



THE EAGLE & THE LAMB

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



July 2015

Rector's Rambling

"Know thyself," is arguably the most well-known phrase we have inherited from the ancient Greeks. It is good advice even today. But so very often our personalities and outlooks prevent us from developing a balanced attempt at honest self-evaluation. On a bad day, when I feel sorry for myself and can see little good, I am fully aware that my phone really is smarter than I am, and it is not even a "smart phone." It goes without saying that my dog is hands down better looking than I am, and that his retrieves are much cleaner and better executed than my sermons. On such a day, I see my sins and shortcomings clearly, but it is hard for me to recognize the image of God in myself, or even to see much evidence of grace. Left to fester, such an outlook can lead to despair, which is a sin because it denies God's abilities to change my life. It is a denial that leads to the most horrible actions and breaks relationship and ruins lives.

But on a good day, when the sun is shining and I can see no shortcomings in myself, I recognize that I was one heck of an Army Officer, and that my abilities as an historian are better than most who claim that title. Such days can easily lead me to look down on others and rely on my own skills rather than on God. Such pride is every bit as sinful as despair, and it too breaks my relationships by driving away my friends and damaging my witness to the grace of Jesus Christ. But when I am able, by God's grace, to honestly evaluate myself and my situation, a dramatically different picture emerges. There is ample evidence of the Bible truth that I, along with everyone else, have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. Such evidence serves to keep me humble, and also helps me to recognize that it is only by God's grace that I can be transformed in this life and avoid hell in the next. And when I can manage to set aside my own self absorption and the tendency to find meaning in my own "specialness" and victimization, it is an inescapable fact that some of my actions and attitudes really do demonstrate God's image. When I acknowledge his grace and seek his mercy, I tend to hand those gifts on to the people around me. Those moments really do feel pretty good.

So, I am compelled to conclude that I need God's help, and also that he is helping me. If he cares about me that much, I must have value, and he must see some potential in me. I also realize that I need him to live into that potential. Such a balanced outlook keeps me humble and hopeful at the same time. It helps me to see Jesus not only as my Saviour and Lord, but also as my brother and friend. It guards me from self-loathing and self-pity and arrogance as well. It is in short, good theology, good philosophy, and good psychology all wrapped up together.

I find it very comforting that these biblical truths, which are revealed so clearly in the life of Jesus, were foreshadowed in the teaching of Socrates and of so many others through the ages. You see, there is only one truth, and it is the same for all people in every age. Because we are all made in God's image, we apprehend elements of that truth even before we meet Jesus. And it is in him that we see the fullest illustration of that truth which is one. In this way, God loves us into his Kingdom, ever so gently drawing us from where we are to where he would have us to be. In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

An important caveat is in order here. The Christian conviction that God works even in non-Christian cultures, and philosophies, and religions to draw all people to himself should never be construed as an
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endorsement of the belief that all faiths are essentially the same (that is the philosophy of solipsism) or that all faiths lead to the same end (that is the heresy of universalism.) The Bible clearly states the words of Jesus that he is the way, the truth, and the life, and that no one comes to the Father except through him. To deny or radically redefine these words of Jesus is to change the faith he left us. But we ought always to give thanks for the truth of God wherever we find it, even if it is a mere ember of the light of God. Its existence where we might not expect to find it is evidence of God's prevenient grace and proactive love, which gently and constantly seeks out all people and offers them salvation, whatever their situation may be. For such grace and love I am eternally grateful, for as the songwriter wrote: "It found out me."

Bill+

Congratulations, Bob Wright!!

Recently, a group of Bob Wright's Circleville High School art students entered a contest sponsored by Vans Custom Culture in which they were to paint tennis shoes. The contest is intended to encourage young people to express themselves and to raise awareness about funding for the arts in schools. The winners would receive \$50,000 for their school with four other schools receiving \$4000.

The team had four pairs of shoes to paint, each of which had to reflect one of four distinct themes: art, music, action sports, and local flavor. All four pairs were covered in bright colors and funky patterns, from squiggles and curlicues to circles and squares.

Circleville's team was one of 2500 that signed up for the competition and in May received the phone call telling them they were in the top five in the country and would receive a trip to New York for the announcement of the winner. Even though the group did not receive the top prize, they were thrilled with one of the \$4000 prizes for the Circleville High School art program and a free trip to New York.

Congratulations to Bob and his group of Circleville High art students.

Altar Flower Donations Needed

Sally Stallsmith has some Sundays available for altar flower donations. Please call her at 740-654-6592 if you can help.

Not To Be Debated

In the *New York Times* bestseller *The Gift of the Jews*, Thomas Cahill writes:

[The Ten Commandments] require no justification nor can they be argued away. They are not dependent upon circumstances, nor may they be set aside because of special considerations. They are not propositions for debate. They are not suggestions. They are not even (as a recent book would have us imagine in the jargon of our day) "ten challenges."

They are exactly what they seem to be — and there is no getting around them or (to be more spatially precise) out from under them. But the only thing new about them is their articulation at this moment amid the terrifying fires of Sinai. They have been received by billions as reasonable, necessary, even unalterable because they are written on human hearts and always have been. They were always there in the inner core of the human person—in the deep silence that each of us carries within. They need only be spoken aloud.

Confirmation

Confirmation will be on October 18th. Being a confirmed member of St. John's allows you to serve in many ways, and is an important rite of identification with the church around the world. See Fr. Bill if you are interested in making this public profession of faith.

Birthdays

- 2 Susie Cork
- 4 Andrew Eyman
- 5 Connie Dowling
- 6 Reda Kittle
- 8 Doug Snyder
- 9 Jordan Wilson
- 10 Schyler Crawford
Robin Harris
- 11 Tyler Spires
- 15 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 (99)
- 8 Jeane Mast (34)

Parish Health Ministries Luncheons

Parish Health Ministries luncheons will resume in September.

Fellowship Breakfast

Please join your parish family in the undercroft on Sunday, July 5th for breakfast after the 8:00 Eucharist.

CALLING ALL ARTISTS

The Lancaster ArtWalk is once again coming up on the calendar and will open on Friday, July 24th and remain on display through Saturday, August 1st. Anyone interested in displaying their work at St. John’s can sign up or contact Annie Crawford (by text/call; (740)243.3729 or email; csavannah30@yahoo.com). There will be a sign-up sheet at the back of the church. The deadline for signing-up is June 30th. Artwork will need to be installed the day before the exhibit opens, Thursday, July 23rd.

REFRESHMENTS NEEDED

St. John’s is in need of refreshments for the ArtWalk reception on Friday, July 24th 6-9 p.m. Anyone interested in providing refreshments can sign up at the back of the church. Contact Annie Crawford (by text/call; (740)243.3729 or email; csavannah30@yahoo.com) with any questions. Refreshments will need to be dropped off by Thursday, July 23rd.

Thank you very much,
Annie Crawford



Ice Cream Social

Friday, July 10th

6—7 PM in the Courtyard

Before the “British Invasion” at the Bandstand

July 2015 Serving Schedule

July 5	8:00 AM	10:30 AM	Readings
Lay Readers	Jean Hammer	Jim Hall & Ivan Smith	2 Samuel 5: 1-5,9-10
Acolytes		Asher Carr & William Eyman	Psalm 48
Lectors		Caitlyn Hurdley & Sarah Perlow	2 Corinthians 12: 2-10
Ushers	Mary & Chad Shook	Tom Howard & Karen Howard	Mark 6: 1-13
Altar Guild	Bobbi Beebe	Sarah Perlow, Mid Hall & Diane Downard	Set-up: Deanna Roshong
July 12	8:00 AM	10:30 AM	Readings
Lay Readers	Tom Hammer	Mark Conrad & Doug Carr	2 Samuel 6: 1-5,12b-19
Acolytes		Joanna Carr & Hannah Hurdley	Psalm: 24
Lectors		Mark Conrad & Jeanie Conrad	Ephesians 1: 3-14
Ushers	Alex Shook & Katie Shook	Steve Messerly & Chris Hurdley	Mark 6: 14-29
Altar Guild	Carol Uhl & Jean Hammer	Jessie Smith, Mid Hall & Judie Miller	Set-up: Carol Uhl & Jean Hammer
July 19	8:00 AM	10:30 AM	Readings
Lay Readers	Robin Rhodes	Jim Hall & Ivan Smith	2 Samuel 7: 1-14a
Acolytes		Morgan Spires & Nicole Sutter	Psalm: 89: 20-37
Lectors		Holly Perry & Kathy Heim	Ephesians 2: 11-22
Ushers	Robin Leonard & Mike Whiley	Nickie Lecrone & Diane Downard	Mark 6: 30-34, 53-56
Altar Guild	Jean Hammer & Carol Uhl	Barb Parker, Diane Downard & Deanna Roshong	Set-up: Deanna Roshong
July 26	8:00 AM	10:30 AM	Readings
Lay Readers	Jim Merton	Doug Carr & Mark Conrad	2 Samuel 11: 1-15
Acolytes		Asher Carr & Libby Garbrandt	Psalm: 14
Lectors		Ivan Smith & Charlie Voss	Ephesians 3: 14-21
Ushers	Steve Wood & Tim Hall	William Eyman & John Eyman	John 6: 1-21
Altar Guild	Gitta Sadoni & Peggy Merton	Chris Hurdley, Sally Stallsmith & Reda Kittle	Set-up: Diane Downard, Mid Hall & Judie Miller

Baseball Anyone?

Dime-a-dog night is Monday, July 27st. 4 for 5 rib night is Tuesday, July 21st. Call Fr. Bill if you would like to see a game. 740-215-3900

St. John's Episcopal Church

July 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 10:31 Bible Study 12:00 HC	2	3	4
5 8:00 HC 9:00 Fellowship Breakfast 9:15 Choir Prac. 10:30 HC	6 7:00P Choral Evensong	7 8:00P AA Meeting	8 10:31 Bible Study 12:00 HC	9	10 6:00 Ice Cream Social in the Courtyard	11
12 8:00 HC 9:15 Choir Prac. 10:30 HC	13 7:00P Choral Evensong	14 8:00P AA Meeting	15 10:31 Bible Study 12:00 HC	16 1 PM Eagle and Lamb Deadline 7:00P Vestry Meeting	17	18
19 8:00 HC 9:15 Choir Prac. 10:30 HC	20 7:00P Choral Evensong	21 8:00P AA Meeting	22 10:31 Bible Study 12:00 HC	23	24 6-9pm Art-Walk	25
26 8:00 HC 9:15 Choir Prac. 10:30 HC	27 7:00P Choral Evensong	28 8:00P AA Meeting	29 10:31 Bible Study 12:00 HC	30	31	

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: Nick England
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

Mark Conrad (Senior Warden)	689-0023
John Eyman (Junior Warden)	503-6817
Doug Carr (18)	740-385-1356
Nancy Engeman (16)	215-6601
Tim Hall (16)	654-5795
Paul Heim (17)	205-3397
Chris Hurdley (18)	654-7831
Mary Oehler(17)	689-1202

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