



RECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Friends in Christ:

It's difficult to know what to write in my final Rector's Letter to you. It feels strange to attempt to summarize our six and a half years together in a page or so, especially since there will be a time for reflection after church on May 21. So here, let me limit myself to a few specific recent highlights, at least from my perspective, along with some thoughts about what's ahead, in the near- and interim-term.

As I write this two weeks after Easter, my feelings about that morning in church have not changed. It was the best Easter of my life. Those of you who shared the 10:00 service with me that day already know why: The music was utterly transcendent. There is no way to sufficiently thank Erik Clayton, and our choir regulars, Rebecca Clayton, Olivia Lusk, David Schmiech, and Sean Toso, for the extraordinary amount of material they learned and brilliantly offered to the greater glory of God. The guest singers and brass added a rich luster to our core group, enabling the amplification of their already strong effort. Liturgical music is meant to enhance our worship experience – to draw us deeper into the act, and to be our best offering of corporate praise. Our choir helps to transport us into God's nearer presence each week, but never more fully or completely than they did on Easter Day. I can't thank them enough.

A substantial percentage of the congregation on Easter Day was children. This should be no surprise, as the Sunday school record we set on the third Sunday of Lent – 19 children – is a sure sign of strength in the program that has been so carefully cultivated and nurtured by Ellen Dyakiw. Ellen has all the best qualities of an educator: good intuition; a way of anticipating any potentiality; and being flexible and adaptable, in addition to her excellent pedagogy. Clearly her approach is working: not only have the children of new families found a home in our undercroft Sunday school space, but a new generation is waiting in the wings: a nursery full of children who, before long, will be ready to cross the threshold into the classroom. It is an exciting thing to have watched unfold and grow stronger by the year, with the enthusiastic and faithful support of so many parents and grandparents, whose continued involvement makes our program possible.

In conversations I've had with some of you about my leaving, anxiety about the future has been expressed. I've reminded everyone that there were similar feelings, which are natural, in the summer of 2009 – the last time the rector's office at St. John's was vacant. Then, as will be the case *this* summer, a smart, dedicated team of representatives of the parish will embrace the task of thoughtfully but intensively searching for a new priest. They will not stop until the right priest is found.

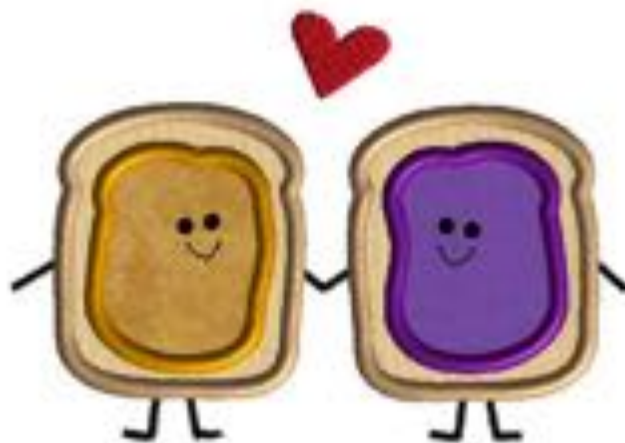
St. John's is not a generic Episcopal church – nor should it be. There are too many things about this place that are special and unique for it to be labeled broadly or non-specifically. What goes on here will appeal to the right priest, just as it appeals to the right people. Make no mistake: the Holy Spirit is significantly involved in "clergy deployment" – bringing the right clergy person together with the right church. Have faith that this will happen. The schedule of the fulfillment of this work is known to God alone, but God's presence abides during the interim period, more than ever.

You will hear this from me again, but let me tell you now what a privilege it has been for me to be your rector. Every church takes a bit of a risk when it calls a new priest, especially one whose only experience was as a curate. But you have always been gracious, supportive, thoughtful, and responsive to new ideas and new opportunities. And, you have worked hard, been generous, looked to the future, and been unafraid to be different. You have blessed me immeasurably, and richly. For all that and much more, you have my unyielding thanks.

With grateful affection,

The Rev. Christopher V. Pyles

PEANUT (OR SOY NUT OR SUNFLOWER) BUTTER AND JELLY SUNDAYS BEGIN MAY 7



Once again this year, we are collecting jars of PB & J to take to the FaithCentre for distribution to families with children who will soon be home from school and in need of lunch. In light of the ubiquity of nut allergies, we are receiving non-nut butters for those families with that need. Please leave your jars in the large box in the back, and we will handle the rest. Thank you for your participation and generosity.

CHOIR SEASON DRAWING TO A CLOSE



The regular choir season will end in early June. In response to a request to maintain some choral presence during the summer, contributions are now being received. Choral music is not part of the parish budget – it is funded entirely through the generous contributions of parishioners. If you would like to support a weekly soloist in the summer, use a “Summer Soloist” envelope from the table in the back, and drop it into the collection plate. A little goes a long way: \$200 would fund an entire month, and \$850 would fund the entire summer, although any gift will be gratefully received. The choir will return in full on October 1.

ONE SERVICE AT 10 A.M. ON MAY 21

There will be a single service, a Solemn Mass, on May 21 at 10 a.m., with a reception following in the parish hall to say goodbye to Father Chris. Everyone is encouraged to attend the service, and invited to the farewell luncheon afterwards.

VESTRY TRANSITIONS

In preparation for his move to join Shannon in Virginia in June, Junior Warden **Charlie Hilderbrand** resigned from the vestry at the meeting on April 19. At the same meeting, members elected **Jim Jackson** as the new Junior Warden. Lastly, the vestry elected **Matt Perkins** to fill the remainder of Charlie’s term. Matt will be seated at the May 17 meeting. We thank Charlie, Jim, and Matt for their vestry service to St. John’s!

BREAKFAST FEEDING MINISTRY

After providing a hot breakfast nearly every Thursday morning for two years, the Breakfast Feeding Ministry served its last meal on April 27. This ministry, led by Charlie Hilderbrand, was St. John’s most visible outreach mission to our community. Additionally, while many parishioners faithfully volunteered to help Charlie on Thursday mornings through serving, clearing, and washing up, **Myrna Alterio** deserves

recognition and our thanks for being present as often as Charlie, and for supporting this ministry to the fullest extent possible.

We hope this is not the end of a feeding program at St. John’s. Preliminary discussions have taken place, and will continue in the month of May, about the possibility of a Thursday dinner program that would operate out of St. John’s parish hall. A proposal to gauge support of neighboring churches will be made at the Bellefonte Council of Churches meeting this month. If you might be interested in supporting this new endeavor, speak with Charlie Hilderbrand, Deacon Alex, or Larry Roberson.

A BUSY MOTHERS’ DAY AT ST. JOHN’S



Our next children-in-worship service is planned for 10:00 on **May 14**. At that Mass, we will bless the Jared Boxes that Sunday school families have been making and filling since Lent. The boxes will then be taken to Mt. Nittany Hospital to be distributed to children who are there to receive treatment for serious illnesses.

At a special coffee hour that day, we will have our annual **Corned Beef Hash and Egg breakfast** in honor of Mothers’ Day. All are welcome, and there is no charge, although a free will offering will be taken, and donated to the FaithCentre. Please join us!



COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

May 7	Tina Scott
May 14	Corned Beef Hash & Egg Mothers' Day Lunch
May 21	Reserved
May 28	No Coffee Hour - Holiday Weekend

MAY COLLECTION COUNTERS

John Fusco & Bette Shugert

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

	8 a.m.	10 a.m.
May 7 Easter IV	Dcn Dyakiw	Dcn Dyakiw C. Fyfe
May 14 Easter V	Dcn Dyakiw	Dcn Dyakiw C.Hilderbrand
May 21 Easter VI	No 8:00 Mass	Dcn Dyakiw S. Mauger
May 28 Sunday after the Ascension	S. Mauger	Dcn Dyakiw D. Cree

ALTAR SERVERS' ROTA - 10 A.M. MASSES

May 7 Easter IV	Book/Server Crucifer Torchbearers	T. Scott S. Dillon C. Holt TBA
May 14 Easter V	Book/Server Crucifer Torchbearers	T. Scott TBA TBA
May 21 Easter VI	Book Server Crucifer Torchbearers Thurifer	S. Dillon T. Scott TBA TBA C.Hilderbrand

 May 28 Book/Server T. Scott
 Sunday after Crucifer S. Dillon
 the Ascension Torchbearers C. Holt
 G.Hilderbrand

BIRTHDAYS

 May 1 - Avery North
 May 3 - Bette Shugert,
 Genavieve Clayton
 May 6 - Karen Harvey
 May 7 - Elizabeth Helms,
 Chris Lykens
 May 20 - Mike Duminiak
 May 23 - Ryder Lykens,
 Addizyn Lykens
 May 25 - Dean Zong
 May 28 - Erik Clayton,
 Abigail Fetters



May 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 Low Mass with healing in the Chapel, 9:30	4	5 Community Lunch at the Presbyterian Church, 10:30 a.m.	6
7 Easter IV MP 7:45 Mass 8 Sung Mass 10 Coffee Hour	8 7 pm Men's Group	9	10 Low Mass with healing in the Chapel, 9:30	11	12	13 Safeguarding God's Children training at St. Andrew's, 1 – 3:30
14 Easter V MP 7:45, Mass 8, Sung Mass 10 Corned Beef Hash & Egg Mothers' Day lunch Children in Worship	15 7 pm Men's Group	16	17 Low Mass with healing in the Chapel, 9:30 Vestry Meeting at 7:30 in the parish hall	18	19	20
21 Easter VI Solemn Mass 10 Luncheon Reception in Parish Hall	22 7 pm Men's Group	23	24	25	26	27
28 Sunday after the Ascension MP 7:45 Mass 8 Sung Mass 10 No Coffee Hour - Holiday Weekend	29 Memorial Day (office closed)	30				