



THE EAGLE & THE LAMB

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



January 2016

Rector's Rambling

"Now you are called to work as a pastor, priest, and teacher. . ."

The Book of Common Prayer, page 531

It seems like a lifetime has passed since Bishop Thompson directed those words to me in the transept of St. John's. But I still go back every now and then and re-read the Examination from the Ordination of a Priest. Doing so helps me to focus on what my vocation is all about. At this most recent reading, the work "teacher" seemed to jump out at me, and as my eyes continued down the page, I saw, ". . . you are to nourish Christ's people from the riches of his grace, and strengthen them to glorify God in this life and in the life to come."

I have always been saddened by the omission of certain teaching elements from some of our modern liturgies. With this thought in mind, I plan to employ the Rite I Communion Service at 10:30 once a month. I urge everyone to "read, mark, and inwardly digest" the three primary differences between Rite One and Rite Two. You will notice the more fluid integration of the 10 Commandments, (p.317) into the service, instead of their isolation in a separate penitential order. This, coupled with the weekly recitation of the Summary of the Law on page 324, reminds us that personal ethical behavior is a normal part of the Christian life. And it defines the borders of how we should live in relation to God and to each other.

Notice also the inclusion of the "Comfy Words" immediately following the absolution on page 332. They get their name from their introductory phrase in older editions of the liturgy. "Hear what comfortable words our Saviour Christ saith unto all who truly turn to him." They are the Scriptural promises which assure us that the absolution pronounced by the priest is valid and true. They also remind us that our deliverance is the free, unmerited gift of our loving heavenly Father.

Thirdly, I hope everyone will pay special attention to the "Prayer of Humble Access," found at the bottom of page 337. It acknowledges the sometimes painful realities of our humanity, and at the same time calls us to acknowledge the glorious, all sufficient, loving character of God. For an even more profound statement of the impact God's love has in our lives, I encourage you to read the same prayer in earlier editions of the prayer book. (cf. p. 82 in the 1928 BCP)

Surely, God has provided for us through the riches of his grace, and I pray we all might grow in him as we sample the profound beauty of the traditional Anglican liturgy.

Bill+

Vestry Highlights

- 1) Stewardship pledges so far amount to around \$111,000 which is getting close to what they were last year. If you have not turned in a pledge for this year, please do so soon. Pledges are a very important element in setting the budget for the coming year.
- 2) Steve Messerly, Bruce Beebe, and Janet Kling finished the audit. We thank them for their effort in this. The audit was good. They did have a few recommendations for the Vestry to consider in 2016.
- 3) Our annual meeting will be on Sunday, January 24, 2016. We will have a single service at 9 AM with the annual meeting following, with light refreshments.
- 4) The next Vestry meeting is Thursday, January 21, at 7:00 PM. Vestry meetings are open meetings; you are welcome to attend.

Absalom Jones Day Celebration

St. Philip Episcopal Church is celebrating Absalom Jones Day 2016 on Saturday, February 6, 2016. Absalom Jones was the first African American ordained as a priest in the Episcopal Church of the United States, in 1804. Registration is 9:30 AM. Symposium and Workshops with lunch are 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. The Festive Eucharist begins at 3:30 PM with Presiding Bishop Curry as the preacher, with a reception following in St. Philip's Parish Hall. If you wish to attend, please RSVP by January 15, 2016, by email to nannette@pobox.com or by phone to St. Philip Episcopal Church at 614-253-2771. The address of St. Philip Episcopal Church is 166 Woodland Avenue, Columbus, OH 43203. Mark Conrad will be attending; if you would like to ride with him, please contact him at mconrad92@gmail.com or 740-243-4933.

Pledge Cards & Volunteer Forms

Please return your completed volunteer forms and pledge cards as soon as possible to assist the Vestry with planning for 2016.

The tote project, organized by the Evangelism and Renewal Committee, provides basic household cleaning supplies to graduates of the Drug Court program coordinated by Jennie Saelens. These graduates, most of whom are women, have lost everything and are starting over. The totes give them the basic supplies to set up their households, and the recipients are always very excited and very grateful. In addition to these totes, if you have any good, gently used household items, such as sheets, pillowcases, towels, plates, etc., you can bring them to church, and we can have them distributed to the graduates of the program.

Church School Will Be Every Sunday

Thanks to two new volunteers, St. John's will again have Church School every Sunday. Kathryn Dyer and Caitlyn Hurdley will be part of the team headed by Wendy Garbrandt who will provide Christian education during the first part of the 10:30 service. Children will come into church before Holy Communion. A special thank you to the church school volunteers for providing this

Annual Parish Meeting

Mark your calendar for Sunday January 24th 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. Please plan to attend.

Kathy and Paul's Farewell Luncheon

Meat and drinks will be provided for Paul and Kathy's farewell luncheon on January 3rd. The committee is asking those attending to please bring a dessert or a side or both. Your help is appreciated.

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
- 25 Sam Hurley
Zachary White

Wedding Anniversaries

- 9 Alan and Ruth Palo

Baptismal Anniversaries

- 1 Muriel Breining
Deacon Don Eager
Doug Snyder
Laura Wright
- 4 Chris Hurdley
Bob Wright
- 8 Charlotte Tipton
- 24 Camille Martens
- 30 Carol Uhl
- 31 Ora Miesse



Marilyn Jean Miller
July 26, 1954—December 3, 2015

“Give to the departed eternal rest.
 Let Light perpetual shine on her.”

Altar Guild Reminder

The Altar Guild will remove and store Christmas decorations on Saturday, January 9th at 10 a.m. Please plan to help since this a time-consuming job and many hands are needed.

Committee Chairs, Etc.—Please Note

Reports from committees, Altar Guild, music, wardens, treasurer, etc. are due electronically, if possible, by January 11, 2016, so that the Annual Report booklet may be prepared for the meeting on January 24th.

Parish Health Ministries Luncheon

Wednesday, January 13th is the date of the next Parish Health luncheon. Join us in the undercroft after the noon Eucharist.

Fellowship Breakfast

There will be no Fellowship Breakfast in January, but please join your parish family for a farewell luncheon for Paul and Kathy Heim as they return to Alabama.

Goodbye Friends and God Bless You!

With the beginning of the New Year, Paul and Kathy Heim will be moving back to Alabama to work and to be with their grandchildren! We have been blessed to know and love them, and they have shared their talents with us in the choir, on Vestry, and in EFM. Plan on staying after the 10:30 service on January 3rd for a farewell luncheon. Paul and Kathy, we will miss you, and our love will go with you.

For those of you who receive the Eagle and Lamb by mail, please remit \$5.88 to the church office with your check marked E and L postage. Thank you.

From Fr. Bill—Coming in 2016!

Several years ago, Bishop Breidenthal challenged us to embark on an adventure called “Common Ministry.” One of the hallmarks of that program was an increase in the level of intentional lay volunteerism in the running of our parish. The point was to acknowledge the demographic trends in mainline American religion (read small attendance and older average age) and at the same time give the ministry of the church back to the baptized people of God.

We took a significant step in that direction when Tom Hammer agreed to serve as our office manager, and proceeded to recruit office volunteers with specific skill sets. A second major step occurred when a deacon was assigned to St. John’s. The downsizing of our Vestry last year, and conscious attempts to welcome families new to St. John’s into the governance and ministry of our parish have been a part of that vision as well. The willingness of Kathy Heim and Mark Conrad to begin the Diocesan Preaching School, and Mark’s willingness to be certified as a Sunday worship leader are also elements of this program designed to strengthen our parish and to deepen our sense of vocation, or calling to do the work of God.

And now, with our beloved Miss Kathy’s return to her southern homeland, the time comes for yet another step in the process of lay enablement at St. John’s. As of the first of the year, we will not be employing a professional choir director. I will choose the hymns and Doug Carr will direct the choir. You probably will not hear as much exquisite English choral music as we have had in the past. Descants and the glorious harmonics we have come to take for granted will certainly be less in evidence. But expect heartfelt three-part harmonies on hymns you love. Our service music at 10:30 will be Schubert with the traditional Doxology and Proule’s Gloria on most Sundays. First Sundays will be a more subdued service with Decalogue and Prayer of Humble Access.

Please let me know if there are favorite hymns you would like to sing. And if you would like to bring an instrumental or vocal solo, let me know. We will be looking for offertory anthems which will bring us all closer to God. And we would love to have you sing in the choir.

Mission Trip 2016

The mission trip to St. Vincent in the West Indies is just around the corner. We will partner with the people of St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church in Bloomington, Illinois and St. John’s Parish on St. Vincent for this trip. We hope to provide labor and materials to repair the stone colonial church in the parish, to offer diabetes prevention education, and to participate with our brothers and sisters in a preaching and Eucharistic mission.

To participate in this mission, you must have:

1. A valid passport which does not expire before January 8, 2017.
2. Good enough health to eat meals with the nationals and to stay with them in their homes. (We will not be in tourist hotels.)
3. About \$1800 total for the trip. \$800 is due in March to purchase airline tickets.
4. A sense of adventure and a desire to work with brothers and sisters to build the Kingdom of God.

If you are interested, see Fr. Bill. If you are able to help with the purchase of construction materials (our share is about \$5,000), or if you would like to sponsor a missionary, your generous help will be appreciated.

St. John's Episcopal Church

January 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 8:00 HC 9:15 Choir Prac. 10:30 HC/SS Heim Lunch- eon	4 7:00P Choral Evensong	5 4:45 Pizza & God talk 8:00P AA Meeting	6 10:30 Bible Study 12:00 HC	7	8	9
10 8:00 HC Coffee Hour 9:15 Choir Prac. 10:30 HC/SS .	11 7:00P Choral Evensong	12 4:45 Pizza & God talk 8:00P AA Meeting	13 10:30 Bible Study 12:00 HC 12:30 Parish Health Lunch.	14	15	16
17 8:00 HC Coffee Hour 9:15 Choir Prac. 10:30 HC/SS	18 7:00P Choral Evensong	19 4:45 Pizza & God talk 8:00P AA Meeting	20 10:30 Bible St. 12:00 HC	21 1 PM Eagle and Lamb deadline 7 PM Vestry	22	23 Safe Church Training for Teens 9-12
24 9:00 HC Annual Mtg.	25 7:00P Choral Evensong	26 4:45 Pizza & God talk 8:00P AA Meeting	27 10:30 Bible St. 12:00 HC	28	29	30
31 8:00 Morn. Pr. Coffee Hour 9:15 Choir Prac. 10:30 Morn. Pr. & SS						

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

134 North Broad Street
Lancaster, Ohio 43130

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH STAFF

PRESIDING BISHOP: The Most Rev'd Michael B. Curry
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 Mr. Nick England
CHOIRMASTER: Dr. Doug Carr
ORGANIST: Thurlow Weed
ALTAR GUILD PRESIDENT: Deanna Roshong
FINANCIAL SECRETARY: Janet Kling
FINANCIAL CONSULTANT: Lowell Stallsmith
TREASURER: Robin Harris
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