob Rose**, former diocesan Planned Giving Officer, who is battling advanced stage cancer.

**Maddie Letsche**, Acolyte at St. Luke's, Altoona. Maddie recently received a diagnosis of thyroid cancer, which is separate from the Image Negative Transverse Myelitis for which she has been receiving treatment. Maddie is recovering from surgery she had this week to begin treatment of the cancer.

**Deacon Kerry Walters**, who continues treatment for heart problems.

**The Rev. Erica Wood**, (Retired) Rector of St. Luke's, Mt. Joy, as she continues her chemotherapy.

**Linda Seville**, wife of Canon Joe Seville, as she continues to battle cancer.

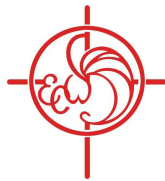
### ECW LENTEN RETREAT

The 29th annual ECW Lenten retreat will be held March 10-12, 2010 at Camp Hebron in Halifax. All women throughout the diocese are invited to enjoy a time of quiet meditation, learning, reflecting, fellowship and fun. Come and celebrate our ministry as laywomen in the Body of Christ, the Church. The Rev. Diane Hill of Birmingham Alabama will be the presenter of this year's program, entitled "*Finding our Way: Living Faithfully in the Midst of a Changing Church*".

Have you wondered why the church has changed so much in the last decade? Do you grieve for what seems to be lost and wonder what will the church look like in another 10 years? Or do you sense that the train of change has left the station and want to be an active part in making some positive changes in your own congregation, but don't know where to start? Answer yes to any of these questions and you will enjoy this special program.

The Registration fee is \$150 and includes 2 nights lodging and 6 meals. A non-refundable deposit of \$75 is required upon registration. The remaining balance or full payment is due **March 1, 2010**. Make checks payable to "Diocese of Central PA ECW" and mail with your registration to Mrs. Dodie Houser, 1806 Valley View Ave, Lewistown, PA 17044. If you have questions, please call Dodie at 717-248-9866.

A copy of the registration form is attached with this Digest email. Registration forms and more information are also available at your parish office or on the diocesan website, [www.diocesecpa.org](http://www.diocesecpa.org).



THE NEXT MEETING OF  
**SACRED STITCHES**  
WILL BE HELD ON

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2010**  
10:00am to 12:00noon

**St. James Church 119 N Duke Street, Lancaster**

Bring your project and a brown bag lunch  
Contact Jeannie Zeller at [jeanniez@comcast.net](mailto:jeanniez@comcast.net)  
for information or if you have any questions

**All are welcome!**



### ATTENTION CLERGY

**SAVE THE DATE**

**MAY 4 - 7, 2010**

NNECA ~ NATIONAL NETWORK OF  
EPISCOPAL CLERGY ASSOCIATIONS

**ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

**NNECA 40**

**BUILDING BRIDGES**

Radisson Greentree Hotel, Pittsburgh, PA  
*Bishop Baxter is a featured speaker*

Register online at [www.nneca.org](http://www.nneca.org)

\$375 NNECA Member

\$450 Non-Member

\$200 Spouse/Partner

*Register before March 15th for \$50 Early Bird Discount*

Please see the flyer attached with this Digest

### From The Convention Office

The 140th Annual Diocesan Convention will be held June 11-12 at Bucknell University. This year's theme will be "Discerning and Ministering in a Changing World."

#### PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING DEADLINES

**Feb 15th** Resolutions due to The Hon. Susan Caravaggio, Committee Chair  
**April 1st** Nominations by Petition to The Rev. Veronica Chappell, Chair

#### SPRING CONVOCATION ASSEMBLIES COMBINED MEETINGS

**April 20th** Harrisburg, Lancaster & Southern  
**April 22nd** Altoona  
**April 28th** Northern Tier, West Branch & Susquehanna

*Combined meetings are scheduled early this year to provide sufficient time for clergy and lay delegates to discuss upcoming convention issues, resolutions, etc. within their parishes following the Convocation meeting to prepare for Convention.*

Please email the Convention Coordinator if you have any questions ([sschultz@diocesecpa.org](mailto:sschultz@diocesecpa.org)) or call the Convention Office at 888-236-5959 ext. 108.

#### CALL FOR CONVENTION EXHIBITORS

It is time for Parishes and Commissions to start thinking about their exhibits at the Diocesan Convention this June 11th and 12th at Bucknell.

You can reach Pam Ballinger, who is managing the exhibits again this year, at the Diocesan Center (888-236-5959) Mondays through Thursdays 1:15 to 5:00pm and Fridays 8:30am to 12:15pm.

*If you have news or announcements of diocesan interest to include in the Diocesan Digest, please contact Carolyn Joy Patterson at [cpatterson@diocesecpa.org](mailto:cpatterson@diocesecpa.org)*