

The Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist, York, Pennsylvania

e-mail: yorkjohn@aol.com www.stjohnyork.org Telephone: (717) 848-1862

FROM THE



Congregations say they want to grow and we are no exception. We have even crafted a vision and mission statement that says we want to grow spiritually, we want to grow in service to others, and we want to grow in numbers. But what does it mean to grow? Are we

prepared for the change that growth brings? How will we feel when a newcomer to our parish community comes up with a "better idea"? Growth means losing the way we have always done it. Growth means losing the community we know and welcoming strangers. Growth means doing new things in new ways and being open to possibilities.

I have come to realize that to remain a vibrant parish we have to plan for people who have yet to cross our threshold. Because of physical and spiritual mobility, it is rare for a child to grow up in a congregation and join that congregation as an adult. When I think of the wonderful young people who have served with me over the past fourteen years at the altar of St. John, all but a few have moved from the community. If we truly want to grow, we have to welcome people into the parish with the expectation that things will be different.

Our mission is to transform lives. Those who have chosen to be part of the parish have done so because their lives have been transformed by the sacred traditions, the spiritual practices, the mission work and community of faith. But we also have a precious gift to share. Our parish community does not exist for us alone. We transform lives when we welcome the stranger in our midst. We transform lives when we serve others who may never choose to participate in the parish community. We transform lives when we offer a safe place for people and groups to meet. We transform lives when we share our time and our talents in service to our Lord by reaching out to those in need. When lives are transformed, people want to be part of that transforming community. Growth means new people, new things and new ways. Let it be said that we as a congregation welcomed the stranger among us and invited them to be transformed as their presence will transform us.

Faithfully yours,

David +

SUMMER PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN

During the summer months we offer our youngest members the opportunity at the beginning of the 10 o'clock service to attend an age appropriate program. This program, in the Children's Chapel next to the stage in the parish hall, consists of a DVD followed by a discussion or activity. Thanks to all who have volunteered for this ministry. We still need an adult volunteer to lead the prepared program and escort the children to the church service at the Peace on August 29. If no one signs up on this date, there will be no program for children on this Sunday. A sign up sheet is located on the bulletin board at the front of the church.

+++

REMINDER FROM THE PARISH TREASURER

Your support during the summer months is important as we continue to provide services and strive to keep our obligations current. If you are going out of town in August, please consider paying your church pledge before you leave. Income during August is historically low which makes it difficult to pay our bills on time. With your help we will not have to rely on investment funds to meet our monthly obligations. Thank you for adding "pay my church pledge" to your "to do list before leaving town."

+++

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR BOOKS

At St. John we are privileged to have a fund that provides for our young men and women pursuing higher education after high school to receive a scholarship to purchase books. Students in trade schools, community colleges, colleges and vocational schools are invited to apply for a \$500 a year scholarship for the specific purpose of purchasing books related to a person's course of study. A simple application is obtained from and returned to the Parish Office. Applications will be approved early in the fall and checks mailed at the beginning of the school year.

+++

THE BOOK CLUB

The Book Club meets on Monday, August 9th at 7 P.M. in the home of Suki Campbell. The book selection for August is [A Good Scent from a Strange Mountain](#) by Robert Olen Butler. Those interested in the book club are invited to join the group for a lively discussion. For more information contact Suki Campbell at sukic1@comcast.net.

ST. ZITA'S GUILD

Thanks to the forty persons who volunteered to engage in a variety of ministries as the charter members of St. Zita's Guild. You will find members of the Guild engaged in ongoing ministries that meet the needs of our entire parish community. The charter members are: Beverly Altland, Emily Atwood, Barbara Boyer, Bob Boyer, Jack Bray, Tammy Bray, Marlene Corcoran, Byron Daudelin, Ray Delp, Ruth Delp, Brian Hershner, Pattie Hogeman, Ruth Huff, Kathy Johnson, Mike Lawrence, Beth Lawson, Milton Leake, Susan Leake, Jane Linebaugh, Steve Linebaugh, Bernadette Livingston, Linda Lopez, Elaine Lovelace, Rich Lutz, Sue Lutz, Jerri-Lee McCleary, Dan Ness, Michelle Norton, Olive Padden, Barry Peters, Jane Peters, Bill Poole, Michelle Poole, Steve Robertson, Susan Robertson, Sherrie Rotell, Nancy Rowley, Diana Scheide, Polly Stetler, Alison Vedder, Chris Vedder, Dan Wagner, Brian Wood, and Susan Wood. If you are interested in knowing how you can share in the ministry of this Guild, call the Parish Office and talk to Canon David.

+++

DIVINE DELIGHTS FREEZER SALE

Cooking has begun and plans are well underway for the November 20 Freezer Sale. Please watch the bulletin board at the front of the church for cooking dates. Cooking begins at 9 AM on Saturdays in the Parish Hall Kitchen, unless noted otherwise. There is a lead cook who will have all the necessary ingredients, tasks for everyone and a plan for the item being prepared. Preparations are normally completed, the kitchen cleaned up and volunteers on their way by noon. The Freezer Sale has been a proven fund raiser to support in part the many outreach ministries of our parish. The gift of your time to prepare for this sale is greatly appreciated.



+++

FALL FOYER GROUPS TO BE FORMED

The word "Foyer" means "hearthside" implying the intimacy of the home. Foyer groups at St. John are groups of six to eight people who gather monthly to share conversation and build the bonds of friendship among members of the parish. Foyer groups normally meet monthly for nine months. Many groups decide to share a meal, but the structure of the gathering is determined by the Foyer group. For newer members among us, Foyers is a wonderful way to build relationships in the parish and make new friends. For old timers, Foyers is an excellent opportunity to widen your circle of friends. You will find a sign up sheet on the bulletin board at the front of the church. Won't you sign up to share with us in Foyers this year?

AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION HEART SAVER CPR AND FIRST AID CLASS

This CPR and First Aid class will be given at St. John's on Sunday, August 29th, 1:00 to 5:00 P.M. This class requires a moderate amount of physical effort. The cost is \$5; a take home manual can be purchased for \$15. Call Diana Scheide at 870-7874 to register. Payment is due by August 24th. Please make checks payable to the Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist. Class size is limited to 20 participants, so register early.

+++

LEGACY GIVING AT ST. JOHN'S

The Episcopal Network for Stewardship (TENS) tells us that less than 2% of Christians leave deferred gifts to their Churches. Less than 2%! Why?

- They have not been asked.
- They do not know how.

We have a much better record at St. John's, and we have made a great deal of progress with our planned giving activities.

Since we began in fall, 2006, we have:

- Set up an Endowment Fund at the York County Community Foundation -The St. John's 1755 Fund.
- Prepared new Planning materials and conducted annual Planning sessions as part of Adult Forum.
- Printed a brochure, entitled "Planting a Tree", that tells what we mean by Planned Giving and identifies some planning options.
- Established a Legacy Society to recognize present and past members of the Congregation who have included St. John's in their Planning, and held a celebration luncheon to thank and recognize the inaugural members of our Legacy Society.
- Acquired a legacy donor recognition plaque, located in the vestibule.

This summer, we plan to contact members of the parish to invite those who are able to consider legacy giving, or planned giving, as a way to continue the work done here at St. John. Later this year, we will conduct information sessions at Adult Forum on Wills, and we will provide specific information on charitable legacy gifts.

Then, in the fall, we will celebrate this facet of our stewardship at a luncheon or dinner with the current and new members of the St. John's Legacy Society. As always, please direct your questions, comments and concerns to Father David at the Church office, 848-1862, or to Dave Confer at 852-4856.



*May the Lord give you increase,
both you and your children.
May you be blessed by the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.*

Psalm 115: 14-15.

SUNDAY MORNING PROGRAM OF FORMATION

Plans are well underway for formation opportunities for parish members of all ages to grow spiritually beginning in September. Christian Formation Kickoff Breakfast and commissioning of educators is on Sunday, September 12th.

Children ages 4 through the third grade are invited to share in **Godly Play**. Godly Play is built around storytelling and age appropriate activities. Children in grades 4 through 6 will engage in **Living the Good News**, a curriculum based on the Scripture readings for the day.

Children in the seventh grade and above and their parents will be invited to a conversation about how and when we might offer them the opportunity to continue in their growth as Christians. Check the Advocate and This Week at St. John for details. Adult Forum plans are in the works based on feedback from the past year and suggestions from participants. Mark your calendar and come join us as we grow together spiritually.

+++

ST. JOHN'S IS NOW ON FACEBOOK

As another means to communicate what is going on in the life of the parish and to give parishioners another avenue for communicating with each other, St. John's has started a Facebook page. It can be seen by going to the following link: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Episcopal-Church-of-St-John-The-Baptist-York-PA/115637618455720>.

Upcoming activities will be posted. Lots of church activity photos will be able to be accessed. The best thing is that anyone who joins the site can then post information about what is going on at St. John's. One can talk about a great event that was just held, or alert a church group about an upcoming event, when it's too late to get it into the Advocate. It will open a whole new method of communicating news about the parish family.

To sign up, go to the church Facebook page and select the Sign Up link at the top. You will become a fan of the page. If you are not Facebook member already, you will need to sign up to make posts to the St. John's Facebook page. If you just want to view updates, you don't have to sign up for Facebook. Any questions, please contact Dean Kimball, Tom Russell or any other member of the Communications Committee.



Have you shared your good news? As many of you have probably already learned, last week

the Board of Judges held an election for the office of President Judge. Judge Stephen P. Linebaugh was elected President Judge by a majority of the judges, for a five year term to begin January 1, 2011.

Congratulations to Caroline Lovelace Petr, daughter of David and Elaine, who was awarded her PhD at the University of Nebraska.

+++



Thanks to our **Adopt-a-Block** volunteers who helped in June: Rev'd Hunt Beasley, Rich Lutz, Stephen Linebaugh, Steve Robertson, and Canon David Lovelace.

Vacation Bible School 2010. Thanks to a large group of hardworking and dedicated volunteers, 38 children were able to go on a "High Seas Expedition" this week. A huge "Thank You" to those who took time out of their busy schedule to help make this adventure possible for the children.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY. Loving Stitches has received several "Thank You" notes from those who have received the prayer shawls. One reads "*Your workmanship is perfection. I can't thank you enough for the gift of your talents & skills. What a nice thing to do for sick & recovering persons. So, keep up the great work.*"

Another reads, "*It was very thoughtful and kind to think of me, I add my prayers to yours.*"

Anyone with an interest in this ministry, contact Suki Campbell at 843-7039.

Food Pantry Items for August – Spam, Instant Potatoes, Beef Stew We help many people during the week who are referred by the Food Pantry Clearinghouse as well as those who come to our door.

NOTE:

Vestries Meet Tuesday, August 10

The Incorporated Vestry will meet at 7 PM in the Guild Room.

The Associate Vestry will meet at 6:30 PM in the Kemp Library

+++

FROM THE PARISH REGISTER

† Marriage †

"To whom God has joined together"

Meredith Nafe and Neal Bankenstein

FROM THE KEMP LIBRARY

Our library was given a copy of the book entitled *The Happening; an Amazing Story of Forgiveness*. This book retells the tragic details of October 2, 2006, and the shooting that occurred at the Amish School at Nickel Mines, Pennsylvania. It also tells of the inspiring response of forgiveness by the victims' families. The happening had left six dead, five wounded, and thousands shocked and grieving. Somehow they had to find peace and forgive the man who had caused their grief. But how? Only by the grace of God.

If you care to pursue the topic of the amazing grace of giving and forgiving, the Kemp Library has a book by Miroslav Volf entitled, *Free of Charge...giving and forgiving in a culture stripped of grace*. Dr. Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury, used Volf's book as a Lenten study book for 2006, coincidentally, the same year of the Amish School tragedy.

Please come and visit our library. I will be there to lend a helping hand after the 10:00 A.M. service during the month of August.

Janet R. Wenzel, librarian

+++

PARISH CALENDAR

A gentle reminder to all who plan events that involve the parish or invitations to parish members to participate, please call the Parish Office to put the activity, time, and place on the Parish calendar. If you plan to use the church buildings for any purpose, please check with the Rector about availability. Since questions are directed to the Rector about activities, it is important that he be kept informed. We are privileged to share our buildings with community groups, so it is important to cooperate with one another.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN CAPE MAY RETREAT

SEPTEMBER 24TH – 26TH, 2010

“Speak the Truth”

presented by
Reverend Jane Miron

All women throughout the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania are invited to enjoy a time of learning, reflecting, fellowship and fun. All retreat sessions will be held at the Marquis de Lafayette Hotel, 501 Beach Avenue, Cape May, New Jersey. Call 1-800-257-0432 and ask for Joan Haber ext. 151 to make your reservation (before August 27th) to receive the group rate for ECW.

More information and registration forms are available by calling the church office at 848-1862 or checking the parish bulletin board.

+++

KID'S WORD SEARCH MOTHERS IN THE BIBLE

H	Y	R	A	M	E	H	J
A	K	U	V	B	A	A	O
M	E	T	E	G	I	R	C
A	T	H	A	L	I	A	H
A	U	R	E	H	T	S	E
N	R	I	M	O	A	N	B
M	A	A	C	H	A	H	E
A	H	S	U	R	E	J	D

Abi	Athaliah
Esther	Hagar
Jerusha	Jochebed
Keturah	Maachah
Mary	Naamah
Naomi	Ruth
Sarah	

