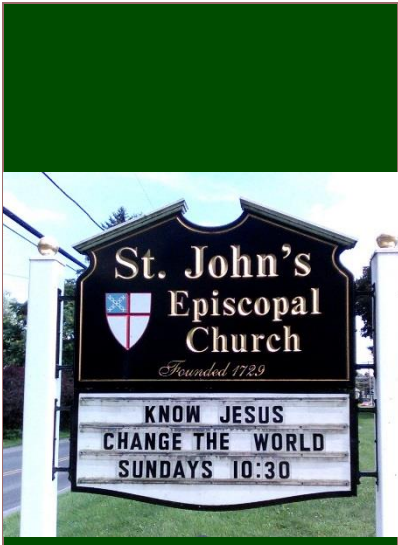


The Compass



... Pointing People toward Christ



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FALL 2018



The Episcopal Church's 79th General Convention convened in Austin, Texas, July 5-13. This triennial event brings laypersons, deacons, priests, and bishops together to determine the future direction for the Church.



According to the Episcopal News Service, members of the House of

Deputies and the House of Bishops set a new record for resolutions while also passing a \$134 million budget focused on the priorities laid out by our Presiding Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Michael Curry.

The Episcopal Church in Cuba was readmitted to "the family." There were resolutions focused on the environment, racial reconciliation, immigration, and a response to gun violence. In the wake of the #metoo movement, the bishops confessed the church's participation in sexual harassment. Delegates also pledged a renewed commitment to evangelism. **Evangelism** is basically the common vision to which Bishop Daniel Gutiérrez has called the

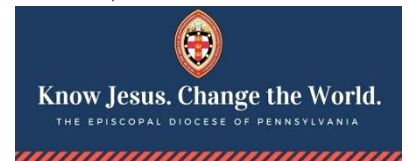
Diocese of Pennsylvania: **"To know Jesus and change the world."**

The passage of A227 calls for the establishment of a Task Force on "Communion Across Differences" (equally staffed by traditionalists and progressives), tasked with finding ways for both traditionalists and progressives to work together, to the extent possible, with a sense of integrity in The Episcopal Church.

Resolution A068 preserved the 1979 BCP marriage rite and preamble; the current psalter and liturgies; the Trinitarian formularies; the Lambeth Quadrilateral; and the Historic Documents. However, the resolution does allow for Dioceses under the direction and approval of their Bishop, to develop new rites and new language for trial use. Meanwhile, Episcopal congregations are permitted to use versions of the current Eucharistic prayers that embrace "expansive language" to characterize humanity and God.

The Anglican/Episcopal Communion includes over 80 million Christians who are members of 45 different Churches, 39 of which are member churches (also called Provinces) and 6 other national or local churches known as Extra Provincials, spread across the globe in over 165 countries.

The Episcopal Church is not defined by confessional faith statements (beyond the Nicene, Apostle's, and Athanasian Creeds). Rather, we are unified through our faith in **Jesus Christ and Holy Scripture**, and our shared use of *The Book of Common Prayer* (itself a repository of faith over the centuries).



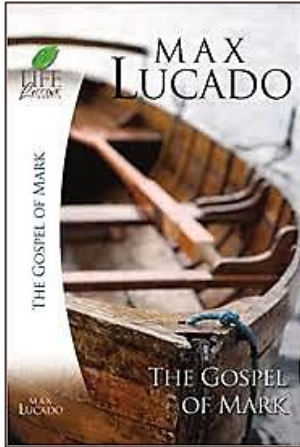
Historically, the **"Four Instruments of Communion"** for all Anglicans have been: 1) **The Archbishop of Canterbury** (and his leadership); 2) **The Lambeth Conference** (a worldwide conference of bishops that takes place every 10 years); 3) **The Anglican Consultative Council** (comprised of laity and clergy, meets every 3 years and seeks to serve the needs of member churches); 4) **The Primates' Meeting** (chaired by the Archbishop of Canterbury, a meeting of the chief Archbishops, Presiding Bishops, Moderators and chief pastors of the 39 provinces gather for "thought, prayer, and consultation").

Please remember to pray for our Church, – which is always first and foremost, the Church of Jesus Christ, not us.

Yours in His love, Mother Nina +

ADULT BIBLE STUDY RESUMES

Wednesdays, from September 12 through November 28, Noon to 1 pm, we are studying the Gospel of Mark, using Max Lucado's *Life Lessons* series.



Anyone is welcome to attend, and you don't have to come to every class.



You may have noticed a lot of books all over the place, downstairs. Our newest member, **James Hershey**, is in the process of re-organizing the parish library to make it user-friendly.

In September, the Vestry voted to create a new Library "nook" in the corner of the Parish Hall nearest the bathrooms. To create a small area for reading, relaxing, and socializing, the area will be furnished with bookshelves, furniture and a carpet.

New in the Library this Fall:

"Gospel Reset: Salvation Made Relevant," by Ken Ham. *"This book will help you effectively share a message of salvation with your children, grandchildren, friends, neighbors, and others, in a way that actually makes sense."*

"Living with Thorns: A Biblical Survival Guide," by Mary Ann Froehlich. The author asks: *"Like the apostle Paul, do you have a thorn in your life that just won't go away—no matter how many times you've asked God to remove it? Maybe you are troubled by a strained relationship, a chronic illness, the death of a loved one, a difficult marriage, depression, an addiction, a past abuse—or even a combination of these."*

She suggests, "perhaps instead of asking 'why' we should be asking 'who'" as we turn to *God who speaks to us through our affliction, using our thorns to draw us closer to Him.*



*Ladies, Join us for **Blingo!***

Saturday, October 13 in the Parish Hall of St. John's Church, doors will open at **1:00 pm**, with the first game at starting at **1:30 pm**.



You'll have a chance to win beautiful jewelry from the 2018

Fall/Winter Collection by **Premier Designs.**

Admission and your first "Blingo" card are free. Additional cards are \$1 each, and *all*

money collected will be donated to a worthy cause: St. John's organ fund.



Come and enjoy free refreshments and an afternoon of fun with friends.

For more information, contact **Terri Fant 717-371-4662** or **Suzanne Turpin 484-354-6545.**



Join us for **Taizé-style services of Worship and Prayer** on **Saturdays, October 20 and December 15 at 7:00 pm.**



These informal, candlelit services feature inspirational Scripture readings, easy-to-sing uplifting chants, prayer, and peaceful, meditative silence.

It's the perfect opportunity to invite an unchurched friend or neighbor—and to decompress from stress!



In honor of **St. Francis of Assisi** (his Feast Day is October 4), on **Sunday, October 7 at 2:00 pm**, we will hold our annual **Blessing of the Animals Service** in St. John's parking lot.

Bring your pet to receive a blessing and a treat. There will be "people treats" too.



All animals should be leashed or in a carrier. For those that do not play well with others or are too nervous to travel, bring their **photo** to be blessed.

Invite friends and neighbors to this fun event that is becoming a St. John's tradition.



The **235th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania** has been set for the evening of Friday, November 9 and will conclude on Saturday, November 10, 2018.



The Convention will be held at the Philadelphia Episcopal Cathedral.

Our Rector, along with **Lay Deputies, Cynthia Boyd, Steve Boyd, and Tom Rohrer** will attend, representing St. John's parish.

Kindly keep them—as well as our bishops and all those attending the Convention—in your prayers.



On Sunday, September 2, we were blessed to celebrate the **Sacrament of Holy Baptism** for **James Hershey**. He is the son of Clair and Pamela Hershey, owners/managers of Hershey's Farm Market on the Octorara Trail near Parkesburg, where James is employed.

Robin Baldwin and Tom Rohrer were James' sponsors for Baptism, and his family and friends attended.

James loves to read books and is in the process of reorganizing our parish library.



Sunday, November 18, our Guest Preacher will be **the Rev. Canon Kirk Berlenbach, Diocesan Canon for Growth and Support.**



Please plan to welcome him warmly. We'll be serving a potluck lunch; see the sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall to bring a dish to share.

The Vestry has approved a search for a **Youth Ministry Assistant**. On August 30, Mother Nina interviewed



a terrific University of Valley Forge sophomore. She would be an ideal candidate—but she doesn't have a car. Please keep this in your prayers!

Organ Search Moves Forward



For the past year, at the request of the Vestry, our Organist, Rick Hacker, has been searching for the right new instrument for St. John's Church.

He tried out several models from manufacturers **Allen** (in Dallas-town) and **Rodgers** (in Ephrata), settling on one from each that would be appropriate. Both organs are comparable in cost and features, with differing options for customer service. Rick shared the proposals with the Vestry for their review and consideration.

At the September meeting, the Vestry authorized Rick to move forward in negotiations with **Rodgers** for their **Inspire Series 233 model** (shown below).



As of August 2018, the **Organ Fund was at \$22,595**. We will need approximately **\$11,000** more to complete the purchase. Donations large and small are welcome!

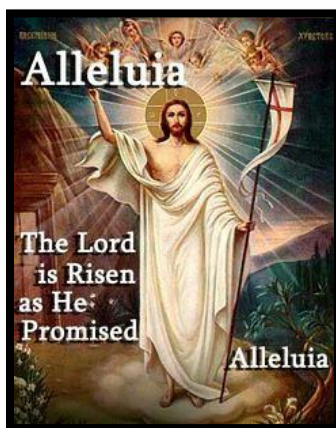


The **Lunch Bunch** will meet again on **Thursday, October 25 at 11:30 am**, at the **Country Squire Restaurant** in New Holland.

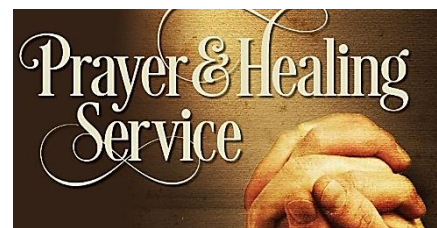


Linda Zynn is the hostess. For more information, contact her at 717-355-5013.

Franciscans of the Risen Christ



We continue to meet monthly for worship, prayer, study, discussion, fellowship, and missional outreach. Anyone may attend our gatherings to learn about us. If you'd like more information, talk with **the Rector, Cynthia Boyd, Pat Owens, Tom Rohrer, or Suzanne Turpin**.



Join us on **Saturday, November 17 at 7 pm** for a **Service of Prayer & Healing** adapted from the Episcopal Church's *Book of Occasional Services*. The Gospel will tell of Jesus healing people; there will be comforting hymns; anointing with laying-on-of-hands and prayer for healing; and Communion from the Reserved Sacrament. Come and intercede for yourself, or receive prayer for a loved one.



Begin your Thanksgiving holiday with praise and thanksgiving to God, from whom all blessings flow. Our **Thanksgiving Eve Service** will be on **Wednesday, November 21 at 7:00 pm**.

Christmas is Coming!



Mark your calendars:

Monday, December 24 at 7:00 pm, Vigil of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ—candlelight **Christmas Eve Mass**.

Tuesday, December 25 at 10:30 a.m., Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ—**Christmas Day Mass**.



Birthdays & Anniversaries

OCTOBER

- 10/11 Eileen Holland
- 10/19 Tom Rohrer
- 10/20 Linda Zynn
- 10/23 Cynthia Boyd
- 10/27 Selena Baldwin
- 10/30 James Hershey
- 10/31 Shirley Fisher

Tracy & Nancy Miller Oct. 12

NOVEMBER

- 11/2 Laura Armstrong
- 11/3 Leslie Yarnall
- 11/7 Emily Hoskins
- 11/12 Ruth Ann Pavelik
- 11/17 Frances Smith
- 11/22 Jenny Landis

Jon & Kathy Strattan Nov. 2

John & Jane Strattan Nov. 6

DECEMBER

- 12/5 Emily Miller
- 12/7 Jennifer Baldwin
- 12/8 Elizabeth Harper
- 12/29 Matilda Harrington

Kurt & Susan Gansauer Dec. 19



God Blessed Us with a Great Vacation Bible School on July 14!

This summer, 23 children registered (double the 2017 count), and 17 attended. Having fun with **"Panda-Mania!"** and drawing on the Old Testament stories of God creating the world; Elijah and the prophets of Baal; and Jonah & the Whale, we learned that:

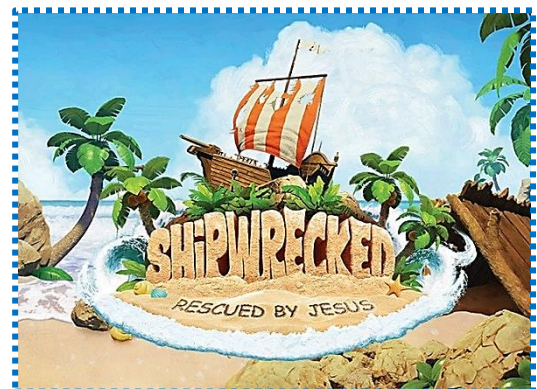
God creates you; God listens to you; and God cares about you.



We were delighted to have 11 adult volunteer leaders and 3 older youth that assisted very capably.



We were all so "pumped" with excitement over how well this year's VBS went, we've already planned for **2019** (date to be announced), when we'll offer:



Outreach Update



St. John's Outreach Team wishes to thank everyone who so generously donated used eyeglasses during the spring and summer months. We had an enormous collection which Debbie Martin took to our local Lions' Club's "Recycling for Sight" Program.

Throughout the year, Lions, Leos and other volunteers collect used eyeglasses and deliver them to regional Lions Eyeglass Recycling Centers (LERCs). LERC volunteers clean, sort by prescription strength and package the glasses. Recycled glasses are distributed to needy people in low- and middle-income communities where they will have the greatest impact.

Octorara Area Food Cupboard



During the summer, we had asked for donations of food and school supplies for the Octorara Area Food Cupboard.

Our Vacation Bible

School kids contributed canned fruit as part of their missional outreach.

The rest of the congregation stepped up to provide **133 pounds of food**—in addition to a load of school supplies.



May God bless you for your generosity!

Parish PICNIC

On July 22, we enjoyed our second Picnic Sunday at the Garden Spot Pavilion, and we thank Mary Lou & Paul Weaver for reserving it for us again in 2019. (Unfortunately, we did not take any photos in 2018.)

CPR TRAINING

Get trained. Save a life. You'll be glad you did.

At least 10 members of St. John's Church have signed up for **CPR Training** and instructions for using our **AED machine**. An automated external defibrillator (AED) is a portable electronic device that automatically diagnoses the life-threatening cardiac arrhythmias of ventricular fibrillation and pulseless ventricular tachycardia. It is able to treat these through defibrillation—the application of electricity which stops the arrhythmia, allowing the heart to reestablish an effective rhythm.

With simple audio and visual commands, AEDs are designed to be easy to use by laypersons, and the use of AEDs is taught in many first aid and basic life support-level CPR classes.

Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) is an emergency procedure that combines chest compressions, sometimes with artificial ventilation, in an effort to manually preserve intact brain function until further measures are taken to restore spontaneous blood circulation and breathing in a person who is in cardiac arrest.

Hank Fant will be providing information on date, time, and location of the training.

Parish Fun !



On August 4, 23 St. John's members, family, and friends attended a **Lancaster**

Barnstormers' double-header baseball game. We had such a good time together, our Social-Events Coordinator **Bob Yarnall** is hoping to assemble another group to attend a **Reading Royals hockey game**, this fall. *Stay tuned for more information.*

