



# THE EAGLE & THE LAMB

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



January 2015

## Rector's Rambling

December has been a very eclectic month at Briarwood. In addition to the observance of Advent and the celebration of Christmas, I did a bit of reading in early modern Scottish philosophers and theologians, and have thoroughly enjoyed traditional Christmas events like the Lancaster Chorale Concert and BalletMet's "Nutcracker."



[www.balletmet.org/](http://www.balletmet.org/)

As I sit down to write the first Rector's Rambling of the new year, the ideas are beginning to coalesce into a discernible whole.

The BalletMet 2014 production of "Nutcracker" at the Ohio Theatre, and to a slightly lesser degree, the Lancaster Chorale concert at St. Mary's Church, were for me powerful and flowingly beautiful examples of what Homo Sapiens can become by God's grace as



[lancasterchorale.org/](http://lancasterchorale.org/)

we strive by discipline, training, and perseverance to realize the potential God gives us.

Both events brought me to tears, and the ballet even brought my son, the former Marine, to tears. Both events are almost like human dressage. They portray us at our best, and call us to rise above those shortcomings which so often characterize our lives together. But they tend to be reflections of the ideas and experiences of a small, highly educated, relatively prosperous group of people. To the vast majority of my fellows, this is another world. In times of alienation or social unrest, such events can become for many people icons of privilege and elitism. They have in some revolutionary periods become targets of scorn and rejection. One upshot of such social unrest and division has sometimes been a leveling of expectation and a degrading of all that is good and noble and true in the arts, and in our relations with each other.

And so the question becomes, "How can we make the best, the most beautiful and most ennobling things in our culture, to be the property of all people?" It is for me a serious question, because I believe that God is the ground of all being and is perfect beauty, and perfect harmony, and perfect function. As a Christian, one of my duties is to attempt to create a society where individual lives, and relationships, and political realities are characterized by a fluidity of motion, by an economy of design and function, by a beauty based on justice and personal responsibility, and by true spiritual and institutional harmony which enables every man and woman to reach their full potential before God.

As a community, we here in Fairfield County and Central Ohio work hard to accomplish these goals. The Lancaster Festival does a good job of bringing the arts to all of the people (especially children) in an affordable and accessible venue. The Nutcracker provides scores of young dancers the opportunity to work on stage with accomplished professionals. Our worship here at St. John's attempts to blend the best of the western musical tradition and sensory apprehension and apply our common experience to the glorification of the Triune God.

But as recent current events demonstrate, divisions of class and race and creed are still far too evident in our society. We manage to "convert" an individual now and then to a deeper understanding of how our art can express our hopes and our experiences, and our faith in a loving heavenly Father. We occasionally lead a person here or there to understand that true art allows us to express our common humanity at its best as we live together in a fallen world. But the fine arts are still a distant and foreign thing to far too many people. The celebrated and addictive brutality of popular film and of some athletic competition still drags far too many of us into the inhumanity which grows from power divorced from our Christian faith. The sense of violence and alienation which dominates so much modern American literature and popular music has hardened many of us into beings who assume the worst, and arm ourselves to survive at the expense of our neighbors.



Flaxman's Shield of Achilles 1821  
The Western Artistic Ideal of a purposeful and Harmonious Community

It may seem like a small thing, but I hope in the year to come, all of us might resolve to take someone to a concert, or a gallery, or even to our Easter or Christmas services here at St. John's. Many of the concerts in our community are free to students and seniors, and most of us have the means to treat a friend to a concert and dinner. Our worship services are always free of charge. I cannot help but believe that the beauty of our lives and our architecture and our music, and of our souls, are all good things. If we present them with humility and genuine friendship to neighbors made in God the Father's own image, they will come to yearn for his appearing, and will be drawn by the power of the Holy Spirit to join us in the proclamation that Jesus is Lord! From that glorious and transforming phrase will necessarily flow the transformation of our society into the very image of heaven.

Bill+

### Vestry Highlights

- Treasurer's report shows that we have an effective negative variance of \$3900 to budget
- We had a capital expenditure during the month for a new hot water heater for one of the apartments
- Work continues on the new website design with a target date of early next month for startup.
- The first stewardship report was given showing we are off to a good start toward our goal.
- The final mission disbursements were approved

### Annual Parish Meeting

Mark your calendar for Sunday, February 1st for our annual parish meeting. Remember that there is one service that Sunday at 9:00 followed by coffee and donuts and the annual meeting in the undercroft. The Vestry voted to present a by-law change at that meeting and parishioners will receive a letter in the near future explaining the proposed change.

**Fr. Joseph, a Haitian priest,** and representative from Food for the Poor, will be sharing about development needs in his country on January 18th.

**Birthdays**

- 5 Sebastian Burton
- 7 Camille Martens  
Ellen Taylor Allen
- 9 Fr. Bill Pursley
- 10 Judie Miller
- 11 Dick Babcock
- 12 James Sutter
- 16 Caitlin Hurdley
- 17 Alan Palo
- 21 Jack Warnett
- 22 Cecilia Davidson
- 23 Bill Young
- 25 Sam Hurley  
Zachary White

**Wedding Anniversaries**

- 9 Alan and Ruth Palo

**Baptismal Anniversaries**

- 1 Muriel Breining (25)  
Don Eager (47)  
Doug Snyder (62)  
Laura Wright (93)
- 4 Chris Hurdley (95)
- 8 Charlotte Tipton (34)
- 24 Camille Martens (54)
- 30 Carol Uhl (47)
- 31 Ora Miesse (31)

**Meditation**

Do all the good you can,  
In all the ways you can,  
In all the places you can,  
At all the times you can,  
To all the people you can,  
As long as you ever can.

John Wesley, "Rules of Conduct"

**Our Sympathy to** Susan and Doug Snyder on the death of Susan's mother, Judy Roberts, who died on November 28th in Strasburg, Virginia.

**Fellowship Breakfast**

Please join your parish family for breakfast on Sunday, January 4th after the 8 AM Eucharist.

**Parish Health Ministries Luncheon**

There will be a Parish Health Ministries luncheon after the noon Eucharist on January 21st.

**"Refresh Your Soul" Conference  
Keynote Speaker—Mitch Albom**

The Parish Health Ministry "Refresh Your Soul 2015" keynote speaker will be Mich Albom, internationally renowned and bestselling author, journalist, screenwriter, playwright, and radio and television broadcaster, who will share the priceless lessons learned from Morrie (*Tuesdays With Morrie*) during his battle with ALS.

The date is Saturday, February 28th from 7:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. at Landmark Church, 1600 Glendale Milford Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45215.

To register, visit [www.parishhealthministry.com](http://www.parishhealthministry.com) RYS. The cost for early registration (by January 31st) is \$59.00.

Several people from St. John's usually attend these conferences, so carpooling may be arranged.

**Altar Guild Reminder**

**1/11—Decorations removed and stored. Many hands are needed.**

## January 2015 Serving Schedule

| January 4 <sup>th</sup>  | 8:00 AM                     | 10:30 AM                                      | Readings                              |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| Lay Readers              | Jean Hammer                 | Doug Carr & Jim Hall                          | Jeremiah 31:7-14                      |
| Acolytes                 |                             | Hannah Hurdley & Joanna Carr                  | Psalm: 54                             |
| Lectors                  | Carl Roshong                | Jean Conrad & Charlie Voss                    | Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a               |
| Ushers                   | Steve Woods & Tim Hall      | John Eyman & William Eyman                    | Luke 2:41-52                          |
| Altar Guild              | Bobbie Beebe                | Sarah Perlow & Mid Hall                       | Set-up:<br>Deanna Roshong             |
| January 11 <sup>th</sup> | 8:00 AM                     | 10:30 AM                                      | Readings                              |
| Lay Readers              | Robin Rhodes                | Ivan Smith & Ann Rickson                      | Genesis 1:1-5                         |
| Acolytes                 |                             | William Eyman & Libby Garbrant                | Psalm: 29                             |
| Lectors                  |                             | Mark Conrad & Kathy Heim                      | Acts 19:1-7                           |
| Ushers                   | Alex Shook & Katie Shook    | Tom Howard & Karen Howard                     | Mark 1:4-11                           |
| Altar Guild              | Peggy Merton & Jean Hammer  | Jessie Smith, Mid Hall & Judie Miller         | Set-up:<br>Anna Adkins & Judie Miller |
| January 18 <sup>th</sup> | 8:00 AM                     | 10:30 AM                                      | Readings                              |
| Lay Readers              | Tom Hammer                  | Jim Hall & Mark Conrad                        | Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20)                 |
| Acolytes                 |                             | Asher Carr & Nicole Sutter                    | Psalm: 139: 1-5, 12—17                |
| Lectors                  |                             | Frankie Mathias & Holly Perry                 | 1 Corinthians 6:12-20                 |
| Ushers                   | Carol Uhl & Anna Adkins     | Nickie Lecrone & Diane Downard                | John 1:43-51                          |
| Altar Guild              | Jean Hammer & Carol Uhl     | Barb Parker & Deanna Roshong                  | Set-up:<br>Jean Hammer & Carol Uhl    |
| January 25 <sup>th</sup> | 8:00 AM                     | 10:30 AM                                      | Readings                              |
| Lay Readers              | Jim Merton                  | Ivan Smith & Frankie Mathias                  | Jonah 3:1-5, 10                       |
| Acolytes                 |                             | Hannah Hurdley & Joanna Carr                  | Psalm: 62:6-14                        |
| Lectors                  |                             | Sara Perlow & Ann Rickson                     | 1 Corinthians 7:29-31                 |
| Ushers                   | Robin Leonard & Mike Whiley | Holly Perry & Nicole Sutter                   | Mark 1:14-20                          |
| Altar Guild              | Gitta Sadoni & Peggy Merton | Sally Stallsmith, Chris Hurdley & Reda Kittle | Set-up:<br>Mid Hall & Judie Miller    |

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

**New Year's Blessings!**

# St. John's Episcopal Church

## January 2015

| Sunday  | Monday  | Tuesday                          | Wednesday  | Thursday  | Friday    | Saturday  |
|---|---|----------------------------------|--|---|-----------|-----------|
|   |   |                                  |  | 1   | 2         | 3         |
| <b>4</b><br>8:00 HC<br>9:00 Fellowship<br>Breakfast<br>9:15 Choir Prac.<br>10:30 HC | <b>5</b><br>7:45 Warming<br>Station<br>4:45 Youth pizza<br>& catechism<br>7:00P Choral<br>Evensong  | <b>6</b><br>8:00P AA<br>Meeting  | <b>7</b><br>10:30 Bible<br>Study<br>12:00 HC                               | <b>8</b>  | <b>9</b>  | <b>10</b> |
| <b>11</b><br>8:00 HC<br>9:10 Adult<br>Forum<br>9:15 Choir Prac.<br>10:30 HC         | <b>12</b><br>7:45 Warming<br>Station<br>4:45 Youth pizza<br>& catechism<br>7:00P Choral<br>Evensong | <b>13</b><br>8:00P AA<br>Meeting | <b>14</b><br>10:30 Bible<br>Study<br>12:00 HC                              | <b>15</b><br>1 PM Eagle and<br>Lamb Deadline<br><br>7:00P Vestry<br>Meeting | <b>16</b> | <b>17</b> |
| <b>18</b><br>8:00 HC<br>9:10 Adult<br>Forum<br>9:15 Choir Prac.<br>10:30 HC         | <b>19</b><br>7:45 Warming<br>Station<br>4:45 Youth pizza<br>& catechism<br>7:00P Choral<br>Evensong | <b>20</b><br>8:00P AA<br>Meeting | <b>21</b><br>12:00 Morning<br>Prayer<br>12:30 Parish<br>Health<br>Luncheon | <b>22</b>   | <b>23</b> | <b>24</b> |
| <b>25</b><br>8:00 HC<br>9:15 Choir Prac.<br>10:30 HC                                | <b>26</b><br>7:45 Warming<br>Station<br>4:45 Youth pizza<br>& catechism<br>7:00P Choral<br>Evensong | <b>27</b><br>8:00P AA<br>Meeting | <b>28</b><br>10:30 Bible<br>Study<br>12:00 HC                              | <b>29</b>   | <b>30</b> | <b>31</b> |
|   |   |                                  |  |   |           |           |

**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: Janet Kling  
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 |
| 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](http://www.stjohnlancaster.org)