
EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

THE EVANGELIST

May 2009

We have just gone through a very interesting Holy Week, Easter and Easter Monday with the capture by pirates of an American vessel off the coast of Somalia. On Easter Monday, three pirates were killed by Naval Seal snipers and the American captain was freed. It was at the top of the news.

Robin and I took Easter Monday off and were in the car when I turned on the BBC news. The discussion was whether the pirates are villains or heroes? Heroes? But then other people began to speak. People from around the world – because this was the BBC.

No, they are nothing but thugs and criminals. Yes, they are trying to call attention to the problems in Somalia and the abuse of their shipping rights and the way other countries invade their territories. Well, the discussion from all over the globe got more and more heated. The presenter had to explain the purpose of the subject. It really was interesting and unfortunately it is not the kind of conversation any American media outlet would have the guts to run.

Whether you think the pirates are heroes or thugs, it is fascinating to have the questions raised and discussed in an open and intelligent way and to hear discussion from people – real people, not talking heads – from far flung countries.

I believe that as Christians you and I have the challenge to keep our hearts and minds open to hear what different nationalities, belief systems, religions and parties have to say because I believe that most of them probably contain some truth and it is in truth that we find out more about God. We shut our ears, our minds and our hearts to what we disagree with and therefore these ways cannot act as conduits of God's love and direction. We won't listen to Fox News or MSNBC, we read only books by certain authors and never by others. We turn off the radio when one person comes on but increase the volume for another.

This is God's world and those folks we dislike so much are God's children but we seem to be afraid to listen to all that is said. Personally, I don't believe the pirates are heroes or thugs; life just isn't that simple. But we really would like for life to be that simple, wouldn't we?

God took millions of years creating the world we live in and a very long time creating you and me to be who we are today. Our efforts to make all of this easy to label as good or bad does not do justice to the love God has for this world or for all God's children.

Fr. Martin

United Thank Offering

The United Thank Offering is an organization founded by women in 1889. It has become a worldwide effort to meet compelling human needs and to expand mission and ministry of the church – for men, women, and children throughout the world.

The United Thank Offering is a way for each person to express tangible thanks to God. United with the prayers and offerings of the Episcopalians, its ministry reaches around the world.

We will be collecting your UTO Blue Boxes and donations on May 17. The Ingathering will be held May 21 at the Cathedral. For more information please see Karen DiPaolo.

Mothers Day Flower Sale

Flowers will be for sale outside the church on Saturday, May 9th from 10 to 5 and Sunday, May 10th 9 am to 1 pm. The Youth group will be participating by creating the posters and also selling the plants. If you have any questions, please contact Shelly Lapish. You may also pre-order flowers. Pre-orders are due to Shelly on May 3. Flower pick up for pre-orders is at church on May 9th from 10 to 5.

Vacation Bible School Needs

Craft items needed. We are looking for skeins of unused embroidery floss, small artificial flowers (about 1 1/2 inches or smaller), artificial leaves-all colors, small pine cones (1/2 to 1 inch) and twigs-no longer than 12 inch pieces. Also we are looking for any small shaped sponges for stamping images. There will be a box outside the Sunday School room for any contributions. Thank you. Carole LaMarr

Search Committee News

Here's a brief summary of where we are.

One of the Search Committee's primary goal is to put together the parish profile, which is sort of a brochure of what we at St. John's are doing for the Lord's work in Essington.

The next Parish workshop with Fr. Ted will be on April 19th. The Committee and I so wish to thank all of those who participated in the last workshop. The information garnered will be most helpful in putting together the CDO form which will be sent out to all prospective candidates for our next rector (Priest-in-Charge). The participation at the last workshop was most earnest and most sincere on the part of the entire congregation present. The most important thing is that we remain in prayer

Strawberry Festival News

The Strawberry Festival is coming up soon. Boxes will be put in the Jubilee room for Books, surprise packages, and silent auction. Sign up sheets for food will be put on the upstairs table. Also sign up sheets for set up and clean up.

Remember the night before the festival is Strawberry night at 6pm.

There will be a meeting Tuesday May 5th for the Festival please try to make it. 7pm in the undercroft.

We will also be having the Flea Market again this year. Spaces are \$25.00. If you would like to reserve a space or know of someone who would please pick up a form in the Gathering space or call Sherry Moore at 610-461-0942. The deadline for reserving a space is May 30th. St. John's will be having a table at the flea market. If you have any items you would like to donate please bring them in and put them in the Jubilee room marked Flea Market

CHANCES - Enclosed with this newsletter, we have included 1 sheet of 6 chances. Maybe you can ask a few friends, relatives, neighbors or co-workers or maybe you want to purchase them yourself. Please note that chances are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. This is a great way to help if you have prior commitments for Festival Day. If you need additional chances, please see Gail Rzepka or call her at 610-521-0944. We try to sell as many as possible prior to the Festival because sometimes we sell a small amount that day. We have 3 great items on one chance! First prize is valued at \$600, Second valued at \$250 and Third is Priceless!

Maybe you will be lucky on Sat, June 6th. You can return them to Gail prior to the Festival, otherwise, bring them to the Chance booth. Good Luck & Thanks for your help

Church of St. John the Evangelist
Vestry Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 10, 2009

Present: Father John Martin, John Elliott, Fran Kramer (Rector's Warden), Shelly Lapish, Walt Marvel, Tammy Morgan, June Varas, and Trina Zema.

Regrets: Bob White **Absent:** Karen DiPaolo, Jerry Rhoades.

The Meeting was opened with prayer led by Father John.

Special Order of Business: Because Bob White, the Accounting Warden was excused, Gail Rzepka, the Assistant Treasurer presented the Treasurer's Report and went over some important information for the new members.

Father John appointed Fran Kramer to serve as Rector's Warden. He also nominated Bob White to serve as Accounting Warden, and John Elliott to serve as Secretary, whom the Vestry then approved.

The Minutes from the January 11, 2009 Meeting were approved as presented. Copies of the Minutes will appear in the March edition of *The Evangelist*. From now on the Vestry Meeting Minutes will have been approved by the Vestry prior to posting them in *The Evangelist*.

Interim Rector's Report: Father John gave a short summary on his Pastoral Visits. We had a brief review of the Annual Meeting. All agreed there was good discussion regarding the Guidelines for Baptism. He then went over the Lenten Wednesday Night Soup and Salad Gatherings Schedule. He announced that on Bishop Lee's scheduled visitation on September 13th, we have scheduled a baptism and seven kids for Confirmation. We will start putting the copies of the Propers in the weekly bulletin again.

Rector's Warden's Report: Fran Kramer noted that the Annual Meeting deferred the election of Deputies to Diocesan Convention/Delegates to the Delaware Deanery Plenary Sessions to the Vestry Meeting. The following people were then proposed as Deputies/Delegates: John Elliott, Fran Kramer, and Walt Marvel. Alternates: Suzanne Erb, Shelly Lapish. The Vestry then approved the appointments.

Fran proposed that we create a form for "Use of the Undercroft."

Cyndy Houpt has agreed to serve as the "Sunshine Person" and will send notes to those who are ill.

Elizabeth Rasnake has agreed to send out "Thank You Memorial Thank You Cards."

Labyrinth Memorials- Since there has been a lack of interest and energy for the purpose of donating memorial bricks for the labyrinth that was to be built in front of the Church, it was agreed to move the funds to other memorials or return the money, if the donor so desired.

Heather Kramer has agreed to take on the American Cancer Society Daffodil sales program this spring.

Fran noted that we need to start planning the Strawberry Festival.

Accounting Warden's Report: (See Special Order of Business above)

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Religious Education: Tammy noted that attendance is picking up. Vacation Bible School will be held from Sunday, June 28th thru Thursday, July 2nd from 5 pm to 8 pm.

Trina noted that the Youth Group has been doing well in its fund raising. John suggested they look into participating in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life Event.

Outreach: The Ham and Cabbage Dinner raised \$1350 to be divided equally between Loaves and Fishes and the Interfaith Hospitality Network.

Hospitality: Trina said we need all of our members to be involved both for coffee hours and the soup and salad series.

Property: The snow removal problem has been addressed and will be handled by the neighbor across the street.

Memorial Garden: Walt and Fr. John have been reviewing the Memorial Garden Rules and Regulations.

Finance: The position for chair is still being considered.

Liturgy: Shelly Lapish will take on the responsibility for assigning the Acolytes to their specific tasks and will see to it their albs are up to good conditions.

Discernment: John reported through the information on the Surveys and the input from the Discernment Workshop and working with the Discernment Consultant we will be able to put together our Parish Profile.

A Memorial Day Poem



We walked among the crosses
Where our fallen soldiers lay.
And listened to the bugle
As TAPS began to play.
The Chaplin led a prayer
We stood with heads bowed low.
And I thought of fallen comrades
I had known so long ago.

They came from every city
Across this fertile land.
That we might live in freedom.
They lie here 'neath the sand.
I felt a little guilty
My sacrifice was small.
I only lost a little time
But these men lost their all.

Now the services are over
For this Memorial Day.
To the names upon these crosses
I just want to say,
Thanks for what you've given
No one could ask for more.
May you rest with God in heaven
From now through evermore

C.W. Johnson

Please remember all the brave men and women of the armed forces who sacrificed their lives for our country.

Church of St. John
The Evangelist
16 West Third Street
Essington, PA 19029

Phone: 610-521-3612 (church)

StJohnsEssington@msn.com

www.sjevang.org/

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.