



THE EAGLE & THE LAMB

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



August 2016

Rector's Rambling

I've never enjoyed summer. The heat and humidity are oppressive. But every cloud has a silver lining, and sometimes the warmth which limits my activity and the brightness which gives me a headache pushes me into a place and state of mind which encourages deeper thoughts.

This past week or so, I've thought quite a bit about friends of mine who are hurting because of issues in their families, because of medical uncertainties, or because of realities that seem to overwhelm them. Of course I pray for them, and I try to be a good listener, but so often I feel so helpless to assist them in any immediate or measurable way. Sometimes I really feel like I let them down. I know in my mind that at the end of the day we are called to trust in God's grace and deliverance, and that my feeble efforts are barely helpful at their best, but that is not the answer for which I yearn, and it does not help me much.

And then sometimes I think about the issues which face the church. Like many parishes, we have great people and lots of good things happening, but like them as well, our attendance has fallen, and it is difficult to make ends meet. Our program is probably larger than we can realistically support. The literature tells me that our 8 and 10:30 congregations should be combined into one. But I also see significant attendance at our community building events and real individual spiritual growth taking place. It is not a bad place to be, but there are real issues to think about. And that is before I even get to issues about shifting views of right and wrong in the church, and my responsibility to God as his appointed watchman in this place. Sometimes it makes my head hurt and exhausts me. I will be glad when fall and winter come again, and there is less time for thinking.

I could go on and on with examples of the sort of thoughts which fill my summer reverie, but it would probably discourage too many people. And so I will return to the heart of the matter. When Micah looked around at the mess he faced, and asked God what he as one man could or should do, the Lord's answer was clear,

"The Lord has told you mortals what is good, and what it is that the Lord requires of you: only to act justly, to love loyalty, to walk humbly with your God." Micah 6:8. I urge all of us to read this verse in its context, mark its significance, and inwardly digest it so that it becomes a part of who we are. Dog day reveries are fine if they lead us to a more mature application of God's grace in our lives, but never let them lead to indolence, faithlessness, or discouragement. That would amount to giving our enemy the upper hand.

Give us wisdom, strength, and trust in you O Father, to face the present realities of our lives with courage, and give us fortitude and trust in you to live according to your Word, for indeed the Kingdom of Heaven is upon us. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. AMEN

Bill+

Vestry Highlights

1. The capital campaign to repair the front steps has just begun, with \$1,500 committed so far.
2. You can now give online, using a debit card, check card, Visa, MasterCard, Discover, or eCheck/ACH. To do so, just go to <http://easytithethe.com/stjohnlancaster> and register.
3. The next Vestry meeting is Sunday, August 21, 9:00 AM.

Commitment

In *Tuesdays with Morrie* (Doubleday, 1997) author Mitch Albom converses with his old college professor, who is now dying of Lou Gehrig's disease — and passing along the wisdom of his experience.

“The fact is, there is no foundation, no secure ground, upon which people may stand today if it isn't the family. It's become quite clear to me as I've been sick. If you don't have the support and love and caring and concern that you get from a family, you don't have much at all. . .

“Say I was divorced, or living alone, or had no children. This disease — what I'm going through — would be so much harder. I'm not sure I could do it. Sure, people would come visit, friends, associates, but it's not the same as having someone who will not leave. It's not the same as having someone whom you know has an eye on you, is watching you the whole time.

“This is part of what the family is about, not just love, but letting others know there's someone who is watching out for them. It's what I missed so much when my mother died — what I call your 'spiritual security' — knowing that your family will be there watching out for you. Nothing else will give you that. Not money. Not fame.”

He shot me a look.

“Not work,” he added.

24 Attend Touchstone Magazine Discussion Group

The Touchstone Magazine Discussion Group met at the Hocking Hills Winery in Logan on July 14th and will meet again on July 28th. (Meetings will be held in August on the 11th and 25th.)

Our first gathering on July 14th focused on Phillip Johnson's (a professor at UC Berkeley) article “Persian Conversations” and of the role of the Holy Spirit in Evangelism and then continued with Russell D. Moore's (Dean of Southern Baptist Seminary in Louisville) article “Death of a Wild Thing: Maurice Sendak and the Horror of a Domesticated Gospel.” There was much discussion about both articles.

The winery has snack hors d'oeuvres trays or you can order in pizza or BBQ, and, of course, wine is available. See Fr. Bill to get a copy of the articles.

Come join Christian friends from St. John's and St. Paul's, Logan for friendly discussion on timely issues. See Fr. Bill if you are interested in carpooling.

Communion for Shut-ins

Is God calling you to carry Holy Communion to shut-ins in their homes or assisted living places? Call Deacon Nick at 740-974-8593 to learn more about this exciting ministry.

Listen My Friend

Listen my friend! Your helplessness is your best prayer. It calls from your heart to the heart of God with greater effect than all your uttered pleas. He hears it from the very moment that you are seized with helplessness, and he becomes actively engaged at once in hearing and answering the prayer of your helplessness. He hears today as he heard the helpless and wordless prayer of the man sick with the palsy.

O. Hallesby, Prayer from *Illustrations Unliited*

Birthdays

- 8 Peggy Merton
- 9 Mark Perrine
- 11 Cheryl Berner
Joanna Carr
- 12 Anna Burton
Lowell Stallsmith
- 15 Robin Leonard
Mary Oehler
- 17 Ashley Campbell
Mid Hall
- 26 Beck Babcock
Kay Waddell
- 27 Steve Martens
- 29 Jim Hall
- 30 Jason Smith

Wedding Anniversaries

- 1 Ivan and Jessie Smith (59)
- 2 David and Nancy Russell (76)
- 12 Jim and Susan Chilenski (95)
- 13 Mark and Mary Alice Perrine (77)
- 16 Steve and Jane Wood (77)
- 17 Jim and Peggy Merton (68)
Gary and Charlene Rowley (57)
- 18 Jack and Elaine Warnett (79)
- 19 Bruce and Bobbie Beebe (10)
Sam and Jane Hurley (67)
- 21 Dick and Rebecca Babcock (50)
- 22 Jim and Sarah Miller (53)
- 30 Gerald Owsley and Mary Oehler
(14)

Baptismal Anniversaries

- 1 Doug Carr (78)
Elizabeth Leonard (59)
- 3 Justice Wood (11)
Steve Wood (11)
- 4 Julia Taylor (96)
- 10 Margaret Canter (08)
- 11 Julie Meenach (02)
- 19 Sally Stallsmith (34)
- 31 Mary Oehler (58)

Parish Health Ministries Luncheon Cancelled

The Wednesday Parish Health luncheon will be cancelled in August.

Fellowship Breakfast

Please join your parish family for breakfast after the 8:00 service on Sunday, August 7th.

Father Bill has cancelled his land line subscription as of July 1st. His cell number is 740/215/3900.

A Special Thank You to ArtWalk Participants

Thank you to all of St. John 's artists who shared their talents at the ArtWalk on Friday, July 22nd. And a special thanks to Gerry Owsley for coordinating the event. Those who baked cookies and provided refreshments were much appreciated. St. John's was presented in a very positive manner.

Sunday School Reminder

Sunday School will be cancelled in August and will resume in September on the first four Sundays of each month.

People were once so primitive that they did not know how to get money except by work.

George Ade

Heaven goes by favor. If it went by merit, you would stay out, and your dog would get in.

Mark Twain

Any concern too small to be turned into a prayer is too small to be made into a burden.

Corrie ten Boom

It is a small step from looking down on others to looking up to oneself.

P. J. O'Rourke

St. John's Episcopal Church

August 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 7:00P Choral Evensong	2 8:00P AA Meeting	3 10:30 Bible Study 12:00 HC	4	5	6
7 8:00 HC 9:00 Fellowship Breakfast 10:30 HC	8 7:00P Choral Evensong	9 8:00P AA Meeting	10 10:30 Bible Study 12:00 HC	11 6:30 Touchstone Discussion Grp. Hocking Hills Winery	12	13
14 8:00 HC Coffee Hour 10:30 HC	15 7:00P Choral Evensong	16 8:00P AA Meeting	17 10:30 Bible Study 12:00 HC	18 1:00P Eagle and Lamb Deadline	19	20
21 8:00 HC 9:00 Vestry meeting Coffee Hour 10:30 HC	22 7:00P Choral Evensong	23 8:00P AA Meeting	24 10:30 Bible Study 12:00 HC	25 6:30 Touchstone Discussion Grp. Hocking Hills Winery	26	27
28 8:00 HC Coffee Hour 10:30 Morning Prayer	29 7:00P Choral Evensong	30 8:00P AA Meeting	31 10:30 Bible Study 12:00 HC	28	29	30

August 2016 Serving Schedule

August 7	8:00 AM	10:30 AM	Readings
Lay Readers	Robin Harris	Jim Hall & Shawn Dyer	Isaiah 1:1-20
Acolytes		William Eyman & Morgan Spires	Psalm 50
Lectors	Mark Conrad	Charlie Voss & Sarah Perlow	Hebrews 11:1-16
Ushers	Mike Whiley & Steve Wood	Steve Messerly & Chris Hurdley	Luke 12:32-40
Altar Guild	Bobbi Beebe	Sarah Perlow, Mid Hall & Janet Kling	Set-up: Mid Hall, Diane Downard & Janet Kling
August 14	8:00 AM	10:30 AM	Readings
Lay Readers	Tom & Jean Hammer	Mark Conrad	Jeremiah 23:23-32
Acolytes		Joanna Carr & Libby Garbrandt	Psalm 82
Lectors		Holly Coffill & Caitlyn Hurdley	Hebrews 11:17-12:2
Ushers	Shook Family	Tom & Karin Howard	Luke 12:49-56
Altar Guild	Jean Hammer & Carol Uhl	Jessie Smith & Mid Hall	Set-up: Jean Hammer & Carol Uhl
August 21	8:00 AM	10:30 AM	Readings
Lay Readers	Jim Merton	Ivan Smith & Holly Coffill	Jeremiah 1:4-10
Acolytes		Nicole Sutter & Hannah Hurdley	Psalm 71
Lectors	Joan Ream	Ivan Smith & Marc Conrad	Hebrews 12:14-29
Ushers	Robin Leonard & Mike Whiley	Tom & Karin Howard	Luke 13:10-17
Altar Guild	Peg Merton & aGitta Sadoni	Judie Miller, Mid Hall & Judi Berry	Set-up: Judie Miller, Judi Berry & Mid Hall
August 28	8:00 AM	10:30 AM	Readings
Lay Readers	Tom & Jean Hammer	Doug Carr	Jeremiah 2:4-13
Acolytes		Asher Carr & Joanna Carr	Psalm 81
Lectors		Ivan Smith & Caitlyn Hurdley	Hebrews 13:1-16 (8 am only)
Ushers	Tim Hall & Robin Leonard	William & John Eyman	Luke 14:1-14
Altar Guild	Jean Hammer & Carol Uhl	Reda Kittle, Chris Hurdley & Sally Stallsmith	Set-up: Jean Hammer & Carol Uhl

Please remember to find a substitute if you are unable to serve.

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: Caitlin Hurdley
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