



The Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist
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The Advocate

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MONTHLY ADVOCATE

This newsletter is intended to update the members of St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church on all of the things going on in our parish.

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From the Rector

A recent survey showed that people do not know much about the background of their faith traditions and the basis for their belief system. The majority of people who responded to a survey could not state the connection between Christianity, Judaism and Islam. A very low number of people had any idea who came off the Mountain with the Ten Commandments, a question the surveyors thought all faith traditions knew. Most people surveyed had no idea why this was relevant to their practice of their faith.

Some blame the lack of church involvement and the increase in leisure time. Others point out the fact that Americans on the whole have never known much about the background of their faith traditions. What is fascinating to me is the proliferation of faith based value systems touted by those seeking public office and those whose idea of a faith community is more service oriented than spiritual. The absence of this knowledge reflects a loss of our story and one of the reasons many in our society do not see faith tradition or participation in a faith community as important to our lives. People who do not have a narrative sense of our past and the basis for our beliefs are susceptible to ideologies that weave their own version of faith tradition in order to manipulate people. Believers can come to grips with the complexities and changes in our lives if they know something about what they believe, why they hold that belief and, in our tradition, the importance of spiritual growth within a community. We need the wisdom that comes with knowing who we are, what our beliefs and values are and how we arrived at these beliefs.



I invite you as you make new year's resolutions to consider adding regular participation in the many offerings and ministries of our parish to your list. I promise you that you will gain much by your participation in God's ongoing story.

Blessed Epiphany,

David+

VESTRY OFFICERS FOR 2012

At the December meeting the following officers have been elected and the vestries installed on December 12th:

Incorporated Vestry—New Members

Barbara Linder - Senior Warden
Thomas Warman- Junior Warden
Scott Weaver - Clerk of the Vestry
Thomas Russell - Asst. Treasurer

Other members of the 2012 Incorporated Vestry are: Susan Leake, Pamela Walsh, Wanda Linebaugh, Susan Ariail, Anne Moul, Brian Wood, Jolene Smith-Kingston, William Rosevear.

Associate Vestry—New Members

Michael Dellinger - Chairman
Brian Floyd- Vice Chairman
Kris Potter - Secretary
Daniel Ness - Treasurer

Other members of the Associate Vestry are: Kathy Johnson, Jim Hicks, Alyson Murray, and Mark B. Lutz.

VESTRY RETREAT

The Incorporated Vestry spends time each January reflecting on the opportunities and challenges anticipated in the new year. This year the Vestry will continue to discern God's call for St. John as we invest in the future. The congregation of Hope Episcopal Church in Manheim has graciously offered the Vestry use of their newly renovated Parish house for an all-day retreat on Saturday, January 21. The Rev. Canon Stephen Casey has agreed to lead the Vestry retreat this year. Please keep the Vestry in your prayers as they consider how to best be good stewards of the resources with which our parish is blessed.

SUNDAY FORUM

On **January 8**, Murphy and Dettenhafer Architects will be present during the Sunday Forum to talk about the proposal provided to the Vestry to consider providing for accessible and user friendly space as we begin the conversation about how to invest in the future. You are invited to bring your questions and ideas to the Parish Hall at 9 AM for the Sunday Forum.

“Going to hell in a hand basket” will be the topic of discussion beginning **January 15 until February 15**. We shall talk about a variety of topics that are on your mind. Those identified are: the economy and the most vulnerable, drugs and crime in the city, sports and money – sports and children, the Occupy Movement, mainline vs. mega church. You are invited to join us at 9 AM in the Parish Hall for what promises to be interesting discussions and to suggest related topics you would like to discuss.

THIS IS MY CHURCH SURVEY

The Stewardship Committee asked each of us to prayerfully consider the gifts we have to offer in ministry. It takes all of us working together, sharing our talents and gifts to provide for the ministries of our parish. The "This Is My Church" survey is an opportunity for you to tell us how best to invite you to be involved in ministry. The survey takes just a few minutes. A copy is found on the table at the front of the church buildings or by contacting the parish office. Completed forms are returned to the parish office or to Tom Russell. This is your church and your participation is important – so please tell us how to best involve you in the ministries of your parish.



CROP Hunger Walk Results

St. John's participation in the 2011 CROP Hunger Walk yielded a total of \$1,679 for Church World Service and our local agencies that provide food to feed the hungry.

Congratulations and thanks to the following people who participated: Rebecca, Jordann and Jolene Smith-Kingston, Barry and Jane Peters, Stephany Calby and two friends, Dan Wagner, Sarah, Jake, Max, and Lilly Reeder, Jim Hicks, Kris Potter, Kathy Hill, and Milton Leake. Also thanks to the more than 75 people who generously sponsored our walkers.



Freezer Sale Huge Success!!!!

Thanks to the hard work of numerous St. John's volunteers over a period of six months we had the most successful Freezer Sale and gourmet Bake Sale to date. The final numbers are still being crunched as we go to press with the Advocate but the combined sale is pushing a record \$12,000. The majority of these funds will be turned over to the Vestry to assure that St. John's continues to be a vital presence in the community and beyond through our outreach ministries. The Freezer Sale committee retains some seed money for next year's sale which is already in the planning stages.

Thanks to our Holy Rollers, Divine Organizers, Faithful Workers, Heralds of the sale and those who purchased from the Divine Delights Freezer and Bake Sale.



BOOK CLUB



The Book Club meets on Monday, January 9, at 7 P.M. in the home of Suki Campbell. Caleb's Crossing is the book selection for January written by Geraldine Brooks. 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.

HELP WANTED

BREAKFAST & COFFEE HOUR HOSPITALITY

A signup sheet on the bulletin board at the front of the church invites you to share the gift of hospitality. Breakfast is served from 8:15 to 8:45 in the Parish Hall. The Associate Vestry will reimburse those who serve for any incurred costs. We hope that those attending the early service and those attending the Sunday School program will take advantage of this opportunity. After the 10 o'clock service Coffee and Conversation provides an opportunity for us to catch up with one another after our busy week. Coffee and cookies are provided; all we need is someone to put them out and clean up. Come join us after church for conversation and Bishop's Blend Coffee.

Please check your calendar and sign the sheet on the bulletin board at the front of the church. January and February are posted to provide the opportunity for you to share this spiritual gift.

Thanks to all who share the gift of hospitality by serving as our hosts and hostesses.

CHORAL EVENSONG

Come out and hear the St. John's Choir present a Choral Evensong to celebrate the Baptism of our Lord, Sunday, January 8, 2012 at 4:30 p.m. Following Evensong we will dedicate our "new" Steinway sanctuary piano. A recital will be presented by Gretchen Dekker-Elicker. A freewill offering will be taken. There will be a short reception after the Evensong and recital.

ST. ZITA'S GUILD MINISTERS FOR JANUARY

Hospitality – Bob & Barb Boyer

Newcomer/Evangelism – Barry & Jane Peters

Laundry – Steve & Sue Robertson

Pew Packs and Tract Rack – Susan Wood

Bulletin Boards – Steve Linebaugh

NEWS & NOTES

Thank You

...to Rodney Barnett and the choirs of St. John for the beautiful music of Christmas.
 ...to the acolytes, ushers, altar guild, Eucharistic ministers, lectors, greeters, parish staff and all who worked to provide for the festival celebrations of Christmas
 ...to Patrick Hein, Susan Robertson and Jackie Lang for assisting with the annual visit of St. Nicholas to St. John.
 ...to the Associate Vestry and Joy Gillette of Simply Soup for the luncheon and Chrismon tree decorating
 ...to all who shared gifts for children and those who provided mittens, scarves and gloves.
 ...to Anne Strayer, Jessica Dellinger, Sarah Reeder and all who participated in the Christmas pageant.
 ...to Tammy Bray for providing the opportunity to walk the labyrinth during Advent.

The York Academy Regional Charter School wishes to thank the parishioners of St. John for their generosity by giving gifts to provide articles of clothing, coats, shoes and back packs for students.

ST. NICHOLAS POUCHES

Thanks to your generosity our parish reached out to provide warm coats and needed clothing for a number of inner city children attending the York Academy Charter School. The school nurse partnered with us to provide for needs identified by the school staff. The time has come to begin again to participate in the generosity of St. Nicholas. You will find green St. Nicholas pouches on the table at the front of the church building. In the spirit of St. Nicholas, we spread the gift of generosity by adding one quarter in January, two in February, three in March....you get the idea.

Our Daily Bread

In November we served 236 people with 24 casseroles. Our servers were Peggy Ruth and her friend Jo Bailey, Jerri-Lee McCleary, Susan and Milton Leake, Sue Krebs and Cheryl Hartman. As always we thank all of our casserole makers and our servers for their faithful service to this ministry. If you would be interested in making a casserole or serving the meal, please contact Russ or Gail Eckloff at 815-0434.

FROM THE PARISH REGISTER

Death

"Unto God's gracious mercy we commend"

Nina M. Fissel