

St. John's Episcopal Express

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

Come See What's Inside !

Volume 3

MARCH 2010

Number 3



Worship Scheduled

Morning Prayer at 8:00am Monday thru Saturday

*Sundays: Holy Eucharist 8:00 am & 10:30 am
Sunday School – 9:00am & Bible Study – 9:15 am*

Sunday of the Passion

Palm Sunday

March 28th

ONE SERVICE

Donkey Procession from the Gazebo in the park at 9:00 am. The service of Holy Eucharist follows about 9:15 am.



Father Abraham Valiath ~ Priest in Charge



www.StJohnsPalmerton.com
St. John's Church of Palmerton
(610) 826-2611

365 Lafayette Avenue, Palmerton, PA 18071

Opportunities

- ✠ **Tue, Mar 2nd**
Property Meeting- Choir Room7:00pm
- ✠ **Wed, Mar 3rd**
Lent- Holy Eucharist..... ..Noon & 7:00pm
- ✠ **Sun, Mar 7th**
Breakfast- Bring Can of food for CACPAC
.....9:00am
Puppet Show- "Put the Love of God in Your
Heart".....10:30am
- ✠ **Wed, Mar 10th**
Lent- Holy Eucharist..... ..Noon & 7:00pm
- ✠ **Sat, Mar 13th**
Father Clifford Horvath 7:00pm
Food for the Poor
- ✠ **Sun, Mar 14th**
Father Clifford Horvathboth Services
Food for the Poor
- ✠ **Wed, Mar 17th**
Lent- Holy Eucharist..... ..Noon & 7:00pm
- ✠ **Sun, Mar 21st**
Vestry Meeting.....12:00pm
- ✠ **Wed, Mar 24th**
Lent- Holy Eucharist..... ..Noon & 7:00pm
- ✠ **Thur, Mar 25th**
Community Dinner–Deb Craig.....4:00pm
- ✠ **Sun, Mar 28th - Palm Sunday**
One Service Only-No Coffee Hour.
Donkey Procession from the Gazebo...9:00 am
Service of Holy Eucharist.....9:15 am

Lenten Reminder:

"Hallelujah" is not spoken or sung in liturgy during the season of Lent.

Holy Week

Sun, Mar 28th - 9:00 am - Palm Sunday

One service only- Donkey Procession from the Gazebo in the
Park

at 9:00, with service following about 9:15 am

Mon, Mar 29th through Wed, Mar 31st -7:00pm

no Holy Eucharist

Thur, Apr 1st - 6:00 pm - Maundy Thursday

Pot luck dinner at 6 pm; service at 7:00 pm -no Holy Eucharist

Fri, Apr 2nd -1:00 pm- Good Friday

CACPAC Stations of the Cross in the Park

Church service -7 pm- Veneration of the Cross

no Stations of the Cross and no Holy Eucharist

Sat, Apr 3rd - 7:00 pm - Holy Saturday

Candlelight Pascal Service, Blessing of the Food, Holy
Eucharist

Prayer Vigil 8:00-10:00 pm

Sun, Apr 4th - 9:00 am – Easter

with Holy Eucharist

No Coffee Hour

Easter Egg Hunt immediately following the service

Holy Eucharist

The Bishop has now approved parishioners drinking from the
Chalice during Holy Eucharist once again.

Celebrations of Life

March Birthdays

1 - Jean Bechdolt	14 - Avis Cooper
2 - Paulette Cebrosky	19 - Marguerite Kralik
2 - Millie Goodrich	22 - Mary Levandusky
4 - Arlene Rios	28- Candace Rodrigues
7 - Deb Craig	30 - Nicholas Tobia
12 - Paul David	

Anniversaries

12- Joe & Julie Evans 27- Brian & Jonell Dye

Funeral

February 10- Kermit Geary

Prayer List

Emanuel our Sponsored Child

Donald Krieling, Nathan Simms, Jerome Nice, Erik Lowe, Kyle Nichols, Jack Graber, Scott Sassaman, Daniel Quimby, Chad Rodrigues, Dick Gaj, Travis Everett, Patrick Young, Diane Homeyer-Fiore and Lisa Maskey

Barbara Burns	Joe Rodrigues	Ian Sheffield
Gregory Marlatt	Pamela MacKinnon	Linda Douthart
Mary Taranto	Ryan Flick	Don Schaible, Sr
Tracey Pitosky	George Quinn	David Garr
Mary Andrews	Bill Wilton	Marguerite Kralik
Trinidad Nothstein	Ella Balliet	Betty
Jennifer Green	Meagan McKinley	Melanie Kleintop
Eddie Koons	Pat Davis	Nathan DeKarte

NOTICE: The prayer list will start anew next month. All names will be removed. Please let Margo know if you would like to keep your name(s) on the list. Thank you.

FOOD FOR THE POOR

Father Clifford Horvath will be at St John's on Saturday, March 13th at 7 pm in the Church to talk about his mission. He will also be at the Sunday, March 14th 8:00 am and 10:30 am services to do the homily and to talk about his mission.

Founded in 1982, *Food for the Poor* is an interdenominational Christian ministry working to end the suffering of the poor in the Caribbean and Latin America. They provide food for the starving, build small homes for the destitute, dig water wells for parched villages, and provide medicine and medical equipment for the sick and elderly, along with supporting orphanages and education for children.

The Vestry has agreed to donate the **Lenten Rice Bowl** donations this year to this charity.

Commission Chairpersons

Altar Guild - Deb Craig

CACPAC - Bonnie Green

Christian Education - Paula Seiler

Evangelism - Ken Kaiser

Fellowship - Rachel DeMicco

Finance - Shari Noctor/Richard Webb

Outreach - Deb Craig/Rodney Rodrigues

Pastoral Care - Joan Nothstein

Personnel - Clergy and Wardens

Property - Bruce Richards

Stewardship - Joan Nothstein

Worship - Father Abraham

Youth Group - Rachel DeMicco/Kent Stauffer



From Father's Desk

No Burnt Offerings; But Broken and Contrite Heart

Lent is the time for self-reflection and renewed spiritual seriousness with more spiritual reading and prayer in quietness. We prepare ourselves during Lent to enter emotionally and spiritually into our Lord's Passion in the Holy Week and consciously receive the gift of the power of Lord's Resurrection at Easter with love and commitment to live for Him the whole year.

Ash Wednesday we received the ashes, the symbol of contrite human heart, and humility and broken spirit before the Lord. Even though we are saved by the grace of God, by the blood of Jesus, we are still under the influence of sin, until the day of our total redemption at the Lord's second coming. As we live today with the Holy Spirit, the sin has no domination on us. As we live by faith and commitment to Him, confession of sin and forgiveness from the Lord is an ongoing process in human life. Self-reflection is looking at the mirror of God's holiness and sees us before His presence and seeks to the conformity to His character and nature in our life.

Prayer is so important in our life to grow spiritually and to lead a successful life in the world. In our society that seems to be filled with urgencies and emergencies, prayer appears to be an unnatural form of behavior. Without fully realizing it, we have accepted the idea that doing things is more important than prayer and have come to think of prayer is some thing for times when there is nothing urgent to do. While we might agree verbally, or even intellectually, with someone who stresses the importance of prayer, we have become children of impatient world to such an extent that our behavior often expresses the view that prayer is a waste of time.

This predicament shows how necessary it is to view prayer as a discipline. Concentrated human effort is necessary because prayer is not our most natural response to the world. Left to our own impulses, we will always want to do something else before we pray. Prayer is in many ways the criterion of Christian life.

Prayer requires that we stand in God's presence with open hands, naked and vulnerable, proclaiming to ourselves and to others that without God we can do nothing.

This is difficult in a climate where the predominant counsel is "Do your best and God will do the rest." When life is divided into "our best" and "God's rest," we have turned prayer into last resort to be used only when all our own resources are depleted. Prayer does not mean to use God when we can no longer function ourselves. On the contrary, it means to recognize that we can do nothing at all but that God can do everything through us. There we find our strength, hope, courage, and confidence in God.

Praying is not easy matter. It demands a relationship in which you allow the other to enter into the very center of your person, to speak there, to touch the sensitive core of your being, and allow the other to see so much that you would rather leave in darkness. When we are invited to pray we are asked to open our tightly clenched fists and to give up our last coin.

Who wants to do that? A first prayer is rather and often a painful prayer, because you discover you don't want to let go. You hold fast to what is familiar even if you aren't proud of it. You feel it is safer to cling to a sorry past than to trust in a new future. So you will fill your hands with small, clammy coins which you don't want to surrender. Detachment is often understood as letting loose of what is attractive. But it can also mean being attached to what is repulsive. You can attach to your own hate and resentment. When you dare to let go and surrender one of those many fears, your hand relaxes and your palms spread out in gesture of receiving. You must have patience, of course, before your hands are completely open and their muscles relaxed.

Few years ago I had few canaries which were raised in a cage and were bright yellow finches, which sung tuneful songs. As I became very familiar with them, I learned the mystery, which they sung joyfully after they had a bath. Our souls are like that: until we get a bath that cleanses away fears, all uncertainties, all guilt, our soul will not sing. Can we get that cleansing bath? From all doubts that there is a real sacred life and that we are upon it with music in life.

In Christ's Love,
Fr. Abraham+

Senior Warden's thoughts and highlights of the Annual Meeting

Do you know at St. John's Episcopal Church we have 179 members, of which 85 are active? Did you know that to be counted as an active member you must contribute financially to the church and take communion 3 times a year? The reason I mention this is because at the annual meeting only about 30 people out of 85 felt committed enough to show up for this most important day. We did have enough parishioners to get the task at hand done and that was the election of Vestry Members.

This year we were blessed with four people for nominations with 3 seats available. I would like to thank all who stepped forward to fill the positions. After a vote the 3 positions were filled by Ken Kaiser, Rachel DeMicco & Rodney Rodrigues. A thank you also has to go out to Brandon Mazepa for also putting his name in for nomination. I would like to offer a heartfelt welcome aboard to the new Vestry Members. May the church move forward with your new ideas and enthusiasm.

I also ask every parish member to keep an open mind, because to get young families involved and committed to the church, we cannot stay on a status quo. What worked 20-30 years ago does not necessarily work today. Some of the things we are doing now might have to be tweaked a little, to make our church more appealing. So I am asking everyone from commission heads as well as all parish members to share your thoughts and ideas. I ask everyone to have an open heart and mind to let God Almighty shape them and make us the church He wants us to be. Remember "working together we are the church."

Most of the meeting centered on finances. Shari Noctor delivered a step by step explanation of the budget. The Vestry balanced the budget by allocating \$10,000 to come from the Vanguard Account and the rest of the deficit of \$14,451 is to come from fund raising. I realize this is a very tall order, but, with that being said, what does not get brought in by fund raisers only increases the amount to come out of the Vanguard Account.

So please try to do all you can to help us out with any and all future fund raising events. If you would like to make donations to the church, make them out to the building or outreach funds, to be used for the flow as it is needed. There is a financial report in the back of the church which is updated monthly for any parishioner to examine at their leisure.

A fact that came to light on the Financial Commission report was that Father Abraham is being paid only \$20,000 a year. The Diocesan resolution has as the 2010 salary schedule for a small church set at \$29,100-34,900 - just food for thought. I'm not going to go over each committee's report, but I will try and get copies into upcoming issues of the Episcopal Express.

Commissions

I would ask that at the opening of every meeting a short prayer be said. If your commission meeting already does that, then you are moving in the right direction - "Where two meet in his name he also will be there." I would also like to see meeting schedules made up so the whole parish knows when meetings are being held, possibly making the schedules the same time and day each month. This would be better than just by word of mouth to other committee members and would avoid confusion.

I would also like to see some new programs taken up by different commissions, which might excite current members as well as someone who presently has no church, but might like the direction we are taking on a certain project and come out and see what we are all about. Who knows, we might even attract a possible new member bringing along more new ideas. If a parishioner does come along with a new idea, let's not just say it's not going to work. Let's talk about it, think about it, pray about it and then make a decision. Remember commissions are the church's arms to reach out into the local community and do God's work to bring other people into our church, so let's have an open mind set that every idea is a good idea.

God Bless our Church and every one of us,
Neil Green

Valentine's Dinner / Dance

For our 1st dinner dance, we felt that this was a huge success for the fellowship that happened that night. Although we only had 28 parishioners attend (mostly an older crowd from the 10:30 service), all said they had a great time and asked when the next one would be. One parishioner had so much fun that she said she would be bringing 10 of her friends next time.

We have decided not to have a dinner during a holiday (there were many dinner/dances that night). We also forgot to invite All Saints. We will ask them next time.

We had a great DJ who played music from the 40's though today. Many people were dancing and having a good time. The food also was very delicious.

We may have another one in May. Any suggestions on which Friday you can attend.

We made a profit of around \$80. Not a huge success moneywise. However, the Fellowship that night was priceless and was well worth having the event!!! Thank you all who came.

More Photos in church and on the website.

Plain and Fancy Donut Sale was a huge success. We made a profit of \$480.00. Several parishioners asked us to have another one. We will schedule another donut sale for May.

Fundraiser Ideas

Please talk with Ken Kaiser on any fundraiser idea you may have large or small.

Fundraiser Profits

The Vestry has voted that 10% of all fundraiser profits will be donated to charity for 2010. Vestry agreed to give 5% to Episcopal Relief and Development and 5% to Kao-Kaji.

Valentine's Dinner / Dance Photos



Kajo Keji and NEW HOPE

*You are cordially invited to following events of Bishop Anthony's visit
(these are open to everyone).*

TUESDAY March 2

St. Stephen's Pro-Cathedral, Wilkes-Barre

Discussion and evening Compline service from 6:30 P.M. to 8:30 P.M.

*There will be updated pictures of our progress in building, conversation with
Bishop Anthony and refreshments.*

THURSDAY March 4

Christ Church, Reading

Discussion and evening Compline service from 6:30 P.M. to 8:30 P.M.

*There will be updated pictures of our progress in building, conversation with
Bishop Anthony and refreshments.*

FRIDAY March 5

*Cathedral Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem The youth will meet with Bishop
Anthony (all ages are also welcome) from 7:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M.*

SUNDAY March 7

Church of the Redeemer, Sayre

Bishop Anthony will preach at the 10:30 A.M. service

Following the service there will be discussion and a reception at noon.

CACPAC News

The first thing I want to say is “Thanks be to God” because someone came forward to run the CACPAC Furniture Bank. Some of you will know him because he is Gabi’s dad, Ed Zanders. It is not in stone yet, but I am sure it will happen. They are having a clean-up day Saturday, April 27 at 9:00am where the furniture is stored. We could use some strong arms because there is a lot of garbage and we will have a dumpster there that day. The furniture bank also needs some repairs on the inside to make it safe so after all this is done it probably will be open again. Keep your fingers crossed!!

We will be having the Stations of the Cross again on Good Friday, starting at the Gazebo at 1:00. There will be 9 stations and our church will be one of them. We hope to see you there.

They had 9 names turned in for the Good Samaritan Award . Three were from our church. Good luck to everyone.

The Food Pantry served 145 households (367 people) for the month of January. They are still in need of mayonnaise, salad dressings & canned soups. During the month they received food from St. John’s Episcopal, Jerusalem Lutheran & Salem UM. We also received 30 packages of venison hamburger from Dan Martinells Deer Processing in Tannersville, made possible by Keith McCall. Personal care items were donated by Daisy Troop 3305 & Girl Scout Troop 3112. Thank you to everyone who has been donating food items at the church.

“Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.” Hebrews 13:1-16

In Christ’s Love,
Bonnie Green

Christian Action Council Palmerton Area Churches

Upcoming Events and Plans

Michael Bodnyk

An accomplished singer, originally from Orefield and now living in New York City, will perform for us on April 11th at 6pm. His dad used to be the rector at Dinkey Memorial Church in Lehighton and is now the rector at the Lutheran Church on Route 145 in Whitehall. Michael is a big drawer. If we do the marketing correctly, we should be able to fill our church. Admission is \$10 per person. To know more about Michael, go to his website MichaelBodnyk.com.

Palmerton Festival

The 1st meeting for the Festival Committee was scheduled for Tuesday, February 23rd. The weather was not forecasted to be great. The newsletter deadline was before this meeting. An updated article will be in the April newsletter.

Help is needed the weekend after Labor Day, Friday Sept 10th through Sunday, Sept 12th. We are planning on making potato skins and other potato type dishes. Many hands are needed to bake the potatoes, run the potatoes to the booth, and work the booth. All parishioners are asked to help with what they can that weekend. Please mark this on your calendar and talk to Bonnie Green and Jen Tobia for more info.

Coffee Hours

Please talk with Rachel DeMicco to schedule a coffee hour. Many opportunities are available. Starting in May, we will have them outside again.

Money Box

There will be a wooden, locked moneybox on the back table for those individuals who would like to make an offering outside our normal worship service hours. This money will be collected every Sunday after the 10:30 service. Some parishioners come in to pray during the week and we are finding money lying on the back table. This box will make the offerings more secure.

Thank You

A Big thank you to Bob Koons, Deb Craig, and Kyle Cebrosky for their service on the Vestry the last several years. These three individuals have given many hours of their time and talent to help us. Bob for at least 9 years.

Bob has been Senior Warden since St John's split from All Saints. He has worked with every commission and parishioner to lead us in a good direction. The Senior Warden job is extremely difficult, especially during the times when we did not have a minister. If someone sneezed the wrong way, Bob received a phone call on it. He has done a fabulous job and we all should thank him for working so hard for our Church and especially for being Senior Warden extending a few years more than the normal term.

Deb Craig has gone above and beyond anyone in the Church for working on several commissions and being our Junior Warden. Anything that was needed she always stepped up to the plate. She has given much time away from home to help wherever she could. And she has never complained once about anything. We are very lucky to have her many talents including all the computer knowledge that she has. Thank you for a job well done.

Kyle Cebrosky has done many things to help the Vestry including Youth Advisor, Sunday School teacher, and more importantly 8:00 service acolyte since he was a baby!!! Kyle we wish you all the best and are glad you were able to find work in Palmerton. Come help when you can. Thanks again.

And we can't forget Brandon Mazepa, our Junior Vestry Member. Brandon, who represented our younger members of the parish, had his voice heard and it was appreciated. Being very active in Scouting, earning Eagle, he was also able to donate time and talent to better St. John's. Thank you very much.

Congratulations

To Kristy Seiler and her team's 22-0 undefeated regular season of Northern Lehigh Varsity Basketball!!! Great job!!

SUGGESTIONS, CONCERNS?

There is a suggestion box on the back table in the Church with a paper for you to write your suggestion or concern. There is an area to suggest how to handle this situation and a place for your name. Your suggestions will be collected every Sunday and brought to Vestry. Your name will not be disclosed, but would be available if there are any questions.

Neil Green has announced also that he will always make time to sit down and discuss a situation with you. Please feel free to contact him at 610-826-4503.

We all are working together to make St John's a great place to come to Worship. Any ideas or suggestions would be greatly appreciated.

DID YOU KNOW

Something Katharine Ely shared with me last year while hosting a monthly gathering of about a dozen residents at our county home, Weatherwood.

They asked everyone for their memories of Easter and had a number of comments about having food baskets blessed and special breads baked. Considering the population in that area it's not surprising people recall a lot of Polish and Russian traditions.

But the Russian Orthodox resident told them that they do not use palms for Palm Sunday.

They use pussy willows because the pussy willow is the first plant to bloom after the last frost.



Also, Palms do not grow in all areas

VESTRY MEMBERS

Neil Green
Sr Warden

Shari Noctor
Jr Warden / Treasurer

Paula Seiler
Vestry Secretary

Kent Stauffer

Richard Webb

Rachel DeMico

Ken Kaiser

Joan Nothstein

Rodney Rodrigues

Ministers:

Clergy:

All Baptized Members

Fr. Abraham J. Valiath
Priest In Charge

The Rev. Canon
Doris S. Bray
*Associate Rector
Emeritus*

Secretary:

Newsletter Editor:

Margo Ashner

Debra Craig



Thank you for
helping save on
POSTAGE