

---

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

# THE EVANGELIST

---

September 2009

Several years ago my wife Robin ordered some posters from a group called *The Episcopal Ad Project*. One of the posters features a picture of the earth taken from outer space on a black background and reads: *Without God, it's a vicious circle*. Another was an image of a baby's pacifier at the top and a Bible at the bottom and says in the middle: *After they're done with this (the pacifier), give them something they can really sink their teeth into (the Bible)*. Yet another features a print of an anguished Jesus kneeling at prayer in the garden with the caption: *If you think your parents expect a lot, you're not alone*.

A final poster shows a photo of a baptismal font, a towel draped over the edge, which reads: *There's a difference between being baptized and brainwashed*. This poster in particular is one of the reasons I am so glad to be an Episcopalian. In fact, if I had tried to stay in the church in which I was reared, I might be out of the church by now either voluntarily or through the action of 'higher officials'.

You and I are called to what Diana Butler Bass, an author, refers to as 'thoughtful faithfulness'. Thoughtful faithfulness means that we are to engage vigorously our hearts and minds to make the connections between what we believe and how we live. It means that when we talk about faith we mean both what we believe in our hearts and what we know in our minds. Christianity for us does not mean choosing between faith and knowledge. As Christians we do not want people to turn off the mind or disconnect the heart. We are called to be faithful in heart, mind and body.

I believe that we can come up with a way of life that can be summed up by the creed: *Based on what I believe, on what I know and on how I live, I rest my hope in God*.

Fr. Martin

## **Bishop's Visitation**

Bishop Lee will visit St. John's for confirmations and baptisms on Sunday, September 13. There will be one service at 10 am. The candidates for confirmation are: Billy Morgan, Joel Morgan, Mike Scheirer, Kiersten Lapish, Megan Barlow, Tracy Barlow, Zachary Shows, and Ben Waldeck. Fr. Martin will meet with the confirmation class on Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup> at 10 am. Bishop Lee will meet with the confirmands at 9:15 am on September 13<sup>th</sup> in Fr. Erb hall. The children for baptism are: Connor James Penawell, Paige Emily Penawell, and Victor William Brown. Following the service there will be a covered dish lunch.

## **Bible Study**

There will be a Bible study offered beginning on September 30 through November 4 – six Wednesday evenings from 7 – 8 p.m. We will study portions of the Gospel of John looking at its history and themes. In several weeks a sign-up list will be placed in the back of the church; if you plan to attend, please sign the list.

## **Craft Group**

The Craft Group will start meeting the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday in September. We will be meeting the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays of each month at 7 pm until the Christmas Bazaar. I hope you all enjoyed your summer. See you in September.  
Carole LaMarr

## **Coffee Hour**

I have enjoyed coming to St. John's for the past 11 years, and I really like our coffee hour after the service. For me the chance to socialize with my church family is priceless! It upsets me greatly that our coffee hour is once again in jeopardy because no one wants to volunteer. It doesn't take a lot. Last week worked perfectly because one lady made the coffee at the end of the service, someone donated goodies, and someone else stayed to clean up. No one expects homemade goodies (which are always a treat) but a donation of cookies, pretzels, goldfish etc. would be helpful and easy to put out. Some new faces in the kitchen would be helpful too! This is our church and we ALL need to be involved, especially with summer coming to an end and Sunday School starting again. Lastly, thank you to all who give cash donations. It funds the supplies we need for the kitchen. Thank you  
Liz Lawson

## **A Few Brief Notes**

St. John's Blood Drive will Monday, September 21<sup>st</sup> 1:30 pm – 7:30 pm. For more information or to volunteer to help please see John Elliott.

The Flea Market and Soup Sale has been postponed until the spring.

Pledge Sunday's will be September 27<sup>th</sup>, October 4<sup>th</sup>, and October 11<sup>th</sup>.

The Spaghetti Dinner will be October 17<sup>th</sup> with seating at 4 and 6 pm. If you would like to help out please see Karen DiPaolo.

## **Seniors in Action**

The Senior Group is starting back up after their summer break. There will be a Harvest Tea on September 24<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm with planning for future meeting and games. October 6<sup>th</sup> will be Senior Day at Longwood Gardens.

## **Sunday School and Youth Group**

September 20<sup>th</sup> is opening day for Sunday School. Sunday School teachers are needed. If you are interested please see Tammy Morgan. Blessing of backpacks will take place during the 10 am service. Youth Group will meet on September 3<sup>rd</sup> and September 24<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm.

## **Search Committee Report/John Elliott**

Our Clergy Deployment Office Position Profile has been completed and is being circulated about the population of those clergy of the Episcopal Church interested in seeking new ministries. We have met and gone over the responses from clergy that have sent in their C.D.O. Personal Profiles and Ms Jill Mathis of the Diocesan Deployment Office feels would be good matches and have shown some interested in us as described in our Position Profile.

We will be sending out letters very soon along with our Welcome Brochures (which describes in photos and words, who we are, what we do in terms of our mission and ministry, outreach work, V.B.S. Sunday School, and other things we do as a church) to three such candidates hoping to be setting up interviews, listening to them preach and coming to a coming understanding of where each of us feels God is leading us.

As I mentioned in the last article, It is most important that both the Committee and the prospective candidate(s) understand the direction God is leading us, as articulated in our Parish Profile and our Welcome Brochure, and the questions we ask and the Confirmation and Baptisms with covered dish luncheon answers we get, must truly reflect openly and honestly and concisely that direction as understood by both the candidate(s) and the Committee.

Keep the discernment process in your prayers: that it will culminate in a new ministry with a very clear understanding of the roles God has us, the Congregation and the next priest-in-charge, playing in the Mission and Ministry in the Church of St. John the Evangelist, Essington for the years ahead, starting in the not too distant future.

## **ST. JOHNS YEARLY SCHEDULE 2009-2010 AS OF AUGUST 2009**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>September 13, 2009</b> Bishops visit,<br>Confirmation and Baptisms<br>with covered dish luncheon | <b>January 3, 2010</b> Epiphany   |
| <b>September 20, 2009</b> Opening day of Sunday<br>School/Blessings of Back Packs                   | <b>January 30, 2010</b> Ham Dinner outreach<br>Chairperson Fran Kramer                            |
| <b>September 27, October 4, October 11 2009</b><br>Pledge Sundays                                   | <b>February 7, 2010</b> Annual Meeting after 10am<br>service with covered dish luncheon           |
| <b>October 4, 2009</b> Blessing of Animals 2pm  | <b>February 16, 2010</b> Shrove Tuesday<br>Pancake Dinner 6pm                                     |
| <b>October 17, 2009</b> Spaghetti Dinner<br>Chair person Karen DiPaolo                              | <b>February 17, 2010</b> Ash Wednesday 7pm  |
| <b>October 18, 2009</b> Stewardship Brunch & Pledge<br>Sunday Chairperson Bob White                 | <b>February 24 2010</b> Start of Soup & Salad Lenten<br>Series 6pm                                |
| <b>October 25, 2009</b> Costume parade/ Trick or Treat<br>after 10am service                        | <b>March 28, 2010</b> Palm Sunday   |
| <b>November 1, 2009</b> All Saint's Sunday-<br>Childrens gifts                                      | <b>March 29-April 2, 2010</b> Holy Week   |
| <b>November 20-21, 2009</b> Christmas Bazaar<br>Chairperson Sherry Moore                            | <b>April 2, 2010</b> Good Friday 7pm  |
| <b>November 29, 2009</b> Begin Christmas Pageant<br>Practices after 10am service                    | <b>April 3, 2010</b> Easter Vigil 7pm   |
| <b>December 6, 2009</b> Advent Lessons & Carols<br>at both services                                 | <b>April 4, 2010</b> Easter Service   |
| <b>December 13, 2009</b> Sing for your lunch,<br>Advent covered dish Santa visit                    | <b>May 9, 2010</b> Mothers Day with Covered Dish  |
| <b>December 24 2009</b> Christmas Eve Services<br>6pm and 8pm                                       | <b>May 13, 2010</b> Ascension Day   |
|   | <b>May 23, 2010</b> Pentecost   |
|   | <b>May 30, 2010</b> Trinity Sunday  |
|   | <b>June 5, 2010</b> 62 <sup>nd</sup> Strawberry Festival<br>Chairpersons Fran Kramer-Karen DiPalo |
|   | <b>June 6, 2010</b> Sunday School Awards and<br>Graduation Celebration                            |
|   | <b>June 20, 2010</b> Fathers Day Worship and Picnic at<br>Governor Printz Park                    |
|   | <b>June 27-July 1, 2010</b> Vacation Bible School ??<br>Chairperson Tammy Morgan                  |

## **The diocese of Pennsylvania is having its first Women's Conference.**

We are blessed to be hosting Dr. Jane Williams from London, England on October 8, 9 and 10, 2009. Jane Williams is a tutor in theology at the St Paul's Theological Centre, St Mellitus College, and a visiting lecturer at Kings College, London. Her books include *Approaching Christmas* and *Angels*, both published by Lion. She is married to Rowan Williams, the Archbishop of Canterbury. Jane Williams' theological interests are the foundation for our conference this fall entitled **re-Imagining Ourselves: God calling Women to Action.**

As our diocese begins to rebuild, we hope that you will reconnect with your sisters in Christ through attending this conference. Options for one, two or three day attendance are available. Throughout this conference we hope that each woman will discover what it means to be made in the image of God, to listen to God's unique call on her life and be empowered to act in response to God's call. We have been blessed by the women who have gone before us. We are praying and planning for God to use this conference as a means for blessing women in our own day and for generations to come. Please join us! The Rev. Whitney Altopp, Vicar, St. Thomas', Whitemarsh, Chair of the Women's Conference Steering Committee

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

Phone: 610-521-3612 (church)

[StJohnsEssington@msn.com](mailto:StJohnsEssington@msn.com)

[www.sjevang.org/](http://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.