



Rector's Letter

Dear Friends in Christ:

Perhaps some of you are like me - still catching your breath after the extraordinary series of services leading up to Easter. A highlight for me was the significantly fuller church for the Vigil, which made for an even more festive party afterwards!

Obviously, Holy Week and Easter do not "just happen" at church - the time and effort of a large number of people enable us all to worship more fully. So in particular, I'd like to thank the Altar Guild, the Altar Servers, and E. Kay Putnam and the choir. Many hands (and voices) helped to make the season more sacred.

Most people know that the Easter Vigil Party - which was every bit as spectacular as always, thanks to the efforts of Nancy Andrews, Sara & Harry Witmer, and Mike Fitzgerald, to say nothing of the MANY talented cooks whose contributions facilitated such good fellowship and hospitality - was the last event held in the parish hall before it closed for renovation. Already, Junior Warden Charlie Hilderbrand has removed the drop ceiling; contractor Alexandr Vovchenko (who repainted the church and restored the rectory after the water incident) has begun his work of drywalling. Period chandeliers - which will hang from the wagon-wheel style medallions we discovered above the drop ceiling - have been purchased, and will be making their way to the church soon.

We are awaiting a bid from a different contractor to see whether it will be possible to air condition the parish hall. The floor will be a separate project. We are grateful to AA for relocating their meetings to the church while this phase of the work is going on; we hope we will be able to use the hall again by the end of May.

Although a project of this magnitude is very significant in the life of the parish, there is much more going on at St. John's described in the pages that follow. I encourage you to read them, and to plan to be with us for worship during the Great Fifty Days of Easter and beyond.

I look forward to seeing you in church.

Faithfully yours,

(The Rev.) Christopher V. Pyles

NURSERY OPENS ON MAY 4

At long last, St. John's will be opening a nursery on May 4! Using the space directly across from the parish office in the undercroft, infants and toddlers will now have a place to go - with supervision - during the 10:00 service. Paid nursery workers will be with us from a little before 10:00 until after the service is over. However, parent or grandparent volunteers are encouraged to take turns helping out in the nursery as needed. Claire Cox has been making many of the final arrangements to get the nursery open; if you'd like to help, or if you have questions, please email her at oldmaid42@aol.com or call her at 717-572-2611. Thanks, Claire, for all the work you've done to get the nursery up and running!

MOTHER'S DAY TEA AT THE REYNOLDS MANSION

Our friends at the Reynolds Mansion have asked us to publicize a Mother's Day Tea they are offering, with three seatings on Mother's Day weekend: Saturday, May 10th at 1 p.m., and Sunday, May 11th at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Cost is \$20 per person. Sweet and savory treats along with a selection of fine teas will be served in their elegant dining room. Reservations are required; their number is 814-353-8407. Seating is limited, so call soon to reserve a place for you and Mom!



ST. JOHN'S TO HOST ASCENSION DAY SERVICE ON MAY 29

Ascension Day comes 40 days after Easter – this year falling on Thursday, May 29. It is our turn to host our friends from St. Andrew's, State College. A Solemn Mass will be celebrated at St. John's that evening at 7:30. The choir from St. Andrew's will join us, along with members of their parish. EVERYONE from St. John's is strongly encouraged to be present that evening to welcome our fellow Episcopalians – members of our companion parish. If our fellowship hall is not yet ready, we are considering holding the reception on the rectory porch. Please plan to be present!

MOTHER'S DAY CHILDREN IN WORSHIP ON MAY 11

Please plan to be in church on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 11. All women in the congregation will receive a rose that day, and there will be a children's sermon and child involvement in the service.

SUPPER CLUB OUTING ON MAY 30

The May Supper Club outing will be to the Red Horse Tavern in Pleasant Gap. A sign up sheet will soon be appearing on the table in the back of the church. All are welcome!

PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY SUNDAYS MAY 18, 25, JUNE 1

St. John's will continue our recent project of collecting jars of peanut butter and jelly, to be donated to the FaithCentre Food Bank in time for school summer recess. Collection dates will be May 18, 25, and June 1. Watch for details in coming Sunday bulletins.

BISHOP BAXTER RETIRING

The Right Reverend Nathan D. Baxter, our diocesan bishop since 2006, will be retiring at the end of May. A Celebration of Ministry service will take place at St. Stephen's Cathedral on Saturday, May 3, at 11 a.m. While the bishop formally leaves office at the end of May, Saturday's event will be our opportunity as a diocese to bid him farewell. The preacher will be the Right Reverend Michael Curry, Bishop of North Carolina, one of the most dynamic preachers in the Episcopal Church today. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.

DIOCESAN CONVENTION: JUNE 13-14 AT THE STATE COLLEGE RAMADA

Although Bishop Baxter is retiring, we will not be left without an episcopal presence: the Right Reverend Robert Gepert, retired bishop of Western Michigan, has been asked by our Standing Committee to serve our diocese while we search for a new bishop. Bishop Gepert is expected to be elected to a term of about a year and a half at the June convention in State College. This year, our lay delegates to diocesan convention are Carol Fyfe, Dr. Karen Harvey, and Senior Warden Larry Roberson.

While Ascension Day is the greatest feast of May, it is not the only one. On May 31 is the feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary - the commemoration of Mary's visit to her cousin Elizabeth, as described in the first chapter of Luke's gospel. The ten verses of Luke read at Mass that day (1:39-49) contain a generous portion of the *Angelus* and of the *Magnificat*: "Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb," and "My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior, for he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden..."

Additionally, the Monday to Wednesday prior to the Ascension are the Rogation Days, when the focus of our prayers is to ask God to bless the crops. At St. John's, the Wednesday Mass on May 28 will use Rogation Day propers (scripture readings).

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN...TIME TO CUT THE GRASS AT THE CHURCH! St. John's is dependent on the generosity of our members to keep our grounds looking great all summer long. An anonymous mower has already cut our grass once; a sign-up sheet is now on the table in the back to give everyone a chance. You may bring your own mower or make arrangements through Mike Fitzgerald in the parish office to use the church's. Many thanks in advance!

LAY MINISTRIES SCHEDULE – MAY 2014**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS**

	8 a.m.	10 a.m.
May 4 Easter III	Cyrus Lanager	Kathryn Grossman Cyrus Lanager (cassock & cotta)
May 11 Easter IV	Deacon Dyakiw	Deacon Dyakiw Charles Hilderbrand Jr. (cassock alb)
May 18 Easter V	Deacon Dyakiw	Deacon Dyakiw Jason Dench (cassock alb)
May 25 Easter VI	Scott Mauger	Deacon Dyakiw Sara Witmer (cassock alb)
May 29 Ascension Day		Deacon Dyakiw David Cree (cassock alb)

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

May 4 Easter III	Book/Server Crucifer Torches	Bryan Hough Charles Hilderbrand, Jr. Tina Scott, Christine Holt
May 11 Easter IV	Book/Server Crucifer Torches	Charles Maurukas Steve Dillon Christine Holt, Jason Dench
May 18 Easter V	Book/Server Crucifer Torches	Steve Dillon Charles Hilderbrand, Jr. Tina Scott, Bryan Hough
May 25 Easter VI	Book/Server Crucifer Torches	Charles Maurukas Steve Dillon Jason Dench, Christine Holt
May 29 Ascension Day	Book/Server Crucifer Torches Thurifer	Bryan Hough Steve Dillon Jason Dench, Tina Scott Charles Maurukas

May 2014						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 Community Lunch, 10 a.m., Presbyterian Church.	3 Bishop Baxter farewell service at St. Stephen's Cathedral, 11 a.m.
4 Easter III. MP at 7:45; Low Mass at 8; Sung Mass at 10	5	6	7 Low Mass at 9:30 in the Chapel. Eastertide feria.	8	9	10
11 Easter IV. MP at 7:45; Low Mass at 8; Sung Mass at 10	12 Men's Club at 7 p.m.	13	14 Low Mass at 9:30 in the Chapel. Eastertide feria.	15	16	17
18 Easter V. MP at 7:45; Low Mass at 8; Sung Mass at 10	19 Men's Club at 7 p.m.	20	21 Low Mass at 9:30 in the Chapel. Eastertide feria. Vestry Meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the rectory.	22	23	24
25 Easter VI. MP at 7:45; Low Mass at 8; Sung Mass at 10	26 Men's Club at 7 p.m.	27	28 Low Mass at 9:30 in the Chapel. Rogation Day.	29 Ascension Day. Solemn Mass at 7:30.	30 Supper Club outing to the Red Horse Tavern at 7 p.m.	31

ALTAR GUILD SCHEDULE

May 10 through May 16	-	M. Jones, B. Shugert
May 17 through May 23	-	M. Jones, B. Shugert
May 24 through May 30	-	J. Jackson, P. Jackson
May 31 through June 6	-	J. Jackson, P. Jackson

VESTRY COLLECTION COUNTERS
 Karen Harvey & Mike Fitzgerald



NO COFFEE HOUR WHILE WORK IS BEING DONE IN THE PARISH HALL.



May 1	-	Avery North
May 3	-	Bette Shugert
May 6	-	Karen Harvey
May 7	-	Elizabeth Helms
May 11	-	Andreea King
May 20	-	Michael Duminiak
May 25	-	Dean Zong
May 31	-	Kay Putnam

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

**120 WEST LAMB STREET
BELLEFONTE, PA 16823**

Office: 814.355.0497

Fax: 814.355.3981

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stjohnsepiscopal@comcast.net

Parish Website:

www.stjohnsepiscopal-bellefonte.org



St. John's Episcopal Church-
Bellefonte, PA

*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
Charles Hilderbrand, Jr., Junior Warden
Ellen Dyakiw, Director of Sunday School
Charles E. Maurukas, Acolyte Director

**ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
120 WEST LAMB STREET
BELLEFONTE, PA 16823**



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