



DIOCESAN DIGEST

for Central Pennsylvania

February 14, 2011

FROM THE DESK OF..... BISHOP NATHAN BAXTER

Dear Sisters & Brothers;

The clergy of a diocese are the primary "congregation" of the bishop. Finding times to bring them together for prayer, fellowship, continuing education and consultation on matters of the Church is essential. Historically, a principal time for such a gathering is the Annual Clergy Conference. Last week approximately 80 Clergy from around the Diocese gathered in Harrisburg for their annual Winter Clergy Conference.

Attendees worshipped together, attended sessions and shared meals with me and our guests: Bishop Mark Lawrence of South Carolina and Dr. Richard Hughes of Messiah College. They also participated in affinity groups to discuss topics such as stewardship, ministry in small congregations, ministry to children & youth and planning for sabbatical and continuing education. On Monday night they spent time discussing ecclesiological issues with Bp Lawrence, a leading conservative bishop of the Church. The conversation helped us to understand the perspectives of conservative churches and was an opportunity for some of our clergy to share their views on critical issues in the life of the Church. He also talked about congregational development and ministry, an area where his diocese has been a leader. It was a very meaningful time of sharing differences, gaining new insights and witnessing the diocese hospitality in diversity.

Tuesday's lecturer was Dr. Richard Hughes, Distinguished Professor of Religion at Messiah College, and author of "Christian America and the Kingdom of God". Dr. Hughes first spoke on "How the Episcopal Tradition Can Sustain the Life of the Mind and Enrich the Common Good." His second presentation was entitled "The Message That Must be Preached: The Biblical Vision of the Kingdom of God." Professor Hughes engaged clergy to better understand the historic developments in American culture which has led to current political and cultural conflicts. He offered insights into what uniquely the Episcopal Church might offer in evangelism and ministry. This was a rich experience both theologically and practically. The Conference ended with a morning of conversation with me about the diocese, including national canonical changes, diocesan mission, theological and pastoral issues in local congregations, the upcoming Diocesan Convention and the 2012 General Convention of the Episcopal Church.

I thank all who supported participation of our priests and deacons during this annual time of growth and renewal. The care of those who care for us is a vital part of our mutual ministry.

Peace & Grace,

+Nathan

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UPCOMING EVENTS...

February - April

- Feb 15** 7pm Celebration of New Ministry and Installation of The Rev. Cn. John McDowell, Blue Ridge Summit & Beartown
Feb 20 Bishop visits St. John's, Bellefonte
Feb 21 Diocesan Office closed for Presidents' Day
Feb 23 11:10 am Bishop to preach at Lancaster Seminary Chapel service, as part of their African American Heritage Celebration (*public is welcome to attend*)
Feb 24 7pm Celebration of New Ministry and Installation of The Rev. David Zwifka, St. Mark's, Lewistown
Feb 25-27 Winter Conference X-Teen, Camp Mt. Luther
Feb 27 Bishop visits Hope Church, Mt. Hope
Mar 3 7pm Eucharistic Visitor Training, St. Edward's Lancaster
Mar 5 10am-2pm Safeguarding God's Children Training, St. James, Mansfield (see p. 2 for details)
Mar 6 Bishop visits St. Mark's, Northumberland and Christ Church, Milton
Mar 9 Ash Wednesday
Mar 13 Bishop visits St. Andrew's, Shippensburg
Mar 17 7pm Celebration of New Ministry and Installation of The Rev. Chris Pyles, St. John's, Bellefonte
Mar 19-20 Bishop visits Good Shepherd, Hawk Run & St. Paul's, Philipsburg
Mar 23 Archdeacon Solbak at Bangor Church, Churchtown for presentation on Diaconate
Mar 24-31 Bishop to attend House of Bishops
Apr 1 Deadline for Nominations by Petition
Apr 3 Bp. Creighton visits All Saint, Hanover
Apr 3 Bp. Baxter visits St. Thomas, Lancaster
Apr 6 Celebration of New Ministry and Installation of The Rev. Stephen Swift, St. Benedict's, New Freedom (Sthn York Co.)
Apr 7 Council of Trustees Meeting
Apr 10 Bishop visits St. Paul's, Wellsboro
Apr 14 9am Commission on Ministry & Standing Committee meeting (location to be confirmed)
Apr 16 Warden & Vestry Leaders Conference
Apr 17 Palm Sunday - Bishop at Trinity Pro Cathedral, Wport
Apr 19 Renewal of Ordination Vows & Clergy&Spouse Lunch
Apr 24 Easter Sunday - Bishop at St. Stephen's Cathedral
Apr 21—Apr 25 Diocesan Office closed for Easter Break

If you have an event of interest to the Diocese that you would like to have listed on the Diocesan website calendar, please contact the Diocese at officemailbox@diocesecpa.org or 888-236-5959

Call to Convention Exhibitors

All persons, organizations, churches, or programs interested in exhibiting at Diocesan Convention June 10th and 11th please contact Pam Ballinger, Exhibits Coordinator, at the Diocesan Office. Pam is available Monday to Thursday afternoons and Friday morning at 888-236-5959 or at officemailbox@diocesecpa.org.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS...

The Rev. Jane Miron, Deacon, who will undergo eye surgery on Wednesday.

The Rev. Ron Lynch, retired of Lewistown, who fell and sustained broken nose, black eyes facial lacerations. He is recovering at home.

Fr. Eduardo Guerra, Associate Priest at Christ Church Williamsport, who is recovering from surgery for a broken hip. In addition he is undergoing dialysis three times a week.

Sandi Imboden, as she continues her cancer treatments.

The Rev. Tom Gregg, father of The Rev. Rowena Gibbons and a retired Episcopal priest, who has brain cancer.

Maddie Letsche, Acolyte at St. Luke's, Altoona, who recently visited the Mayo Clinic for tests and to determine continued treatment and physical therapy for Image Negative Transverse Myelitis. Pray that God will continue to provide Maddie with the strength she needs to deal with ongoing pain related to her condition.

The Rev. Erica Wood, Retired Rector of St. Luke's, Mt. Joy, as she continues cancer treatment.

Bob Rose, who continues his cancer battle.

MEET OUR NEW WEBMASTER

Lesley Carter is the new webmaster for the Diocese. Lesley also works full time for the Baltimore-Washington United Methodist Conference as their webmaster and has worked as a web developer in the non-profit world for over eleven years. She has an M.Div. from Vanderbilt Divinity School and a B.A. in theology from the University of Dallas. Lesley lives in Shippensburg with her husband, Martin Noakes and six lively (and spoiled) cats. If you have any questions, comments or ideas for the diocesan website, you may contact Lesley by email at lcarter@diocesecpa.org.

Safeguarding God's Children Training

Safeguarding God's Children Training will be held at St. James, Mansfield **March 5, 10am to 2pm**. The cost is \$10 and includes lunch. The Rev. Dee Calhoun will facilitate the training. Please RSVP in writing with fee to St. James, 30 E. Wellsboro St., Mansfield, PA 16933. For more information, please email The Rev. Rowena Gibbons at rowena_gibbons@yahoo.com.

ATTENTION CLERGY

Office of Transitional Ministry Website

Clergy must log on to the new Office of Transitional Ministry (OTM) website to create a new username, password and portfolio (known as your "profile" on CDO website) or to update your profile from the old CDO website before that site closes. You can get information on how to do this by going to www.diocesecpa.org, click on "People & Positions" and then "Clergy Deployment". There you will find links to www.otmportfolio.org and instructions on how to complete the necessary steps.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE
2011 BUDGET REVISIONS**

In January 2011, the reduced fair share ask that was approved at Convention went into effect. As usual, in early January the Diocesan Finance Committee and the Council of Trustees made final revisions to the 2011 budget. An additional \$70,000 was cut from the budget approved at the convention as a result of several significant changes. Bishop Baxter recommended, and the Finance Committee approved, that his salary and housing, as well as the staff salaries, be frozen at their current levels rather than implement the salary increases that were in the original budget that was approved at Convention. This is the second consecutive year that the Bishop's compensation has been frozen.

Significant savings were realized from a reduced ask from the National Church, the change to an electronic method of communication and the discontinuance of the Tidings mailings, and reductions in the budget for Archdeacons. Some additional part time bookkeeping hours were paid for by a reduction in other office expenses and insurances.

EUGCHARISTIC VISITOR TRAINING

Archdeacon Molly Solbak will hold Eucharistic Visitor Training on Thursday, March 3rd at 7:00pm at St. Edward's Church, 2453 Harrisburg Pike, Lancaster.

Please contact Archdeacon Solbak at knitnpray@aol.com if you are interested in attending.

LENTEN MEDITATIONS ONLINE

During Lent, six Lenten Meditation podcasts will be presented at our website: www.diocesecpa.org.

March 7 *Lent: A Time of Discipline & Grace*
The Rt. Rev. Nathan Baxter

March 10 *Body in Prayer*
The Rev Cn. Ken Wagner-Pizza

March 17 *Gospel Discipleship*
The Rev Cn. David Lovelace

March 24 *Thanksgiving: Your Lenten Reflection*
The Rev Cn. Greg Hinton

March 31 *Peregrinus - Journeying through Lent*
The Rev. Cn. Stephen Casey

April 7 *Go Ahead - Take a Chance*
The Rev. Cn. Marjorie Menaul

PILGRIMAGE TO IRELAND

The Rev. Canon Mark Scheneman of St. John's Episcopal Church, Carlisle, will lead a Pilgrimage to Ireland, **July 15-26, 2011**. The trip will include exploration of the Dingle Peninsula and the Shannon Valley; a visit to Armagh, the ecclesiastical capital of Ireland; the Ulster-American Folk Park, which recreates Newville Pennsylvania circa 1770; Donegal and Sligo; Connemara and Galway. For information about participating, email Fr. Mark at mscheneman@stjohnscarlisle.org or call St. John's Church at 243-4220.



If you have news or announcements of diocesan interest to include in the Diocesan Digest, please contact Carolyn Joy Patterson at cpatterson@diocesecpa.org