



THE EAGLE & THE LAMB

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



April 2016

Rector's Rambling

Spring is upon us as I sit down to write. Lettuce, spinach, and radishes are up in the greenhouse. Shasta daisies and Canterbury bells are sprouting in the propagator, and black-eyed susans cannot be far behind. The last pheasant shoot of the year got off to a very rocky start because Oscar and Leo both decided that a good galumph seemed better than listening to whistles and voice commands on such a splendid day. (We still managed seven birds by noon.) On days such as these, all the world seems to smile with the joy of creation.

But we all know that there are darkneses abounding. Concerns about health, or family, or cash flow, or politics, or situations, impact someone among us every day. And so the question remains, "How can I experience the joy of life and at the same time realistically acknowledge the very real pain that is in this world?" Put another way, we might ask, "How can I genuinely empathize with my friends who hurt without sacrificing my own contentment and joy?" or, "How can I be honest about the problems and issues that I face without being overwhelmed by them to the point that I lose sight of joy and hope and laughter and peace?"

These are difficult questions, but it is essential that we come to terms with the process of how we approach them, even if we are unable to describe how the process works in our lives. To fail makes it very likely that our friends in need will see us as naïve cheerleaders rather than as compassionate and supportive brothers and sisters. To fail also sets us up for persistent bouts with discouragement and ultimately with a sense of futility which threatens to blunt our faith.

I am neither a psychologist nor a psychiatrist, nor have I played one on TV (although a cousin of mine in Knoxville currently plays a doctor in a daytime medical drama!) But as I look at the life of our Lord, and those of his saints in the Bible, I do see some principles which often seem to characterize lives that are joyous, realistic, and able to show compassion in times of difficulty and danger.

1. For starters, we should never lose sight of life's long term realities. On the positive side this means that we should steadfastly believe the promises of God: There is a heaven. Jesus will never leave us or forsake us. The Holy Spirit is with us to give us a strength greater than our own. With God's help we can change. The most important thing in the world is where we will spend eternity. On the negative side this means that we must not deny reality or minimize the pain which often goes with it: Death is all around us. Cancer and divorce are real. Alienation and mental health issues are everyday realities for many people. The list goes on, and if we minimize or deny the realities of life, we effectively treat suffering people as delusional children. Jesus never did that.

2. Always take time for a friend in need. In your attitudes and actions acknowledge that God calls us to live together in community and to care for each other. Do unto others as you would have others do unto you. At the same time, learn to establish healthy boundaries. Some folks medicate their own issues by literally sucking the energy out of everyone they encounter. Others have learned to protect themselves by bullying and controlling others. Always be compassionate, but be aware of the signs that you are being sucked into the vortex of someone else's dysfunction, and be prepared to take the gentlest effective steps to maintain your own health. Like the flight attendant says on the airplane, if your own oxygen mask is not properly secured, you are not in a place to help others. Even Jesus went away from the needy crowds on occasion to pray.

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3. Take time every day to read your Bible and to pray, which is just having a conversation with God. Without the disciplines of prayer and Bible study, we humans will revert to our own wisdom and ways pretty quickly, and that is not always the best.

In this wonderful season, might we all care for each other, and know God’s peace.

Sincerely,

Bill+

Vestry Highlights

The Rev. Canon Lynn Carter-Edmands from the diocese will be coming to our next Vestry Meeting on April 21 at 7:00 PM. She will be discussing possible relationships that our parish might be able to pursue with St. Paul’s in Logan, as they are seeking to provide clergy, preaching, or lay worship leader coverage since the retirement of Father Bill McCleery. This is an exciting opportunity for us and we invite you to attend this meeting and share in this conversation.

Parish Prayer Chain

Would you like to be a part of our parish prayer chain? Responsibilities would be to pray for a request when you receive it by phone or text and then pass the request on to the next person or persons assigned to you on the list. If you are willing to serve, drop a note in the alms basin that you are willing to serve. Be sure to include how you would like to be contacted.

Ana Reid to be at St. John’s

On Sunday April 17th Ana Reid will be at St. John’s to share her experiences as a SAMS missionary in Honduras.

Armed Services Memorial List

We are updating our service memorial lists. Please make a note of family members who attended St. John’s and who served in the military or diplomatic corps while members here between 1950 and 2000, and drop the list in the alms basin or call the church office. (740- 653-3052)

A Special “Thank You”



Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you all so much for the beautiful photo collage of St. John’s. It will remind me of my time here every time I look at it on my studio wall. St. John’s has made our time in Ohio very special.

Love,
Kathy Heim

Summer Home Bible Study?

Would you like to be a part of a home Bible/discussion group over the summer? See Fr. Bill if you are interested.

	2016 National Day of Prayer Community Reception	
Wednesday, April 20th from 6:00 to 8:00 PM	Guest Speaker Tricia Leu	203 S. Broad St. (across from the post office)

Birthdays

- 8 Jim Chilenski
- 10 Nanci Allen
- 12 Nicole Sutter
- 14 Lisa Rosser
- 15 Gary Rowley
- 17 David Berner
- 25 Margaret Baker
Helen Johnston
- 29 Tierney Carter
Chad Shook
- 30 Mary Kraker

Wedding Anniversaries

- 8 Bob and Laura Wright (95)
- 12 Ralph and Reda Kittle (69)
- 14 Robin and Ann Leonard (79)
- 21 Brian and Cecilia Davidson (90)
- 26 Craig and Lori Bockman (97)
- 27 Paul and Nancy Frick (87)
- 29 Denise Denton and William
Nunley (06)

Baptismal Anniversaries

- 1 Kirsten Carr (87)
- 3 Lisa Rosser (94)
- 6 Holly Perry (96)
- 9 Katie Shook (00)
- 10 Amy Eyman (66)
- 11 Barbara Mohler (54)
Bill Pursley (54)
- 12 Judy Furlow (41)
- 13 Diana Turpin (45)
- 16 Alanna Hurdley (95)
Caitlin Hurdley (95)
- 18 Nickie Leckrone (43)
Alex Shook (99)
- 19 Jim Chilenski (59)
- 23 Hannah Hurdley (00)

Barbara Mambourg
September 1, 1925—March 15th 2016

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

Congratulations, Katie Shook!

Katie Shook, a member of the Lancaster High School swim team, recently placed fourth in the 50-yard free style in OCC-Ohio competition. Her two relay teams, the 200-yard medley and the 200-yard free style, both placed third. Katie has also been named to the All-Area Swim Team. Great swimming, Katie.

Parish Health Ministries Luncheon

Wednesday, **April 20th** is the date of the next Parish Health luncheon. Join us in the undercroft after the noon Eucharist.

Fellowship Breakfast

Please join your parish family for breakfast after the 8:00 service on Sunday, April 3rd.

Altar Flowers Needed

There are several Sundays available for parishioners to donate flowers for the altar. If you would like to do this, please contact Sally Stallsmith at 740-654-6592.

Help Us with Safety!

Please leave all doors which are not locked in the education wing open. If you see one closed, knock and look in the room. Small precautions help to keep our children safe. Thanks.

**Attention, Parents of High School or College
 Graduating Seniors**

We would like to publish the activities, honors, awards, etc of your sons and daughters high school and college years in the June “Eagle and Lamb.” Please submit your article electronically if possible, to thammer1@columbus.rr.com by May 19th.

April 2016 Serving Schedule

April 3	8:00 AM	10:30 AM	Readings
Lay Readers	Robin Harris	Jim Hall & Shawn Dyer	Acts 5:27-32
Acolytes		William Eyman & Morgan Spires	Psalm 118:14-29
Lectors		Charlie Voss & Sarah Perlow	Revelation 1:4-8
Ushers	Mike Whiley & Steve Wood	Tom & Karin Howard	John 20:19-31
Altar Guild	Bobbi Beebe	Sarah Perlow, Mid Hall & Janet Kling	Set-up: Mid Hall, Diane Downard & Janet Kling
April 10	8:00 AM	10:30 AM	Readings
Lay Readers	Tom & Jean Hammer	Ivan Smith & Mark Conrad	Acts 9:1-20
Acolytes		Joanna Carr & Libby Garbrandt	Psalm 30
Lectors		Holly Perry & Ann Rickson	Revelation 5:11-14
Ushers	Shook Family	Steve Messerly & Chris Hurdley	John 21:1-19
Altar Guild	Jean Hammer & Carol Uhl	Jessie Smith, Mid Hall & Frankie Mathias	Set-up: Jean Hammer & Carol Uhl
April 17	8:00 AM	10:30 AM	Readings
Lay Readers	Robin Harris	Shawn Dyer & Ann Rickson	Acts 9:36-43
Acolytes		Nicole Sutter & Hannah Hurdley	Psalm 23
Lectors		Ivan Smith & Frankie Mathias	Revelation 7:9-17
Ushers	Robin Leonard & Mike Whiley	Nickie Lechrone & Diane Downard	John 10:22-30
Altar Guild	Gitta Sadoni	Judie Miller, Mid Hall & Judi Berry	Set-up: Judie Miller, Judi Berry & Mid Hall
April 24	8:00 AM	10:30 AM	Readings
Lay Readers	Tom & Jean Hammer	Ivan Smith & Frankie Mathias	Acts 11:1-18
Acolytes		Asher Carr & Joanna Carr	Psalm 148
Lectors		Ann Rickson & Caitlyn Hurdley	Revelation 21:1-6
Ushers	Tim Hall & Robin Leonard	William & John Eyman	John 13:31-35
Altar Guild	Jean Hammer & Carol Uhl	Reda Kittle, Chris Hurdley & Sally Stallsmith	Set-up: Jean Hammer & Carol Uhl

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

Save the Date
Sunday, May 22nd
St. John's Parish Picnic
Watch for Details!

St. John's Episcopal Church

April 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 8:00 HC 9:00 Fellowship Breakfast 9:15 Choir Prac. 10:30 HC/SS	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 9:00 E & R meeting in the undercroft
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 St. 12:00 HC	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 12:30 Health Ministries Luncheon	21 1 PM Eagle and Lamb deadline 7:00P Vestry	22	23
24 9:00 HC Coffee Hour 9:15 Choir Prac. 10:30 HC/SS	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

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:
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)	740-689-0023
John Eyman (Junior Warden)	740-503-6817
Doug Carr (18)	740-385-1356
Catherine Dyer (19)	740-277-3830
Michael Garbrandt (19)	740-409-4123
Chris Hurdley (18)	740-654-7831
Steve Messerly (17)	740-653-4427
Mary Oehler(17)	740-689-1202
James Sutter (17)	740-652-9124

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