



July 2014

Rector's Rambling



It was 93 degrees today in the shade, and the humidity was oppressive, but when Oscar the Spaniel hit the water in the creek behind

Cherry Street Park, his life went from tongue dragging discomfort to pure joy. Nothing about the weather had really changed, but his outlook was transformed as he chased the duck decoy upstream with reckless abandon. He was happy because he was fulfilling his destiny.

As I watched my magnificent dog do what he was bred and trained to do, I found myself asking questions. Do I find such joy doing the work that God calls me to do? Am I able to rise above the realities which surround me and focus on the work of the Kingdom of God? Do I understand with straightforward simplicity exactly what the job is that God has given me?

I'm afraid that I am not nearly as good a Christian as my dog is a flusher and retriever. That realization did cause me some concern, and embarrassment, and guilt. Would that I were as biddable as Oscar. Biddability is that desire to please their masters which good dogs display. Would that I were as focused as Oscar. He zeros in on the quarry and thinks of nothing else until he returns it gently to my waiting hand. If only my prayers were as disciplined and single minded. Would that I were as gregarious as Oscar. Sometimes I demonstrate anything but joy as I go about my list of engagements. Would that I were as instinctive as Oscar. He seems to perform his assigned duties effortlessly. That is not always the case as I check the various tasks off of my daily list of things to do.

Granted, Oscar has some advantages over me. His genetics are much better than mine. After all, he comes from a long line of estate dogs which

stretches over the centuries, and dogs which do not perform are not allowed to reproduce. My bloodline has some wonderful people in it, but our breeding is not nearly so fine. His formal education started at a much younger age than did mine, and he has been disciplined with a consistency which amazes me. I suppose I got away with far too much, and bad habits are hard to break.

But I have some things going for me which in the end prepare me well for the task at hand. Whereas he works instinctively, I employ the reason which is a part of God's image in me to make decisions that impact the world around me. I can understand the difference between running around with a bird or rabbit in my mouth (which is acceptable behaviour), and running around with a shoe or a shopping bag (which is not). My life might not be characterized by joyous abandon, as is his, but I do have the deep satisfaction of seeing the results of good decisions acted upon faithfully. Whereas he doggedly centers his entire being on the retrieval of his quarry, and loses sight of everything else, I am blessed to consider carefully the distractions and difficulties of life, and am thereby able to experience and acknowledge the grace of God which enables me to accomplish a task. And I believe his joy is matched and more by my sense of accomplishment and satisfaction at a job well done.

And finally, whereas he relies on generations of instinct and endless repetition in training to define his job, I have the Holy Bible, the leading of God through the wisdom of his Church, Godly reason, and the witness of the Holy Spirit to unfold the fullness of the mission God intends me to accomplish on this earth.

And so at the end of the day, I guess it is not such a bad thing to be a human. God has designed us differently from our friends and servants in the animal kingdom, and has placed on us his own image and likeness. We are truly blessed, and this blessing is nowhere more evident than in the difficult times of life, and when we are blessed to recognize the gifts with which he has endowed us to accomplish the work he has given us to do. Amen.



ST. JOHN'S INVITES YOU

BBOQ GARDEN PARTY



JUNE 29TH

5 PM | ST. JOHN'S GARDEN
BURGERS, DOGS
& DRINKS PROVIDED

CONTACT : 740.653.3052
OFFICE@STJOHNLANCASTER.ORG

134 NORTH BROAD STREET LANCASTER, OHIO 43130

Birthdays

- 2 Susie Cork
- 4 Andrew Eyman
Ray Hollaway
- 5 Connie Dowling
- 6 Reda Kittle
- 8 Doug Snyder
- 9 Jordan Wilson
- 10 Schyler Crawford
Robin Harris
- 11 Tyler Spires
- 15 Margaret Canter
Nick England
- 18 Jennifer Snyder
- 20 Walker Kittle
- 23 Sally Wildermuth
- 25 David Warnock
- 27 Deanna Roshong

Wedding Anniversaries

- 2 Steve and Camille Martens (93)
- 5 David and Cheryl Berner (80)

Baptismal Anniversaries

- 3 Audrey Berry (05)
- 4 William Eyman
Ray Hollaway (36)
- 8 Jeane Mast (34)
- 18 Lori Bockman (71)
- 26 Jeff Hurdley (64)

Elizabeth Rhe Tillett Merton

October 4, 1917—June 8, 2014

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

Our Sympathy to Deacon Don and Linda Eager on the death of Linda’s mother, Betty Jean Freeman, on June 3, 2014, in Tucson, Arizona.

Congratulations to Rick and Leah Davis on the birth of their son Connor Lee.

Fellowship Breakfast

Please join your parish family for breakfast on Sunday, July 6th after the 8 AM Eucharist.

ArtWalk 2014—Cookies Needed

Cookies needed for the evening of July 18th when St. John’s hosts one of the venues for the ArtWalk. Many people will be enjoying the talents of several of our parishioners, so let’s welcome our visitors with refreshments.

Cookies may be delivered to the church :

July 16th ~9:00AM to 9:00PM July 17th ~10:00AM to 5:00PM

July 18th ~ 10:00AM to 4:00PM

A Special “Thank You” to Beck

Beck Babcock is sharing her love of plants and flowers by generously donating the flower arrangement which will be used in the undercroft at St. John’s during the ArtWalk. After the ArtWalk, the plants and flowers will be planted in our garden. Many thanks, Beck, for such a thoughtful gift to St. John’s.

Ice Cream Social

July 11th at 6 pm

In the Garden



Join us for ice cream

before the “British

Invasion” at the Bandstand

July 2014 Serving Schedule

July 6	8:00 AM	10:30 AM	Readings
Lay Readers	Jean Hammer	Jim Hall & Caitlin Hurdley	Genesis 24:34-38,42-49, 58-67
Acolytes		Alex Shook & Katie Shook	Psalm: 45
Lectors	Carl Roshong	Sara Perlow & Diana Turpin	Romans 7: 15-25a
Ushers	Steve Woods & Tim Hall	Tom Howard & Karen Howard	Matthew 11: 16-19, 25-30
Altar Guild	Deanna Roshong	Sarah Perlow & Mid Hall	Set-up: Deanna Roshong
July 13	8:00 AM	10:30 AM	Readings
Lay Readers	Robin Rhodes	Ivan Smith & Mark Conrad	Genesis 25: 19-34
Acolytes		Libby Garbrandt & Hannah Hurdley	Psalm: 119
Lectors		Caitlin Hurdley & Charlie Voss	Romans 8: 1-11
Ushers	Alex Shook & Katie Shook	Nicole Sutter & Holly Perry	Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23
Altar Guild	Jean Hammer & Carol Uhl	Jessie Smith, Mid Hall & Judie Miller	Set-up: Anna Adkins & Judie Miller
July 20		7:00 PM	Readings
Lay Readers	Tom Hammer	Jim Hall & Doug Carr	Genesis 28: 10-19a
Acolytes		Joanna Carr & Asher Carr	Psalm: 139
Lectors		Paul Heim & Holly Perry	Romans 8: 12-25
Ushers	Carol Uhl & Anna Adkins	Nickie Lecrone & Diane Downard	Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43
Altar Guild	Jean Hammer	Barb Parker, Deanna Roshong & Kathy Canter	Set-up: Jean Hammer & Carol Uhl
July 27	8:00 AM	10:30 AM	Readings
Lay Readers	Jean Hammer	Ivan Smith & Caitlin Hurdley	Genesis 29:15-28
Acolytes		Nicole Sutter & William Eyman	Psalm: 105
Lectors		Mark Conrad & Jeanie Conrad	Romans 8: 26-39
Ushers	Robin Leonard & Mike Whiley	Steve Messerly & Chris Hurdley	Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52
Altar Guild	Gitta Sadoni & Peggy Merton	Sally Stallsmith, Chris Hurdley & Reda Kittle	Set-up: Mid Hall & Judie Miller

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

St. John's Episcopal Church

July 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 8:00 AA Meeting	2 12:00 HC	3	4 Watch the parade at the Church	5
6 8:00 HC 9:00 Fellowship Breakfast 10:30 HC	7 7:00P Evening Prayer Service	8 8:00P AA Meeting	9 12:00 HC	10	11 6 pm Ice Cream Social in the garden	12
13 8:00 HC 10:30 HC	14 7:00P Evening Prayer Service	15 8:00P AA Meeting	16 12:00 HC	17 1 PM Eagle and Lamb Deadline	18 6-10 pm ArtWalk	19
20 8:00 HC 10:30 HC	21 7:00P Evening Prayer Service	22 8:00P AA Meeting	23 12:00 HC	24	25	26
27 8:00 HC 10:30 HC	28 7:00P Evening Prayer Service	29	30	31		



Current and historical issues of *The Eagle & The Lamb*, dating back to April 2011, may be accessed at:
www.stjohnlancastr.org

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
DEACON: The Rev'd Donald B. Eager
CHOIRMASTER: Kathy Heim
ORGANIST: Thurlow Weed
ALTAR GUILD PRESIDENT: Deanna Roshong
FINANCIAL SECRETARY: Schyler Crawford
FINANCIAL CONSULTANT: Lowell Stallsmith
TREASURER: Amy Eyman
VERGER: Jim Hall
MISTRESS of ACOLYTES: Jennifer Matz
NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Jean Hammer

Parish Office (740) 653-3052
Rector (740) 654-5274 (home)
(740) 215-3900 (cell)

Members of Vestry

Tom Hammer (Senior Warden)	687-6134
John Eyman (Junior Warden)	503-6817
Mark Conrad (17)	689-0023
Susie Cork (15)	974-8026
Nancy Engeman (16)	215-6601
Wendy Garbrandt (15)	407-7255
Tim Hall (16)	654-5795
Paul Heim (17)	205-3397
Ray Hollaway (16)	205-2339
Mary Oehler (17)	689-1202
Michael Parker (15)	969-4829

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