



# DIOCESAN DIGEST

## for Central Pennsylvania

July 12, 2010

### FROM THE DESK OF.....

#### BISHOP NATHAN BAXTER

Dear Friends in Christ;

Recently I found in my mail a post card invitation addressed "To Our Friends At... (our address and zip code followed)". The message was clear and simple, "We would love to have you join us in our commitment to build a church of truth and grace." I am sure this invitation went to all in my zip code. We were being invited to the opening of a new church plant of the Anglican Church in North America. This is the body representing a number of break-away bodies going back at least to 1928 (the Reformed Episcopal Church broke away for reasons including the new 1928 BCP and the Anglo-Catholic Movement). Of course the most recent would be congregations largely from the Diocese of Pittsburgh. This postcard reminded me of several things:

First, it was a good example of evangelism. The notice was simple and attractive with a clear message. There was no blatant baggage and language felt welcoming. This has not always been so here and in other dioceses. We have experienced appeals to the public based on anti-Episcopal Church bias as recent as this winter. In the most extreme case we have responded with correction to the message but never to their right to exist.

Second, I expect that in the near future we will see other such efforts in other parts of our diocese. In fact, there have been alternative Anglican congregations in some of our communities for years. In this regard we should keep one another (especially the bishop) aware of such developments for information sake.

Third, we should be encouraged to keep advancing our own local evangelism efforts, keeping our communities aware of our local witness of Jesus Christ, our desire to know neighbors and welcome them into our congregation, whether for a special event or our ongoing life we must keep them aware we are there and we care.

Fourth, as a diocese we are discerning where and how we strength our existing "new plant" and where (based on demographics) we might renew a "missions" or develop other new ministries.

*(continued top right)*

Fifth, we should reassure our congregations not to be fearful or hostile as alternative Anglican efforts develop. Other main-line bodies such as Presbyterians, Lutherans, Baptist and those of Wesleyan traditions have lived for generations with various strands of their traditions existing in their communities. We should keep active our ministries, evangelism and show the best of Christian love and Anglican comprehensiveness.

Finally, join me in re-reading the nurturing directive of St. Paul's admonition to the Church at Philippi (4:8, 9).

May the God of peace be with each of you.  
+Nathan

### UPCOMING EVENTS...July-Sept.

- Jul 15** Bishop to attend groundbreaking of new community center at Episcopal Towers, Shippensburg
- Jul 18** Bishop visits St. Benedict's, New Freedom
- Jul 22** 2pm Finance Committee meeting
- Jul 22** Bishop visits All Saints, Selinsgrove
- Jul 25** Bishop visits St. Luke's, Mount Joy
- Jul 28** COM meeting (location to be confirmed)
- Jul 29** 10am-3pm School of Christian Studies Board Retreat, St. Andrew's in the Valley, Harrisburg
- Aug 2-6** BASIC children's camp at Camp Mt. Luther
- Aug 18-25** Bishop to attend Diocesan Convention in Sao Paulo, Brazil
- Sep 5** Bishop visits Trinity, Jersey Shore
- Sep 6** Diocesan Office Closed for Labor Day
- Sep 12** Bishop visits Trinity, Williamsport
- Sep 14-23** Bishop at House of Bishops, Arizona
- Sep 25** 10am-2pm Deacons' Day, Harrisburg
- Sep 26** Bishop visits Holy Trinity, Shamokin & St. Stephen's, Mt. Carmel
- Sep 30** COM meeting (location to be confirmed)

*If you have an event of interest to the Diocese that you would like to have listed on the Diocesan website calendar, please contact Deacon Pat Strohl at [pstrohl@diocesepa.org](mailto:pstrohl@diocesepa.org) or 888-236-5959*

### Brian McLaren Video; Available

Brian McLaren, author and speaker, and one of America's 25 most influential evangelicals, was the guest speaker at the 140<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention for Diocese CPA.

If you were unable to attend the Convention and hear Brain speak, you can now view a video presentation of his workshop "Understanding Our Changing Times." Contact your Convocation Convener to borrow the video.

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**REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS...**

**Northern Tier Mission Group** to the parish of Registro, Brazil July 6-22.

**Rebecca Brooks**, Mother of Father Kim Brooks has recently undergone surgery and is preparing for a second surgery.

**Alice McNutt** continues treatment for colitis and a non-cancerous tumor in her pancreas.

**Maddie Letsche**, Acolyte at St. Luke's, Altoona, as she undergoes treatment for both thyroid cancer and Image Negative Transverse Myelitis.

**Deacon Kerry Walters**, who continues treatment for heart problems.

**The Rev. Erica Wood**, (Retired) Rector of St. Luke's, Mt. Joy, as she continues chemotherapy.

**Bob Rose**, who continues his cancer battle.

**SAVE THE DATE FOR  
FALL ORDINATIONS**

On Sunday, October 31, 2010 at 4:00 pm, Bishop Baxter will be ordaining a number of Deacons at St. Stephen's Cathedral in Harrisburg.

We have one Ordinand and several Candidates, who are awaiting completion of their final requirements for ordination, including speaking with and receiving the recommendation of the Commission on Ministry and Standing Committee at their meeting on September 30th. The official announcement of the names of those to be ordained will be made immediately following.

Please pray for these folks as they prepare for their final journey towards ordination.

**LAY EMPLOYEES PLANNING FOR  
TOMORROW CONFERENCE**

By now, if you are a lay employee within our Diocese, you should have received a "Save the Date" flyer from the Church Pension Fund for the Lay Employees' Planning for Tomorrow Conference. It is a two day conference, to be held on October 29-30 at the Harrisburg Hilton.

The conference is open to all lay employees working 20 hours or more a week and their spouses. The conference will include life and financial planning (taxes, savings, investments) and government benefits (social security, medicare). Participants may request individual life-planning consultations with conference faculty.

More details will be sent out by Church Pension Fund, including costs (which will be minimal, as this conference is heavily funded by CPF). For more information, contact Yvonne Elliott or Sean Scheller at the Church Pension Fund 800-223-6602.

**"Come Out of the Woodwork"**

Father Patrick Collins of St. John's Huntingdon is searching for volunteer help on a project located at the Diocesan Center in Harrisburg. Youth of the Diocese created two beautiful glass mosaics during their Summer Camp in June. The mosaics now need to be framed so they can be displayed in the Diocesan Center.

If you have the time and the talent to assist in this project, please phone Father Patrick at 814-506 6919.



**"SPEAK THE TRUTH"**

**ECW 15TH ANNUAL  
FALL WEEKEND RETREAT**

Cape May ~ September 24-26, 2010

Led by The Rev. Jane Miron

*Gather for a time of God's truth as we seek, search and explore the truths in our own lives.*

**Deadline to Register is August 31, 2010**

Conference Registration Form attached with Digest and available at [www.diocesecpa.org](http://www.diocesecpa.org)

Send form and check payable to Diocese of Central PA ECW to 543 Mockingbird Dr., Columbia PA 17512

For more information contact Beth Runkle at [brunkle@state.pa.us](mailto:brunkle@state.pa.us)

Lodging: Marquis de Lafayette Hotel

*Deadline to receive group rate is August 27, 2010.*

Call 800-257-0432, ext. 101 (ask for ECW rate)

**DIOCESAN HONORS**

*Awarded at Diocesan Convention*

Spirit of the Diocese awards are given out at each Diocesan Convention to lay persons who have excelled in ministry and service in their parish, their community, and the diocese. This year's honorees were:

Sue Moyer, St. Luke's, Mt. Joy

Maddie Letsche, St. Luke's, Altoona

Michael Shoemaker, St. Stephen's Cathedral, Harrisburg

John Stevenson, Prince of Peace, Gettysburg

Sue Young, Trinity, Williamsport

Otto Orszagh, All Saints, Coudersport

Amy Swiernik, St. Edward's, Lancaster, ECW President

Charlie Schlegel, St. Matthew's, Sunbury

Robert Rose, St. Andrew's, Shippensburg

Distinguished Clergy Awards are also given each year to clergy to honor long term service to the diocese.

This year's honorees were:

The Rev. Canon Mark Scheneman, St. John's, Carlisle

The Rev. John Hoover, Diocesan Deployment Associate

The Rev. Canon Joe Seville, Canon to the Ordinary

The Rev. Tim Small, Hope Church, Mt. Hope

The Rev. Vance Clark (Ret.) attending Trinity, Tyrone

The Rev. Daphne Messersmith, Nativity &

St. Stephen's, Newport

*If you have news or announcements of diocesan interest to include in the Diocesan Digest, please contact Carolyn Joy Patterson at [cpatterson@diocesecpa.org](mailto:cpatterson@diocesecpa.org)*