



# *St. John's Messenger*

**September, 2011**

*from Fr. John W. Morris, Rector*

## **9/11**

September 11<sup>th</sup> at St. John's will be a day of both celebration and commemoration. Sunday morning will be a celebration of all our ministries of Education. Sunday afternoon we will share in the community wide remembrance of the tenth anniversary of 9/11.

Our Education celebration begins at the 10:15 AM service with the commissioning of our Church School teachers, Journey to Adulthood leaders and our newly expanded Adult Education and Formation team. New this year will be a Gathering Time for the Church School and J2A classes from 9:00 to 9:15 AM in the auditorium. An Education Fair with information booths providing more detailed explanations of the Adult Ed/Formation program will also be set up this Sunday in the parish hall. Following the 10:15 AM service the court yard, gaily decorated with balloons, will be the site for an all parish education "kick off" picnic.

September 11<sup>th</sup> will be the inauguration for our enhanced program of Adult Education and Formation. Under the leadership of Lois Kelley, our vestry steward for education, a "think tank" of adults interested in Christian life learning has been working over the summer to develop a plan for more adult ed. offerings. At the July vestry meeting, four adult education/formation resolutions were approved. This four point plan establishes a Steering Committee to oversee adult ed. ministries, appoints a Director with representation on the parish's Ministries Council, gives adult ed. priority use of the Becker House living room and All Purpose Room, and calls for an adult Education Fair on Education Sunday.

The Sunday morning adult Bible Study resumes at 9:15 in the Becker House and will continue throughout the Church School year. Beginning on Sunday, September 18, a second adult ed. offering will meet at 9:15 AM in the All Purpose Room. This five Sunday morning series is entitled, "Being Episcopalian" and was one of the top interest choices in the parish adult education survey. Topics to be address are Worship, Scriptures, Stewardship and Mission in the Episcopal Church. Each topic will be co-led by me with lay leaders in the parish including Canon Fred and Eleanor Honaman, Aaron Spicher, our Verger, and Dr. John Herzog.

Our Education Sunday celebration will be supported by a revived Chancel Choir under the direction of our interim Minister of Music, Michael Good, with new choir members and a revised choir schedule: Choir Rehearsal on Wednesdays at 7:00 PM and Choir Warm-Up on Sundays at 9:30 AM.

Commemoration of 9/11 begins at noon with a city wide 30 minute tolling of steeple bells. The tolling of the bells serves as both an honoring of those who died on 9/11 as well as a calling to a Prayer Vigil from 12:30 to 1:15 PM in Binns Park led by representatives from the Christian, Jewish and Islamic faith communities of Lancaster. At 2:00 PM in Clipper Stadium will be a remembrance of Fallen Fighters. We are invited to return to Binns Park at 5:30 PM for "War Is Not the Answer", a program sponsored by Every Church a Peace Church.

9/11 at St. John's Church promises to be a meaningful and memorable day. I invite you to share in our celebration and commemoration in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

*John+*

## THE REV. JENNIFER E. LOOKER

### *“Gathering Time”*

Pop quiz! Try to guess what the following have in common: Artwork inspired by the Millennium Development Goals, The Sound of Music, Boy Scouts, step routines, Contra Dancing, the “Church Lady” skit, Hogwart's Castle, and yes, Episco-Disco. Did you guess it? It all happened in our beautiful auditorium. It's an amazing space, one that was transformed into Hogwart's castle for our “Harry Potter” Vacation Bible School, a disco hall for the Youth Convocation “Episco-Disco” and one that is regularly used by our Eagle's Nest students and youth ministries at St. John's. The Millennium Development Goal committee hosted an art gallery in the auditorium for a First Friday event. And yes, the “Church Lady” made an appearance at our last J2A talent show! It is a great space, particularly after the hard work done by Adam Kilp and the scouts to renovate the floors.

So why all this talk about the auditorium? On Sunday morning, September 11<sup>th</sup>, our Church School and Journey to Adulthood programs will introduce a new ministry called “Gathering Time”. Children, youth and families will be invited to gather in our auditorium beginning at 9:00 a.m. Light snacks and drinks will be offered. In addition to a new space, our Church School will begin this year with a new time: 9:15 a.m.! Directly following gathering time, Church School will begin in the auditorium as a group. Church School will begin with a ministry of music, movement and “God-talk” (theology!). It will look and feel a lot like the opening time for Vacation Bible School, one that relied upon children, youth and adults of all ages to be successful. The music and movement will feature hymns and songs that are both contemporary and traditional. The curriculum will directly support what is being learned in the classrooms, particularly at the Catechesis level. In summary, Sunday mornings at St. John's will now include:

- 9:00 a.m. Gathering time (Light snacks and drinks in auditorium)
- 9:15 a.m. Church School begins (In auditorium)
- 9:55 a.m. Church School ends (In classrooms)

So why the change? This new approach emerged from this year's teachers retreat. Our teachers gather every year to review their ministry at St. John's. They spend time in reflection, prayer and creative imagining. The idea for a new gathering time was discussed at this year's retreat. The teachers agreed that the auditorium was an ideal location for our growing community of families. They also agreed that beginning Church School as a group was a stronger way to start; that our children and youth would benefit from being together in community and shared leadership. The auditorium will allow families of all ages to participate in a shared experience of education. Children, youth and adults will have the chance to spend time in community before breaking out into individual groups.

After gathering in the auditorium, our teachers will lead children and youth to their classrooms. Parents are always welcome to attend! Parents are also encouraged to check out the adult education fair being offered in the parish hall. On Education Sunday, Church School will followed by the commissioning of our teachers during the 10:15 a.m. service. Following the 10:15 a.m. service, a potluck picnic will be offered to celebrate the “kick-off” of our Education ministry at St. John's. The picnic will include great food, festive decorations and the always challenging scavenger hunt designed by Aaron Spicher, our Verger. We will also take time to commemorate the anniversary of 9-11 with the ringing of bells. In short, Education Sunday has a lot to offer- we hope to see you there!

Warmly,  
*Jennifer+*

# VESTRY RESOLUTIONS

## Vestry Meeting: Monday, August 15, 2011

Resolved that the Vestry of St. John's Episcopal Church, Lancaster, PA

Vestry Nomination - Be resolved that, in accordance with the By-Laws of St. John's Episcopal Church, the Vestry hereby appoints Phyllis Gbur to be a member of the Vestry and to serve in that position through January 2012. This action is take to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Carl Hartman from the Vestry.

The resolution passed unanimously.

## TREASURER'S NOTE

We are now two thirds of the way through the summer and financially the church is doing OK. The pledged income has dropped to below budget as expected. Fortunately, non-pledged income continues to be well ahead of budget. Couple this with the insurance payment for Pastor Jennifer's maternity leave and our total income continues to cover all of our expenses. As with the previous two quarters, we have been able to delay taking our scheduled draw from the investment earnings.

Staff medical and pension expenses were lower for July, which helped to lower the impact of the reduced pledged income. Other expenses have generally remained within budget. Approved expenses for tree trimming and roof repairs will increase August expenses, but should be containable within the budget.

A brief word regarding the current market volatility and our Endowment Fund investments. Our financial advisor is one of the top five advisors in central PA. For some time he has been carrying a larger cash position than normal. His reason was simply that he was expecting some event that would create a significant correction in the stock market. The recent debt/credit crisis was that event. We are maintaining our long term goals and are taking advantage of our cash position to improve our investment holdings.

As always, please feel free to contact any Finance Committee member with your financial concerns or questions.

Submitted by,

*Steve Latshaw*  
Treasurer

## VESTRY'S WARDEN MESSAGE

Submitted by,  
*Charlotte Weaver-Gelzer*

In August, the vestry marked the halfway point of our year's journey together. We did an exercise with our year's goals and objectives, in hopes of learning what we could from our experience. In a lengthy conversation and open conversation, each of us present spoke about the work we'd tried to do, the work we'd accomplished, and the work we hadn't been able to realize or finish. We did this on two counts—looking at the areas we are each individually responsible for, and looking at the vestry's work overall.

Here are some of the things we said:

-- "We were right to be ambitious but we didn't know how much preparation we needed to do *before* we could get to work on the goals we set for ourselves."

-- "Some of our work has fallen short not through lack of effort, but from misunderstandings and unforeseen events and circumstances."

-- "We still have too many areas of work with slim to nonexistent committees supporting it."

-- "We haven't really articulated everything we could around the trust issues that exist at St. John's."

-- "As St. John's leadership has become more disciplined, we've felt uncomfortable and so has the parish membership at times, but the effort to become disciplined does make you uncomfortable."

-- "We're changing, and change and growth are *hard* work --and slow work, too."

-- "We're already different in important ways—we're keeping expenses down, for one thing, and we've got a good year of stewardship work behind us already, for another."

-- "We've made good changes in our worship services to help newcomers, and we've been deliberate about increasing moments of silence in the liturgy; we had record attendance during the Holy Week services this year."

-- "Many of the community groups in the parish are strong enough to be self-sustaining—Voyagers and Popcorn Theology, for example, and that's true of many Jubilee Ministries groups, too."

-- "From good idea to strong active ministry may take 5 years. We're better at supporting the groups who help out during funerals than we were when that effort began. That was a serious unanswered need, 3 years ago. It may take another 2 years to get the full support we need in that ministry, but let's celebrate the people who are giving their time and energy to the program now."

-- "We've incorporated prayer for the parish into our vestry service of compline."

-- "We've finally developed a healthy nominating process for parish leadership."

-- "We have a good stewardship program planned for the fall."

-- "We've identified a lot of the deep questions we need to ask ourselves to keep ourselves aware and alert to needs and opportunities."

-- "So far, we aren't feeling low satisfaction with our work and we aren't completely satisfied either; that's the right place to be, going forward."

By now you must recognize an important change in St. John's culture. The vestry is no longer doing it all. As part of its oversight, vestry has the responsibility to help create and then support a ministry or a program that will aid us all in living out our Baptismal covenant and representing Christ in our actions—but vestry won't do it *for* the people. The change from "getting vestry to *do* something," whatever the good idea might be, to "working together as a Body," is essential for loving Christian witness, as well as for maturing growth in God and strong action in service. The discipline of working together implies working within a process that vestry has yet to be completely clear to everyone. Communicating with each other and with the parish—both telling and listening—is perhaps the most important skill the vestry is developing, in the rest of this year. You, the members of St. John's, are equal partners with us in this effort. We look forward to conversations with you in the months ahead.

## ST. JOHN'S NOMINATING COMMITTEE

In the Episcopal Church, the vestry leadership partners with the clergy and the membership in advancing the mission of the church. At St. John's, serving on the Vestry is considered a discerned calling, a ministry in which members of the congregation use their gifts in the service of the worshipping community and others beyond the parish. When you accept a position on the Vestry, you make a commitment to serve, lead, and participate in our rich and diverse community.

The Vestry's responsibility of oversight includes the temporal needs of the church—care of the physical building, fiscal responsibility, financial planning, and overall general management of parish life.

The Vestry is also given the responsibility to help people of the congregation find welcome, place and meaningful involvement in the mission and vision of St. John's. Spiritual formation, Christian education, liturgical service, effective witness and outreach, relevance to the needs of the local community outside the parish boundaries, attention to the ministries of the members to each other, awareness of the challenges of the future, provision for all that makes for and supports maturity in Christian faith, and faithful stewardship of the blessings God has given us, are all areas of vestry oversight and involvement with the people in the parish.

The Vestry's work is done in the belief that God is present in our meetings and deliberations. The Vestry's actions and decisions are rooted in the faith that God will guide the work and open the way forward.

St. John's Nominating Committee encourages you to consider service as a vestry member.

The Parish Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, November 13. At that meeting the parish will elect a slate of 6 vestry members, 4 to replace the outgoing class of 2011, and 2 to replace members of the class of 2013 who were unable to finish their terms. 4 of those elected will serve a three year term, and 2 of those elected will serve a 2 year term.

We hope you will engage in discernment of call, considering your gifts and your abilities in light of the parish's needs at this time, especially should you receive a request of nomination from the committee. In addition, nominations from the floor of the Parish Meeting, and volunteer nominations are always in order. By-laws requirements for service on vestry are being 18 or older, being a member of St. John's for at least a year, regular attendance at St. John's worship services, financial contributions of record for at least a year, and formal confirmation by the Bishop of this Diocese.

The Nominating Committee for 2011—

*Paul Dorgan*  
*Leslie Morgan*  
*Kathy Novosel*  
*Michael Stank*  
*Charlotte Weaver-Gelzer*

## MUSIC MINISTRY

### *from our Interim Minister of Music*

Thank you, to members of the choir, Cindy and Father John for making me feel welcome at the choir get together. Those of you that were not there were missed. I feel a sense of excitement with the commitment and interest that's present. Those of you old or new to the choir that were not at the get together and have interest come join us.

Choir rehearsal begins on Wednesday evening, September 7 at 7:00 p.m. We plan to keep rehearsal time to an hour and fifteen minutes! On Sunday mornings, warm-up with everyone will be at 9:30 a.m. On Sunday, September 11, we will be vesting, processing, supporting Congregational singing, and doing an anthem.

I'm reminded of the beautiful Maurice Durufle motet setting of "Ubi Caritas".

Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est. Where charity and love are, God is there.

*Michael Good*

## GROCERY CARDS

Total sales for July gave \$407 to Jubilee. With an additional week we were only able to make \$10.00 more this month. Come on people – What's going on??? Everyone has to eat something. Let's make purchasing grocery cards the "in" thing to do!

**DON'T FORGET:** It's easier to use a grocery card at the store than to peel out cash or write a check. Your using one of our cards gives 5% of its value to our Jubilee missions. 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.

### Participating Stores:

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

### A NOTE OF



Dear St. John's,

I want to thank Fr. John, Priscilla, and many people who sent cards, visited and prayed for Stanley, and the people who helped with the memorial service.

St. John's was Stan's church and he was proud to be a member.

*Joan Lahr and Family*

# MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

## *Millennium Development Goals (MDG) Committee Update*

**“...made a difference to that one.”** *From the Starfish story*

The greatest challenge facing the Millennium Development Goals committee is tackling the reality of suffering by those we will never see. When there is a sudden disaster, the news media bring it right into our homes with constant coverage. On the other hand, persistent hunger, thirst and other forms of suffering are ignored because they are always present. How does a church in Lancaster PA have an impact on these persistent problems? We have chosen to take action by finding organizations that are already tackling these issues and adding our support.

For example, in 2010, we began by focusing our efforts on two of the MDG Goals. They were: promoting gender development and empowering women; and improving maternal health. Among the activities we had last year were: a speaker from Milagro House; continuing support for Pennies for Peace; and two fund raising efforts, the Beads for Life sale and the Dinner and Art Show in partnership with the Stewardship Campaign.

Beads for Life is an organization trying to help Ugandan women overcome extreme poverty and hardships. The Ugandan women earn money by making colorful bead necklaces out of paper and selling them to earn the means for a better life. The goal is for the women to be independent of Beads for Life within 18 months by being able to support themselves within the Ugandan economy.

The Solar Cooker Project of Jewish World Watch is committed to protecting women and girls from rape and other forms of violence. Women and girls who have fled the genocide in Darfur, Sudan are particularly vulnerable while performing the critical task of collecting firewood for cooking. The mission is to reduce the frequency of these heinous crimes by providing the women in refugee camps with an alternative cooking option. They bought 15 pairs of solar cookers with our contribution.

Marion Medical Mission (MMM) works to provide African villages of approximately 200 people with a sustainable source of safe drinking water. They partner with the communities. The villagers dig the wells, make the brick and provide the sand and stone. MMM supplies only what the villagers cannot. The wells are inexpensive, technologically appropriate and can be built in the most remote area. UNICEF Reports that 4,000 children die each year from preventable water borne diseases. We funded one and a half wells with our contribution.

Episcopal Relief and Development (ER&D) supports unique local, long term initiatives that address poverty, hunger, disease, economic development and disaster response. It's Basics for Life provide those in need with life's necessities and critical care services. The Care for Mom and Babies program provides basic medicine and nutrition that are needed for survival. Our contribution aided 35 families.

The struggles persist, but for the woman who becomes independent, the village with a well, the families that receive the cookers and the mothers who can keep their children alive, we made a difference.

Submitted by,

*John Gouveia*

## “TO CROSS AN OCEAN FOUR CENTURIES LONG”

110 Tulane Terrace  
Lancaster, PA 17602

July 20, 2011

Dear Friends,

The Healing Racism Working Group of the Lancaster Friends Meeting (Quakers) invites you to a free performance of “**To Cross an Ocean Four Centuries Long**,” on Friday, September 2, 2011, at the YWCA of Lancaster.

This one-woman show introduces audiences to three Black women who have largely been left out of our history books: Philis Wheatley, Abby Jay, and Hannah, servant to John Woolman. It is 35 minutes long and is suitable for children and adults. Immediately following the show, playwright Dr. Amanda Kemp will lead a discussion about ancestors and race in Lancaster today.

“To Cross an Ocean” is just one part of a showcase sponsored by the YWCA and Theatre for Transformation entitled, “The Sweeter the Berry: Celebrating the Sweetness of Life in Multicultural Lancaster.” This art showcase presents multicultural performances from emerging artists, school and church youth groups, singer-songwriters, poets, and other performers in an intimate venue on selected First Fridays at the YWCA. Local art vendors also present their work as part of the showcase.

The struggle against racism can often seem daunting and unending. “The Sweeter the Berry” offers a way to encourage us in that effort, help us celebrate our diversity, and bring us together to gain strength from each other. If your faith organization has a youth choir, dance troupe, or other performance artists who would like to be a part of this community showcase, please contact [info@theatrefortransformation.com](mailto:info@theatrefortransformation.com).

“To Cross an Ocean Four Centuries Long” and “The Sweeter the Berry” will be presented at the YWCA, 110 N. Lime Street, Lancaster, PA, on First Friday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5:30 p.m. All performances are free, with limited seating. Please let us know if your congregation plans to participate or would like to work with our group in the future.

In Faith,

*Beth Reeves and Deb Hewes*

For the Healing Racism Working Group  
Lancaster Friends Meeting  
Lancaster, PA



# AUDITION CALL!!



T. S. Eliot's

## “Murder In The Cathedral”

**Dates:** Saturdays, September 17 and 24, 2011 from 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

**Audition Location:** St. John's Episcopal Church  
321 West Chestnut Street, Lancaster, PA

**TO SCHEDULE AN AUDITION: CALL (717) 413-6945**

**Cast Needs:** Open auditions will be held for all roles. Volunteer cast.

Thomas Becket	Chorus of the Women of Canterbury (10-12)
Three Priests	Acolytes
Messenger	
Four Tempters / Knights	

Auditions should include one piece in modern or classical verse.  
Readings from the play are encouraged. Callbacks will be held on September 24, if needed.

### **Production Details:**

Director:	Matthew T. Sternberg
Asst. Director:	Rebecca Deibler
Music Director:	Ron Barnett

Four performances will be presented at St. Edward's Episcopal Church, 2453 Harrisburg Pike, East Hempfield on March 22, 23, 24 and 25, 2012.

Rehearsals will start on or around January 14, 2012.

**Sponsors:** This production is a joint project of St. Edward's Episcopal Church, St. James' Episcopal Church, St. John's Episcopal Church, and St. Thomas' Episcopal Church.

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

### *Sunday School News*

*Karen Di Pace, Sunday School Director*

“Happy September Everyone!” I hope you all had a great summer. Our Sunday School teachers are excited to kick-off a new school year! All children are invited to join us on Sunday, September 11th at 9:15 a.m. as we ring in a new Church School year in the Parish Hall. Children will meet their teachers and be escorted to their classroom to get to know each other. Registration forms will be mailed to families and copies are also available in the Parish Hall.

During the 10:15 a.m. service, we will be commissioning our Sunday School teachers for the new school year. Please help me in thanking David Dissinger, Sibyl Freeman, Jen Hreben, Janelle Stone, Pam Loose, Cindy Morris, and Sandra Jackson for helping our children on their Christian Journey. After the late service, we will have our annual Education Sunday Potluck Picnic in the Courtyard. We will enjoy good food, good company, and some fun activities for the kids to take part in. Please bring a dish to share! We hope you can join us!

### *Journey to Adulthood*

*Mary Ellen Kilp, Youth Director*

September marks the end of summer.... and what a summer it has been! David Kilp joined other young people from our diocese at the National Episcopal Youth Event. Molly Brenton, Rachel Hreben, Joanie Kilhefner, David Kilp, and James Woolson participated in this year's Diocesan Summer Conference at Camp Mount Luther. David Kilp served as a counselor for BASIC at Camp Mount Luther. Our St. John's VBS was a huge success in large part because of teen support, including: Molly Brenton, David Kilp, Dylan Stone, Emma DiPace, Sarah Gordon, Rachel Hreben, Michael Hreben, Julia Loose, Brooks Morgan, Aaron Hasircoglu, Julia Hasircoglu and Selena Hasircoglu. Many, many thanks to you all!

Please save the date for our kick-off event on Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>. Join Pastor Jennifer in the auditorium for “gathering time”, a new way to kick off church classes featuring music, movement and good conversation. This event is geared towards younger children in particular, but will depend upon the leadership and participation of teens to be a success. The 10:15 a.m. service will feature the commissioning of teachers. Following the service, a potluck picnic will be held in the courtyard. We will also commemorate the anniversary of 9-11 with the ringing of bells.

On Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, our YAC class and leaders will journey to Prince of Peace Episcopal Church in Gettysburg to give a presentation on their pilgrimage to Brazil. Plans are being made to include time visiting the battlefields. And speaking of plans- don't miss our new youth calendar for the upcoming year. We are planning a corn maize outing, a new “Battle of All Saints” event, Christmas caroling, CROP walking and a special time for teens at the all parish retreat. We hope to see you there!

Sept 11th	Education Sunday/Kick-Off Picnic
Sept 25th	YAC trip to Gettysburg (Brazil presentation)
Oct 2nd	Corn Maize
Oct 16th	Acts of Mercy/CROP
Oct 22nd	All Parish Retreat
Nov 6th	Battle of All Saints (time/location TBA)
Nov 20th	Advent Event
Dec 4th	Christmas caroling
Dec 24th	Christmas Eve pageant

## ADULT FORMATION / EDUCATION

### *Why Adult Formation / Education at St. John's Matters*

By John Herzog

Neil Postman was for many years a Professor of Communications in the College of Education, New York University. In 1990 he delivered an address in Germany about the way Western Civilization has used information in problem solving since the invention of the printing press—generally, he reports, with satisfactory results. “But what started out as a liberating stream has turned into a deluge of chaos. If I may take my own country as an example, here is what we are faced with: In America, there are 260,000 billboards; 11,520 newspapers; 11,556 periodicals...” “...Everything from telegraphy and photography in the 19th century to the silicon chip in the twentieth has amplified the din of information, until matters have reached such proportions today that for the average person, information no longer has any relation to the solution of problems.” In his 1985 book, *Amusing Ourselves to Death*, he adds that when information is no longer useful for any action, we trivialize it to entertain ourselves—in game shows on TV or in our own games (“Trivial Pursuit” anyone?), or in idle chatter at social gatherings. What more might he say today about such “necessities” as smart phones and social networks (he died in 2003)?

So why would a “Think Tank servant group” be proposing new programs in Adult Formation/ Education at St. John’s when our lives already have more activity and inputs than we have time for, and our computers already store more data than we can/will ever use? Good question!

One answer to this question is to listen again to the familiar words of Jesus: “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” (John 8:32) While acknowledging that it is risky and arrogant to claim an exclusive corner on “the truth,” we can with confidence suggest that what Jesus proposes to us is a far cry from the pursuit of trivia. His way to pursue truth has its foundation in our relation to him as disciples, and it results in that personal *transformation* that gives a greater ability to live in God’s world in freedom. This is true Adult Formation/Education.

So we urge you to attend the Education Fair on September 11 at the 9 – 10 am time slot. The Fair will feature booths that are manned by persons involved in all aspects of current St. John’s Adult Formation/ Education, including Popcorn Theology, Millennium Goals, Voyagers, weekly Bible Study, Lenten series, and a group that wishes to raise awareness and concern for the situation of the Church in Japan since the earthquake. In addition, Father John will be there to represent his new series “On Being Episcopalian,” and members of the new Adult Formation/Education Advisory Committee will be there to talk with you about other ideas and programs to be developed in the future. But we need you both to be informed and to continue to ask questions and give us your ideas. These are the “raw materials” that God’s Spirit is using to lead us on new paths to Grow in God, Act in Service and Witness in Love.

St. John’s Adult Formation/Education “Think Tank” servant group: Faith D’Urbano, Judy Donnelly, John Herzog, Brad Zuke, Sue Zuke, Kathy Novosel (Vestry Steward for Pastoral Care) and facilitated by Lois Kelley (Vestry Steward for Education). If you have any questions, please contact Lois Kelley at: lskelley@comcast.net or 717-290-6079.

### **EMERGING OPTIONS**

Other adult topics reflecting Parish interests will follow throughout the year. We hope, rather quickly, to announce a three-year cycle of programs that are well-rounded and that represent the expressed interests of parishioners.

**...COMING SOON!**

**ST. JOHN'S FIRST ADULT FORMATION / EDUCATION FAIR & FALL KICK-OFF**

**Sunday, September 11, 2011  
Parish Hall, Between and After Services**

***You Can Talk To Us About:***

- Ongoing Sunday morning sessions, such as **Bible Study** in Becker House, 9:15-10 a.m.
- Ongoing forums, such as Popcorn Theology and Voyagers.
- Special forums, such as Advent and Lenten Series, and Millennium Development Goal Focus.  
Additional innovative educational opportunities.
- New Series for Fall: **“Being an Episcopalian and Open to God in Today’s World”** led by Fr. John and others, beginning Sept. 18 in the All Purpose Room, 9-10 a.m.

If you have wondered about or are interested in these initiatives - or have ideas about activities that do not yet exist at St. John’s, we strongly encourage you to pick up your coffee and cookies and chat with people at the **Fair**, from 9-10 a.m. and after the services. Talk with us at the **Education Fair** - or at some other time - about your desires for Formation/Education and how you might contribute.

**“On Being Episcopalian and Open to God in Today’s World”**

Fr. John Morris with Eleanor and Fred Honaman, Aaron Spicher, and John Herzog.  
A five week series developed in response to verbal and written interests/requests  
in conjunction with St. John's recent Adult Formation/Education Survey  
Begins: Sunday, September 18, 2011  
All Purpose Room 9:00-10:00 a.m.

\*\*\*

**St. John’s Bible Study**

Starts: Sunday, September 18, 2011  
Becker House - 9:15 a.m.-10:00 a.m.

**“Comparative Study of Scriptures”**

using Hebrew and Christian Scripture lessons appointed for each respective Sunday.  
All are invited to participate or to just sin in!  
All you need is a copy of the Sunday worship service bulletin (we’ll have extras).  
Join us for a provocative look together at the Word!

## JUBILEE MINISTRIES

**BREAKFAST**



**FELLOWSHIP**

**Community Breakfast**—(Contact: Sue Martin)

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17: 7:30-11:00 AM**

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. Volunteers are always needed to help prepare and serve the breakfast.

***"Volunteers Welcome!"***

**Blankets & Sew On** - (Contact: Jeannie Zeller)

Please join us on Wednesday evenings in the Becker House from 6:00-8:30 p.m. as we share fellowship and ideas. Come and join us in the living room of the Becker House on Wednesday evenings for some friendly knitting.

Calling all knitters and crocheters! We have a new need for those pocket prayer shawls (PPS) you've all been producing. Our goal is to deliver a nice amount of them to the Veteran's Hospital in Lebanon for the Veteran's Day holiday. We continue to send PPS to Ft. Hood as well. In addition, if you'd like one for a relative or friend in the military, please stop by our table in the parish hall and let one of our group know of your need.

If you are planning on making a PPS, we've discovered that the cotton Sugar 'n Cream yarn is perfect. It's affordable, washable, and comes in a bunch of cool colors.

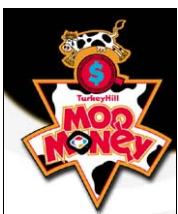
Sacred Stitches, our Diocesan group, meets on Saturday, November 5th at St. Mark's in Lewistown. As always, you are invited to attend, bring a lunch and your good ideas and be ready to meet and greet folks from all over our very large Diocese of Central PA. Car-pooling is available. Interested? Get more details from Jeannie at jeanniez@comcast.net or call me at 464-0725.

As always, many thanks to each and every one of you for your prayers and support of this ministry.

**Door Ministry & Food Bank** - (Contact: Aaron Spicher and Food Pantry Organizer: Norma Murphy)

Nonperishable food donations can be delivered to the church office or given to the Ushers on Sunday. Weekly food bags/boxes are organized for families or single people and are distributed from our church office on Tuesday and Thursday to those in need. ***"Thanks to Dan Dorgan for his generous food gifts from his Eagle Scout Award ceremony."***

***ATTENTION!!*** **EAGLE'S NEST VOLUNTEERS**—This coming school year's Eagle's Nest after-school program will begin on **OCTOBER 5** and new volunteers are welcome! If you'd like to participate, please contact Sue Martin.



**Fulton School Partnership**—If you shop at a Turkey Hill store and purchase any of their milk items, **BE SURE TO SAVE THE "MOO" MONEY BOTTLE CAPS** and bring them to church on Sundays. There is a collection container at the Eagle's Nest area of the Parish Hall. We're also collecting Box Tops for Education, Printer Cartridges, and Campbell Soup Labels. Every little bit helps and we appreciate your help!!!

# PROPERTY

The Property Committee met August 1, 2011, 7:00 PM, at the Becker House.

## **Manager's Report**—*Bill Gross*

We have been experiencing issues with our phone lines cutting out in the middle of a conversation. Windstream was contacted to address this problem on numerous occasions and has had Verizon involved to address their role in our service. The organ has also had issues regarding the blower shutting down. Steve Daniels was in to look at the situation and offer me advice on how to rectify this situation. I am in the process of addressing this situation.

We are still awaiting work to be done on our trees by Arborist Associates and roof and masonry repairs by C. J. Diirner. I was expecting the arbor work to be completed by mid August. Diirner is backlogged about four weeks by poor weather, placing them around the end of August. They have already repaired the leak around the altar stained glass windows. I have asked them for a quote to paint the remaining red portions of the church campus, as well.

We are still awaiting J & J Heating/Cooling to take a look at the heating in the choir room.

## **New, Ongoing or Completed**

**Priorities** – A committee met to consider projects appropriate to the mission of St. John's. Jim Corrigan will assist.

**Rental Properties** – Exterior painting in the process of being completed at these properties. Flooring also remains at 211 for a brief vacated period by our tenant.

**Auditorium Improvements** – Monitoring of wall for moisture prior to roofing decisions continues. Feasibility of solar panels discussed.

**Leaded Windows** – Protective covers: contractor provided a quote for cut lexan pieces that we will install for \$ 1,300. Mike Heider provided a quote under \$900. Bill will be providing a template for the shape of the window tops, with which Mike will cut material.

**Sacristy Ceiling** – Continued search for leaks. Contractor advised that membrane roof systems have been known to last 40 years. Suggested examination for masonry infiltration. If no leaks are found, the refinishing here will be done over the winter months.

**Becker House Heater** – No progress. Heat exchanger wearing out.

**Choir Room Heat** – Considering baseboard heaters to raise heat to comfort level. Will consult with HVAC contractor.

**Church Tree Pruning** – Scheduling expected within the month.

**Roof Repair** – Expected to be completed in August.

**August Life Safety Inspection** – The AED was sent out for a program update, allowing it to be used for children (<8yrs/<55lbs) when pediatric pads are purchased. The upgrade included replacing the outdated adult pads, which we will be getting shortly. Pediatric pads will be purchased to enhance the use of this important life saving unit. Two new water mist fire extinguishers were obtained, one for the auditorium and the other for the Nursery hallway.

**Parish Hall Screens** - Suggestion for window screens in the Parish Hall under discussion.

**Next Meeting** – The next Property Committee meeting will be held on **Wednesday, September 7, 2011** at 7:00 pm at Cynthia Minnich's home.

**November Meeting** - Monday, November 7, 2011, at Phil and Hillary Becker's home.

**Coffee Hour** - Sunday, October 9, 2011

**Fall Clean-up** - Sunday, December 4, 2011

### Property Committee

Phil Becker, Jim Crothers, Bob Fields, Bill Gross, Grant Hansel, Mike Heider,  
Janice Henry, Kevin Henry, Wayne McKee and Cynthia Minnich

## PRAYER LIST

If you would like to add someone to the Prayer List, please contact the church office and that particular person will be prayed for, for four (4) weeks. Continued prayers for that person necessitates another contact with the church office.



*Stacy Barton  
Doris Batturs  
Lillian Bennett  
Cecilia  
Graham Cliff  
Margaret Crothers  
Nancy & Joseph Eckenrode  
Linda Frederiksen  
Thomas McTar  
Paul Merker  
Mary Selene Miller  
Russell Miller  
Dorothy Patterson  
Lydia Singh  
Esther Spangler  
Christian Stigelman*

*For Our Homebound Parishioners  
and  
For Those Suffering from Addictions*

**DEADLINE FOR  
SUBMITTING INFORMATION FOR THE  
OCTOBER MESSENGER:  
SEPTEMBER 12, 2011**

## 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.

*Brian Hobbins, Laurel Hobbins,  
John Humphreys, Matthew James,  
Howard Kane, III, Alex Kelly, Kyle Kulka,  
Shelley Leister, Thomas Leister,  
Joseph Lombardo, Nicholas Lombardo,  
Sean McCormick, Karl Miller,  
Jamie Olejniczak, David Smith,  
John S. Waltz, Joshua Watkins*

### *A Prayer For Those in the Armed Forces of our Country*

Almighty God, we commend to your gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad. Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face the perils which beset them; and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*



### *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)*

## 2011 PARISH RETREAT

*Reconnect,  
Recharge,  
and Reset.....*



**At this year's St. John's "All Parish Retreat!"**

Enjoy the beautiful facility and grounds of the Lancaster Liederkrantz, this year's retreat location. Visit their website at:  
<http://www.lancasterliederkrantz.com/>

Reconnect with friends and family and be inspired by The Rev. Robyn Szoke, our retreat leader. Be refreshed by new musical offerings, lead by our teens and Nate Young, our retreat musician.

**When:** Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>

**Time:** 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**What else?** The Lancaster Liederkrantz is located just 15 minutes from Lancaster with ample parking available.

Childcare will be provided.

Information about tickets and retreat cost will be available very soon, so stay tuned to future announcement in our weekly bulletins and monthly newsletters.

Don't miss this meaningful opportunity for fellowship!

Please contact Pastor Jennifer with any questions.



# VOYAGERS

## *"Ahoy!" Voyagers Welcome A New Season!*

St. John's 55+ group is looking forward to a year of sharing each other's company and gathering new information to enhance our active lives. We have been contacted by the Central Pennsylvania Diocesan Office who will be doing an interview and video feature for the website "Views from the Pews". We welcome anyone who wishes to join us and encourage you to bring interested friends and neighbors. Watch the bulletin and Messenger for further information. Some presentations, like Mother Joanna's retreat, will be open to the entire parish.

### 2011-2012 VOYAGERS EVENTS



#### "SACRED OBJECTS - PART II"

- SEPTEMBER 24, SATURDAY 10AM PARISH HALL Do you have something at home that is impossible to throw away? Bring it to share with us.

#### "SHARING THE JOURNEY - Perspective and ideas from the life adventure of Fred and Eleanor Honamon

- October 29, 10 AM in the Parish Hall. We have given total freedom to the Honamons to reflect on a life journey that has brought unique perspectives to both of them

#### NOSTALGIC CHRISTMAS AND HOLIDAY STORIES, MUSIC, COLLECTIONS. THE MEMORIES THAT WARM US.

- DECEMBER 3, SATURDAY 10AM IN THE PARISH HALL. This is an opportunity to bring family favorites to each other from the times when commercialism had not yet taken off.

#### GUEST SPEAKER, FOUR STAR GENERAL THOMAS HOBBS, US AIR FORCE

- JANUARY 28, SATURDAY 10AM IN THE PARISH HALL. General Hobbs will provide insight into the positive impact of the military in terms of supporting the civilian populations in Afganistan, along with issues involving veterans returning home.

#### GUEST SPEAKER, TIM FREY, LANCASTER CHIEF OF POLICE ON LOCAL ISSUES WITH IDENTITY THEFT

- FEBRUARY 25, SATURDAY 10AM IN THE PARISH HALL. Chief Fry will give us the specific means to safeguard ourselves by being proactive.

#### MOTHER JOANNA WHITE, FORMER ASSISTANT RECTOR AT ST. JOHNS, A HALF DAY LENTEN RETREAT

- MARCH 24, SATURDAY 10AM IN THE PARISH HALL. The Reverend Joanna White shares her humor and wisdom as Lent draws close to Easter.

#### STORY TELLING. TRUTH, LEGEND, AND MYTH IN OUR OWN FAMILIES AND LIFETIMES

- APRIL 23, SATURDAY 10AM IN THE PARISH HALL. We gather to share with each other a few original or borrowed stories, small or tall.

#### HANGING IN THERE. RESOURCES FOR STAYING INDEPENDENT. MAY 26, 10AM SATURDAY IN THE PARISH HALL.

- Helpful numbers and contacts for agencies and organizations that help us go forward as we grow wiser.

## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>
Ail, Suzanne	3
Almy, Clara	16
Clark, Ross	12
Clemente, Adrian	28
DeLeo, Christina	3
DeLeo, Serenity	10
Dissinger, Amy	13
Dorgan, Bill	14
Eckert, Marianne	18
Everts, Helen	23
Forry, Stephen	19
Freeman, Dale	12
Gehman, John	24
Heilman, Sue	13
Johnson, Liz	16
Kuser, Alvena	8
Latshaw, Jr., Stefan	17
Lee, Bob	22
Lester, Max	27
Limroth, David	28
Logan, Deborah	6
Looker, Jennifer	17
Luck, Megan	11
Macleish, Sea	3
Mann, John	21
Mausolf, Fiona	18
Mausolf, Katie	12
McGee, Vince	2
Miller, Sr., John	1
Miller, Jr., John	9
Morgan, Leslie	4
Murphy, Betty	15
Nemith Jr, Michael	15
Novosel, Kathy	29
Rhodes, Annaleigh	17
Snyder, Barbara	9
Soders, Kayla	3
Springer, Bob	19
Stigelman, Carol	14
Stone, Jeff	11
Suliveras, Katherine	14
Suliveras, Luca	20
Visco, Natalie	19
Waskowicz, John	7
Wolf, Mrs Paula	10
Wolf, Miss Paula	3

## SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

<u>Couple</u>	<u>Date</u>
The Rev Bill & Carolyn Archer	09/08/1956
Ed Bednar & Lois Kelley	09/04/2005
Neil Clark & Susan Burlingame	09/24/1988
Nelson & Peggy Craige	09/04/1954
Matt & Ann Gokey	09/08/2007
Patrick & Kristin McCormick	09/11/2004
Snyder, Jim & Barbara	09/07/1963
Ray & Paula Wolf	09/03/1955
Matt & Mary Woolson	09/07/1991

## PARISH REGISTER

### *Weddings*

Larisa M. Andersen & James O. Strawbridge  
August 6, 2011

### *Deaths*

Louella B. Haarde  
July 18, 2011

Naomi A. Lawrence  
August 7, 2011

### *The Birthday Prayer*

*O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

## SERVING SCHEDULE – SEPTEMBER, 2011

### FOR ALL THOSE SERVING AT ST. JOHN'S: PLEASE NOTE!

If you are unable to fulfill your serving duties, it will be your responsibility to find a replacement. Once you have located a replacement, please be sure to call the Church Office with your name, the name of your replacement, and the date you were scheduled to serve. If you reach our voice mail system, **simply dial "0"** to leave your message. If you call the Church Office after working hours, your call will still be received by a staff member prior to the Sunday service.

Please avoid contacting Aaron Spicher, personally, with this type of information. Aaron will receive your information through the Church Office. *"Thank you for your cooperation!"*

SEPTEMBER 4	8:00 AM	10:15 AM
<b>Eucharistic Minister</b>	Kathy Novosel	Karin Bleecker, Sarah Gordon
<b>Eucharistic Visitor</b>	—	Don Durand, Fred & Eleanor Honaman
<b>Lector</b>	Sue Tobie	Sue Purdy
<b>Server</b>	—	David Kilp (Amelia Dissinger)
<b>Torch Bearer</b>	—	—
<b>Crucifer</b>		Glenn Miller
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Team 1	Team 1
<b>Ushers</b>	8:00 a.m.	Team A
<b>Greeter</b>	—	Bruce Waskowicz
<b>Coffee Hr (8), Lemonade Time (10:15)</b>	Collier Family	Gouveia Family
<b>Nursery</b>	—	Elspeth Moffatt

SEPTEMBER 11	8:00 AM	10:15 AM
<b>Eucharistic Minister</b>	Merle Schnee	Frank Cummins, Selena Hasircoglu
<b>Eucharistic Visitor</b>	Kathy Novosel	Phyllis Gbur, Sue Heilman
<b>Lector</b>	Fred Bush	Charlotte Weaver-Gelzer
<b>Server</b>	Joanie Kilhefner	John Waskowicz (Dylan Stone)
<b>Torch Bearer</b>	—	Conor Brenton, Aidan Cliff
<b>Crucifer</b>	—	Garth Alexander
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Team 2	Team 2
<b>Ushers</b>	8:00 a.m.	Team B
<b>Greeter</b>	—	Brad Zuke
<b>Coffee Hr (8), Lemonade Time (10:15)</b>	8:00 a.m. Ushers	Waskowicz Family
<b>Nursery</b>	—	Marla Lester

SEPTEMBER 18	8:00 AM	10:15 AM
Eucharistic Minister	Ricky Smith	David Dissinger, Barbara McGraw
Eucharistic Visitor	—	Karen Latshaw, Sue Martin
Lector	Laurie Eaton	Paula Wolf
Server	—	Lauren Waskowicz (Amelia Dissinger)
Torch Bearer	—	Emma DiPace, Aaron Hasircoglu
Crucifer	—	Dave Pennell
Altar Guild	Team 3	Team 3
Ushers	8:00 a.m.	Team C
Greeter	—	Peter Novosel
Coffee Hour	Jubilee Ministries	Jubilee Ministries
Nursery	—	Courtney Rhodes

SEPTEMBER 25	8:00 AM	10:15 AM
Eucharistic Minister	Kathy Novosel	Peter Novosel, Sue Purdy
Eucharistic Visitor	Phil Becker, Ricky Smith	Peter Novosel, Robin Ott
Lector	Kathy Novosel	Jeannie Zeller
Server	Joanie Kilhefner	Sarah Gordon (Emma DiPace)
Torch Bearer	—	Michael Hreben, Brooks Morgan
Crucifer	—	Brad Moyer
Altar Guild	Team 5	Team 5
Ushers	8:00 a.m.	Team A
Greeter	—	Dave Martin
Coffee Hour	Stewardship	Stewardship
Nursery	—	Sue Hurlburt

*“Thinking about serving at St. John’s?”*

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO BECOME INVOLVED IN SERVING AT ST. JOHN’S:**

For **Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Servers, Crucifers, or Torch Bearers:** Contact Betty Finney

For **Eucharistic Visitors:** Contact The Rev. Priscilla Ginolfi

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 new Parish Directory and copies are available in the Parish Hall on any Sunday.

## LOOKING AHEAD TO OCTOBER!

OCTOBER 2	8:00 AM	10:15 AM
<b>Eucharistic Minister</b>	Merle Schnee	Michael Stank, C. Weaver-Gelzer
<b>Eucharistic Visitor</b>	—	Joanna Sweeney, C. Weaver-Gelzer
<b>Lector</b>	Peter Eaton	Joel Cliff
<b>Server</b>	Joanie Kilhefner	Julia Hasircoglu (Aidan Cliff)
<b>Torch Bearer</b>	—	Kylie Stone, Conor Brenton
<b>Crucifer</b>	—	Dave Pennell
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Team 5	Team 5
<b>Ushers</b>	8:00 a.m.	Team A
<b>Greeter</b>	—	Carolyn Maxey
<b>Coffee Hour</b>	Altar Guild	Altar Guild
<b>Nursery</b>	—	Mary Ellen Kilp

## POPCORN THEOLOGY

St. John's Popcorn Theology program resumes on Friday, Sept. 16, after having taken a summer break. Mark your calendars for the third Friday of every month, starting at 7 pm in the Parish Hall. September's film is "Of Gods and Men, which was awarded Grand Prix honors at the 2010 Cannes Film Festival. This is a compelling historical drama that shows the ordeal of seven French Trappist monks in the mountains of Algeria who are taken captive by Islamic fundamentalists. Before the monks' abduction, they have ample reason to believe they may be in danger, but their assumption that there can and must be common ground between Islam and Christianity leads them to remain at the monastery. The film, though historical, feels especially timely in light of the recent attack from a Christian extremist in Norway and the struggles throughout the world for coexistence between Christians and Muslims.

In a *New York Times* review of the film, A.O. Scott notes that in place of a traditional soundtrack, most of the film's music comes from the monks' chanted prayers and the cries of the muezzins at nearby mosques. The notable exception — the only time recorded, secular music is heard — comes during a meal, when the residents of the abbey sit and listen to a famous passage from Tchaikovsky's "Swan Lake" and lose themselves as completely in aesthetic reverie as they otherwise do in religious devotion. That serves as a reminder, Scott says, that even in wartime, and even in lives governed by restraint and self-denial, there is an essential need for beauty, feeling and art.

Come join us on Sept. 16. If there are films you'd like to have included in the Popcorn Theology lineup, please contact John Guetter, Faith D'Urbano or Mary Lou Higgs.

Submitted by, *Mary Lou Higgs*

