



# St. John's Episcopal Express

"The Beautiful Stone Church At The Top Of The Park"  
April 2009

St. John's Church of Palmerton (610) 826-2611 365 Lafayette Avenue, Palmerton, PA 18071

Volume 2

www.StJohnsPalmerton.com

Number 4



## VESTRY MEMBERS

- Bob Koons  
Sr. Warden/ Choir  
Worship
- Deb Craig  
Jr. Warden/OutReach  
Pastoral Care/Altar
- Paula Seiler  
Vestry Secretary/  
Christian Ed
- Shari Noctor  
Finance/Evangelism  
Fellowship
- Joan Nothstein  
Stewardship
- Kent Stauffer  
Sexton/Youth Group
- Richard Webb  
Finance/Property
- Neil Green  
Property/CACPAC
- Kyle Cebrosky  
Youth Group/  
Acolytes
- Jr. Vestry  
Brandon Mazepa  
Youth Group

## April Worship & Events Scheduled

**Sundays: Holy Eucharist 8:00 am & 10:30 am Sunday School: 9:00 am**  
**Wednesday: Holy Eucharist - Noon**  
**Weeknights: Prayer/Meditation through April 8th 6:30 pm**



### † PALM SUNDAY- April 5<sup>th</sup>

**ONE SERVICE 9:30am**  
 Starting at the Gazebo-procession with the Donkey to the church for worship, followed by Brunch.

### † MAUNDY THURSDAY-April 9<sup>th</sup>

Potluck Supper at **5:30 pm**  
 (Bring a dish to share)  
 Worship service includes optional Washing of the feet and stripping of the Altar at **7:00pm**



### † GOOD FRIDAY -April 10<sup>th</sup>

CACPAC is holding a "Walking Stations of the Cross" outdoors from **1 pm to 3:30 pm**, beginning at the gazebo in the park and ending at St. John's Memorial Garden, the ninth station. As we will be walking short distances from station to station around town (a radius of about 2 blocks) you are free to join the group at any point.

Indoor "Stations of the Cross" in St John's at **7pm.**

### † HOLY SATURDAY-April 11<sup>th</sup>

Easter Vigil Service at **5:3<sup>am</sup>**  
 Easter Egg Hunt at **6 pm**  
 Easter Prayer Vigil **6-9 pm**



### † EASTER SUNDAY-April 12<sup>th</sup>

Holy Eucharist at **8:00 am and 10:30 am**

### † Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup>

Property Commission Meeting , 7pm

### † Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup>

Bible Study at Bob Koons at 7pm

### † Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup> CANCELLED

Fun and Games for Kids and Parents, 4-6pm

### † Thursday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>

Community Dinner 4pm to 6pm

### † Thursday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>

Bible Study at Bob Koons at 7pm

### † Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>

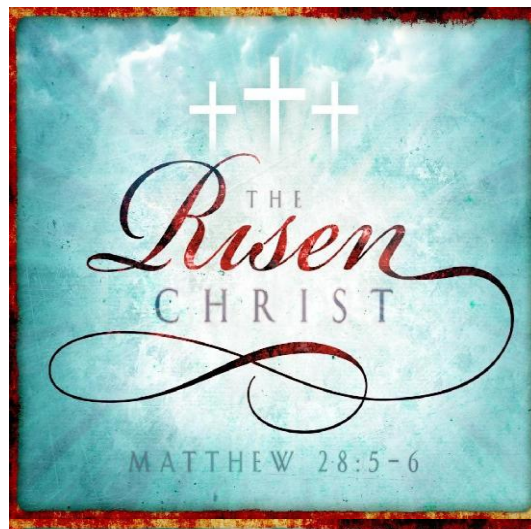
Evangelism/Stewardship Workshop 9:00am

### † Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>

Fun and Games for Kids and Parents, 4-6pm

### † Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup>

Carwash and Bake Sale 11:00- 4:00pm





## **“He is not here, He is risen!”**

April heralds the joy in nature, with sprouting green leaves on the dead trees and plants, and songs of joy and thankfulness from birds around our yards. In our Christian faith around the globe, faithful people celebrate the passion and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. Resurrection is not only the life after death, but it is the life that bursts forth in Jesus' suffering.

The power of resurrection is explicitly hidden in His suffering. A crowd led by Judas Iscariot came to Gethsemane: 'Then Jesus came forward and said to them, 'Whom do you seek? They answered Him "Jesus of Nazareth.' Jesus said to them, 'I am he'. When he said to them "I am he" they drew back and fell to the ground. Again he asked them, "Whom do you seek?" And they said 'Jesus of Nazareth.' Jesus answered, 'I told you that I am he, if you seek me let these men go.' (John 18: 4-8) Evidently when Jesus was being handed over to suffering, he manifested his glory. "Whom do you seek?... I am he' are words which echo to Moses' days and the burning bush: 'I am the one. I am who I am' (Exodus 3: 1-6).

In Gethsemane the Glory of God manifested itself, and the crowd fell flat on the ground in the garden. Then Jesus was handed over to suffering and death. We see the glory of God who hands himself over to us. God's glory revealed in Jesus constantly embraces his passion as well as resurrection in the human history. Jesus himself said: "I am the resurrection and the life", he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die" (John 11: 25,26).

Resurrection of Jesus is the foundation and promise to his believers. So whenever we celebrate the Passion and Easter, we taste the new life hidden in Christ's glory. Our Christian faith is anchored in life, an unending life. In John's Gospel the word 'life' occurs 33 times, and fifteen of these occasions it is 'eternal life' for it pledges the fact that Jesus incarnated and suffered and resurrected to bring and offer the life to those who believe in him. 'The hour is coming' He said, 'when those in the tombs will hear the voice of the Son, and when they come forth, either to the resurrection of life or the resurrection of judgment' (John 6: 28,29). In him was life (1:4); he came that men might have life, and have it abundantly (John 10:10). This life consists of unperishing eternity as he rescues us from physical death and death of the soul.

The plain fact is that in regard to physical death the man who believes in Jesus Christ dies exactly as any other man dies. Death stays his course for no man, believer or unbeliever. In regard to death, as Epicurus said, all men live in an unfortified city. When Jesus said: 'Whoever lives and believes in me shall never die', he is quite certainly not promising any immunity from physical death. But Jesus offered the life which is beyond perishable as it's the transition from the current lower nature of humanity to the transformed level of life with glory.

Life today comes threatening its many deaths- intellectual death, moral death, spiritual death. But the plain fact is that when life is lived with Jesus, none of these things can happen. Eternal life as we have seen is God's life, and when that life is ours in Christ, life is always victorious and never defeated. He is risen because 'he is the resurrection.' What's the meaning of this? Our relationship with Jesus cannot be broken. He is with us always to the end of time and beyond. The life the Christian lives is nothing less than God's life, so that life can never come to an end. Physical death is powerless to destroy this kind of life. The basis of this life is because of the personal relationship with Jesus Christ, and through him with God. Man has become inextricably and indissolubly linked and united with him who conquered death and with him who is the source of all life and being, and a life such as that cannot be ended by death.

Blessings!

*Father Abraham*

## Birthday

1 - Garry Mack  
4 - Janet Snyder  
5 - Rene Miller  
8 - Teri Mack  
11 - Jacqueline Tracy

## Celebrations Of Life

13 - Jacob Bachert  
19 - Emily Bradbury  
24 - Betty Kaldy  
26 - Joan McKinnon  
29 - Richard Webb

## Anniversaries

5- Ronald & Paulette Cebrosky  
19- Garry & Janice Mack  
20- Neil & Bonnie Green



## Sunday Worship Readings In April

### April 5

Isaiah 50:4-9a  
Psalm 31:9-16  
Philippians 2:5-11  
Mark 14:1-15:47

### April 12

Isaiah 25:6-9  
Psalm 118:1-2,14-24  
I Corinthians 15:1-11  
John 20:1-18

### April 19

Acts 4:32-35  
Psalm 133  
I John 1:1-2:2  
John 20:19-31

### April 26

Acts 3:12-19  
Psalm 4  
I John 3:1-7  
Luke 24:36b-48



## Emanuel our Sponsored Child

Chad Rodrigues, Wayne Allen, Troy George, Christina Hodges, Eric Hesse, who are on active duty with the US military in the Middle East.

## CHUCRH DIRECTORY

A big thank you to all of you who participated in getting your pictures taken on March 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. Our Church is like family. It is always great to see "family" photos and also to remember "Uncle Joe and Aunt Sue" who we haven't seen in a while.

For those of you who ordered pictures, you should receive them before Easter.

A big thank you to Bonnie Green who has done the lion's share of work on this directory. She called every parishioner to tell them about the directory, to schedule their picture, to update their personal information, and to verify what information they wanted published in the directory. With all her hard work, she actually has updated the Church's directory list.

Bonnie and Deb Craig are also working very hard on the layout of the directory itself. The final version will hopefully be in to the Church and ready for distribution by mid July.

For those who did not get pictures taken, you can always submit your favorite. Drop off your favorite snap in the office and Deb will scan it for the directory or email her at [webmaster@stjohnspalmerton.com](mailto:webmaster@stjohnspalmerton.com)

## CACPAC News

St. John's hosted the March 19<sup>th</sup> meeting. Father Abraham led a thought-provoking and spiritual devotion on the Beatitudes for Lent, which was well-received and promoted discussion.

The food bank continues to need mayonnaise, salad dressings, green beans, and personal items. Food items considered non-essential for diet cannot be purchased by government funded money – like cookies, cupcakes, toothpaste, coffee, etc. CACPAC received many boxes of food with the closing of the IGA Golden Key Market and seventy 1 pound hamburger packs from Haydt's Meat market in Kunkletown. Food purchases will now be obtained from Country Harvest.

CACPAC has been made aware of a floating shelter, at churches who would provide meals and sleeping arrangements for homeless families. This is a national organization active in Stroudsburg. It came under discussion as did a newly formed group called Bridge of Hope. This core group has 13 members and will meet at Salem Methodist Church on Tuesday, March 31<sup>st</sup> at 7 PM. This is a mother/mom group, divorced or single, who are looking for mentoring and prayers to help stabilize their needs.

Marilyn Ord, CACPAC Representative

## We heard you...Projects Underway

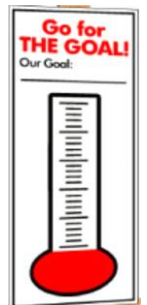
Three lamp posts will be installed along the driveway as soon as the weather breaks. Although it's a driveway, many of us use it to walk up to the church. This will shine a little light on our path for safety.

Speaking of shining a little light... For those of us that are sitting in the darker pews, get prepared to come into the light. As our ceiling lights are aged and far from energy efficient, we have been told it will be harder and harder to replace that type of bulb. When they did need to be replaced, someone would have to crawl up into a small crawlspace in the center of the ceiling to do so. We are going to have 10 pendant lights installed that can be serviced from a step ladder. The light bulbs will be energy efficient with dimming capabilities. These 10 lights will cost \$1,000 each and will be available for memorial plaques to donors.

What did they say? A sound system has also been ordered. No more reason for those in the back not to understand what is being said during our worship services any more. It will be nice also for special events and services.

These projects will be funded through the Building Fund account. If you would like to contribute to one or more of the projects, or have a memorial light, please use your Building Fund Envelopes or note it on your check. All contributions to the Building Fund stay at Saint John's to be used for this type of purpose, so please remember to join in this fund.

We will also be having a special bucket in the back of the church with a "Goal" chart for these projects. Keep an eye on the chart and watch the changes as we donate our change to the projects in progress.



## Sound Familiar?

A man was being tailgated by a stressed out woman on a busy boulevard suddenly, the light turned yellow, just in front of him. He did the right thing, stopping at the crosswalk, even though he could have beaten the red light by accelerating through the intersection.

The tailgating woman was furious and honked her horn, screaming in frustration, as she missed her chance to get through the intersection, dropping her cell phone and makeup.

As she was still in mid-rant, she heard a tap on her window and looked up into the face of a very serious police officer. The officer ordered her to exit her car with her hands up.

He took her to the police station where she was searched, fingerprinted, photographed, and placed in a holding cell. After a couple of hours, a policeman approached the cell and opened the door. She was escorted back to the booking desk where the arresting officer was waiting with her personal effects.

He said, 'I'm very sorry for this mistake. You see, I pulled up behind your car while you were blowing your horn, flipping off the guy in front of you, and cussing a blue streak at him! I noticed the 'What Would Jesus Do' bumper sticker, the 'Choose Life' license plate holder, the 'Follow Me to Sunday-School' bumper sticker, and the chrome-plated *Christian fish* emblem on the trunk; naturally. I assumed you had stolen the car!



## Up coming events

### May

**Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>** - St John's, Palmerton is inviting All Saints, Lehighton and St Stephen's, Whitehall to join us on a bus trip to New York City on Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>. The bus will leave St John's at 8:00 am and St Stephens at 8:30 am.

Our 1<sup>st</sup> stop will be at the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine. This is our Episcopal Cathedral and it is one of the largest of all the denominations in the world. See [www.StJohnDivine.org](http://www.StJohnDivine.org). We should arrive at the Cathedral before 10 am. We are scheduled for a tour of the Cathedral from 10:30-11:30. Holy Eucharist will be from 12:15- 1 pm. You will also have time to go though the Cathedral and the gardens on your own.

We will leave the Cathedral by 1:15 pm. We will then go to St Paul's Chapel [www.Saintpaulschapel.org](http://www.Saintpaulschapel.org) to visit the 9/11 Unwavering Spirit Exhibit. St Paul's is an extension of Trinity Church, which is several blocks away. We will also see the progress of Ground Zero, which is just down the street from St Paul's.

I have been receiving conflicting reports that St Paul's is only open until 3 pm on Saturdays. Their recorded message says they are open until 6 pm.

So as not to miss the opportunity to see St Paul's, we will leave directly from the Cathedral. You are urged to bring a bag lunch or snacks to eat until you see St Paul's. A list of restaurants around St Paul's will be provided to you so that you may eat a meal before we leave New York.

We will be leaving the City around 6 pm and arriving back in Whitehall by 7:45 pm and Palmerton by 8:15 pm.

The cost is \$50, which covers, the bus, the tour of St John the Divine, snacks on the bus, and the bus driver gratuity. Please sign up on the sheet in the back of the Church or call Margo at 610-826-2611 to add your name to the bus trip list.

Seating is limited and is reserved with your payment. Payment is requested by April 17<sup>th</sup>. Please make your check payable to St John's.

### Memorial Day

**Monday, May 25**

Just a reminder to mark your calendar to celebrate Memorial Day at Tom and Shari Noctor's home from 1 pm to ?. There will be a sign up sheet the beginning of May. Tom and Shari will provide all the meat, soda, and beer. Everyone is asked to bring a dish to share. A signup sheet will be available in May so Shari knows how much meat to order.

### Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>

is the date for our annual joint picnic at Beltzville Lake with All Saints' Church, Lehighton. Everyone is asked to bring a covered dish to share.

### Ice Cream Social July 26<sup>th</sup>

In conjunction with the Concourse Club's "Concert in the Park" series, we are providing our ice cream social and basket raffle on Sunday, July 26<sup>th</sup>. The featured band is the Mudd Flapps. They are a huge draw. Let us pray for nice weather.

Bonnie Green is coordinating the basket raffle with help from Sharon Shaible and Deb Craig. Paula Seiler is in charge of the Ice Cream – all kinds -- scoops, sundaes, and waffles.

Please contact Bonnie Green with any questions on donating a basket or two, gift certificates, etc. Everything is appreciated.

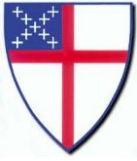
### August is Yard Sale Time

As you start your spring cleaning, please think of giving the Church any "Treasures" you may be "Trashing".

This is a great fundraiser and we appreciate all of you who donate and help with the sale itself. More info will be coming in future newsletters. Paula Seiler is the chairman.

**EMAIL-** To help with postage we email the newsletter and webpage updates- for local parishioners we also send up to date information as needed... Don't be left out. Make sure you let us know yours!  
office@stjohnspalmerton.com or webmaster@stjohnspalmerton.com

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*Sharing  
God's  
Love*



**We're on the Web!**  
See us at:

[www.StJohnsPalmerton.com](http://www.StJohnsPalmerton.com)

**MINISTERS:** All baptized members

**CLERGY:** Fr. Abraham J. Valiath  
The Rev. Canon Doris S. Bray, Associate Rector Emeritus

**SECRETARY:** Margo Ashner

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR:** Debra Craig

**COMMISSION CHAIRPERSONS:**

Christian Education – Paula Seiler/Denise Koons

Evangelism – Shari Noctor

Fellowship – Shari Noctor

Finance – Shari Noctor/Richard Webb

Outreach - Paulette Cebrosky

Pastoral Care- Deb Craig

Personnel - Wardens and Clergy

Property – Bruce Richards

Stewardship –Joan Nothstein/Neil Green

Worship - Bob Koons

Youth Group – Kyle Cebrosky/Kent Stauffer

**ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
365 LAFAYETTE AVE  
PALMERTON, PA. 18071

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