



THE EAGLE & THE LAMB

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



July 2011

Rector's Rambling

Weeding seems to consume most of my July every year. As I was crawling along on all fours earlier this week, it occurred to me that life is a lot like weeding the garden, and so I offer these few mid-summer reflections:

1. CIVILIZATION IS LIKE A WELL WEEDED GARDEN, IT USUALLY DISAPPEARS BY DEGREES, NOT IN ONE CATASTROPHIC EVENT. I recently attended a funeral (or was it a graduation, the story is the same) where people were dressed in ways that could only be described as grungy, and where general behavior failed to lend the proper dignity to the occasion. I don't remember waking up one morning and seeing large numbers of people in torn jeans or tee shirts without proper undergarments at what had once been considered formal, or at least "dress up" functions. Neither do I remember getting up one morning and seeing three foot specimens of Queen Ann's Lace growing in my runner beans. It happened by degrees because we stopped doing the little things which show respect to other people and lend dignity to special occasions. Perhaps if we all started with small things, like saying "please" and "thank you," we could at least get back to business casual or better as a way of showing respect for special days and special people.
2. PEOPLE TEND TO VALUE THINGS THEY HAVE TO WORK FOR. Peas are a precious commodity to me. They are probably one of the most labour intensive crops in my garden. I generally share tomatoes, and green beans, and even my glorious Yukon gold potatoes; but almost never my peas. They involve too much work to think that someone might leave a few on the plate at the end of a meal. It is easy to take things for granted if we don't work hard for them- things like our church, our town, and our friendships. It would be a better world, a more invested world, if we all looked at our schedules and determined to work hard, even sacrificially, in one area of our community life which impacts others in a meaningful way.
3. SOMETIMES, YOU HAVE TO LET A BIT OF THE BAD GROW ALONGSIDE THE GOOD.

The aforementioned peas are a case in point. Garden peas have very shallow root systems. Pulling up deep rooted perennial weeds in the vicinity of peas often uproots the pea plant as well. Sometimes it is better to trim the weed that the pea plant might live. It is the same with people whom God has not finished with quite yet. (I think that includes all of us!) A little patience and a willingness to tolerate mixed results in the short term can bring real blessings in the end.

4. EVEN WHEN I WORK HARD, THINGS DON'T ALWAYS WORK OUT THE WAY I HAD HOPED THEY WOULD. I weeded faithfully this year, built trellises, and purchased good seed. The first two plantings of beans, and the first planting of peas still rotted in the ground from too much rain. And so I tilled and planted again. Life is a lot like that. Sometimes our plans don't work out, but persistence and hard work generally pay off. Life is filled with "unforeseen occurrences" but the general principles remain the same. If we love God and those among whom he has placed us (even the ones we don't like), if we work hard and in harmony with the principles of God revealed in Nature and the Bible, we are much more likely to have a good life than if we try another method.
5. THERE WILL ALWAYS BE ANOTHER WEED THIS SIDE OF HEAVEN. I started pulling weeds in March and will stop about the end of February. So in life there will always be another aggravation, another sinful failure, another temptation, another problem, another issue, another person who refuses to be helpful just because that's the way they are. But we who eat the Flesh of God, we who drink His Blood, we who are Signed by the Cross and Marked as Christ's own forever, know that God's grace is sufficient for the work at hand, and that one day we will reign with Him in glory.

AMEN, AND AMEN!

Sincerely,
Bill+



Birthdays

- 1 Jean Howes
- 4 Andrew Eyman, Ray Holloway
- 5 Connie Dowling
- 6 Reda Kittle
- 8 Doug Snyder
- 10 Schuyler Crawford, Polly Gray,
Robin Rhodes
- 11 Tyler Spires
- 12 Heather Perkins
- 15 Kathy Canter, Nick England
- 18 Jennifer Snyder
- 20 Walker Kittle
- 22 Sally Wildermuth
- 25 David Warnock
- 27 Deanna Roshong

Wedding Anniversaries

- 2 Steve and Camille Martens (93)
- 5 David and Cheryl Berner (80)
- 8 Ralph and Jean Howes (72)

Baptismal Anniversaries

- 3 Audrey Berry (05)
- 4 Will Eyman (99), Ray Holloway (36)
- 8 Jeane Mast (34)
- 18 Lori Bockman (71)

Summer Sundays at St. John's (Through August)

**Holy Communion will be served every
Sunday at 8 am and again at 10:30**

**There will not be regular Christian
education or garden services.**

***Plan to make worship and fellowship
a part of your summer.***

Congratulations!!

Elijah Burton Allvine was born June 1, 2011, to Blake and Drew Allvine. Wanita and Larry Burton are the proud grandparents.

Merrill Perlow, daughter of Sarah and Jeff Perlow, graduated from Dental School at The University of Michigan on May 8th, with all her family in attendance. Dr. Perlow was accepted into the residency program at U of M so will be spending one more year in Ann Arbor.

Stuart Perlow, son of Sarah and Jeff Perlow, received his MBA in Finance from Gonzaga University and recently was promoted to the rank of Captain. He is moving to Spain for 15 months where he will be Commander of the contracting flight at Moron (pronounced Morone) Air Force Base, near the Straits of Gibraltar.

Our Sympathy to Wanita Burton on the death of her mother Nettie Hougen who passed away May 22, 2011 at the age of ninety-five.

Fellowship Breakfast

The next Fellowship Breakfast will be July 10th after the 8am service. Please join your parish family for food and fellowship.

Bob Wright at the Art Walk

Be sure to stop at the St. John's undercroft on Friday night, July 22nd to see the art work of Bob Wright who will again be sharing his talent during the Lancaster Festival.

Volunteers Needed

St. John's will be joining several local Lutheran churches for Vacation Bible School from July 31st -August 4th. A variety of volunteers will be needed including kitchen crew, techies and special talents, musicians, recreation and craft volunteers. Please call Peggy Merton, 653-4807, if you can help with this very special event.

On Behalf of The Evangelism and Renewal Committee

Hospitality -- It's the most wonderful time of the year... that blessed time when we journey north to our Canadian home. Anyone who has had a conversation with me knows that I gleefully anticipate our departure. I'm usually packed three months in advance just so I'm ready. So, imagine my surprise when this past month I have been completely and totally unable to prepare for any trip much less this one. I passed on the opportunity to make a preliminary trip to open the cottages and prepare for the summer. Then, we were supposed to depart this past Saturday, then Sunday, and now Monday afternoon. Even as I type this, I know that I still have not really begun to pack. This causes anxiety that only adds to the direness of the situation. As I've thought about what the problem really is, I've come to the conclusion that I do not want to face Canadian life without one of three dear friends who passed away over the winter months. As I think of them, our Lenten Series theme of outliving one's life runs constantly through my head. One of those friends exemplifies outliving one's life.

I first met Helen Niblock and her sister Mabel in 2007. As I tagged along to meet various people, I learned that part of our Sunday schedule almost always included a noon meal with the Niblocks. From the first time I walked into their home I was made welcome, as was my friend when she came to stay. At the end of that first summer, I traveled back from Canada with fond memories.

After our return to Ohio in 2007, I was surprised one day a few weeks later to see the Niblock's phone number on the caller ID. I called back thinking that something must be wrong. She assured me that all was well. She had just called to say hello. From that point on we received periodic calls to check on us and to say hello. She ended the conversation saying, "We love ya and we'll talk to you later." Every conversation after that ended in those words. We knew she meant it and we meant it in return.

Time with the Niblocks is an integral part of our summer life. Sunday afternoons are spent having a meal and good conversation around the Niblock table. We have all laughed so hard that we were sore the next day. Helen and Mabel could bicker like old pros, as sisters will, and sometimes that bickering would include anyone who might be there at the time, although it was always in good fun. Helen was a person who did not hold back if she had an opinion about something. There were times when we were quite surprised by what she said, especially when she was in a particularly ornery mood.

One afternoon Helen told us about an incident with her brother, John. The Niblocks have been farmers for decades if not longer. The house they live in is an old farmhouse with fields around it. They farmed and sold their crops in their own garden center. It was a real family affair. One day one of the hired men had not shown up for work. There was a cow that was in labor, imminently ready to deliver her calf. John came to the front of the house and told Helen to go help the cow. Not taking kindly to being told what to do by her brother, and lacking sufficient skill to remedy the problem, she gave her opinion on the situation. He was sure that he had not heard her correctly so he told her again to go help the cow. She gave the same reply as before saying, "she (the cow) got herself into that situation. She can get herself out of it!" and walked away. Thankfully the cow did figure out how to deliver her calf on her own.

The Niblocks' home is open to anyone and some of my best, cherished memories are from times spent with them. On one occasion an Ohio friend had come to visit and came to church with us. Afterward, we wanted to have our usual Sunday meal but we didn't want to rush away from our friend. So, we called and asked if our friend could come. Without hesitation Helen welcomed her, putting another plate on the table. Our friend has often commented on what a wonderful time she had that afternoon.

Holidays at the Niblock's were no exception. Canadian Thanksgiving dinner a few years ago included one of the most abundant and beautiful meals I've ever had. It was a full spread from a Norman Rockwell painting, along with beautiful people gladly sharing their table with us. Another time when I decided to spend Christmas in Canada, I surprised the Niblocks on Christmas Day. As I walked in to their home they were just sitting down to eat their Christmas dinner. After they recovered from the shock of seeing me, they took my coat, brought in another chair, moved a member of the family to another seat, and fed and welcomed me as one would royalty.

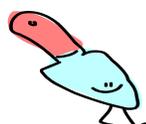
While none of this may seem remarkable to many people, it is a true testament to genuine, Christ-like hospitality. It brings to mind the Gospel story of the poor widow's offering to the treasury. Jesus said, *"Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them; for they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all the living that she had."* (Mark 12:41-44; Luke 21:1-4, RSV) The Niblocks worked long hours doing hard physical labor every day of their lives. As with many farmers, they struggled to make ends meet. As the years have progressed, finances have become more difficult, requiring ever increasing frugality. Yet, the Niblocks have always given openly and generously even when it meant that they sacrificed to do so.

One year I went to Canada after moving to my apartment in Lancaster. I had absolutely nothing, and no money to buy anything. Helen and Mabel knew this. So, as we were getting ready to leave that autumn, we made one of our last visits for the year to the Niblocks' home. As we prepared to say goodbye, Mabel handed me a grocery bag with various items in it. There were small bags of rice, tea, sugar, flour, beans, and oatmeal. They told me that it was hard moving in to a new home and they didn't want me to go without simple things. As if those items weren't enough, there was also a delicious home made apple pie frozen so that it would stay fresh for the trip home. This is a fine example of what Paul Clever described as genuine Gospel hospitality. It's easy to give after one has eaten all they want and then some. No one misses the leftovers. But, when the leftovers are what one starts with, it is a truly Christ-like act to share that with others, especially strangers.

Helen's, and eventually Mabel's, life will live on in all of us who have shared a meal at their table. Hospitality stripped of all pretense is an exceedingly rare, healing gift. There is safety in it. There is connection in it. There is healing and trust in it. Most of all, there is true love in it. This hospitality shared so freely has changed me. It's made me less particular about whether the silverware matches, or if the food is served on good china. It's made me cherish my time with friends, eating, discussing, sharing, and enjoying the presence of others. We read on multiple occasions about one of the most human and humane acts performed by Christ -- sitting at table with friends. The Niblock table is functional, old, and well worn; certainly not what some people would consider a beautiful antique. However, having found genuine love, mercy and acceptance around that table, it is a priceless treasure, as are the people I've had the pleasure to know and love while at that table.

Life, and our routine, will be different this summer. As I progress at a broken legged snail's pace to begin our journey north, hoping to find relief for my own mental and physical ailments, I dread arriving. Helen's absence will be felt strongly. Also, we will mourn for two other friends, George and Sandy. The greatest blessing is in knowing that, even in our loss and grief, there will still be hospitality, laughter, and remembrance. I recognize also that I am different this summer. Our Lenten Series had an impact on my life. As I continue to ponder the messages of our Lenten series speakers and what it means as a Christian to outlive my life, I find that the meaning of things has changed. So, nothing will be the same, which will be painful and unsettling. But, I trust that God will still be present. And his presence will be evident in the kindness of others. May God grant all of us the ability and the willingness to share ourselves, not just from our surplus wealth, but sacrificially, from our poverty, doing so completely, openly, honestly, and genuinely, without concern or pretense. Amen.

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Help, Help! The weeds are growing!

In order to maintain our beautiful grounds, we **need some help**. Spring Planting Day provided a good start with weeds pulled, flowers planted, and shrubs pruned. Now we desperately need help to maintain our gardens—weeding, trimming, mowing (negotiable), etc. Please contact Mark Perrine at 654-2551 (h) or 740-438-4817 (cell), if you can help.



Back to the Table

Cooking Classes

**Taught by Susie Cork
at St. Johns' Episcopal Church**

Celebrate community & fellowship as we learn to cook together.

Meet new people or get to know your spouse and family all over again.

Classes are held the first Thursday of the month at 6:15pm to about 8:30pm in the kitchen of St. John's. All classes are hands-on style and require participation in the cooking and clean up. We pair wine with the menu and it's available for a reasonable fee with the meal. Every participant receives a set of typed recipes and will have dinner during the class. Class size is limited to 14 participants.

A percentage of the proceeds benefits St. John's Church.

The Classes - Autumn 2011

September 1: Family Night - Easy Weeknight Meal**

Fettuccine with Seared Beef, Tomatoes & Smoked Almonds,
Mixed Greens with local red apples, goat cheese & maple balsamic vinaigrette, Lemon Raspberry Angel Trifle
\$35/person

October 6: Kids Class* - When in Rome

Homemade Pepperoni Pizza, Fettuccine with Lemon Alfredo & Broccoli,
Homemade Butterscotch Budino (pudding).

\$35/person. Children under 10 years of age receive a \$10 discount.

November 10: Adult Class *- Company's Coming**

Beef Wellington, Cabernet Sauce, Pumpkin baby cakes with Hazelnut Caramel Sauce
\$40/person

December 1: Family Night- Santa's Bakeshop**

Imprinted Soft Gingerbread Tiles, Sea Salt Caramels,
Chocolate Winter Wonderland cupcakes with 7-minute Frosting & Santa Pizza for dinner. \$35/person

Details

*The Kids Classes are for kids 8-17 years of age.

**Family Classes are for any age group or combination of family members,
provided the children under 17 are accompanied by an adult.

***Adult classes are for 18 years and older

The Instructor

Classes are designed and taught by Susie Cork, who is also the General Manager of Shaw's Restaurant & Inn. A Lancaster native and member of St. Johns', Susie is a graduate of The Culinary School at Kendall College in Chicago and honed her skills at Chicago's top restaurants for 17 years. She has taught cooking classes at A La Carte Gourmet Kitchen in Chicago, The Chopping Block Cooking School in Chicago
and currently at Sur La Table at Easton in Columbus & at Shaw's every Saturday.

Payment & Cancellation Policy

All classes require a prepaid reservation by cash or check made payable to St. Johns'. Reservations can be made at St. Johns' Church Services or by calling St. John's Monday-Thursday 9am-1pm. 740-653-3052.

Paid reservations are non-refundable. You are welcome to send someone to take your place in the class.

Reservation Deadline: Payment must be received the Sunday before the day of the class.



July 2011 Serving Schedule

July 3 rd	8:00 AM	10:30 AM	Readings
Lay Readers	Jean Hammer	Jenn Spires & Jim Hall	Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49
Acolytes		Ty Spires & Morgan Spires	Psalm: 45:11-18
Lectors		Martha Turpin & Robin Rhodes	Romans 7:15-25a
Ushers	Mike Whiley & Peggy Merton	Victor & Mary Painsi	Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30
Altar Guild		Barb Parker and Jessie Smith	Set-up: Deanna Roshong
July 10 th	8:00 AM	10:30 AM	Readings
Lay Readers	Nick England	Doug Carr & Chuck Canter	Genesis 25:19-34
Acolytes		Milt Taylor & Asher Carr	Psalm: 119:105-112
Lectors		Richard Bailey & Ivan Smith	Romans 8:1-11
Ushers	Rita Zimmerman & Anna Adkins	Mike & Wendy Garbrandt	Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23
Altar Guild	Anna Adkins	Judie Miller and Ann Canby	Set-up: Jean Hammer
July 17 th	8:00 AM	10:30 AM	Readings
Lay Readers	Alma Priddy	Ivan Smith & Robin Rhodes	Genesis 28:10-19a
Acolytes		Alanna Hurdley & Hannah Hurdley	Psalm: 139:1-11
Lectors		Sarah Perlow & Diana Turpin	Romans 8:12-25
Ushers	Mike Whiley & Peggy Merton	Nicki Leckrone & Diane Downard	Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43
Altar Guild	Peggy Merton	Reda Kittle and Sally Stallsmith	Set-up: Rebecca Pursley
July 24 th	8:00 AM	10:30 AM	Readings
Lay Readers	Tom Hammer	Jim Merton & Jim Hall	Genesis 29:15-28
Acolytes		Alex Shook & Katie Shook	Psalm: 105:1-11
Lectors		Joy Malinski & Nick England	Romans 8:26-39
Ushers	Rita Zimmerman & Anna Adkins	Chris Hurdley & Nick England	Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52
Altar Guild	Bobbie Beebe	Cathy Forbes and Kathy Canter	Set-up: Mid Hall
July 31 st	8:00 AM	10:30 AM	Readings
Lay Readers	Jim Merton	Nick England & Tom Hammer	Genesis 32:22-31
Acolytes		William Eyman & Andrew Eyman	Psalm: 17:1-7
Lectors		Charlie Voss & Paul Heim	Romans 9:1-5
Ushers	Mike Whiley & Peggy Merton	Richard Bailly & Carol Bailly	Matthew 14:13-21
Altar Guild	Jean Hammer	Amy Eyman and Chris Hurdley	Set-up: Heather Perkins

Our Call to Minister in the World

Lay persons face the difficult and often subtle task of interpreting the richness of the church's faith in a complex and confusing world. They need a theological education which supports their faith and also teaches them to express that faith in day-to-day events. As the emphasis on lay ministry has grown, EfM has come to play an important role by providing a program that develops an informed and knowledgeable laity

Many people think that one must be ordained in order to be "a minister." The fact is that all baptized Christians are called to be active participants in the church's total ministry. This TOTAL MINISTRY is nothing less than the exercise of the church's vocation to continue the ministry of Jesus. He reconciled the world to God. We are called to incarnate that reconciliation in our own time and in our own place through worship, service to others, and by proclamation of God's Word to all people.

The EfM program is preparation for the ministry to which we all are called. It is that vocation for which we pray at the end of the eucharist: "And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord."

The St. John's EfM group meets during the school year on Wednesdays at 6:15 p.m. at the home of Paul and Kathy Heim. Registration for next year is currently underway. Please contact Kathy at 205-3397 (or anyone else in the group) if you would like to know more about the program.

JULY 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 8:00 HC 10:30 HC	4 Independence Day 7:00P Evening Prayer	5 8:00P AA Meeting	6 10:30 Bible Study 12:00 HC	7 3:30P Pickering House	8	9 9:00 Evangelism & Renewal Mtg.
10 8:00 HC 9:00 Fellowship Breakfast 10:30 HC 2:00P Lanfair Service	11 7:00P Evening Prayer Group	12 8:00P AA Meeting	13 10:30 Bible Study 12:00 HC	14 3:30P Pickering House	15	16
17 8:00 HC 10:30 HC	18 7:00P Evening Prayer Group	19	20 10:30 Bible Study 12:00 HC	21 1:00P E & L Deadline 3:30P Pickering House	22 Art Walk Bob Wright's work at St. John's	23
24 8:00 HC 10:30 HC 2:00P Carriage Court Service	25 7:00P Evening Prayer Group	26	27 10:30 Bible Study 12:00 HC	28 3:30P Pickering House	29	30
31 8:00 HC 10:30 HC	<h2>Happy 4th of July !!!</h2>					

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
ORGANIST: Carolyn Schneider
FINANCIAL SECRETARY: Schyler Crawford
TREASURER: Lowell Stallsmith
VERGER: Jim Hall
MISTRESS of ACOLYTES: Jennifer Spires
NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Jean Hammer

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Rector (740) 654-5274 (home)
(740) 215-3900 (cell)

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