



THE EAGLE & THE LAMB

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



May 2016

Rector's Rambling

“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” Matthew 28:18-20 AV

These are the marching orders of the church, given by our Lord to the eleven disciples just before he ascended into heaven. As such, they ought to inform and direct every thing we do at St. John's. Imagine the questions which logically grow from the implications of this?

~How does our worship service teach all nations about Jesus, lead people to baptism, and help them to live their lives according to the teachings of Jesus?

~How does our fellowship program teach all nations about Jesus, lead people to baptism, and help them to live their lives according to the teachings of Jesus?

~How does our building teach all nations about Jesus, lead people to baptism and help them to live their lives according to the teachings of Jesus?

~The list could go on, but the point is made. All of the programs, activities, and decisions we make must further the great commission given to us Christians by our Lord Jesus. Anything which does not work toward the accomplishment of that mission should be tweaked so that it does. Anything which cannot be made to support that mission is not our job as the church and should be left to someone else.

This consideration becomes particularly important as our number of active members drops. On any given Sunday, we have about 78 people in the church. Our Wednesday congregation includes 6 or 8 more people who are unable to attend on Sunday. If everyone who comes every three or four weeks showed up on the same day, we would have about 142 present, if we included our shut-ins and the children. In 2003, we reported 144 as our Average Sunday Attendance on the Parish Report. Things have changed, and we no longer have the resources to run non-essential programs. Our Vestry understands these realities, and our budget reflects a commitment to that essential Kingdom work which distinguishes us from the United Nations, from our schools, from Job and Family Services, and from those many good and helpful organizations to which we belong.

The point of this is not to discourage us, but to help us understand the purpose of our church, and to inspire us as we consider the great commission opportunities which lie before us.

~Have you considered our upcoming capital campaign to repair the front steps and perhaps renovate the undercroft as a way to draw people in our community into the fellowship of Christ through worship in word and sacrament?

~Have you considered the possibility of shared ministry with St. Paul's, Logan, as an opportunity to cooperate with our fellow Christians in a way which will double the geographic area in which we proclaim the good news of Jesus?

~Again, this list could go on and on. It leads us invariably to another question: “Am I willing to move out of my comfort zone to see the work of God's Kingdom happen here. To stick with the three examples already given.

~Am I willing to step outside my comfort zone and invite a friend, neighbor, or co-worker to the picnic; and then if they enjoy it, invite them to a study or service of our church?

continued, page 2

continued from page 1

~Am I willing to give up lunch out once a week, or take a less expensive vacation in order to increase my capital pledge to maintain our building as a place which draws people to God through Jesus?

~Am I willing to have Morning Prayer occasionally at one of our Sunday services, or see an adjustment to the Priest and Deacon's schedules if it will enable more people to be taught about Jesus?

The implications of the Great Commission are endless, and they are filled with possibility. I hope that in the weeks to come, we might all find a real sense of God's presence among us as we seek to discern how we might effectively teach all nations about Jesus, lead people to baptism, and help them to live their lives according to the teachings of Jesus. Watch for opportunities to participate. The Bishop's Canon for Mission has agreed to come among us to help us as we focus on God's call in our lives. Our Capital Campaign and our Mission Trip will give us all the opportunity to examine our motives and vision. And as we are faithful to Jesus in Word and Sacrament as we live in obedience to God's Word written, I have every confidence that a small parish like ours can accomplish great things in accordance with the marching orders given us by the Master.

Sincerely,

Bill+

The Fairfield County National Day of Prayer Task Force Proudly Presents:

The Annual
National Day of Prayer



First Thursday of May

Zane Square

Week Long Public Prayer Events

Opening Event, Sunday, May 1st at 2:00 PM.
Bible Marathon, Sun. to Thur., May 1st thru May 5th
NDP Closing Event, Thursday, May 5th at 6:00 PM

Birthdays

- 2 Gitta Sadoni
Milton Taylor
- 3 Ivan Smith
- 5 Jeane Mast
Julie Meenach
- 7 Emily Campbell
- 8 Ruth Palo
- 10 Zoe Leonard
- 17 Jennifer Matz
- 20 Kathy Heim
Tristan Pursley
- 23 Susan Snyder
- 26 Bryce Burton
- 29 Julia Taylor

Ronald C. Stoughton, Sr.
 May 11, 1945—March 26, 2016

“Give to the departed eternal rest. Let light perpetual
 shine upon him.”

Congratulations to Hannah Hurdley who placed first in the discus (with Madison Allen) at the Fulton Relays track meet this week. Hannah’s distance was (105-10).

Parish Health Ministries Luncheon

Wednesday, May 19th is the date of the next Parish Health luncheon. Join us in the undercroft after the noon Eucharist.

Wedding Anniversaries

- 11 Andy and Cindy White (02)
- 14 Marty and Robin Harris (82)

Fellowship Breakfast

Please join your parish family for breakfast after the 8:00 service on Sunday, May 1st.

Baptismal Anniversaries

- 5 Jean Hammer (42)
Zoe Leonard (96)
- 6 John Eyman (62)
- 7 Sebastian Burton (00)
- 11 Chad Shook (08)
- 15 Richard Davis (11)
- 16 Anna Burton (04)
- 23 Gary Rowley (48)
- 26 Bryce Burton (74)
- 28 Caroline Rockwood (22)
- 30 Elizabeth Baker (10)
Edward Baker (10)
Brian Davidson (54)

Book Club, Anyone?

Is there interest in forming a book club for St. John’s women possibly starting this summer? If you might be interested, please leave your name with one of the office volunteers Monday-Thursday from 9-noon.

**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.

**Training for all Lay Readers and Lectors
 Saturday, May 14, 2016—9:00—11:00 am**

There will be a training session for all current lay readers and lectors. Whether you have been serving for years, or you have not yet begun, please plan to attend this session. We will be reviewing the theological and ecclesiastical significance of each office, as well as reviewing some basics for effective public speaking. If you have any questions, please contact Fr. Bill or Ann Rickson (nrickson@gmail.com).

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.

Healing Ministry

Galatians 6:2 tells us to “Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.”

James 5:14-15 admonishes us, “Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.

And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he hath committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.

If you are interested in discerning a call to a ministry of prayer and anointing, to be exercised in the Timberlake room at our Sunday Communion Services, please see Deacon Nick.

Lay Eucharistic Visitors

As our congregation ages, we see a growing need to take Holy Communion to those who can no longer attend church. Our parish has a need for two or three, two-person teams who could take communion to our shut-in members on Sunday or Wednesday after church. If you think you might be called to this ministry, see Deacon Nick.

Veterans’ Lists

We are in the process of updating our veterans lists for inclusion in the south transept chapel. Please include the name and dates of service of anyone who attended St. John’s and who served in the uniformed military (active, reserve, or national guard), diplomatic corps, the agencies, or the peace corps. It is not necessary to have been attending St. John’s while you served. Thank you.

Home Study Groups

Many people are intimidated at the thought of coming to church, but they are very interested in spiritual things. St. John’s needs volunteers to commit to meet as members of “off-site” Bible Studies which would last from four to six meetings. Ideally, the group would meet at a home, restaurant, or pub and discuss an agreed upon curriculum, book, or short film. Refreshments would be served. Groups would consist of 6-8 folks from our church, and some of our friends who might be interested. Fr. Bill would like to see a couple of these groups start in September. You could even meet for sandwiches and discussion before a ball game. Call Fr. Bill at 740-215-3900 if you are interested.

Summer Break

Our choir will be taking a summer break from Memorial Day to Labor Day. The last choir Sunday will be May 29th. Thanks to all of our dedicated musicians for your faithful service to our Lord.

Pizza and God talk will also break for the summer. The last meeting will be May 24th.

Rest in Peace

Joan England’s brother Pat Bowes passed to be with our Lord on April 22nd. May saints and angels welcome him into paradise, and may God’s consolation be on all who love him. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ is risen indeed, and he is the first fruits of the resurrection.

May 2016 Serving Schedule

May 1	8:00 AM	10:30 AM	Readings
Lay Readers	Robin Harris	Jim Hall & Shawn Dyer	Acts 16:9-15
Acolytes		William Eyman & Morgan Spires	Psalm 67
Lectors		Charlie Voss & Sarah Perlow	Revelation 21:10, 22, 22:5
Ushers	Tim Hall & Steve Wood	Steve Messerly & Chris Hurdley	John 14:23-29
Altar Guild	Bobbi Beebe	Sarah Perlow, Mid Hall, & Janet Kling	Set-up: Mid Hall, Diane Downard & Janet Kling
May 8	8:00 AM	10:30 AM	Readings
Lay Readers	Tom & Jean Hammer	Ivan Smith & Mark Conrad	Acts 16:16-34
Acolytes		Joanna Carr & Libby Garbrandt	Psalm 97
Lectors		Holly Perry & Ann Rickson	Revelation 22:12-21
Ushers	Shook Family	Tom & Karin Howard	John 17:20-26
Altar Guild	Jean Hammer & Carol Uhl	Jessie Smith, Mid Hall & Frankie Mathias	Set-up: Jean Hammer & Carol Uhl
May 15	8:00 AM	10:30 AM	Readings
Lay Readers	Tom & Jean Hammer	Shawn Dyer & Ann Rickson	Genesis 11:1-9
Acolytes		Nicole Sutter & Hannah Hurdley	Psalm 33:12-22
Lectors		Mark Conrad & Ivan Smith	Acts 2:1-11
Ushers	Robin Leonard & Mike Whiley	Nickie Lecrone & Diane Downard	John 7:37-39a
Altar Guild	Gitta Sadoni	Judie Miller & Mid Hall, Judi Berry	Set-up: Judie Miller, Judi Berry & Mid Hall
May 22	8:00 AM	10:30 AM	Readings
Lay Readers	Robin Harris	Frankie Mathias & Mark Conrad	Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31
Acolytes		Libby Garbrandt & Hanna Hurdley	Psalm 8
Lectors		Ivan Smith & Caitlyn Hurdley	Romans 5:1-5
Ushers	Steve Wood & Tim Hall	William Eyman & John Eyman	John 16:12-15
Altar Guild	Bobbi Beebe	Reda Kittle, Chris Hurdley & Sally Stallsmith	Set-up: Jean Hammer & Carol Uhl
May 29	8:00 AM	10:30 AM	Readings
Lay Readers	Tom & Jean Hammer	Ivan Smith & Ann Rickson	I Kings 8:22-23, 41-43
Acolytes		Asher Carr & Joanna Carr	Psalm 96: 1-9
Lectors		Caitlyn Hurdley & Sarah Perlow	Galatians 1:1-12
Ushers	Mike Whiley & Robin Leonard	Steve Messerly & Chris Hurdley	Luke 7:1-10
Altar Guild	Jean Hammer & Carol Uhl	Sara Perlow, Mid Hall & Janet Kling	Set-up: Jean Hammer & Carol Uhl

Sunday, May 22nd St. John's Parish Picnic



Dear Friends in Christ,

We will be having our annual all-parish picnic at Rising Park. We will be meeting at the shelter house located on the North side by the swings. We will begin at 1:00 PM and end at 4:00 PM. The main meal will be provided so please bring your favorite side dishes or desserts to share. If you have any games that you would like to play, bring them along. Also remember to invite a friend to enjoy our family. This is a wonderful opportunity for all of us to get together and be drawn closer to one another as we break bread and get to know those whom we don't often see on a regular basis. If you have any suggestions that will make the day more memorable, please let me know. I can't wait to see you there.

Your Servant in Christ,
Deacon Nick+

St. John's Episcopal Church

May 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:00 HC 9:00 Fellowship Breakfast 9:15 Choir Prac. 10:30 HC/SS	2 7:00P Choral Evensong	3 4:45 Pizza & God talk 8:00P AA Meeting	4 10:30 Bible Study 12:00 HC	5 National Day of Prayer	6	7
8 8:00 HC Coffee Hour 9:15 Choir Prac. 10:30 HC/SS	9 7:00P Choral Evensong	10 4:45 Pizza & God talk 8:00P AA Meeting	11 10:30 Bible Study 12:00 HC	12	13	14 9-11 AM Lay Reader & Lector Training
15 8:00 HC Coffee Hour 9:15 Choir Prac. 10:30 HC/SS	16 7:00P Choral Evensong	17 4:45 Pizza & God talk 8:00P AA Meeting	18 10:30 Bible St. 12:00 HC 12:30 Health Ministries Luncheon	19 1 PM Eagle and Lamb Deadline 7:00 PM Vestry	20	21
22 8:00 HC Coffee Hour 9:15 Choir Prac. 10:30 HC/SS 1-4 PM Parish Picnic	23 7:00P Choral Evensong	24 4:45 Pizza & God talk 8:00P AA Meeting	25 10:30 Bible St. 12:00 HC	26	27	28
29 9:00 HC Coffee Hour 9:15 Choir Prac. 10:30 HC/SS	30 7:00P Choral Evensong	31 8:00P AA Meeting				



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