

Rector's Letter

Dear Friends in Christ:

As I write this in the afternoon of the Fourth Sunday in Lent, the rectory boiler is growling to life once again to keep the cold-enough-to-snow chill out of the house. The flurries (and the two inches of snow Cyrus reported in Philipsburg) today made it hard to believe that it is really the end of March, and that it has been spring for over a week. But such is life in these parts during “transitional” seasonals. The snow on Sunday made it very easy to forget that on Friday it was warm enough to wear short sleeves.

Of course, the weather is not the only thing in transition. The Fourth Sunday in Lent has many names – Refreshment Sunday, Mothering Sunday, Laetare Sunday – all of which suggest, either directly or indirectly, that something is different today. For our purposes, the difference is Lent is now more than half over.

An evaluation is called for at this juncture. At the ecumenical Lenten meditation at the Methodist Church last week, Deacon Alex suggested to those in attendance that it is entirely reasonable to ask yourself, “How’s Lent going?” This week is a good time to do that. Are we keeping up with the promises we made on Ash Wednesday? Did we overreach? Can we adjust and still feel like we’re making a reasonable sacrifice?

With just two more Sundays in Lent before us, it’s impossible not to look ahead. While the Thursday evening class meets twice more – on April 3 & 10 – Holy Week itself is full of activity. I invite you to read the pages below to learn more and to plan to participate.

Also in this edition of the *Herald*, you will find an

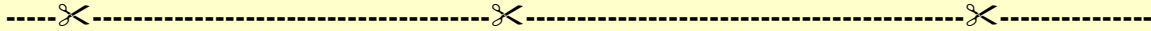
Adult Education survey. While our Lenten series has been extraordinarily popular so far (nearly 30 people attended the Thursday class last week), the other Adult Education offerings which are held throughout the year are often not as well attended. This survey is a chance to make your thoughts, feelings, interests and availability known as we look ahead to the summer and fall.

Lastly, while Easter, the Queen of Feasts, marks a monumental seasonal shift in the life of the church, when we move from a season of penitence and sacrifice to one of joy and abundance, the Easter Vigil party – which is always the most spectacular event of the year in the parish hall – will mark the last time we use that space for a while. Perhaps unbeknownst to most people, Wardens Larry Roberson and Charlie Hilderbrand and Vestryman Patrick North have already begun the process of restoring the parish hall to its former glory. In Stage One, the drop ceiling will be removed and the “real” walls and ceiling will be restored, with new paint, wiring, lighting and ventilation. In Stage Two, the floor will receive much-needed and long overdue attention. This work will be done both “in house” and also by contractors. We will, of course, be able to use the hall as often as practicable. Stay tuned for more information.

May God bless you richly during the remaining days of our season in the wilderness. I look forward to seeing you in church.

Faithfully,

The Rev. Christopher Pyles

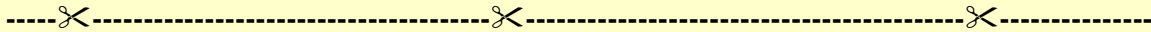


ADULT EDUCATION SURVEY – *please cut out and drop in the collection plate.*

I would be interested in classes on the following topics:

I would attend a class on:

_____ _____
day of the week time of day



EASTER FLOWER ORDER FORM – *please cut out and mail in, or drop in the collection plate.*

St. John’s Altar Guild is receiving contributions to support the decorating of the church for Easter. Please use this form in making your donation. All donations should be returned to the parish office no later than **Monday, April 14**. Checks should be made payable to **St. John’s Episcopal Church** and should be clearly marked **EASTER FLOWERS** on the memo line. You may also paper clip this form to a check, and drop it in the collection plate. Thank you for helping our church look its best for the Queen of Feasts!

Your name: _____
(Please Print)

In memory of: _____

In honor of: _____

In thanksgiving for: _____

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Easter is late this year – April 20. Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday on April 13, with a regular service schedule. Low Mass will be celebrated Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week at 7:30 p.m. at the Lady Altar in the back of the church. Solemn Mass, Washing of the Feet, Stripping of the Altar, Translation of the Sacrament and Watch at the Altar of Repose begins at 7:30 on Maundy Thursday. Good Friday service is at 7:30 p.m., and the Great Vigil and First Mass of Easter begins at 8 p.m. on Saturday, April 19. Regular Sunday schedule on Easter Day. As the saying goes, “no cross, no crown” – in other words, we can’t know the true joy of Easter without having first known the agony of the cross, which we experience most fully during the *Triduum Sacrum*, or the Three Sacred Days (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday). Please be present for as many services as you can during this most holy week of the Christian year.

JESUS ASKED PETER, “COULD YE NOT WATCH WITH ME ONE HOUR?” – Matthew 26:40

Once again this year, there is a sign-up sheet to “keep watch” at the Altar of Repose on Maundy Thursday evening and Good Friday morning. As in years past, the Lady Altar in the back of the church will be transformed into the Altar of Repose – meant to bring to mind the Garden of Gethsemane – where the Sacrament will be tenanted at the end of the Mass on Maundy Thursday. It will be brought back to the high altar during the service on Good Friday and then distributed to the congregation, since a celebration of the Eucharist on Good Friday is not permitted (BCP p. 275).

The Altar of Repose – with its lavish, fragrant floral arrangements, mingled with palm trees, potted plants, flickering candles and other decorations – is supposed to be a place of contemplation, respite and silent prayer. The traditional length of a “watch” is one hour. Many who have watched in the past expressed reluctance to try it a first time, believing there was no real benefit to it. But after keeping watch for just an hour, they came to share in the blessings that always result from this sacred devotion.

All are encouraged to sign up, and experience, perhaps for the first time, the gift of being in Our Lord’s presence in this special way.

THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE DIOCESE HAS ANNOUNCED THE SELECTION OF A PROVISIONAL BISHOP: The Right Rev. Robert Gepert, retired bishop of Western Michigan. Bishop Gepert and Bishop Baxter will work together during the month of April, after which Bishop Gepert will be in charge until a new bishop of Central Pennsylvania is elected and consecrated in 2015. Bishop Gepert is a Pittsburgh native and attended Point Park for his BA, and Virginia Seminary for his M.Div. He served parishes in Maryland and Pennsylvania prior to his election as bishop in 2002. He and his wife retired to Lancaster last year. We expect he will visit us at the normal time next February.

FUNDRAISING DINNERS OFF TO A STRONG START

We owe a great deal of thanks to the organizational efforts of our own Deacon Alex and to Junior Warden Charlie Hilderbrand and the Hilderbrand family for their efforts to make the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper a success. We raised \$650 that evening and served a record number of meals – there was standing room only for a while in the parish hall as diners queued up to wait their turn to eat!

Little did we know that the next week we would shatter another record: On March 15, the Corned Beef and Cabbage dinner made \$2,000, having sold 125 meals – nothing short of extraordinary. We thank Deacon Alex and Ellen Dyakiw; Tina Scott; Bette Shugert; Martha Traverse; Carol Fyfe; Paul Hochreiter; and Lois Fetzer for tirelessly working to keep traffic in the hall moving by setting and clearing tables; serving meals; washing dishes; and cleaning up. The day couldn't have gone better, and many people worked very hard to make that possible. Well done!

NURSERY COORDINATOR NEEDED

Now that the vast majority of the construction in the undercroft is complete and the new carpet is down, at last we can turn our attention to the creation of a nursery in a portion of the Sunday school room.

We need a volunteer nursery coordinator to consult with parents about what gently used nursery items may be given to the church, and then determine what items the church will need to purchase. Additionally, the coordinator will need to follow up with the nursery care workers who expressed an interest in working in the nursery on Sunday mornings. The coordinator will also work with parents and the nursery care workers to create a monthly care schedule.

If you have any questions, or have an interest in serving in this capacity, please contact Father Pyles.

CELEBRATION OF BISHOP BAXTER'S MINISTRY ON MAY 3

There will be a farewell Eucharist for Bishop and Mrs. Baxter at St. Stephen's Cathedral in Harrisburg on Saturday, May 3, at 11 a.m. The preacher will be Bishop Michael Curry of the Diocese of North Carolina. Free parking will be available in the PHFA garage located on River Alley between Locust Street and Cranberry Alley. An attendant will be there to assist with parking.

Everyone is invited, but in order to ensure there is enough food at the reception, please RSVP by April 15 to Julie Valora at St. Andrew's at 814-237-7659 or office@standrewsc.org.

LAY MINISTRIES SCHEDULE

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

	8 a.m.	10 a.m.
April 6	Deacon Dyakiw	Deacon Dyakiw
Lent V (Passion Sunday)		Jason Dench
April 13	Deacon Dyakiw	Deacon Dyakiw
Palm Sunday		Charles Hilderbrand, Jr.
April 17		Deacon Dyakiw
Maundy Thursday – 7:30 p.m.		Cyrus Lanager
April 18		Deacon Dyakiw
Good Friday – 7:30 p.m.		Sara Witmer
April 19		Deacon Dyakiw
Easter Vigil – 8 p.m.		Cyrus Lanager
April 20	Scott Mauger	Deacon Dyakiw
Easter Day		David Cree
April 27	Deacon Dyakiw	Deacon Dyakiw
Easter II		Kathryn Grossman

ALTAR SERVERS' ROTA (10 A.M. MASSES)

April 6 Lent V (Passion Sunday)	Book/Server Crucifer Torches	Charles Maurukas Charles Hilderbrand, Jr. Tina Scott Christine Holt

April 13 Palm Sunday	Book/Server Crucifer Torches	Bryan Hough Steve Dillon Tina Scott Jason Dench
	Thurifer	Charles Maurukas

April 17 Maundy Thursday	Book/Server Crucifer Torches	Steve Dillon Charles Hilderbrand, Jr. Tina Scott Bryan Hough
	Thurifer	Charles Maurukas

April 18 Good Friday	Book/Server Crucifer Torches	Steve Dillon Charles Hilderbrand, Jr. Christine Holt Tina Scott
	Thurifer	Charles Maurukas

April 19 Easter Vigil	Book/Server Crucifer Torches	Steve Dillon Steve Dillon Jason Dench Tina Scott
	Thurifer	Charles Maurukas

April 20 Easter Sunday	Book/Server Crucifer Torches	Jason Dench Bryan Hough Tina Scott Steve Dillon
	Thurifer	Charles Maurukas

April 27 Easter II	Book/Server Crucifer Torches	Charles Maurukas Charles Hilderbrand, Jr. Jason Dench Christine Holt

ALTAR GUILD SCHEDULE

April 12 through April 18	-	B. Raymond/B. Roberson
April 19 through April 25	-	B. Raymond/B. Roberson
April 26 through May 2	-	C. Fetters/S. Witmer
May 3 through May 9	-	C. Fetters/S. Witmer

ALTAR GUILD CLEANING: TUESDAY APRIL 8, 2014, 1:30 P

VESTRY COLLECTION COUNTERS – APRIL 2014

Charlie Hilderbrand and Patrick North



COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

April 6	-	Dan & Deb McGinley
April 13	-	Cathy Fetters

After the Easter Vigil party, use of the fellowship hall will be suspended while renovation work takes place.

**BIRTHDAYS**

April	2	-	Kurtis Strouse
April	4	-	Sara Witmer
April	6	-	Joshua Fetters
April	9	-	Steve Dillon
			Cody Fitzgerald
			Mitchell Holland
April	20	-	Susan Christy
April	22	-	Jason Traverse
April	23	-	Zackery Foster
			Finnegan Quigley
April	29	-	Daniel McGinley, Sr.

April 2014						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Lenten feria. Low Mass with healing 9:30 a.m. in the Chapel	3 Lenten Program – 6 p.m.	4 Community Lunch – 10 a.m. at the Presbyterian Church	5
6 Lent V Morning Prayer – 7.45 Low Mass – 8 High Mass – 10 Coffee Hour	7	8	9 Lenten feria. Low Mass with healing 9:30 a.m. in the Chapel Vestry Meeting – 7:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall	10 Lenten Program – 6 p.m.	11	12
13 Palm Sunday Morning Prayer – 7.45 Low Mass – 8 Solemn Mass – 10 Coffee Hour	14 Low Mass at the Lady Altar – 7:30 p.m.	15 Low Mass at the Lady Altar – 7:30 p.m.	16 Wednesday in Holy Week. Low Mass with healing at 9:30 a.m. in the Chapel Low Mass at the Lady Altar – 7:30 p.m.	17 Maundy Thursday Liturgy – 7:30 p.m.	18 Good Friday Liturgy – 7:30 p.m.	19 Great Vigil and First Mass of Easter – 8 p.m.; reception following
20 Easter Day Morning Prayer – 7.45 Low Mass – 8 Solemn Mass – 10 No Coffee Hour	21 Easter Monday – Parish Office Closed	22	23 Wednesday in Easter Week. Low Mass with healing at 9:30 a.m. in the Chapel	24	25 Supper Club outing – 7 p.m. at the American Ale House	26
27 Low Sunday Morning Prayer – 7.45 Low Mass – 8 High Mass – 10 No Coffee Hour	28 7 p.m. – Men's Group	29	30 Eastertide feria. Low Mass with healing at 9:30 a.m. in the Chapel	Notes:		

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

120 WEST LAMB STREET

BELLEFONTE, PA 16823

Office: 814.355.0497

Fax: 814.355.3981

Parish Email:

stjohnsepiscopal@comcast.net

Parish Website:

www.stjohnsepiscopal-bellefonte.org

*St. John's is a parish in the
Diocese of Central Pennsylvania,
The Right Reverend Nathan
Baxter, Bishop*

PARISH CLERGY

The Rev. Christopher V. Pyles, Rector
cvpyles@aol.com
215.870.4809 (cell) (Off Tuesdays)

The Rev. Alex Dyakiw, Deacon
deaconalex@gmail.com
814.883.0430 (cell)

PARISH STAFF

Sara Witmer, Secretary
Barbara Roberson, Treasurer
E. Kay Putnam, Organist/Choir Director
Terence Riley, Sexton

LAY LEADERS

Larry Roberson, Senior Warden
Charlie Hilderbrand, Jr., Junior Warden
Ellen Dyakiw, Director of Sunday School
Charles E. Maurukas, Acolyte Director

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120 WEST LAMB STREET
BELLEFONTE, PA 16823**



**NAME
STREET ADDRESS
CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE**