

November 2011 Advocate

From the Rector

As a nation we pause in November to offer our thanks to the giver of all gifts. The majority of the world's resources pour into America. Despite the economic woes of the current time, Americans are becoming more and more wealthy in the eyes of the rest of the world. We have more goods and services available to us than most people on the planet. Studies show that Americans have been culturally indoctrinated to want more so we are faced with never having enough. We have bought into the myth of scarcity.

The Bible starts out with a litany of abundance. The creation story is a song of praise for God's generosity. It tells how the world is ordered and notes "It is good." We are told God blesses the creation and endows it with vitality, "Be fruitful and multiply." The Biblical story goes on from that beginning to describe an economy of abundance. Recall stories like Jesus taking an offering of fish and bread, a child's lunch, and feeding five thousand people. People of faith are invited to live into God's abundance. We are provided with more than enough by a generous and loving God.

May we take time amidst the busyness of our lives to give thanks to the giver of all good gifts for the abundance that blesses our lives.

*Blessings,
David+*

SUNDAY FORUM

We are privileged to welcome Bishop Baxter to the Sunday Forum on November 6. Bishop Baxter will be talking to those about to become communicants and welcomes all to share in the discussion. The Rev. Joe Seville will lead us in a five week discussion of the Nicene Creed beginning on November 13. The Sunday Forum meets at 9 AM in the Parish Hall. Adults and older children are encouraged to join us as we grow in faith together.

BISHOP BAXTER WILL MAKE HIS ANNUAL VISIT SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6th

Bishop Baxter will make his annual visit to St. John on Sunday, November 6. He will preach and celebrate at both the 7:30 and 10:00 A.M. Sunday services. At 9 AM he will meet with those being confirmed or received and other interested persons in the Parish Hall. Following the 10 o'clock service there will be a reception in the Parish Hall to honor Bishop Baxter and his wife, Mary Ellen, and our new communicants. Bishop Baxter will meet with the Vestry after the reception. Please plan to be part of our celebration on November 6th as we welcome our Bishop to St. John.



**All Saints' Sunday –
November 6th - 4:30 PM
Solemn Choral Evensong will be sung by the St. John Choir**

Evensong will be preceded by a short but moving service of light as we give thanks to God for the light of all the saints who have walked before us in faith. Evensong is part of our Anglican heritage of choral music. If you have not attended Evensong before, you will not want to miss this opportunity. Weather permitting we plan to have luminaries lighting our way and throughout the Memorial Garden. An offering to benefit the St. John Food Pantry will be received. Following the Evensong, our organist Rodney Barnett will present a short organ concert featuring works by Bach, Stanford, Phillips, Mulet and Howells. A wine and cheese reception will be offered in the Parish Hall after the concert. Invite your neighbors, friends and family to join us for this powerfully moving service as we remember the saints who have gone before us in faith.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING NOVEMBER 13th

Annual Parish Meeting – this will not be business as usual!

The Annual Parish Meeting will follow a shortened 10 o'clock Eucharist on Sunday, November 13. At that meeting the Vestry will share their **Invest in the Future Initiative**. This is a bold plan to energize us to meet the potential of the future. There will be brief reports from the Rector and Wardens as required by the By-laws. Committee annual reports will be available in written form. Election of persons to serve in leadership positions will be presented by the Nominating Committee. This is one meeting you will be sorry to miss. Mark your calendar!

Those who may vote at the Annual Parish Meeting are: *"All communicants of the church sixteen years of age or older who for the previous year have been faithful in corporate worship, unless good cause prevented, and have been faithful in working, praying and giving for the spread of the Kingdom of God."* (Title I, Canon 17)

Following the Annual Parish Meeting you are invited to the Parish Hall for a covered dish lunch.

BOOK CLUB MEETING

The Book Club meets on Monday, November 14 at the home of Suki Campbell. The book being discussed will be State of Wonder by Ann Patchet. All interested persons are invited to join in the discussion.

BREAKFAST AND 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. **IT IS FREE, FOLKS.** 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. Thanks to all who share the gift of hospitality by serving as our hosts and hostesses.

"DIVINE DELIGHTS" **FREEZER SALE & OPEN HOUSE** **Saturday, November 19th** **Freezer Sale - Just in time for the Holidays**

Divine Delights Freezer Sale is on Saturday, November 19, doors opening at 9 AM. Prior to that date there is much to do to get ready. Every Saturday 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. With lots of help we can have **all** the freezers full in preparation for another successful sale.

The Freezer Sale has been a proven fund-raiser to support, in part, the many outreach ministries of our parish. **You can help us spread the word. Tell your neighbors, friends and family members – "Frozen gourmet meals made with fresh ingredients and no preservatives are available at St. John." Community support is what makes this sale such a huge success!**

An **"Open House"** in conjunction with the Freezer Sale will provide information about St. John's - its programs, activities, and historical facts, etc.

(Beth, I understand that the Communications Committee does the Open House at the Freezer Sale. Need to check with Dean if we need to delete or keep this sentence)

We shall lift our voices on **Thanksgiving Day** to thank God for the many blessings we enjoy. Come join us for this celebration of the Holy Eucharist

Thanksgiving Day
November 24th, 2011
10:00 A.M.

On Thanksgiving Day we gather to lift our voices in grateful praise to God who has so graciously provided all we need. Before you sit down to a table laden with food and an afternoon of football, you are encouraged to join us as we give thanks to the One who made all that we enjoy possible. The Thanksgiving Offering is designated to support that ministry of the Episcopal Home in Shippensburg. This ministry of our diocese provides a safe, caring environment for those persons who need assisted living arrangements. Over half of the residents in the Episcopal Home receive some sort of financial assistance. Checks may be made payable to "St. John"; mark "Episcopal Home" or "Thanksgiving" on the memo line.

ADVENT WREATH MAKING

Sunday, November 20th is the last Sunday in Pentecost. In preparation for Advent, you are invited to join us during the Sunday School hour at 9:00 A.m. in the Parish Hall to make an Advent Wreath. If you have a wreath form from years past, you are encouraged to bring it to be refreshed. We will have forms and candles. If you have greens you can share with wreath makers, they will be appreciated. Advent Wreaths are used in our homes to mark the weeks until the Feast of Christmas. Devotions and Advent calendars will be available for your use.

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The St. John tradition of decorating the “Mitten Tree” with new mittens, hats and scarves, will begin the first Sunday in Advent, November 27th. These items are then distributed to deserving children throughout the York area. Also gifts should be brought to church on Sunday, November 28, December 6th and 13th marked for a boy or girl and the age. **December 13th** is the last date the gifts will be picked up by Presley Ridge, an agency that serves children and families.



ST. NICHOLAS POUCHES

Green pouches may be found at the front of the church. These pouches filled with quarters are returned on Sunday, December 4. In the tradition of St. Nicholas, the money we collect is shared with a family or families in the community who can use a Christmas hand up. The poem inside the pouch explains how the pouch is to be filled. Please join us in sharing the generosity of St. Nicholas.

News & Notes

In September we served 241 persons with 24 casseroles. Our servers were Jerri-Lee McCleary, Milton and Susan Leake, Elizabeth Smith, Sue Krebs and Russ Eckloff. If you would be interested in making a casserole or helping serve the meal, please contact Gail or Russ Eckloff at 815-0434.

Thank you....

...to all involved in planning the Octoberfest “Brats and Brew.” Special thanks to Susan Ariail and those who helped with the planning, set up and clean up. What a wonderful celebration of our parish! Thanks to all who participated – we had a good time.

...to the Associate Vestry and clergy for the St. Francis Day celebration. This year we were forced inside by the inclement weather. The dogs did not seem to mind and we enjoyed an inside picnic after the service.

...to our participants in the 2011 CROP Walk – Barry and Jane Peters, Milton Leake, Dan Wagner, Rebecca Smith-Kingston, Jordann Smith-Kingston, Jolene Smith-Kingston, Stephany Calby, Sara Reeder, Anne Strayer, Kris Potter, Jim and Harrison Hicks.

GOOD NEWS...

Congratulations....

... to Dean Kimball who has been promoted to Director, Claims IT and Administration by Penn National Insurance.

...to Kathy Johnson who has opened “After You Fine Consignments” in York Township.

...to Jerri-Lee McCleary who was recognized as “Volunteer of the Year” by the Susan P. Byrnes Health Education Center.

You will find a 2012 request form for altar flowers with this issue of the Advocate. If you or your family would like the opportunity to provide flowers for services of worship at St. John, please complete the form with all the pertinent information and return it to the church office. Additional copies of the form are available in the narthex.



Advent Wednesday Evening Prayer and Meditation

During Advent we offer a candlelit service of Evening Prayer at 7 P.M. as an opportunity to pause to prepare ourselves for the Christmas feast. A brief meditation concludes this quiet service. Plan now to join us November 30th, December 7th, 14th and 21st for Evening Prayer and Meditation.

Weekend of Prayer for Teens

Teens are invited to the Diocesan X-teen Fall Conference at Camp Mount Luther, November 18th beginning at 6 P.M. to November 20th at 1:30 P.M.

Registration due by November 12th - \$125 (scholarships available)

There is a hands on event to discover the mysteries behind prayer.

York Interfaith Thanksgiving Celebration

Tuesday, November 22 at 7 PM

Unitarian Universalist Congregation

925 South George Street

Non-perishable food items will be collected for the food bank.

FROM THE PARISH REGISTER

Baptism

"In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit"

Parker Sadie Dietz

Carson Emily Dietz

Lily Jane-Louise Faries

Easton Michael Massa

Death

"Unto God's gracious mercy we commend"

Benjamin D. Mosser, II

Carl Overmiller

ST. ZITA'S GUILD MINISTERS FOR SEPTEMBER

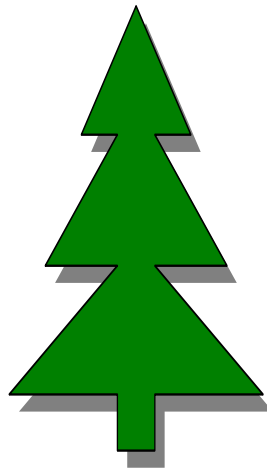
Hospitality – Dan Wagner & Mike Lawrence

Newcomer/Evangelism – Barry & Jane Peters

Laundry – Susan & Milton Leake

Pew Packs and Tract Rack – Susan Wood

Bulletin Boards – Sherrie Rotell



The Festival of Trees sponsored by the York County Council of Churches will be held at the Historical Society Museum and Heritage Trust located at 250 East Market Street.

Show dates are November 11, 12 and 13th. On Monday, November 14th there will be a Festival of Foods and Auction beginning at 5 PM. Show times are Friday Noon to 8 PM, Saturday 10 AM to 8 PM, and Sunday 1 PM to 5 P.M.