
EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

THE EVANGELIST

March 2009

Sharing the Story – Beginning where we are

Invitation

*The Search Committee invites
all adults and youth of St. John the Evangelist to a discernment workshop*

“Sharing Our Stories – Beginning: Where We Are”

Sunday, March 8th

12:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Immediately following a lunch after the celebration of Holy Eucharist at 10 a.m.

How This Morning Will Run

On this special day, immediately following the 10A.M. service, all parishioners—both youth and adult members—will assemble in the parish hall and common room of the church for the workshop.

Childcare will be provided for our younger parishioners following the lunch and during the workshop.

Sunday morning is the best time to get the whole parish together, and because we want all parishioners from all services to attend the workshop, we hope the 8 o'clockers will come back for the lunch and workshop—their concerns need to be part of our story. This meeting will be one of the most important ones in our parish life, and we thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

What Will Happen during the Workshop

During our two and a half hours together, we will share with each other the story of St. John the Evangelist in our lives, and also articulate both our hopes for St. John's future and our vision of the biggest challenges facing St. John's. Our search consultant, the Rev. Ted Rice, will guide us as we take this very important step in our self-study to discern how, as a community, we will continue the vitality of St. John's at 16 West Third Street and out in the world. The results of this workshop will be reflected in the Parish Profile, the document that will ultimately be read by those whom we identify as candidates to become the next rector of St. John's. The input of each parishioner is crucial to this process, and we sincerely hope that everyone will participate.

We are looking forward to seeing you on **March 8th**. Our lunch will be covered dish and there are sign-up list in the hallway for you to fill out. We are also planning on a talent show after lunch up until the time Ted arrives. Who knows, Groucho Marx might show up.

Please contact Fran Kramer or John Martin if you have any questions.

A Day of Quiet Reflection is offered by the Spiritual Growth Resources Committee of the Diocese of Pennsylvania on **Saturday, March 21, 2009**, from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Gloria Dei, Old Swedes' Church, Columbus Blvd & Christian St., Philadelphia PA 19147.

What is a day of quiet reflection? It is a gift of time which we give ourselves as we try to live at a sacred pace. Gentle guidance will be given during the morning and afternoon sessions. There will also be time for personal reflection.

In the morning session, after a brief guided meditation and quiet reflection, we will use simple art materials to create images that are meaningful to us as we journey through Lent.

The suggested donation for the day is between \$10 and \$25 as able. Lunch will be provided. Registration is through the Leadership Institute, tel. 215-627-6434 X151 or E-mail jdlafrance@diopa.org

For more information contact: Diane Powell at dianepowell@verizon.net

Lenten Meditation

There are booklets on the back table of the church for your Lenten Meditations. They are entitled Peace & Compassion, To Heal a Hurting World. Episcopal Relief and Development produced them and there is a reading for each day. In the back of the booklet is an envelope which allows you to send a contribution to them if you choose to do so, but the booklets are free. If you decide to make a contribution, you can be assured that the money will be well used to help people throughout the world, including the USA. This is the fund once called the Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief.

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting on February 1 voted to change the bylaws to allow a 9 person vestry and then elected John Elliott, Shelly Lapish and June Varas to three year terms and Walter Marvel and Bob White to fill two year terms. We now have a full vestry for the first time in about a year. Fran Kramer was reappointed by the interim rector as the rector's warden, then reports were received from various committees. In the last ten to fifteen minutes there was an active discussion of the Baptism policy of the parish, and we concluded with a yummy covered dish lunch. About 35 parishioners were in attendance.

Bishop's Visitation

The Right Reverend Edward Lee will visit St. Johns on September 13 for Baptism, Confirmations and Receptions. While this is a long ways off, it is hoped that if you have never moved your membership to this parish that you will consider doing so. If you are an Episcopalian all you need is let Father Martin know and your letter of membership can be transferred. If you are a Roman Catholic or a Lutheran you can be received by the Bishop and if you are of any other denomination, you can be confirmed. Of course one of these options.

Altar Flowers

As a reminder the cost for altar flowers is \$25.00. Bread and Wine and Sanctuary Candle memorials and honorariums are \$5.00. There will **not** be any Altar Flowers during the Lenten season, March 1st through April 29th. The Bread and Wine and Sanctuary Candle memorials and honorariums will continue. If you have any questions please see Billie Campanile.

Lenten Studies

We will once again share our Wednesday Soup and Salad Lenten program with St. Paul's and St. Mary's church's in Chester. The theme of the evenings will be the Holy Eucharist and Prayer. Devotions will follow. The sessions will be from 6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. The first session will be here at St. John's. There will be a sign up sheet for soup and salad for the weeks St. John's is hosting in the undercroft. The Lenten schedule is as follows:

March 4 , Soup and Salad with a program and worship 6:00 p.m. at St Johns

March 11, Soup and Salad with a program and worship 6:00 p.m. at St. Pauls

March 18, Soup and Salad with a program and worship 6:00 p.m. at St. Johns

March 25, Soup and Salad with a program and worship 6:00 p.m. at St Pauls

April 1, Soup and Salad with a program and worship 6:00 p.m. at St Pauls or St Marys

April 9, Maundy Thursday Service at St. John 7:00 p.m.

April 10, Ecumenical Good Friday Service 12:00 p.m. (location to be announced)

April 11, Easter Vigil, St. John 6:00 p.m.

April 12, Easter Day Services at 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. at St. John

Please try to attend all or some of the services or programs during Lent.

THE LITTLE CHURCH THAT COULD

The thing that amazes me is the fact that as small as we are there is so much going on at St Johns. I know that sometimes it seems like we are all in our little worlds moving along getting things done. But I really think that we reflect on the things that get done and that we manage to achieve and often with much success.

Since I have been at this Church I have never seen a fundraiser that was not supported by a whole bunch of willing volunteers. These people although they might not have a lot in common except there love for The Lord and the love of St Johns, manage to pull together and share their talents with the community of Essington and surrounding towns.

The Festival, Spaghetti dinner, the Bazaar, the Ham Dinner, Car Washes, Covered Dishes, IHN, Angel tree. The list goes on and on. All of this takes time and effort, all of this is part of giving back.

A ministry that is often forgotten is the grocery store cards that Gail has. These cards are used like an ATM card. They are the same as money. By using this ministry you are giving the church much needed funds. You have to shop anyway so why not give Gail a check on Sunday, she will give you a card it is that simple. Also if you shop in Genaurdi's all you have to do is give Gail your store card number and they give us credit. Try it you might like it.

Another thing about our Church home is the family atmosphere that prevails, despite any differences there might be we are able to work together and get things done. Just like in any relationship, or family, everyone can't agree all the time but we do our best.

One of the best outreaches we have is Helping Hand; this is used to help people that find themselves in a situation beyond their control. Of course we do not have a lot of money for this but we are there if needed. It is a private thing and is kept amongst a very small amount of people so there is no need to not ask if you need help. Please if any of you find that you could use a boost then let Father John, Bob White or I know and we will do what we can. While I am on this subject those that are able should maybe try to put a little more in Helping Hand envelopes, these economic times are creating unique situations, so if you can an extra dollar of so would help.

A wonderful ministry from St James is the Angel Food Ministries, the food in this is really good and it is so affordable, please for their sake and your own try it one month. We all need to be there for each other.

Fran Kramer

Rectors Warden

If God Went On Strike

It's a good thing God above
Has never gone on strike
Because he wasn't treated fair
On thing he didn't like.
If he had ever sat down and said,
That's it, I'm through, I've had
Enough of those on earth
So this is what I'll do;
I'll give my orders to the sun,
Cut off your heat supply.
And to the moon, give no more light
And run the oceans dry.
Then just to really make it tough
And put the pressure on,
Turn off the air and oxygen,
Till every breath is gone.

Submitted by Mildred DiMarcantonio

Do you know he'd be justified
If fairness was the game,
For no one has been more abused
Or treated with disdain – than God
And yet he carries on supplying you and me
With all the favors of his grace
And everything for free.
Men say they want a better deal
And so go on strikes they go
]but what a deal we've given God
To whom everything we owe.
We don't care whom we hurt or harm.
To gain the things we like.
But what a mess we'd all be in if
God should go on strike.

Author Unknown

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Service Times

Sunday:

8 a.m. Holy Eucharist
Rite I

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
Rite II and
Sunday School

Coffee hours follow.

Nursery provided at 10 a.m.

Church of St. John the Evangelist
VESTRY MINUTES – JANUARY 11, 2009

Present: Father John Martin, Bob White, Walt Marvel, Fran Kramer, Karen DiPaolo, Jerry Rhoades, Tammy Morgan, Louise Detwiler, John Elliott (Search Committee). **Regrets:** Trina Zema.

The meeting began at 7:00 PM with prayers and concerns. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved with the following correction: The proposed budget has not yet been approved.

Budget: Bob reported that we received 47 pledges with an income from envelopes of \$54,606. The total budget of \$91,712.00 was approved.

Treasurer's Report: The End-of-Year Report for 2008 was approved.

Interim Rector:

We will again participate in Lenten services with St. Paul's in Chester beginning with Shrove Tuesday, February 24. There will then be five programs at 6:00 PM on Tuesday nights; three at St. Paul's and two here at St. John's. The distribution of ashes will be Wednesday, February 25, at 7:00 PM. Father Martin has been visiting Florence Palmer at Fair Acres and has received a request and check for her burial place in the Memorial Garden. Mrs. Palmer was raised in St. John's and is related to the Tribit family. It was decided that we will only publish approved minutes in *The Evangelist*; therefore, the January minutes will not be published until March.

Rector's Warden: Fran reported that we received a letter from St. Mary's thanking us for our contribution. However, we don't recall sending a contribution and Fran will call St. Mary's. Kathy McBride gave a check for \$25.00 from her Scrapbooking group for use of the undercroft. Fr. Martin and Fran have discussed acolyte training and Fr. Martin will be holding a class this Sunday.

Search Committee: John reported that the Committee will meet with the consultant, Rev. Ted Rice, on Tuesday, January 27th at 7:00 PM. According to Jill Mathis, the Diocese will cover possibly 2/3 of the cost of the consultant and maybe even all of the cost. Also, John Smith has joined the Search Committee.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Religious Education: Tammy has two classes so far for Confirmation. Bishop Lee will be visiting with us on September 13th.

Parish Life/Outreach: The Ham & Cabbage Dinner will be held on February 7, 2009 at 5:00 PM. The menu includes ham, cabbage, scalloped potatoes, green beans, dessert and beverage. Fran has received a few monetary donations. Billie Campanile will be getting the hams and Trina is donating green beans.

Property: The manger was taken down and stored. Walt will be getting together with property committee and make plans for fixing up the Jubilee Room. Fr. Martin mentioned the need for a space heater in the Rectory Office and Jerry volunteered to bring one from home this Sunday.

Old Business: So far, the nominations for Vestry are John Elliott, Shelly Lapish, Walt Marvel, June Varas and Bob White. Louise will be the Head of Elections and John Elliott will be the Clerk. The top three vote getters will serve 3-year terms and the 4th and 5th place people will each serve two years. In addition to electing Vestry members at the Annual Meeting on February 1, the congregation will vote on changing the by-laws to state the required number of Vestry members will now be 9 instead of 12.

The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer and adjourned at 7:50 PM. Next meeting is February 10.

Respectfully submitted,

Louise Detwiler