

THE PARISH VISITOR



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February 2016

**NA  IVITY
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Volume 74, Issue 6

From the Dean's Desk...

The days are colder now. Finally a bit of snow arrived. Perhaps you are like me and struggle a bit coming through the Christmas season, its activities, and spiritual depth and now into the weeks of Epiphany and headed toward Lent. Sometimes I find myself this time of year holding on to the memories and feelings of the experiences of the past season, lamenting over a perceived missing out of something. I don't think that is all bad really, but at the very same time as I settle into the routines of days not surrounded by glittery lights, festive Christmas liturgies, but instead colder days, I am also mindful that the days are actually getting longer, minute by minute. That the light of day is literally extending itself day by day drawing me and all of creation toward the next thing, the next moment and drawing metaphorically my eyes and heart toward faithful things. I once had a dear, dear member of my home parish gift me with a laminated card on which she wrote....."Every minute is a miracle, never to be repeated". So it seems.

The light of Epiphany illuminates our path forward. I believe the light of Christ shines through us and because of Christ in us. I am mindful of how through knowing this Christ and embracing the miracle of minutes other may come to share in the miraculous. I reflected recently on miraculous things. I thought you might be interested.

I find it miraculous that faithfulness has led to a ministry to homeless men and women not just here at this Cathedral but at the other partner congregations in Bethlehem. Just here at the Cathedral an average of 50 men find a sleep in warmth and safety, and a sustaining dinner and breakfast. For roughly 17 weeks totaling 1,750 "sleeps" and as many dinners and as many breakfasts served by nearly 100 faithful followers of Jesus. Miraculous.

I find it miraculous the ministry of New Bethany, a partner in ministry. I find that on average 75 (probably more) individuals are fed twice a month by followers of Jesus just of this congregation. That is nearly 1800 meals just from one congregations participation. It is exponentially more when you consider all the meals served by faithful hands at New Bethany Ministries not to mention the literal tons and tons of food donated for those whose pantries at home would otherwise be empty. This just a piece of the ministry New Bethany offers! Miraculous.

I find it miraculous that since 1978 a thrift shop ministry has existed in this Cathedral providing clothing at low cost or no cost to our neighbors and need AND dedicating whatever profits are made by providing ministry and grants to the community. At the January meeting the Vestry voted to disburse \$15,000 of Thrift Shop revenue to provide scholarships to Summer camp for neighborhood children, to provide resources for Habitat for Humanity's rehab efforts of homes on the Southside of Bethlehem. Faithful followers of Jesus from this congregation and from other congregations give their time and talents to this ministry, nearly 1200 hours a year. Miraculous.

I find the prayers offered, the notes sung, the blankets knit, the children formed, the friends and fellow followers of Jesus prayed for, visited, loved, and supported absolutely miraculous. Every minute of it, absolutely miraculous.

SOJOURNERS "SOUP"ER BOWL Party

FEB 7, 6 PM W/ CROCK POT COOK OFF

Tickets are \$10, \$5 for kids available from the J2A on Sundays between services, as well as at the door. Contact Bob Lynn @ (610) 866-4269 or Dawn Mendez @ (610)462-1793 for more information.



FROM THE CANON'S CORNER:

While the season of Lent is frequently a time of wilderness and austerity, Lent is the perfect opportunity to draw into a closer relationship with God. The symbolic 40 days of Lent remind us of the 40 years the Israelites wandered in the desert or the 40 days our Lord was driven into the wilderness at the onset of his ministry. The 40 days of Lent are for us a time to reflect and ponder the lavish love God has for us as seen in Jesus' sacrificial act. This season has traditionally been a time to reflect on Jesus' life, actions and impact on our own lives. It is a season to draw close to our Savior as he travels the road to Jerusalem. There are many ways we can draw closer to Jesus. Many of us adopt the sacrificial practice of giving something up just as Jesus sacrificed for us. That can include fasting from any of the personal luxuries or pleasures we enjoy in order to identify with the suffering our Lord endured on the cross. Giving up can be the intentional giving up of something negative in our lives such as complaining or gossiping. Another way of drawing closer to Jesus is to take something on for the purpose of learning more about God. Sometimes this involves activities such as working in food pantries, homeless shelters, visiting the sick and shut-ins or numerous other ways. This work enables us to act as God's servants in the world in order to identify with the servanthood of Jesus. Intentionally serving others helps us recognize Christ in each person we meet and helps us realize the sacrifice involved in servanthood. Other ways to take something on during Lent include adding devotions or readings to our daily or weekly life as we meditate on how Jesus' life and teachings might be manifest and lived out by us today.

For those interested in adding devotions and growing in a deeper relationship with Jesus, Nativity will be offering a number of ways in which you can enhance your spiritual life this Lent. Each Wednesday evening mass will be celebrated followed by a pot luck supper and program entitled "Making Sense of the Cross." This five week series will invite the group to discuss the meaning of the cross, atonement theories, the cross through experience, and finally what each of the gospels tells us about the cross and about God. Lent is the perfect time to enrich and deepen our faith as we venture into the wilderness with Jesus on his journey to Golgotha.

In addition to the Wednesday evening program, Stations of the Cross will be held each Friday during Lent beginning February 12 at 6:30 PM in the Cathedral. Stations of the Cross is an age old tradition of reliving the events leading to our Lord's crucifixion. We are invited to walk the way of the cross pausing at each of the 14 stations as we meditate and ponder the inexplicable love of God. The service is brief but powerful. Come, walk, listen, and ponder as we journey toward Good Friday. Reliving the story makes Easter all the more glorious. May this Lent strengthen your hope and assurance in our Lord's love and grace. Blessings as we embark on this Lenten journey.

Canon Michelle

WEDNESDAY LENTEN SERIES

5:45 PM Eucharist followed by Pot-Luck Dinner

7:00 PM Series – Making Sense of the Cross

Friday 6:30 PM Stations of the Cross

*Walk the way of the Cross every Friday in Lent
on our way to the glory in Easter*



FORUM TIME: SUNDAYS IN LENT (FEB 14, 21,28, MARCH 6, 13)

9:20 AM Sayre Hall Dining Room



Who is the Diocese of Bethlehem: We are roughly 13,000 Episcopalians worshipping in 68 congregations in a geography located in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

What makes us a diocese is our coming together in a common pursuit of God's call to us and our praying, loving, supporting, and sharing our resources (time, talent, and treasure) in pursuit of the mission of the Church.

We have been called at this time in our life together to enter into a spirit of pilgrimage. That is to set upon a metaphorical path of being opened anew to dream a future as a diocese.

This pilgrimage time is an opportunity for us as a diocese to Grow closer to God, closer to one another, and be open to What new things God may have in store for us to pursue together as a diocese.

Sunday mornings in Lent all are invited to Forum gatherings in the dining room of Sayre Hall at 9:20 for a season of prayer, conversation, reflection, and discovery.

Participants will explore this question:

How does this journey impact my life as an individual, our common life as a parish, and our relationship and mission in the diocesan community of 68 congregations and 13,000 Episcopalians?

The basis of the materials inviting our exploration draws us into five important Gospel narratives, From Jesus in the wilderness to the raising of Lazarus. The pilgrim is invited to explore themes such as "What we hunger for", "Where we find God in our vulnerabilities", "Finding the openings of God's engagement with us through the unexpected," "Naming the Clarity we seek and the things that have died and the new possibilities that can be born in the cycle of death and resurrection."

WHAT IS TMF?

The Cathedral Endowment for the Third Millennium (TMF) was created by a Vestry Resolution adopted on October 15, 2001 to enable the Parish to enhance its mission by initiatives beyond those possible in the annual operating budget. The Resolution established the Endowment Fund Board to serve as Custodian of the Fund and make recommendations to the Vestry regarding the use of the quarterly distributable income.

The principal of the Third Millennium Fund is invested in the Bethlehem Diocesan Investment Trust ("DIT"). Income based on this principal is distributed quarterly by the DIT to the TMF. The TMF Fund value was \$946,542 as of 9/30/2015.

Distributions from DIT to the TMF normally reflect average total returns on a three-year rolling basis. Distributions to TMF in 2015 were \$53,844. For 2016, it is expected that the distribution amount from DIT to TMF will be approximately \$54,000.

In accordance with the original Vestry Resolution, the principal of the Third Millennium Fund shall not be invaded, but the Fund income can be used in the following areas: 1) Capital Needs of the Parish, 2) Outreach Ministries, 3) Education and Training, 4) Projects of the Episcopal Church at home and overseas, 5) other purposes specifically designated by the donors.

The Third Millennium Fund Board usually meets quarterly. It considers petitions for funding from both within and outside Nativity. Board decisions are recommendations to the Vestry, which retains official authority over the allocation and expenditure of funds. During the past year the Board recommended approval for several funding requests including the Nativity "GIFT" program, New Bethany Spring Hunger Program, New Bethany Souper Day of Caring, Share Care Faith in Action, Nativity Youth Camp, Nativity Marketing/Communication, Hurd Lecture Series and Nativity Office Summer Intern.

The TMF Board also encourages Cathedral parishioners to submit funding petitions which meet the criteria set forth in paragraph 4 above. All petitions should be forwarded to any of the TMF Board members listed below.

2016 TMF Board Members:

Don Appleton (Chairperson), Harry Johnston, John Randall, Siobhan Adrizonne, Karyn Arcario, Trip Trepagnier, Susan Sartoretto, Ryan Bancroft, Karen Boksan and James Reader.

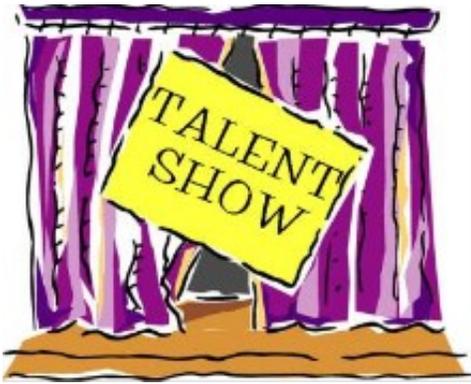
Ex-Officio: Dean - Tony Pompa

BISHOP'S VISIT FOR REGIONAL CONFIRMATION/EASTER VIGIL/CELTIC NIGHT

Saturday March 26th 5:00 p.m.

The Bishop will be present this Holy Week and Easter. Saturday evening at the Great Vigil, the Bishop will baptize, confirm, receive in a regional gathering. It is also Celtic Spirituality night and we are busy planning a Vigil with Celtic influences. If you are an adult new to the Cathedral, to the Episcopal Church and would like to be received or confirmed by the Bishop please contact the Dean directly: tpompa@nativitycathedral.org





Nativity Youth Camp Spaghetti Supper and Talent Show - February 28

Tickets will be on sale at all services between now and February 28 and will also be available at the door. Join us for pasta and an evening of fun and entertainment you will not want to miss!

All proceeds benefit camp scholarships because Nativity Youth

Camp is free!!

Talent Show Entertainment for the evening is open to any member of the congregation. If you would like to sign up an act, contact Canon Michelle or Brian and Marie Mauro before February 28th.

Some Basic Camp Facts:

Who can attend camp? You can attend camp after completing 2nd grade (8 years old and up) through graduating seniors.

Who are camp counselors? All youth in grades 9-12 are eligible to be camp counselors. Contact camp directors Brian & Marie Mauro or Canon Michelle Moyer for more information about how to join the counselor staff.

Can adults come to camp? YES, Adults can join camp staff. In order to be a camp staffer you must complete Safe Guarding God's Children Training and attend planning meetings.

When is Camp? June 18- 25, 2016

Where is Camp? Camp Lackawanna in Tunkhannock PA

How can I get more information about camp? See Camp directors Brian & Marie Mauro or Canon Michelle Moyer for more information, camp brochures will be available with camp registration forms in Sayre Hall, in the Narthex of the Sanctuary, and on our parish website.

When will registration for Camp Open? Registration for Camp will open on February 29.

When will registration for Camp Close? Registration for Camp will close on June 10 (one week before camp starts).

Is there any cost to attend camp? NO!! All members of Nativity Cathedral attend camp free of charge through fundraisers and individuals who offer scholarships to campers.

VESTRY SNIPPETS

The Vestry met on Monday, January 18, 2016.

The Vestry has reluctantly accepted the resignation of Don Kelly. We thank him for all the work he did for this group and for our congregation.

We finished 2015 within the budget, which had a projected \$11,000 deficit. We had to take \$8,000 from our DIT savings to cover the deficit. You can help us this year to achieve a balanced budget by keeping your pledges up to date.

Thanks to all you who have supported Earlene Miller's kidney transplant. Her surgery was successful and she and her niece Tara are doing well.

The Vestry will meet again Monday, February 22, 2016



ASH WEDNESDAY- WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 10TH

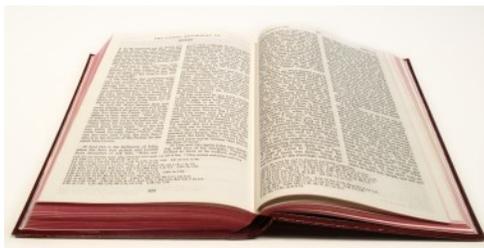
Liturgy for Ash Wednesday and Imposition of Ashes
7:30 AM Good Shepherd Chapel (Lower Level Sayre Hall)
9:00 AM Good Shepherd Chapel
7:00 PM Cathedral

THE PARISH REGISTRY

Marriages

12/12/2015 – Margaret Warncke and Jeffrey Fehnel, Sr.

01/01/2016 – Lindsay Hoolehan and James Voter



THE FEBRUARY LECTIONARY

February 7

Exodus 34:29-35
2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2
Luke 9:28-36, [37-43a]
Psalm 99

Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:1-2,12-17
or Isaiah 58:1-12
2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10
Matthew 6:1-6,16-21
Psalm 103 or 103:8-14

February 14

Deuteronomy 26:1-11
Romans 10:8b-13
Luke 4:1-13
Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

February 21

Genesis 15:1-12,17-18
Philippians 3:17-4:1
Luke 13:31-35
Psalm 27

February 28

Exodus 3:1-15
1 Corinthians 10:1-13
Luke 13:1-9
Psalm 63:1-8

THANK YOU!

To All who donated Dunkin Donuts and McDonalds gift cards, and contributed to Christmas gift bag supplies that were given to our Room At The Inn guests on Christmas Eve— THANK YOU!! Enough supplies were collected to aide our guests throughout the entire winter. Your generosity was overwhelming and our guests were extremely grateful and surprised by your outpouring of kindness.

To those who have provided meals, spent the night, done laundry and assisted in any way, thank you for your hard work, dedication, and the care you offer our guests each week.

Thank you, you are living the gospel message and spreading the Kingdom by helping others.

SAINTS ALIVE!

HAGIOGRAPHY OF CELTIC SAINTS AND THE STORIES THAT SHAPE SAINTS CULTS

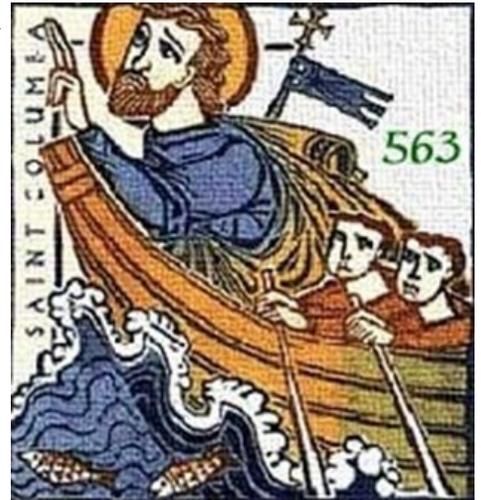
Celtic Hagiography is the study and examination of Saints lives and the stories told of their lives that have shaped spiritual and cultural practices. This monthly gathering will be an exploration of the Celtic saints and cultic practices in Wales, Ireland, Brittany, and Cornwall.

Led by The Very Rev. Anthony R. Pompa, Dean and Rector, Nativity Cathedral, Bethlehem.

Location: Nativity Cathedral, 321 Wyandotte St. Bethlehem. 3rd floor Sayre Hall.

When: Last Thursdays of each month: 7-8 p.m. Begins January 28th- Concludes July 28th.

To Register for this experience: tpompa@nativitycathedral.org



CLERGY AND VESTRY

The Rt. Rev. Sean Rowe, Bishop Provisional

The Very Rev. Anthony R. Pompa, Dean and Rector tpompa@nativitycathedral.org

The Rev. Canon Michelle Moyer, canonmichelle@nativitycathedral.org

Richard Guyer, Sr. Warden RichardGuyer837@gmail.com

Kris Warner, Jr. Warden kristinaww@yahoo.com

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