



THE EAGLE & THE LAMB

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



May 2011

Rector's rambling

The signs of new life are all around us. In the evenings, I can sit on the porch and listen to the sound of buds popping open in the woods and that of peeper frogs in the neighbor's pond. This morning, I enjoyed a breakfast of quail omelet with fresh asparagus from the garden. Rebecca's spiced rum jelly was an extra treat. The dogs have their summer cuts and the garden is ablaze with tulips. All of these blessings and beauties seem to be enhanced this year by the fact that Tristan is home and safe. This will be for me and for Rebecca the most blessed Easter of All. From the bottom of our hearts we thank you for your prayers and support through the uncertainty and recovery. His wound is healing nicely, and he reports back to his unit at camp Lejeune, North Carolina on Maundy Thursday.

Looking back over the events of the past few weeks, I see the hand of God in so many ways. When the call came from the British military hospital that Tristan had been wounded, I was at work. Rebecca received the call which registered US Government (indicative of a satellite phone) in the mid-morning. She heard the words "Mom, I'm ok, but I've been wounded," and then, true to form, the line went dead. God bless the British medics who over the next 20 minutes or so continued to redial and work to keep the calls up so that our son could fill in the blanks. And thank God that Rebecca was not alone. Our friend and fellow parishioner Roseanna Bush was with her when the call came. Roseanna's son Alex is a Marine Sergeant and Iraq veteran. This Marine mom knew exactly what to do, and she went into action as an angel who must have been sent by God that day. It was no mere coincidence that she was at our home that morning. Surely God watches over us and meets all of our needs.

The Marine Wounded Warrior office at Quantico kept us apprised of every move and every change in Tristan's status. The Daughter's of the American Revolution paid for as many calls home from the hospitals in Afghanistan and Germany as

Tristan wanted to make. The staff at Fisher House, the Wounded Warrior Guesthouse system, did more than anyone could ever ask to speed our reunion and meet our needs. We received scores of calls and e-mails from literally all over the world assuring us of the prayers of God's people for our son. Through this most difficult experience, I have seen a side of the American people which gives me great confidence in their character and compassion.

And so this Easter is for us the most blessed Easter of all. As we proclaim together "Alleluia, Christ is risen! The Lord is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!" my heart will fill with a greater joy at the grace and love I have received at His hands. I will give thanks for the fact that God is not finished with my son yet in this world, and for the experience of love that my family has known. And I will pray with a deeper humility and a more intense fervency for those whose sons and daughters didn't make it home, for those whose lives are shattered, for the coming of the peace of God, and for the end of this madness we call war. Through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. Amen. Alleluia!



Happy Mother's Day

Birthdays

- 2 Gitta Sadoni, Milt Taylor
- 3 John Furlow, Ivan Smith
- 5 Jeane Mast, Julie Meenach, Kay Rademaker
- 6 Sandra Travis
- 7 Emily Campbell
- 8 Nancy Clyde, Ruth Palo
- 10 Zoe Leonard, Tristan Pursley
- 13 Valerie Bockman, Megan Bockman
- 17 Jennifer Spires
- 20 Kathy Heim, Alma Priddy
- 23 Brianne Davidson, Susan Snyder
- 26 Bryce Burton
- 29 Julie Taylor

Wedding Anniversaries

- 11 Andy and Cindy White (02)
- 14 Marty and Robin Harris (82)
- 18 David and Sherry Walker (68)
- 19 Chuck and Kathy Canter (78)

Baptismal Anniversaries

- 1 Alma Priddy (40)
- 5 Zoe Leonard (96)
- 6 John Eyman (62), Meredith Fath (79),
Matthew Canter (01)
- 6 Sebastian Burton (00)
- 16 Anna Burton (04)
- 23 Gary Rowley (48)
- 28 Caroline Rockwood (22)
- 29 Tristan Pursley (88)
- 30 Edward Baker (10), Elizabeth Baker (10),
Brian Davidson (54), Rachel Young (93)

Janet England

September 9, 1920 - April 15, 2011

“Give to the departed eternal rest.
May Light perpetual shine upon her.”

Spring Clean Up Day

On May 21st there will be a spring clean up day at the church. We will work on getting the yard in shape, clean windows and other items that may need to be done on that day. There will be a sign-up sheet in the back of the church in the next few weeks. So if you can help on that day, please sign up. If you have any questions, please call Mark Perrine at 654-2551.

Parents of Graduating Seniors

If you have graduating seniors that you would like to be honored at St. Johns' and in the Eagle and Lamb, please bring their bios and graduation information to the church office by May 15th.

Fellowship Breakfast

Our next Fellowship Breakfast will be May 1st after the 8 am service. Please join us in the undercroft for fun and fellowship.

Wednesday Luncheon

The monthly luncheon following the noon Eucharist will be May 18th. Join your parish family for good food and fellowship

Clergy Coverage for the first two weeks of Eastertide

Fr. Bill and Rebecca will be traveling to Scotland and Ireland between Easter and Mother's Day. If you need emergency pastoral care during that time, please call Fr. Bill McCleery at 614/668-0544. All services during that time will meet at their regularly appointed times, but there will be no Wednesday morning Bible Study until May 11th.

Altar Guild Members

Past

to honor you for your service

Present

to thank you

Future

to introduce you to our ministry

Please join us for a luncheon on Sunday May 15th immediately following the 10:30 service. We'll be honoring our retired members and providing introductory information for those of you who would be interested in joining the Altar Guild. Active members—please come, relax, and enjoy.

Vestry Highlights

- * The treasurer reported that our income is above plan and expenses are under control.
- * Mark reminded the Vestry about spring clean-up day on May 21st.
- * We should soon have a starting date for the roof replacement for the church and commercial building.
- * St. Johns' will be joining with five Lutheran churches for Vacation Bible School
- * The Vestry approved the sending of birthday cards to parishioners. Children will receive a birthday card by mail.

Giving Beyond the Grave

Have you ever considered supporting God's work here at St. Johns' after you go to heaven? A simple term life insurance policy with St. Johns' named as beneficiary can be an important part of your legacy, and God's work. A 1% bequest from your estate may not seem like a lot to your heirs, but it can go a long way toward supporting your Church. Gifts of set amounts of cash or securities specified for St. Johns' in your will are also an excellent way to provide for the work of the kingdom of God here in Lancaster and around the world. Call Fr. Bill at 740/653-3052 if you would like to learn more about how you can support our parish.

Youth Activities

Lazer tag

Lazer tag

HEY KIDS!!

LAZER TAG NIGHT
at Lazer Craze in Columbus (www.lazerkraze.com)

May 20th

We'll leave St. Johns' at 5 pm.

Parents— We'll need volunteer drivers.

Pricing is based on the group size, so please RSVP to Wendy and Mike Garbrandt at 653-9639 or by email to mikegarbrandt@gmail.com.

Vacation Bible School—Children and Volunteers Needed

St. Johns’ will be participating in a joint vacation Bible School July 31st through August 4, 2011. It will be held at St. Peter’s Lutheran Church. A light dinner will be served from 5:00-5:45 and Bible School will take place from 6:00-8:30. The theme for this year’s VBS is “Main Street”. The participants will experience Jesus’ parables in a variety of interactive ways and explore how Jesus makes a difference every day.

We will be participating in this joint VBS with five other churches: Our Savior Lutheran Church, St. Paul’s Lutheran, Calvary Lutheran, First English Lutheran, and St. Peter’s Lutheran Church. As a participating church we are being asked to have some volunteers contribute to its success. Some of the needs are:

- Volunteers to help another church, Our Savior, prepare and serve the dinner on Sunday, July 31st.
- Someone to help the leader of the preschool program.
- Folks who want to help with the sets (no artistic talent needed)
- Snack helpers
- “Crew leaders” to help with discussion groups after presentations – all materials provided
- Parable production helpers.

Please consider volunteering in some way. If you are interested in helping please contact Peggy Merton by email at jtplmerton@gmail.com or call in the evenings at 653-4807.

Sign up forms for all children will be available in late May or early June.

From the Dohns

I have been standing around schools recently. We are surveying about 4,000 junior and senior high school students in nine schools here to get a sense of the young people’s views and behavior related to alcohol (how much do they drink, do they binge, etc.). In Latin America, alcohol causes the loss of the most disability-adjusted life years (the total number of years of life lost due to premature mortality and disability) of any single health factor.

To minimize misunderstandings, only native Dominican speakers are administering the surveys. Consequently, I spend my time standing around in the hallway organizing the completed survey forms and directing the community health staff to the next classroom.

Recently a young woman emerged from a senior classroom, saw me with the boxes of completed survey forms, and asked me, “What’s the survey about?” I explained that it was to gather information on the attitudes and behaviors of Dominican youth related to alcohol.

the Dominican adolescent equivalent of the American “Duh!!??”

“I just finished answering the survey. I KNOW what was on it,” she said. “But, WHY ask us these things? What’s the PURPOSE?”

I explained that alcohol misuse is a big problem here. It causes direct health problems like liver disease, is a factor in domestic violence, and causes loss of coordination that contributes to injuries and vehicular accidents. Alcohol also affects our judgment, contributing to sexually transmitted diseases ...

“Yes,” she said and smiled. “After I’ve had a few drinks, I don’t make very good decisions. It would be better if the younger girls were at least warned about that effect. Maybe I should talk to them ...” Her voice trailed off and her focus drifted down the hall. “Yeah,” she said, “maybe I should.” She looked back at me, smiled a bit, gave a single nod, and walked off down the hallway.

I don’t know who she was. I don’t know her history. I doubt that I will ever see her again. However, I have the sense that I may have recruited an ‘at large’ health promoter that morning.

Keep praying—Michael

My response evoked rolling eyes, a hand on hip, and

From the Evangelism and Renewal Committee

Influence – I have been thinking about this year’s Lenten Series. I hope that it was a blessing and a source of inspiration to all who attended. On behalf of the E&R Committee, I extend a warm and hearty “Thank you!” to all who cooked, cleaned up, set up, made and brought wonderful food, and made the series a success. Great speakers are only part of the equation. Without a parish family with which to share, the Lenten Series is just an empty shell. So, thank you all.

Thinking of all that our speakers presented to us, and looking ahead to Holy Week and Easter, a line of scripture in the readings for Palm Sunday seemed to tie some of it together. I always seem to forget the length of the readings at this time of year. So, as the passion narrative was read, I was struck by the passage from Matthew 27:19, “While he was still seated on the bench, his wife sent him a message, “Have nothing to do with that righteous man. I suffered much in a dream today because of him.” What a paradox. We are instructed throughout scripture that a wise person seeks the righteous man to learn from and model. Prohibitions from association with someone are usually the result of negatives of one’s character. So, as this passage remained in the sieve that is my brain, I was compelled to ponder why the author would put this into the narrative.

It is interesting that Pilate’s wife is the one who warns him to stay away from Jesus. Pilate is not an oaf from the back country. He is the governor. The Greek word for “bench” actually means “judgment seat”. Pilate was a person of power, yet it’s not a policy advisor or someone of official rank who advise Pilate. It’s Pilate’s wife, and she seems to be telling the guy in charge how to run his little corner of the world. Not a typical scenario. I think it is a far stretch to think that the request from his wife was the sole reason he washes his hands of Jesus a few verses later, but the fact that it’s mentioned seems to imply that Pilate took his wife’s opinion into consideration. Maybe he thought it easier to turn Jesus over for crucifixion than to deal with a suffering wife.

No matter what Pilate’s reason is for giving in to the crowd and his wife, we are given to believe that Pilate knew the Jesus was innocent. Yet, Pilate did the expedient thing. He appeased his wife and the crowd, letting an innocent man be murdered. If a judge committed such a blatantly unjust act in today’s world, there would be outrage. Yet, in the case of Jesus, this case of egregious injustice was all a necessary part in God’s plan for the salvation of the world. I have put this matter on my official list of questions to ask God. In the end, how was Pilate judged?

The state of Pilate’s judgment was a mere passing curiosity. The thought that took over my mind was the profound influence, both positive and negative, that other’s can have on our lives. Here we have Pilate’s wife sending him a message to have nothing to do with Jesus, because he is righteous. (Other translations use the words “just” or “innocent”). Pilate, despite knowing the truth, turns his back on Jesus. He does the expedient instead of the right. (We’ll leave the issue of whether or not Pilate actually followed God’s will for another discussion.)

This very same thing happens in many of our lives every day. The world is quick to tell us that doing the right thing is crazy. Good Godly people will question other’s sincere efforts to heed God’s call in their lives. Other’s who have been raised in the Church and have a basic belief in Jesus will turn from him despite knowing the truth of who he is, what he has done, and what he implores us to do. Why do we do the opposite of what we know to be true? Sometimes it’s ignorance. But, other times, it’s the fear and the knowledge that to follow Jesus, to have something to do with him, will very likely bring suffering, and not just for a day.

I believe that this line of scripture sheds a bit of light on the discussions of each of our presenters. We heard stories of a depth of knowledge of God’s will at some level in each person’s decisions. Each person had to put aside the advice to have nothing to do with Jesus. They had to make the decision to step out into nothingness, resting in the assurance that God’s hand would catch them and guide them on their path. Furthermore, each person, after making that initial leap of faith, had to continue to rest firmly in faith in God.

By choosing to act in a manner quite contrary to many traditional minds, each of our presenters has chosen to deliberately, actively and literally have something to do with Jesus. They have begun their journey to providing safety for all people, no matter what their belief systems, or past behavior. They have taken steps to repair brokenness in connections and communication. They have committed to provide radical hospitality that leads to “uncommon community” in Lucado’s words. In all of these things there is a commitment to the significance of all people.

Did Pilate have any concern for Jesus? Did Pilate think Jesus to be a significant person? It’s seems unlikely. How many times do we follow the advice of Pilate’s wife, having nothing to do with Jesus, turning innocent souls over to the murderous masses? The video for Lucado’s book asks “What if we understood there is no such thing as an insignificant person?” If only one lesson is taken from our Lenten presenters, I pray that it is this one. If we can truly look someone in the eye and see Jesus in them, we have glimpsed the fully perfect humanity of Jesus. It was this humanity that caused Pilate’s wife suffering, and it was this humanity that was crucified on the cross. It was this humanity that saves our souls. Let us see Jesus in each and every person we meet. Lord, give us vision to see you in all people. Let us not be Pilate, choosing expediency over right. And, let us not be Pilate’s wife. People need us to have something to do with them. We are called to love God and neighbor. We do not have the option of washing our hands and declaring our innocence.

May 2011 Serving Schedule

May 1 st	8:00 AM	10:30 AM	Readings
Lay Readers	Jean Hammer	Doug Carr & Frankie Mathias	Acts 2:14a, 22-32
Acolytes		Milt Taylor & Asher Carr	Psalm: 16
Lectors		Joy Malinski & Diana Turpin	1 Peter 1:3-9
Ushers	Rita Zimmerman & Anna Adkins	Victor & Mary Paini	John 20:19-31
Altar Guild		Jessie Smith/Julie Meenach	Set-up: Jean Hammer
May 8 th	8:00 AM	10:30 AM	Readings
Lay Readers	Nick England	Jenn Spires & Chuck Canter	Acts 2:14-a, 36-41
Acolytes		Morgan & Ty Spires	Psalm: 116: 1-3, 10-17
Lectors		Martha Turpin & Ivan Smith	1 Peter 1:17-23
Ushers	Mike Whiley & Peggy Merton	Mike & Wendy Garbrandt	Luke 24:13-35
Altar Guild	Anna Adkins	Ann Canby/Kathy Canter	Set-up: Deanna Roshong
May 15 th	8:00 AM	10:30 AM	Readings
Lay Readers	Alma Priddy	Ivan Smith & Jim Hall	Acts 2:42-47
Acolytes		Alex Shook & Katie Shook	Psalm: 23
Lectors		Sarah Perlow & Robin Rhodes	1 Peter 2:19-25
Ushers	Rita Zimmerman & Anna Adkins	Nicki Leckrone & Diane Downard	John 10:1-10
Altar Guild	Bobbie Beebe	Judie Miller/Barb Parker	Set-up: Heather Perkins
May 22 nd	8:00 AM	10:30 AM	Readings
Lay Readers	Jim Merton	Robin Rhodes & Nick England	Acts 7:55-60
Acolytes		William Eyman & Andrew Eyman	Psalm: 31: 1-5, 15-16
Lectors		Paul Heim & Charlie Voss	1 Peter 2:2-10
Ushers	Mike Whiley & Peggy Merton	Jenn Spires & Morgan Spires	John 14:1-14
Altar Guild	Peggy Merton	Amy Eyman/Mid Hall	Set-up: Rebecca Pursley
May 29 th	8:00 AM	10:30 AM	Readings
Lay Readers	Tom Hammer	Jim Hall & Ivan Smith	Acts 17:22-31
Acolytes		Alanna Hurdley & Hannah Hurdley	Psalm: 66: 7-18
Lectors		Richard Bailey & Kathy Heim	1 Peter 3:13-22
Ushers	Rita Zimmerman & Anna Adkins	Nick England & Chris Hurdley	John 14:15-21
Altar Guild	Jean Hammer	Reda Kittle/Sally Stallsmith	Set-up: Deanna Roshong

If you cannot serve as scheduled on any Sunday, it is your responsibility to find a replacement.



Susie's Cooks

MAY 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:00 Liturgy of The Word 9:00 Fellowship Breakfast 10:30 Liturgy of The Word	2 7:00P Solemn Choral Evensong	3 1:45P Bible Reading Marathon 8:00P AA Meeting	4 12:00P Morning Prayer 6:15P EFM	5 3:30P Pickering House 6:15P Back to the Table Cooking Class	6	7 10:00 Diocesan Convention St. Patrick's Dublin
8 Mothers Day 8:00 HC 9:00 Christian Education 10:30 HC 2:00P Lanfair Service	9 7:00P Evening Prayer Group	10 8:00P AA Meeting	11 10:30 Bible Study 12:00 HC 6:15P EFM	12 3:30P Pickering House	13	14 9:00 Evangelism & Renewal Mtg.
15 8:00 HC 9:00 Christian Education 10:30 HC	16 7:00P Evening Prayer Group	17 8:00P AA Meeting	18 10:30 Bible Study 12:00 HC 12:30 Parish Health Luncheon 6:15P EFM	19 1:00 E & L Deadline 3:30P Pickering House 7:00 Vestry Mtg	20 5:00PM Lazer Tag Night For the youth	21 9:00 Spring Clean up Day
22 8:00 HC 9:00 Christian Education 10:30 HC 2:00P Carriage Court Service	23 7:00P Evening Prayer Group	24 8:00P AA Meeting	25 10:30 Bible Study 12:00 HC 6:15P EFM	26 3:30P Pickering House	27	28
29 8:00 HC 9:00 Christian Education 10:30 HC	30 7:00P Evening Prayer Group	31 8:00P AA Meeting				

Back to the Table Cooking Classes

May 5th June 2nd July 7th August 4th
For details go to www.stjohnlancaster.org
or call the church office at 653-3052

Lazer Tag

For all Youth—May 20th
Meet at the church at
5:00PM for trip to
Columbus

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

134 North Broad Street
Lancaster, Ohio 43130

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH STAFF

PRESIDING BISHOP: The Most Rev'd Katharine Jefferts Schori
BISHOP OF DIOCESE OF SO. OHIO: The Rt. Rev'd Thomas E. Breidenthal
BISHOP SUFFRAGAN: The Rt. Rev'd Kenneth L. Price
RECTOR: The Rev'd Mr. G. William Pursley
CHOIR DIRECTOR: Kathy Heim
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FINANCIAL SECRETARY: Schyler Crawford
TREASURER: Lowell Stallsmith
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For daily & Sunday readings & Fr. Pursley's
sermons, visit St. John's website
www.stjohnlancaster.org

Members of Vestry

Peggy Merton (Senior Warden)	653-4807
Mark Perrine (Junior Warden)	654-2551
Carol Baily (14)	654-3242
Jean Hammer (13)	687-6134
Kathy Heim (14)	205-3397
Barbara Parker (13)	969-4829
Nicholas Powell (12)	321-662-6917
Doug Snyder (12)	746-8263
Milt Taylor, Jr. (13)	653-2415
Charlie Voss (14)	654-4225
Mike Whiley (12)	654-4306