



THE EAGLE & THE LAMB

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



December 2011



Rector's Rambling

Printed below in its entirety is my sermon from Christ the King Sunday. It admonishes us as a Church to participate in Scripture Union's Essential One Hundred Bible reading plan between now and Easter. I hope you will consider prayerfully participating in this godly discipline. It will renew our lives and our parish. If you would like a set of the "E-100" materials, they are available at the Church office or from the ushers at our Sunday services.

Faithfully,
Bill+

With the celebration of Christ the King Sunday and the start of Advent, a new Christian Year is upon us. The cycle is simple, and yet instructive. We consider the significance of it all as Advent begins and we realize our own failures in light of the judgment that will one day come upon us. We hope for deliverance as we consider the prophecies of one who will come to save us from our sins, and from ourselves. On Christmas, the King of Glory deigns to come among us as one of us. Him who is the eternal agent of creation becomes a baby, born of a virgin in fulfillment of prophecy and grows to sinless manhood. In Him, the good news of God's mercy and redemption goes forth to all nations at Epiphany. "So God loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whoso believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." In Lent, we consider the real significance of it all as we consider his goodness, his love, his grace; and contrast it with our own sinfulness. And then comes the agony of Holy Week when we more fully understand and mourn the impact of our choices upon him who is the best and the truest of all. We receive his body and blood on Maundy Thursday in that most poignant and confusing of services, and mourn on what it seems so strange to call "Good Friday." And then comes

Easter, that glorious day when Our Saviour overcomes death and the grave and our sins to give us new life and the hope of heaven. Our outlook is changed forever and we are known as the children of God by grace through faith. And then we wait with the disciples in Jerusalem for the coming of the promise, fulfilled at Pentecost when the Blessed Holy Ghost gathers us together, purifies us anew, fills us with grace and anoints us with power that we might go forth to do the work of God in this world. And all the nations will be drawn to him, just as the Bible says: "Every knee shall bow, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord!"

The Christian Year enshrines the historic events of the life of Jesus of Nazareth, our Christ and our King. The Bible bears witness to the truth of these events, and the Creeds of the Church condense the sublime truths we proclaim in our worship. And yet there are so many in our world, and even in the Church who do not accept the reality of these things we celebrate. A few years back, Bishop Frey caused a great stir in the church press when someone asked him what made Trinity Episcopal School for Ministry so special. He said "We don't cross our fingers when we say the creed." A few weeks back, Fr. Bill McCleery and I had the honour of sitting under Dr. Luke Timothy Johnson, the great New Testament Scholar. I asked him what was non-negotiable for us Christians. His reply was direct and simple: "Creed and the Canon of Scripture." We as Christians are bound to believe, if we are to honestly call ourselves Christians. We may have our doubts. We will never fully appreciate the truths in the Creed and the Canon of Scripture this side of Heaven. There is much we will never fully understand. But as Christians we are called to acknowledge the truth that Jesus Christ, the second person of the Holy and Blessed Trinity came among us, lived as one of us, and after his cruel murder was resurrected and transformed into the first fruits of glory to show us what

we shall be as we believe in and follow him. Flee those who would deny the historical nature of these truths as you would flee the plague or the destruction of war. Embrace the faith of our Holy Mother the Church, the faith of patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs. Face your honest doubts and cling to him who is the author and finisher of our faith, the Jesus of history.

I believe that many of the problems and weaknesses of the churches in America today stem directly from ignorance of the Scriptures. While some of this ignorance is willful, much more of it is simply because so many Christians have never taken the time to read the Bible. As a people, we are far too likely to take our views of the reality of Christ from a program on the History channel or the Easter issues of Time or Newsweek. Many priests and professors, and even some bishops, spend more time explaining why details of the Bible could not be authentic to Jesus than they do teaching and living the precepts of our Lord. Some have gone so far as to decry or deny the veracity of Creed and Canon of Scripture while still drawing a paycheck from the Church. I must agree with Bishop Fitz-Simmons Allison when he names such duplicity a most dishonorable act. But there are many faithful and deep thinking Christians in professional Christian service and among the laity who have in faith committed themselves to simply following the Jesus of history, the Jesus of the Bible, with intellectual honesty and persevering confidence in him who saved us.

On this Christ the King Sunday, when we acknowledge the glory of our heavenly King, I would like to issue a challenge to all of us at St. John's. The Scripture Union, which had its start as a missionary society of the Church of England, our mother church, has prepared a program which leads readers through what they deem the one hundred most significant passages in the Bible. The ushers handed everyone a tally sheet and Bible marker when you came in today. Between now and Easter, I would ask all of us to read these one hundred passages from the Bible. It has been said that "knowledge is power." We as Christians might well amend that statement to read "Knowledge of God's Word will transform and

empower our lives." Let us read a passage a day between now and Easter. Ask God to illuminate the passage as you read. Commit yourself to apply it's teachings to your everyday life. Believe that these passages are reliable eyewitness accounts of the acts of God in the world. Call me if you have questions. I believe that if we commit ourselves to reading the Bible, the Holy Spirit will do a work among us that will transform us to the glory of God the Father into the image of Jesus, our one true King! In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. AMEN.

The Bishop is coming!

We welcome Bishop and Mrs. Price for our annual Episcopal visitation on December 11th. Mark your calendar for a single service at 10 am with a reception following.



Christmas Schedule

**Christmas Eve—4 pm –Holy Communion
with pageant and choir
10:30 pm—Midnight Festival
Eucharist**

Christmas Day—11am - Holy Communion

Note: Christmas is on a Sunday this year. We will have a single service at 11am on Christmas Sunday. The choir will not sing, but we will sing congregational carols.

Birthdays

- 1 Bruce Beebe
- 3 Audrey Berry, Nickie Leckrone
- 4 George Utley
- 5 Katie Kittle
- 7 Paul Heim, Sandie Leonard
- 10 Vicky Suhr
- 11 Nathan Campbell
- 12 Chris Hurdley
- 13 Jessie Smith
- 18 Don Eager
- 20 Billie Pursley
- 21 Barbara Mohler
- 25 Milt Taylor
- 26 Ruth Whiley
- 27 Meredith Fath, Carol Uhl
- 30 Tom Hammer, David Walker
- 31 Alanna Hurdley

Wedding Anniversaries

- 1 Mike and Barbara Parker (79)
- 9 Matthew and Ashley Canter (06)
- 12 Doug and Kirsten Carr (98)
- 28 Lloyd and Katie Kittle (02)

Baptismal Anniversaries

- 4 Mike Parker (41)
- 7 Libby Garbrandt (08)
- 8 Kim Carter
- 22 Sarah Perlow (57), Mary Shook (74),
Jack Warnett (71)
- 23 Steve Wood
- 24 Allison Angle (87), Patrick Angle (87)
- 29 Carol Baily (46)
- 30 Kathy Heim (60), Katie Kittle (79)
- 31 Rebecca Pursley (78)

Parish Health Luncheon

Please Note: The December luncheon following the Wednesday noon Eucharist will be December 14th rather than the usual third Wednesday.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to **Ivan and Jessie Smith** as they welcome their new grandson, **Mustafa**, son of Amy and Eberhard Kriege.

Congratulations to **Andrew Maxwell Kittle**, son of **Andy and Katie**, who will be baptized on the Friday after Thanksgiving. May he so live his life in this world that in the world to come he shall have life everlasting.

Congratulations to **Matthew Canter**, who, God willing and the Bishop consenting, will be ordained a Priest in Christ's one, holy, catholic, and apostolic church on December third by Bishop Mathes of San Diego on behalf of Bishop Lawrence of South Carolina. Fr. Bill will be the preacher and Bishop Salmon will represent Bishop Lawrence. Congratulations may be sent to Fr. Matthew Canter, 4053 Peninsula Drive, Carlsbad, CA 92010.

Gardener(s) Still Needed

Please consider a gift of time and talent to help take care of our beautiful courtyard. If you can only volunteer for a week each month or even a few days now and then, your help would be much appreciated. Contact Mark Perrine.

Many thanks to all who contributed to the needs of the poor through our Food for the Poor offering, the ingathering at our Thanksgiving service, and through regular weekly food donations. May God bless you for your generosity.

Bishop's Reception—Dec. 11th

There will be a reception following the 10 am service on December 11th. This reception will take the place of our normal breakfast for the month. This will be a brunch-style reception. It will also feature Christmas goodies. There will be a sign-up sheet in the back of the church. Please indicate if you plan to attend and how many. Please also indicate if you do not plan to attend. If you have questions, please contact Mark Perrine at 654-2551 or the church office at 653-3052.



This will be Bishop Price's last official visit.

Vestry Highlights

The cooking class will be every other month beginning in January. Profit thus far is \$1700.

A stewardship report was given. The committee is still awaiting pledges.

Regular birthday and anniversary cards will be sent rather than e-cards.

The new camera and microphone transmitting to the cry room are working well.

Refresh Your Soul Conference

Parish Health Ministries is announcing the 2012 Refresh Your Soul Conference, "Spiritual Care in Times of Trial and Loss." Save the dates—Friday evening, March 9th from 6—8:15 pm with dinner and a keynote presentation, "Humor to the Sick and Dying" and Saturday, March 10th from 8am - 2:30 pm at the Community of the Good Shepherd, Montgomery. (northern Cincinnati) The speaker on Saturday will be Douglas C. Smith MA, MS, M. Div.

Did You Know?

That St. John's provides active support to many community agencies during the holiday season. AA and Alanon meet on Tuesday nights in the undercroft. Cheerleaders practice in the undercroft on Wednesday evenings. The Fairfield Youth Choir Holiday Concert will be held at St. John's this year on the afternoon of December 11th. The Fairhope Hospice Cookie Walk will again be held at St. John's on Dec. 3rd. The Fairfield Heritage Candlelight Tour of Churches will visit St. John's on the evening of the 10th. Students from Lancaster High School's special needs program come to our parish every Thursday morning for life skills experience. Keep up the good work! We are blessed to be a part of this community.

Coats for Kids Drive

In an effort to provide warm coats for needy children, Fashion and Vanity Cleaners and the Lancaster Eagle-Gazette have initiated their 7th Annual "Coats for Kids" drive. Good quality, gently worn coats (no tears, stains or broken zippers, please) may be dropped off at Fashion Cleaners, (Plaza Shopping Center on Memorial Dr.,) Vanity Cleaners (E. Main St. next to the Kroger Shopping Center), or the Lancaster Eagle-Gazette, 138 W. Chestnut St. All coats will be cleaned at not charge and then distributed by Jenny Ruff at Job and Family Services.

Good Samaritans Needed

Fairfield Medical Center has over 35 different volunteer opportunities! In addition to the intrinsic reward, volunteers receive a variety of benefits, such as recognition dinners, free meals, and the opportunity to use the Cardiac Rehab Gym for just \$65/year. It also provides a wonderful social opportunity to meet and interact with many different people. Most of the volunteers serve a 4-hour shift each week, but many still take numerous trips or even fly south for the winter! Volunteer applications can be obtained at www.fmchealth.org or by calling Heidi Reed at 740.687.8109.

Lancaster Men's Chorus Concert

The Lancaster Men's Chorus will usher in the Christmas season on Sunday, December 4th at 3 pm. at the First United Methodist Church. The concert will feature soloists, traditional Christmas songs and a few chorus favorites. Tickets are \$5.00 and may be purchased from any chorus member or at the door before the concert.

Hospice Cookie Walk

The annual Hospice Cookie Walk will be held on December 3rd in the undercroft at St. John's. The cookie walk will start around 8 am and go until the cookies run out! If you would like to contribute cookies to this event, please drop them off on Friday, Dec. 2nd between 10 am and 4 pm in the undercroft. If you have any questions, please contact Mark Perrine at 654-2551. Thank you.

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 -2012 first half

February 2: Adult Class* - Romantic Rendezvous**

Crab Cakes with Roasted Red Pepper Vinaigrette, Bittersweet Valentine Salad of radicchio, pomegranate & oranges, Chocolate Whoopie Cake with chocolate sauce \$40/person.

April 12: Family Night Class-Dinner in Paris**

Warm Blue Cheese Pear Tart, Steak au Poivre, Caramelized Apple Crêpes \$40/person

June 7: Family Night Class- Entertaining Alfresco**

Grilled Homemade Flat Bread with Artichoke Spread, Argentinean Beef Skewers with Chimichurri Sauce, Fresh Apricot Almond Open Tart. \$35/person

August 2: Kids Class*- Pizza Party

Homemade pizza dough, Grilled Vegetable Pizza with basil cream, Pepperoni Calzones with marinara, \$35/person. Children under 10 years of age receive a \$10 discount.

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

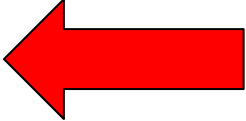
All classes require a prepaid reservation by cash or check made payable to St. Johns'. Reservations can be made at St. Johns' Church Services or by calling St. John's Monday-Thursday 9am-1pm. 740-653-3052.

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.



December 2011 Serving Schedule

December 4 th	8:00 AM	10:30 AM	Readings
Lay Readers	Jean Hammer	Doug Carr & Frances Mathias	Isaiah 40:1-11
Acolytes		Alanna Hurdley & Asher Carr	Psalm: 85: 1-2
Lectors		Diana Turpin & Charlie Voss	2 Peter 3:8-15a
Ushers	Mike Whiley & Anna Adkins	Jenn Spires & Morgan Spires	Mark 1:1-8
Altar Guild	Cathy Forbes	Judie Miller, Ann Canby & Deanna Roshong	Set-up: Heather Perkins
December 11 th	10:00 AM		Readings
Lay Readers	Ivan Smith & Robin Rhodes	 Only 1 service at 10:00 AM	Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
Acolytes	Alex Shook & Katie Shook		Psalm: 126
Lectors	Paul Heim & Joy Malinski		1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
Ushers	Chris Hurdley & Hannah Hurdley		John 1:6-8, 19-28
Altar Guild	Amy Eyman, Mid Hall & Jesse Smith		Set-up: Anna Adkins
December 18 th	8:00 AM	10:30 AM	Readings
Lay Readers	Tom Hammer	Chuck Canter & Jenn Spires	Samuel 7:1-11, 16
Acolytes		Ty Spires & Morgan Spires	Psalm: 89: 1-4, 19-26
Lectors		Ivan Smith & Robin Rhodes	Romans 16:25-27
Ushers	Mike Whiley & Peggy Merton	Nickie Leckrone & Diane Downard	Luke 1:26-38
Altar Guild	Frances Mathias	Barb Parker, Julie Meenach & Kathy Canter	Set-up: Jean Hammer
December 24 th	4:00 PM	11:00 PM	
Lay Readers	Jim Merton & Doug Carr	Nick England & Tom Hammer	Isaiah 9:2-7
Acolytes	Alex Shook & Katie Shook	1 st Crucifer: Andrew Eyman 2 nd Crucifer: Alanna Hurdley Book Bearer: Milt Taylor, III Torch Bearer: William Eyman Torch Bearer: Hannah Hurdley	Psalm: 96
Lectors	Sarah Perlow & Frances Mathias	Robin Rhodes & Joy Malinski	Titus 2:11-14
Ushers	Mike Whiley & Peggy Merton	Victor Paini & Mary Paini	Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)
Altar Guild	Peggy Merton & Reda Kittle	Chris Hurdley, & Sally Stallsmith	Set-up: All Members
December 25 th	11:00 AM		
Lay Readers	Nick England		

If you cannot serve as scheduled on Christmas Eve, please contact Jenn Spires (603-5319) or Jim Hall (654-5819) as soon as possible.

Did you know ...?

Little known facts and information about St. Johns' Altar Guild

Liturgical colors are part of the festivity of the Anglican-Episcopal tradition. The colors we use are medieval Roman usage. White represents festivals of Christ like Christmas, Easter, baptisms and funerals. Purple represents the passion and royalty of Christ like Advent and Lent. Red represents festivals of the Holy Spirit and commemorations of martyrs like Pentecost and Feast of St. Peter. Green is used for all other occasions. In some churches light blue is used to represent St. Mary. In the early English tradition, also called Sarum, bleached linen was used for high holy days and unbleached linen was used for all other days. The altar hangings we use are made of brocade damask. Each set has frontals for the pulpit, lectern, credence table and altar. The white set also includes a pall for funerals. The priest has vestments to match. A brocade damask frontal for the pulpit alone can cost from about \$500 to \$900.

December 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 3:30P Pickering House	2	3 8:00 Hospice Cookie Walk
4 8:00 HC 9:00 Christian Education 10:30 HC	5 7:00P Evening Prayer Group	6 8:00P AA Meeting	7 10:30 Bible Study 12:00 HC 6:15P Education For Ministry	8 3:30P Pickering House	9	10 9:00 Evangelism & Renewal Mtg. 6:00P Candlelight Tour
11 10:00 HC 11:00 Bishop's Reception 2:00P Lanfair Service	12 7:00P Evening Prayer Group	13 8:00P AA Meeting	14 10:30 Bible Study 12:00 HC 12:30 Luncheon 6:15P Education For Ministry	15 1:00P E & L Deadline 3:30P Pickering House 7:00P Vestry Mtg.	16	17
18 8:00 HC 9:00 Christian Education 10:30 HC	19 7:00P Evening Prayer Group	20 8:00P AA Meeting	21 10:30 Bible Study 12:00 HC 6:15P Education For Ministry	22 3:30P Pickering House	23	24 Christmas Eve 4:00P HC & Pageant 10:30P Music 11:00P HC
25 Christmas 11:00 HC 2:00P Carriage Court Service	26 7:00P Evening Prayer Group	27 8:00P AA Meeting	28 10:30 Bible Study 12:00 HC 6:15P Education For Ministry	29 3:30P Pickering House	30	31 New Year's Eve

Merry Christmas

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

Parish Office (740) 653-3052
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