



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

The season of Lent suggests that we need to pause and be reoriented. We continue to hear stories of people struggling while sports teams can afford to sign players for millions of dollars a year. Teachers, police officers, firefighters are being laid off or those who retired are not being replaced as cities try to balance budgets. Libraries have shortened their hours and public service agencies are begging for volunteer help to continue to offer services. Is it any wonder that we feel stressed and overwhelmed by the world in which we live.



The lessons we will hear from the Gospel writers will find Jesus seeking out John the Baptist to be baptized before he goes off into the wilderness. In the wilderness he wrestles with who he is and what it means to be the "Beloved" of God. It is a time of reorientation for this son of a carpenter. So it is for us, as we are invited to give up distractions that make it hard for us to focus on who we are as followers of Jesus in a world of diversity, struggles for many and growing separation.

I invite you in the name of the church to observe a holy Lent. I encourage you to take time out of your busy schedules to be still. Take time to consider who you are and who it is that God calls you to be. Take time to read your Bible and pray. Take time to be in church with other people of faith. Join in the sharing of the Sunday forum, our Wednesday nights with our fellow Episcopalians at St. Andrew's, a study group or a new ministry for you at St. John. Allow the season of Lent to be a time of reorientation as all of us face the peculiarities of our days. May God's grace sustain and guide us.

*David+*

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### THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION SUNDAY – February 12<sup>th</sup>

We are reminded on Theological Education Sunday that those preparing for ordained ministry in our Episcopal seminaries need our support. Episcopal seminaries are not funded in the National Church budget, but rely on tuition, alumni gifts, parish gifts and endowments for operating funds. Sunday, February 12, the loose offering is designated for theological education. Please make checks payable to St. John and marked for Theological Education on the memo line. Thank you for your generosity



### Ash Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>

In the name of the Church you are invited to keep a holy Lent. You are encouraged to pay attention to your spiritual health taking time each day to be present with God. Once again on Wednesday evenings we shall join our brothers and sisters from St. Andrew's in an opportunity to share table fellowship and learn. On Sunday mornings we shall use Rite I, a more penitential approach to worship. As a Lenten discipline, we are invited to share out of our abundance with those in need or trouble. Mite Boxes will be available for your Lenten offering. The Mite Box offering supports Episcopal Relief and Development.

***THE LITURGY FOR ASH WEDNESDAY***

***WITH THE***

***IMPOSITION OF ASHES***

***FEBRUARY 22<sup>ND</sup>***

***7:00 AM, 10:00 AM, 12:05 PM, 7:00 PM***

### EPISCOPAL COMMUNITY OF YORK GATHERS IN LENT

Wednesday evenings we shall join our brothers and sisters from St. Andrew's in an opportunity to share table fellowship and learn. We begin at 6:30 P.M. with a light supper. Soup is provided and we are asked to bring a salad, bread or side dish to share. This year we are going to "Embrace the Prophets" with the assistance of esteemed Old Testament scholar Walter Brueggemann. Dr. Brueggemann teaches at Columbia Theological Seminary. He is a thoughtful and engaging scholar. There will be child care. We conclude the evening at 8 P.M. with Compline. Come join us for what promises to be an interesting discussion of the message of the prophets as it connects with the



**Schedule:**

- February 29** St. Andrew's
- March 7** St. John
- March 14** St. Andrew's
- March 21** St. John
- March 28** St. Andrew's



## SUNDAY FORUM

“Going to hell in a hand basket” will be the topic of discussion for the remainder of Epiphany. We are talking about a variety of topics that are on your mind. You are invited to join us at 9 A.M. in the Parish Hall for what promises to be interesting discussions and to suggest related topics you would like to discuss.

As we begin the season of Lent, we are going to learn about the lives of some of those we identify as heroes of faith. What about these individuals separates them from others? Archbishop Desmond Tutu said, “Times change and situations seem to change but there is still a great need for prophets, for God’s ambassadors, to stand up and be counted. Who will dare to be Paul the Apostle today or Dorothy Day or Francis of Assisi or Dietrich Bonhoeffer? Who will dare when God calls to say, ‘Here I am, Lord. Send me?’” Come, hear and learn from those who dared answer God’s call.

## SHROVE TUESDAY / MARDI GRAS



Mark your calendar – February 21<sup>st</sup> for a fun filled event prior to the beginning of Lent. This year’s dinner will have an ‘Italian’ theme and include lasagna, salad, bread, dessert and beverages as we enjoy the music of a jazz band and the fun of the Mardi Gras Auction and Silent Auction tables. Invite your family and friends to join us for our Mardi Gras dinner – special entertainment and activities are planned for the children and a child-friendly dinner will also be available. Doors open for dinner at 6:00 P.M. Advance purchase tickets are \$8 for adults (or \$10 at the door) and \$5 for children. Children (under 5) admitted free.

**Come Join the Fun!!!**

## PARISH RETREAT TO THE BISHOP CLAGGETT

March 9 through 11<sup>th</sup> we shall venture forth to the Bishop Claggett Center in beautiful Buckeystown, Maryland. Each year the participant’s comments remind us of the good times we share together, the great food, the time to relax and just be. This year the topic is one appropriate for Lent – “Know Chocolate!” You are guaranteed a good time – some interesting conversation – lots of good food and even chocolate. The cost is \$90 for adults, \$60 for children ages 12 to 18, \$40 for children under 12 and free for those under 3. Registration forms are available at the front of the church or in the Parish Office. Guests are welcomed to join us. See Canon David if you have questions. Sign up today for a fun filled weekend.

## BOOK CLUB



The Book Club meets on Monday, February 13<sup>th</sup> at 7 P.M. in the home of Suki Campbell. The book selection for February is The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot. 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](mailto:sukic1@comcast.net).

## SOLEMN CHORAL EVENSONG

February 26<sup>TH</sup>

Come out and hear the St. John's Choir present a Solemn Choral Evensong on Lent 1, Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m. Following Evensong there will be a short recital presented by Todd Davis, Director of Music at Christ Lutheran Church. A freewill offering will be taken to benefit Episcopal Relief and Development. There will be a reception after the Evensong and recital.




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## HELP WANTED

### **BREAKFAST & COFFEE HOUR HOSPITALITY**

A sign-up 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. We still need hosts in February. Won't you please share this spiritual gift with our community?

### **LOOKING FOR DONATIONS FOR SHROVE TUESDAY /MARDI GRAS AUCTION.**

New or gently used items are needed for both the young and old at heart. All donations should be dropped off in the parish hall no later than February 17<sup>th</sup>. Please indicate that the item is for the Shrove Tuesday event. Please contact Mike Dellinger at 318-5358, if you have any questions.

### **BABYSITTER**

Brian and Julie Floyd are seeking someone to babysit for their two children beginning the end of May. They are seeking help three days a week. If you or someone you know and trust are interested please contact Brian and Julie at 767-4832.

### **COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE**

The Communications Committee is looking for parishioners to write articles for the monthly Advocate. In order to inform our congregation and friends about the good works at St. John's, we are looking for articles about the work of our church committees, groups and events. We are also looking for articles, written by parishioners, on what it means to be a member of St. John's. Contact Dean Kimball or Anne Moul for more information.

The Communications Committee is looking to create a video, of what St. John's means to you. We are looking for one or multiple persons to be willing to take short videos of parishioners as they describe what St. John's means to them. Contact Dean Kimball or Tom Russell if you are interested.

#### **ST. ZITA'S GUILD MINISTERS FOR FEBRUARY**

Hospitality – Bill & Michelle Poole

Newcomer/Evangelism – Tammy & Jack Bray

Laundry – Ruth Delp

Pew Packs and Tract Rack – Beverly Altland

Bulletin Boards – Sherrie Rotelle

# NEWS & NOTES

## **LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES – FREE TAX PREPARATION SERVICE**

Volunteer Income Tax assistance Program of York County offers free tax preparation services to low and moderate income taxpayers. (\$50,000) All the volunteer tax preparers are IRS certified. There are several locations in York County call 717 854-2244 to schedule an appointment.

## **FROM THE KEMP LIBRARY**

A new numbering system has just recently been completed in the library. It seems that some books have been misplaced since the last inventory. Please check your home library for a stray book that might belong to the church library. Please note: we are not asking for additional books at this time, just those that have strayed away like lost sheep. Many thanks!

Janet R. Wenzel, librarian

## **RECORD PROFITS FROM FREEZER SALE**

This year's Freezer Sale was the most successful ever held with a record \$10,000 disbursed to the Vestry for support of our Outreach Ministries. A dedicated group of cooks, "holy rollers," packaging experts, label-makers, and clean-up crews all led and coordinated by Elaine Lovelace has been in the church kitchen nearly every Saturday since June producing over one thousand items. Hard work and good fellowship go hand in hand, and most of us involved have found that sharing our joys and sorrows while rolling dough, chopping onions, pitting cherries and scrubbing countertops can be very therapeutic! Overwhelmingly positive feedback has been received from customers, many of whom have no affiliation with St. John's.

The Freezer Sale will be now be managed by a steering committee consisting of Elaine Lovelace, Sandy Aulbach, Wanda Linebaugh, Liz Wright, Michelle Poole and Anne Moul. Exciting plans for next year's sale are already in the discussion phase and input from parishioners is welcomed. Have a great "freezable" recipe to share or would you like to offer your expertise in some aspect of the sale? Do you have access to wholesale vendors of food items or connections to an organization who might wish to donate products for the sale? Opportunities to reduce upfront costs are being pursued as well as an expanded promotion of the sale within the York community. The Freezer Sale committee also has a "wish list" for the following items: heavy duty whisks, measuring cups with writing on the side, big restaurant quality sauté skillets, large stainless steel bowls and mixing utensils, good sets of knives and food processors.

Members of the Freezer Sale committee extend their heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed in any way to this unique and amazing fund-raising project. The Freezer Sale feeds both body and soul and our efforts enrich the lives of people in ways we may never see. Look for an even bigger and better sale in 2012!

### ***FROM THE PARISH REGISTER***

#### **Death**

*"Unto God's gracious mercy we commend"*

S. Joyce Kearns