



THE EAGLE & THE LAMB

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



Rector's Rambling

The Deeper Meaning of Christmas



At the Grotto in Bethlehem's Church of the Nativity
Where Jesus Christ came among us

Gregory of Nazianzus was a Cappadocian Father who served as Bishop of Constantinople and lived in the fourth century. He was a close friend of Blessed Basil the Great and Blessed Gregory of Nyssa. In his "Letter to Cledonius," he gives to the universal Church a rich understanding of the true nature of what happened that first Christmas, and of its importance in the life of the Christian.

"For we do not separate the man from the Godhead; we teach that he is one and the same. Formerly, he was not man, but only God the Son, before all ages, unconnected with a body or anything corporeal. But in time he became man also, assuming manhood for our salvation; passable in the flesh, impassable in the Godhead; limited in the body, unconfined in the spirit; on the earth and at the same time in heaven; belonging to the visible world, and also to the intelligible order of being; comprehensible and also incomprehensible; so that man as a whole, since he had fallen into sin, might be fashioned afresh by one who was wholly man and at the same time God."

These words seem strange and theological to modern Christian ears, but they break through the sentimentality of so much of our seasonal celebrations to underline the fact that God's love for you and me was so great that it led him to alter the very fabric of heaven and earth to accomplish our "fashioning afresh" into his own image. Understood through the mind of this holy man, the assurance of John 3:16

that "so God loved the world that he gave his only begotten son..." takes on a deeper and more mysterious meaning, and calls us to examine our lives with profound intensity during this Advent and Christmastide.

What does it mean to be "fashioned afresh?" Clement of Alexandria says that he "forgives our sins and educates us to be free from sin." (Christ the Educator I.3.7) Hilary of Poitiers says that "he gives us confidence that a lower nature can be born into a higher condition." (On The Trinity 9.4) Cyril of Alexandria says that "He opened up the way for human nature to incorruption and despoiled hell, taking pity on the souls who were imprisoned there." (First Letter to Succensus 9)

In our preparations to celebrate the Incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ into the world, we might all ask the questions raised by these Fathers of the Church. Am I a new creature in Jesus Christ? Has my relationship with him caused me to be transformed into one whose life is more filled with love, and discipline, and understanding, and submission to God's will as revealed in Holy Scripture than it was before I answered his call? Have those bars of sin, and bad habits, and addictions which imprisoned me been broken by him who "despoiled hell" and "opened up the way" for my nature to work toward incorruption? Can it honestly be said that my life is now illustrative of a "higher condition" of love and respect and obedience and better attitudes than it was before Jesus Christ "fashioned me afresh?"

In this blessed and holy time, might we all honestly ask those questions which will lead us to more perfectly experience the true miracle of Christmas. Might we receive with joy and humility this great gift that God the Father gave to us all when he altered the very fabric of heaven and earth to accomplish our salvation.

Blessed Advent and Happy Christmas to us all.

Bill+

* According to a letter of agreement with the bishop, Deacon Don Eager will officially be part of St. John's beginning in January.

* Proposals were presented for the front step repair. A committee will be formed to further explore repair or replacement possibilities.

* The Tattle Tale wireless security system was approved.

The annual Hospice Cookie Walk will be held Dec. 1st in the undercroft of the church. The cookie walk will start at 8am and run until noon. If you would like to donate cookies, please bring them to the church on Thursday evening, Nov. 29th from 6:00 to 9:00 pm. You may also bring them in on Friday, Nov. 30th from 10 am until 4 pm. If you cannot make either of these times, Hospice will gladly take the cookies the day of the walk. If you need further information, please contact Mark Perrine at 740-438-4817.



The Free Store is a multi-denominational ministry located in Maple Street's church basement at 438 E. Wheeling St. The store gives free clothing and household goods to those who need them. The store is open 10-12 Wednesdays and 6-8 Thursdays. We really need men's winter clothing (not suits or dress pants) and shoes, and we have many people requesting blankets. . .and we are out of blankets. We also are out of towels and sheets, and could use coats, hats, and gloves of all types. Bring your donations in on Wednesday from 10-12 or Thursday evenings from 6-8, or email freestorelancastrero@gmail.com if you need a pickup (in Lancaster). You can also call 740-215-1249.

St. John's will again participate in the Candlelight Tour, "Sing Noel," on Saturday, December 8th. This guided walking tour along candlelit paths will take you to eight historic churches in downtown Lancaster. Each church will present its own festive 15-minute music program. The tour opens with programs at the First United Methodist Church and the First Presbyterian Church and concludes with a special performance at St. Mary Church.

Tickets for adults: \$8 presale, \$9 day of the tour. For children under 12, \$2.

Buy your tickets from the FHA office, our museums, Carnival Food, Silver Expressions, Shaw's Restaurant & Inn, First Presbyterian Church, First United Methodist Church, Fairfield National Bank downtown and its branches at Kroger East and Memorial Drive, and Meijer.

The next Parish Health Luncheon will be on Wednesday, December 19th after the noon Eucharist. The speaker will be Carolyn Schneider who will explain the Yellow Dot program. Do plan to attend.



Daughters of the King

cordially invite

the women of St. John's

to a Christmas Luncheon

***Hosted by Deanna Roshong
10832 Mill St., Pataskala, OH***

***Please RSVP to 654-6747 or 653-9607 by Dec. 3rd.
Directions will be available at the back of the church.***



- 1 Bruce Beebe
- 3 Audrey Berry
- Nicki Lecrone
- 5 Katie Kittle
- 7 Paul Heim
- Sandie Leonard
- 10 Vicky Suhr
- 11 Nathan Campbell
- 12 Chris Hurdley
- 13 Jessie Smith
- 20 Billie Pursley
- 21 Barbara Mohler
- 25 Milt Taylor
- 27 Meredith Fath
- Carol Uhl
- 30 Tom Hammer
- David Walker
- 31 Alanna Hurdley



Remember to bring in warm hats, gloves, and scarves during Advent for distribution to the needy of our community. The Mitten Tree will be located at the back of the church through December 16th.

Parishioners are reminded of the opportunity to have the sanctuary light burning “in memory of” or “in thanksgiving for” a loved one. A \$5.00 donation is asked. Your remembrance will be printed in the Sunday bulletin. Your information may be placed in the alms basin or you may call the church office.

All members are asked to help decorate the church for Advent and Christmas on Saturday, Dec. 1st at 10 am. Final preparations for Christmas will be done on Sunday, December 23rd after the 10:30 service.

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

The next Fellowship Breakfast will be Sunday, December 2nd after the 8 am service. Join your parish family for good food and fellowship.

- 4 Michael Parker (41)
- 7 Libby Garbrandt (08)
- 8 Kim Carter (68)
- 22 Sarah Perlow (57)
- Mary Shook (74)
- Jack Warnett (71)
- 23 Steve Wood (69)
- 24 Allison Angle (87)
- Patrick Angle (91)
- 29 Carol Baily (46)
- 30 Kathy Heim (60)
- 31 Rebecca Pursley (78)



Envelopes for Christmas flower donations will soon be in the pews or donations may be sent to the church office

December 2012 Serving Schedule

	Jim Merton	Ivan Smith & Jim Hall	Jeremiah 33:14-16
		Morgan Spires & Milt Taylor	Psalms: 25:1-9
		Richard Bailey & Nick England	1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
	Mike Whiley & Anna Adkins	Ray Hollaway & Nick England	Luke 21:25-36
	Bobbie Beebe	Sarah Perlow, Ann Canby & Deanna Roshong	Set-up: Frankie Mathias
	Jean Hammer	Chuck Canter & Robin Rhodes	Baruch 5:1-9
		Alex and Katie Shook	Canticle 4
		Charlie Voss & Joy Malinski	Philippians 1:3-11
	Tim Hall & Peggy Merton	Chris & Hannah Hurdley	Luke 3:1-6
	Jean Hammer & Carol Uhl	Judie Miller & Mid Hall	Set-up: Anna Adkins & Judie Miller
	Tom Hammer	Frankie Mathias & Doug Carr	Zephaniah 3:14-20
		Hannah Hurdley & Asher Carr	Canticle 9
		Kathy Heim & Ivan Smith	Philippians 4:4-7
	Mike Whiley & Anna Adkins	Nickie Lekrone & Diane Downard	Luke 3:7-18
	Carol Ralph	Barb Parker, Julie Meenach & Kathy Canter	Set-up: Jean Hammer & Carol Uhl
	Alma Priddy	Robin Rhodes & Jim Hall	Micah 5:2-5a
		Alex and Katie Shook	Canticle 3
		Paul Heim & Diana Turpin	Hebrews 10:5-10
	Mike Whiley & Peggy Merton	Ray Hollaway & Nick England	Luke 1:39-45
	Peggy Merton	Chris Hurdley, Reda Kittle & Sally Stallsmith	Set-up: Mid Hall
	Chuck Canter & Tom Hammer	Nick England & Doug Carr	Isaiah 9:2-7
	Jenn & Morgan Spires	1 st Crucifer: Milt Taylor 2 nd Crucifer: Asher Carr Book Bearer: William Eyman Torch Bearer: Katie Shook Torch Bearer: Alex Shook	Psalms: 96
	Frankie Mathias & Richard Bailey	Sarah Perlow & Joy Malinski	Titus 2:11-14
	Anna Adkins & Ray Hollaway	Peggy Merton & Mike Whiley	Luke 2:1-14
	Mid Hall	Deanna Roshong	Set-up: All Members
	Nick England	Ivan Smith & Jim Merton	Isaiah 61:10-62:3
		Hannah Hurdley & William Eyman	Psalms: 147
		Charlie Voss & Frankie Mathias	Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7
	Mike Whiley & Anna Adkins	Morgan & Jenn Spires	John 1:1-18
	Bobbie Beebe	Sarah Perlow, Ann Canby & Deanna Roshong	Set-up: Frankie Mathias

Back to the Table

Cooking Classes

Taught by Susie Cork
at St. Johns' Episcopal Church

Celebrate community & fellowship as we learn to cook together.

						10:00A Altar Guild set up 8:00A –noon CookieWalk
8:00 HC 9:00 Fellowship Breakfast 10:30 HC	5:00P Pizza and God Talk 7:00P Evening Prayer Service	8:00P AA Meeting	10:30 Bible Study 12:00 HC 6:00P EFM	3:30P Pickering House		Candlelight Tour
8:00 HC 10:30 HC 2:00P Lanfair Service	5:00P Pizza and God Talk 7:00P Evening Prayer Service	8:00P AA Meeting	10:30 Bible Study 12:00 HC 6:00P EFM	3:30P Pickering House		
8:00 HC 9:00 Adult Forum 10:30 HC	5:00P Pizza and God Talk 7:00P Evening Prayer Service	8:00P AA Meeting	10:30 Bible Study 12:00 HC Parish Health Luncheon 6:00P EFM	1:00P E&L Deadline 3:30P Pickering House 7:00P Vestry Meeting		
8:00 HC 9:00 Adult For. 10:30 HC 11:30 Altar Guild set up 2:00P Carriage Ct.	4P Family Service 10:30P –Music and HC	11:00A HC 8:00P AA Meeting	10:30 Bible Study 12:00 HC 6:00P EFM	3:30P Pickering House		
8:00 HC 9:00 Adult Forum 10:30 HC						



Wesołych Świąt Bożego Narodzenia

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
RECTOR: The Rev'd Mr. G. William Pursley
CHOIRMASTER: Kathy Heim
ORGANIST: Thurlow Weed
ALTAR GUILD PRESIDENT: Deanna Roshong
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)

Tom Hammer (Senior Warden)	687-6134
Mark Perrine (Junior Warden)	654-2551
Carol Baily (14)	654-3242
Susie Cork (15)	974-8026
Wendy Garbrandt (15)	653-9639
Jean Hammer (13)	687-6134
Kathy Heim (14)	205-3397
Barbara Parker (13)	969-4829
Michael Parker (15)	969-4829
Milt Taylor, Jr. (13)	653-2415
Charlie Voss (14)	654-4225

<p>For daily & Sunday readings & Fr. Pursley's sermons, visit St. John's website www.stjohnlancaster.org</p>
