



Rector's Letter

Dear Friends in Christ:

My grandmother was fond of saying, "Time marches on." And while this expression ventures well into cliché territory, it rings especially true at the moment: in January there was absolutely no post-Christmas lull, with the commencement of our Prayer Breakfast program and our Annual Meeting, and now February - and the beginning of Lent - are at our doorstep. The change in liturgical seasons will usher in different devotional opportunities, and Lent will be kicked off in grand style by a visit from our bishop, the Right Reverend Nathan Baxter, who will Confirm a number of people from our church.

Once again this year, our **Lenten program** will be on Thursday evenings - a night that worked well for many people last year. Beginning March 1 at 6 p.m., we will walk the Stations of the Cross in the church. Afterwards, at about 6:30, we will go to the fellowship hall for a simple soup and salad supper. At about 7:00, we will begin our book study (*Ears to Hear* by Bishop Edward Little), and will conclude by 7:30. Father Chris and Deacon Alex will be the facilitators of the discussion. During Lent, the Thursday lunchtime Mass and Bible study will be suspended. The last lunchtime service and Bible study until after Easter will be on February 16.

As this is the last newsletter that will come out before the beginning of Lent, it is not too soon to call to mind special seasonal practices. Many people give something up for Lent; others take on a special activity, engage in a special discipline, attend an additional weekday service, or make a special gift to the church. The important thing to do is to make a personal decision about what's in your spiritual best interest. Make your goal manageable. And once you've settled on what you're giving up or taking on, don't tell others about it, remembering that the "Father which seest in secret" will reward you (Matthew 6:6).

As the winter rolls on and we move from one season to the next, may God's abiding presence be with you.

I look forward to seeing you in church.

Faithfully yours,

The Rev. Christopher V. Pyles, Rector

COLUMBARIUM UPDATE

Most parishioners are aware that the columbarium in the back of the church is now fully committed. From time to time, the vestry and the Columbarium Committee revisit the question of whether we should investigate the possibility of building another columbarium to increase our capacity. Half the cost of a niche sold in a new columbarium would go toward building costs; the other half, toward the church's endowment fund. Based on information gathered, parishioners would pay considerably less for a niche at St. John's than for a niche or a plot in a local cemetery.

All members of the church are invited to participate in this survey. Simply clip out the survey below and mail it in by Sunday, February 19. Alternatively, photocopies of the survey will also be available on the table in the back, so the form can be filled out at church and dropped in the collection plate (by February 19). Your feedback will help us to plan ahead. This survey will not be binding, but will facilitate further conversation with those who express an interest. Thank you in advance!

NAME _____

COLUMBARIUM SURVEY

1. I would be interested in purchasing a niche in a new columbarium at St. John's (anticipated costs: \$2,000 - \$2,500 in 2012).

Yes No (circle one)

2. I do not have a niche in the current columbarium and, while not interested now, I might be interested in purchasing a niche in a new columbarium at the church in the next three to five years.

Yes No

3. I would like to speak with Father Chris or a member of the Columbarium Committee to discuss my interment options and potential costs before I make up my mind.

Yes No

ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

The parish's Annual Meeting took place on Sunday, January 15, after the 10:00 Mass. By unanimous consent, Karen Harvey, Jennifer Zeigler, and Mike Fitzgerald were elected to the Vestry. Larry Roberson was appointed Senior Warden. Sara Witmer and Larry Roberson were elected by unanimous consent to serve as our delegates to Diocesan Convention. Reports from various committees and individuals were given or submitted to the parish office. The budget was discussed, and it was made known that - in spite of a solid increase in pledge income in 2012 - we are anticipating a \$9,000 deficit, primarily as a result of reduced endowment income. However, as we did in 2011 - a year we ended in the black - we are confident that by pulling together, staying on top of our fundraising efforts, keeping our expenses in check, and with God's help, we will make it through this year in good shape.

FIRST PRAYER BREAKFAST A SUCCESS

On the morning of January 7, 20 people were gathered in the fellowship hall to hear Father Stuart Hoke give a presentation called "Shelter from the Stormy Blast: A Theological Response to the Events of 9/11." The event began with an offering of Morning Prayer, followed by a continental-style breakfast. Father Hoke then shared his experiences as one present at Ground Zero, and how the spiritual tools at his disposal - especially the Book of Common Prayer and the Hymnal - empowered him with the grace to persevere. He preached for us the next day on the Solemnity of the Epiphany.

Already, plans are in the works for another Prayer Breakfast to be held sometime in the spring, after Easter, with a different guest presenter. Times and dates will be shared as soon as they become available.

SHROVE TUESDAY & ASH WEDNESDAY

Mark your calendars: Shrove Tuesday is February 21. We will have our traditional Pancake and Sausage Supper from 4 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Cost is \$5. On Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, we will have two services with the imposition of ashes: the first at 9:30 in the Chapel, and the second at 7 p.m. in the church.

Donations Needed for Red Cross Campaign

The American Red Cross is seeking donation of items for its second annual Totes of Hope campaign, aimed at helping homeless veterans.

Donations of new items such as socks, rain ponchos, fleece throws, flashlights with batteries, disposable razors, shaving cream, nail clippers and other personal care items will be collected at St. John's through February 26 in the back of the church. The items will be taken to the Red Cross and then given to homeless veterans in our part of Pennsylvania.

Any items you can contribute would be greatly appreciated. Many thanks!

A Note of Thanks from the Central Pennsylvania Institute

Dear Father Pyles & Deacon Dyakiw:

On behalf of our graduates and faculty, I would like to thank you for your participation at our Practical Nursing graduation. We appreciated your sincere words of encouragement to our graduates. Most nurses recognize the close spiritual connection to what we do and your presence at graduation underscores that connection.

Additionally, your continuing support of our program helps make these events very special and meaningful for our nurses.

Sincerely,

Jane Irwin, MSN, RN

Coordinator, Practical Nursing

CHILI COOK-OFF COMING!

Our first fundraiser of the year, a Chili Cook-Off, featuring St. John's brightest and best chili cooks, will be on Friday, February 10, from 4 to 7 p.m. in the fellowship hall. As of this writing, seven people have signed up to bring chili (more are welcome), and many others have committed to bringing side dishes or desserts. Priced at \$6 for all you can eat, this is a bargain not to be missed. Please plan to attend, and bring a friend!

PRAYER SHAWL MEETING

All those interested in participating in our Prayer Shawl Ministry are asked to be present at Coffee Hour on February 12 for a short meeting. If you have any questions, please speak to Ellen Dyakiw.

BISHOP'S VISIT - ALL HANDS ON DECK!

On February 26, our diocesan bishop, the Right Reverend Nathan Baxter, will be with us to make his annual visitation. Only a bishop can Confirm or Receive people from another tradition, so that will be one of his functions that day (we plan to present eight people for Confirmation). Bishop Baxter will also celebrate the Mass and preach.

However, the bishop also uses his visit as an occasion to get to know members of a parish. For that reason, EVERYONE is strongly encouraged to attend the 10:00 service on February 26, to be sure to have a chance to speak with Bishop and Mrs. Baxter, as well as to offer support to those being Confirmed by your presence. This will be the largest Confirmation Class we have had in several years, and it would be wonderful to see a full church to welcome them into the fold. Please plan to be here!

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN - GARDNERS CANDIES!

Gardners Easter Candy order forms are now available on the table in the back of the church. Please take an order form and sign your name on the sheet provided so we know who is participating. The order deadline is March 11, and orders will be available for pick-up on March 26.

LAY MINISTRIES SCHEDULE - FEBRUARY 2012**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS**

8 A.M.

10 A.M.*

February 5 Epiphany V	Deacon Alex Dyakiw	Deacon Alex Dyakiw Mark E. Scott
February 12 Epiphany VI	Deacon Alex Dyakiw	Deacon Alex Dyakiw Sara Witmer
February 19 Last Epiphany	Deacon Alex Dyakiw	Deacon Alex Dyakiw Kathryn Grossman
February 22 Ash Wednesday	(9:30 A.M.) Deacon Alex Dyakiw	(7 P.M.) Deacon Alex Dyakiw Jason Dench
February 26 Lent I/Bishop's Visitation	Scott Mauger	Deacon Alex Dyakiw Judy Hilderbrand

* The Chalice Bearer at the 10:00 service reads the second lesson.

ALTAR SERVERS' ROTA (10 A.M. MASS)

February 5 Epiphany V	Book/Server Crucifer Torch Torch	Bryan Hough Sean Hough Charles Maurukas Steve Dillon
February 12 Epiphany VI	Book/Server Crucifer Torch Torch	Bryan Hough Bryan Hough Jason Dench Sean Hough
February 19 Last Epiphany	Book/Server Crucifer Torch Torch	Sean Hough Steve Dillon Bryan Hough Jason Dench
February 22 (7 p.m.) Ash Wednesday	Book/Server Crucifer Thurifer	Sean Hough Bryan Hough Charles Maurukas
February 26 Lent I/Bishop's Visitation	Book/Server Crucifer Torch Torch Thurifer	Jason Dench Sean Hough Steve Dillon Bryan Hough Charles Maurukas

ALTAR GUILD SCHEDULE

January 28 - February 10	Cathy Fetters & Sara Witmer
February 11 - February 24	Karen Harvey, Leigh Meeker, & Jason Dench
February 25 - March 2	Jim Jackson & Peggy Jackson

FEBRUARY COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

February 5	Patrick & Billie Jo North
February 12	Larry & Barbara Roberson
February 19	Bette Shugert
February 26	Jennifer Zeigler

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2	John Fusco
4	Shannon Hilderbrand
7	Jason Dench
8	Judy Hilderbrand, Brayden Spicer
10	Bonnie Snyder
11	Betsy Quigley
13	Michael Fusco, Gabe Holland, Martha Traverse
14	Paul Fusco Andrew Pifer
16	John Harwood
18	Deb Cree
19	Cathy Fetters



FROM THE PARISH SECRETARY: MEMBERSHIP RECORDS UPDATE

Please use the form below to help keep our records current. For larger families, use the back.

Name _____ Birthday _____

Home Address _____

Home Phone _____ Email Address _____

Cell Phone _____

Name _____ Birthday _____

Home Address _____

Home Phone _____ Email Address _____

Cell Phone _____

Name _____ Birthday _____

Home Address _____

Home Phone _____ Email Address _____

Cell Phone _____

Name _____ Birthday _____

Home Address _____

Home Phone _____ Email Address _____

Cell Phone _____

*Please place this page in the offering plate, mail it in, or bring it to the parish office.
St. John's Episcopal Church, 120 W. Lamb St., Bellefonte, PA 16823*

You can also email this information to stjohnsepiscopal@comcast.net

Thank you for your help!

~ February 2012 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 9:30 a.m. – Low Mass with Healing, Chapel	2 Candlemas. Low Mass at the Lady Altar at noon; Bible study in the rectory follows	3 Community Lunch at the Presbyterian Church. Be present by 10 a.m. to help	4
5 Epiphany V: 7:45 – Morning Prayer 8:00 – Low Mass 9:00 – Confirmation Class 10:00 Sung Mass	6 Diocesan Clergy Conference in Harrisburg; Deacon Alex & Fr Chris away	7 Diocesan Clergy Conference in Harrisburg; Deacon Alex & Fr Chris away	8 9:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer Diocesan Clergy Conference in Harrisburg; Deacon Alex & Fr Chris away	9 Low Mass at the Lady Altar at noon; Bible study in the rectory follows	10 4 – 7 p.m. Chili Cook-off in the Parish Hall	11 Vestry Training at St. Andrew's
12 Epiphany VI: 7:45 – Morning Prayer 8:00 – Low Mass 9:00 – Confirmation Class 10:00 Sung Mass	13 7 p.m. – Men's Group	14	15 9:30 a.m. – Low Mass with Healing, Chapel 7:30 p.m. – Vestry Meeting	16 Low Mass at the Lady Altar at noon; Bible study in the rectory follows	17	18
19 Last Epiphany: 7:45 – Morning Prayer 8:00 – Low Mass 9:00 – Confirmation Class 10:00 Sung Mass	20 Presidents Day – Parish Office closed	21 Shrove Tuesday Sausage and Pancake Supper – 4 – 6:45 p.m. in the Parish Hall	22 Ash Wednesday: 9:30 a.m. – Low Mass in the Chapel 7 p.m. – Sung Mass in the Church	23	24	25
26 Lent I: Bishop's Visitation 7:45 – Morning Prayer 8:00 – Low Mass 10:00 – Solemn Pontifical Mass	27	28	29 9:30 a.m. – Low Mass with Healing, Chapel	Notes: Thursday, March 1: First Lenten Program of the season. 6 p.m.: Stations of the Cross in the Church; 6:30: Dinner in the parish hall; 7 p.m.: Program in the parish hall.		

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
120 WEST LAMB STREET
BELLEFONTE, PA 16823
Office: 814.355.0497
Fax: 814.355.3981
Parish Email:
stjohnsepiscopal@comcast.net
Parish Website:
www.stjohnsepiscopal-bellefonte.org

*St. John's is a parish in the
Diocese of Central Pennsylvania,
The Right Reverend Nathan
Baxter, Bishop*

PARISH CLERGY

The Rev. Christopher V. Pyles, Rector
cvpyles@aol.com
215.870.4809 (cell) (Off Tuesdays)

The Rev. Alex Dyakiw, Deacon
deaconalex@gmail.com
814.883.0430 (cell)

PARISH STAFF

Sara Witmer, Secretary
Barbara Roberson, Treasurer
E. Kay Putnam, Organist/Choir Director
Terence Riley, Sexton

LAY LEADERS

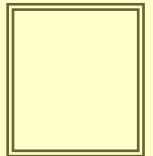
Dr. Karen Harvey, Senior Warden Mike Fitzgerald,
Junior Warden
Charles E. Maurukas, Acolyte Director

SERVICE SCHEDULE

Sundays: Low Mass at 8 (Rite I); Sung Mass at 10 (Rite II); Sunday School: 10 A.M.
Wednesdays: Low Mass at 9:30 in St. Michael's Chapel
Thursday: Low Mass at 12 noon at the Mary Altar in the Church (except during Lent)

The Parish Office is open Monday through Thursday from 9 A.M. to 12 NOON.

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
120 WEST LAMB STREET
BELLEFONTE, PA 16823



NAME
STREET ADDRESS
CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE