

St. John's Episcopal Express

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

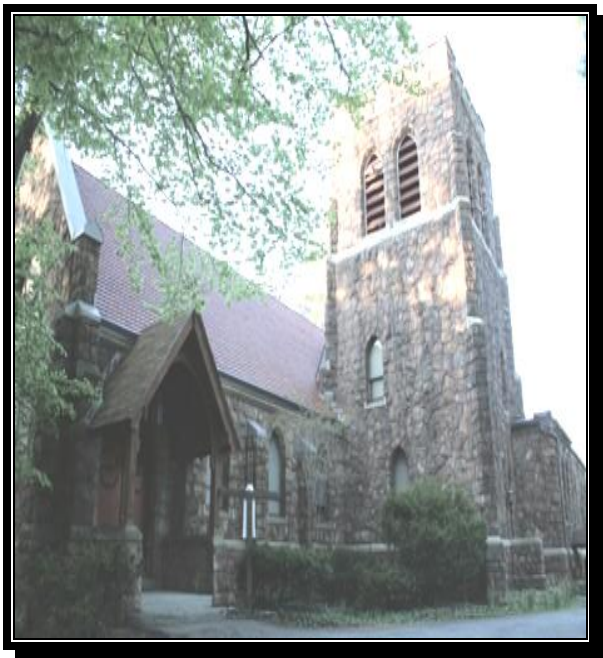
Come See What's Inside !

Volume 3



October 2010

Number 10



Worship Schedule

Morning Prayer at 8:00 am Monday thru Saturday

Sundays: Holy Eucharist 8:00 am & 10:30 am

Bible Study – 9:00 am

Sunday School – 9:00 am

PRAYER LIST

Our Sponsored Child: Emmanuel

Those in Service to God and Country are:

Donald Krieling, Nathan Simms, Jerome Nice, Erick Lowe,
Kyle Nichols, Jack Graber, Scott Sassaman , Daniel
Quimby, Travis Everett, and Patrick Young.

Our Parishioner Shut-Ins:

Donald Collins	Mary Levandusky
Bill and Lillian Douthart	Phyllis Miller
Ann Gruber	Tony Pagano
Irene Horn	

Our Parishioners, Family and Friends:

Barbara Burns	Eddie Koons	Meagan McKinley
Pat Davis	Amanda Dieter	Kathy
Marilyn Ord	Mel Kleintop	Cole Young
Avis Cooper	Denise Pierce	Levi Serfass

NOTICE: Please let Margo know if you would like a name added/removed from the list.



BIRTHDAYS

1 – Shari Noctor	25 – Alex Groller
2 – Kayci Reichard	27 – Donald Balliet
8 – Joe Evans	27 – Janet Webb
24 – Jarred Tobia	



ANNIVERSARIES

3 – Howard & Honey Cyr
14 – Walter & Linda Johnson



Convention News

The 139th Diocesan Convention will be in session next weekend, October 7th and 9th, at Nativity Cathedral in Bethlehem. Our delegates to convention this year are Shari Noctor and Pat West. This week is the last week to bring in your donation of new socks and/or sweatshirts to be distributed to parishes and soup kitchens that open their doors to provide warmth and food to those in need during the cold winter months. Please pray for the convention and our delegates.



Cropwalk

will be held October 10th rain or shine. The start of the walk will take place at St. John's Lutheran Church at 1:30pm. It is a 5 mile walk and the scenery is really nice. It is not a race; just walk at your own pace. There will be rest stops along the way and light refreshments will be served. If you would like to participate in the walk or make a donation, see Bonnie Green or call her at 610-349-0954. A portion of the money raised will stay in Palmerton for the Food Bank. Last year the pantry received \$638.25. Thank you walkers – way to go!

CROP Hunger Walks help children and families worldwide, including right here in the U.S., to have food for today, while building for a better tomorrow. Each year some two million CROP Walkers, volunteers, and sponsors put their hearts and soles in motion, raising over \$16 million per year to help end hunger and poverty around the world -- and in their own communities. And you can be part of it this year on Oct. 10th!

From Father's Desk

Source of Strength



It's heart-breaking news in New York Times a few weeks ago of thirty three miners are trapped below ground in Chile. They have been trapped half a mile below earth surface for nearly one month now. The mine owners told the news agency that they are all dead, but after 17 days they discovered that they are still alive and safe underground. They have organized themselves into a disciplined cadre who work hard to support each other in those very uncertain and trying circumstances. The eldest among them, 62 years old Gomez, has become their chaplain and counselor – sublimating his own doubts and anxieties, leading prayer and worship time, listening to their fears and worries. Another has become the medical officer, relying on advice from the surface as he took first-aid course a decade ago. Others continue working together clearing away debris that falls into their safe room as the new shaft is dug.

How they do it? How do they keep from dissolving into fears and doubts, giving into the panic which must from time to time invade their consciousness? Is it only a collective struggle for existence or survival as their life is in danger? No!! A struggle to live together before challenges, keep supporting and encouraging each other as they have something beyond the natural in their heart. I call it, it's spiritual.

On August 5th, ten Christian medical team members, sponsored by International Assistance Mission (IAM) were shot to death as they returned to Kabul, from a journey into remote areas of Afghanistan to bring medical aid and supplies to the impoverished people there. Four days later on August 9th,

Dirk R. Frans, the Executive Director of IAM, told the Associated Press that while the organization is devastated by the murders, they have no intention of abandoning their commitment to Afghanistan which has kept them in that country for more than forty years.

Where does that kind of courage come from? Aren't those people scared? Are they foolish or insane or something else, some thing solid and substantial down deep in their soul which compels and at the same time reassures them? Over the years, many of our church members are volunteering with deep commitment for outreach and missions and supporting different activities and programs. What's the source of that energy?

What is the source of energy that fuels in our commitment? As Delilah asked Samson, we want to ask them "Where does your strength come from?" On August 12th Sunday we had the second lesson reading from the Epistle of Paul to I Timothy 1: 12. "I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me faithful, appointing me to his service." Paul was a man of extraordinary energy and creativity. He affirms the source of energy comes from Christ Jesus. Was it because he was handsome and rich? Hardly. Was it because he was pious and religious, who can pray long and eloquent? Not a chance. He says not of any reasons but he was 'faithful.' He did what he said he would do. He kept his word to God and other people. He hung in there when things got tough and challenging, even dangerous. He kept to the path when the footing became unsure. He followed the light when the light grew dim. He was Faithful. Grace and Peace of the Lord be always with you.

Fr. Abraham+

Report from CACPAC

The food pantry was busy over the summer months: in June they served 134 households (320 persons), in July 146 households (369 persons), in August 154 households (398 persons), The numbers are increasing every month so we need your help more than ever with donations of non-perishable foods, particularly baked beans, tuna, and mayonnaise/salad dressings, but all donations are welcome. Donations were received from Jerusalem Lutheran, Jack Morgan, Faith Alive, St. John's Episcopal and Salem UCC. They received over 60 cases of Doritos from Snyders Pretzels. They also go to Lutheran Congregational Services in Allentown once a month to get free household and personal care items..

The annual CropWalk is on October 10th; see page 2 for details.

CACPAC is starting to make a list of contenders for the Good Samaritan award. If there is anyone from our church who is a senior and has been very active in church and the community, give their name to Margo,

The decision has finally been made to end the furniture bank. If you have donations of furniture or if you need furniture, call Shirley Radler at 610-377-4303. The Lehigh Furniture Bank is run by Trinity Lutheran Church in Lehigh and they have agreed to deal with families in the Palmerton area, so feel free to call Shirley with your needs or donations.

There are pamphlets in the back of the church for you to pick up about a program called Benefits CheckUp, a program for people 55 and older who may need financial help and don't know where to go for it. There is an orange information sheet included that you fill out and then call for an appointment, when they will sit down with you, enter all your information in a computer and see if you qualify for any assistance. You might be surprised at all the help they can offer. Pick up a pamphlet for yourself or a neighbor the next time you're in church!

Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and he shall sustain thee; he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved. Psalm 55:22

God's peace, Bonnie Green

Bits and Pieces

WE WILL CELEBRATE CONSECRATION SUNDAY ON NOVEMBER 14TH. This is the day of commitment to the Lord as we own nothing in this world but are stewards of our time, Health and money, and the people around us as family. So please think about it and with thanksgiving make a commitment to support the church ministry for the up-coming year.

We will again be sending CHRISTMAS CARE PACKAGES to our troops overseas. They have to be sent by the middle of November, so we need to start collecting donations in the near future. Paula Seiler and Paulette Cebrosky, co-chairwomen of our Outreach Commission, will be spear-heading the drive. Look for a list of things to start saving in the back of the church and take one home.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO:

CALL YOUR PEOPLE ON THE BUDDY SYSTEM when you see they have missed church.

SAVE THOSE GENERIC CHRISTMAS AND GENERAL CARDS THAT WE RECEIVE THROUGH THE MAIL AT THIS TIME OF YEAR to give to the prisoners at the Carbon County Jail in November, along with other personal care Items.

A THANK YOU NOTE TO FATHER ABRAHAM:

We would like to thank you for taking the time to have a Bible Study class, keeping it going as long as you did with just three of us attending. I really enjoy our group discussions now. A book I read said: Jesus made it clear that learning and living the bible is God's will for our lives He said, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God (Matthew 4:6). Bible Study isn't just a nice thing to do – it's essential to our lives!

May God Bless – Sara Kester and Charlotte Geary

P.S. – The format has changed back to what it used to be – reading a piece of scripture and then having inter-active group discussions. It's FUN! Come and check us out in the choir room from 9:15 to 10 AM!

ROUGHING THE PASTOR

(The Sept. 18th reading from Our Daily Bread)

I Timothy 5:17: *Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the Word and doctrine.*

I was at my grandson's 8th grade football game when the referee indicated there was a penalty and stopped play. Apparently, after the ball was thrown, the boy who passed it was tackled, prompting a penalty flag. The announcer from the press box said: "There is a flag on the field. The penalty is roughing the pastor... I mean, roughing the passer." As soon as he said it, I thought to myself, *God could give that penalty to some churches today!*

It's not that pastors are perfect. If that is what we are looking for, then pastorless churches would be the norm. It's that God calls on us to honor those who lead us spiritually, particularly "those who labor in preaching and teaching" (1 Tim. 5:17). In my opinion, pastoring is one of the hardest occupations on the planet. We live in a sophisticated, fast-paced, and complex world, and our expectations for "high-performance" pastors often set the bar at unattainable heights.

So, let's switch the focus and become high-performance church members who honor our pastors with words of encouragement and prayer. A supportive note or a "thank you" in the foyer will go a long way to stimulate pastors to serve with joy and efficiency.

Joe stowell

*Lord, help us to appreciate
The work that others do,
The service given from their hearts,
Their sacrifice for You. – Sper*

**Don't be rough on your pastor –
Pass along some encouragement today.**

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VESTRY MEMBERS

<i>Paulette Cebrosky</i>	<i>Joan MacKinnon</i>
<i>Neil Green, Sr. Warden</i>	<i>Joan Nothstein</i>
<i>Ken Kaiser, Jr. Warden</i>	<i>Rodney Rodrigues</i>
<i>Brandon Mazepa</i>	<i>Paula Seiler, Secretary</i>
<i>Shari Noctor, Treasurer</i>	

Organist: Nancy Embrey
Assistant Treasurer: Richard Webb
Episcopal Express Editor: Margo Ashner
Webmaster: Tom Noctor

Priest-in-Charge

The Rev. Abraham J. Valiath, 288 Harvard Avenue, Palmerton
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Associate Rector Emeritus

The Rev. Canon Doris S. Bray, 443 Franklin Avenue, Palmerton
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Articles for the newsletter, dates for the calendar, announcements and prayer requests need to be in to the office by the third week of the month for inclusion in the next issue. You may submit articles by email to ashner@ptd.net , call with your information, or bring them in writing to the office.

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