



DIOCESAN DIGEST

for Central Pennsylvania

September 12, 2011



Bishop Baxter is attending the Fall House of Bishops meeting in Quito, Ecuador September 13-22.

Please pray for our Bishop and all the bishops gathered, that God will bless their meetings & grant them safe travels.

Public Meetings on Denominational Health Plan *Postponed*

Circumstances, not the least being the recent flooding throughout the Diocese, has required us to postpone the Denominational Health Plan seminars that were scheduled for September 17th (at Trinity Williamsport) and September 24th (at St. Paul's, Harrisburg).

As only a very few people registered for the seminars, going forward we will create additional informational and explanatory videos to be posted on the diocesan website. These videos will be a prelude to four webinar interactive sessions. The dates and times for the webinar sessions will be scheduled so as to maximize your ability to directly relate to the Diocese, and to each other, with your concerns and questions.

We will let you know when the videos will be available on the website and the dates and times for the webinars, once these have been confirmed. Please go online to review the material once it is posted and plan to be a part of one of these webinars.

The implementation of the Denominational Health Plan has been mandated by the National Church. However, we as a diocese must design the plan that is best for our diocese, within that mandate. Be a part of this design process. Go on the website to educate yourself with the material to be provided and participate in the webinars, so your voice will be heard as we work to put into place the best plan for our diocese.



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UPCOMING EVENTS...

September – October

- Sep 13-22** Bishop at House of Bishops, Quito, Ecuador
- Sep 22** 10am-2pm Clergy Association Fall Education Day, at Trinity, Williamsport
- Sep 25** Bishop visits St. Andrew's, York
- Sep 27** Installation & Celebration of New Ministry of The Rev. Stephen Swift as Missioner at St. Benedict's, New Freedom
- Sep 28** Commission on Ministry and Standing Committee mtgs
- Sep 29** 10am-3pm Working with the Deacon in the Parish workshop, All Saints, Selinsgrove.
- Sep 29** 10am Council of Trustees meeting
- Oct 2** Bishop visits St. Andrew's, State College
- Oct 2** Bishop visits of St. Francis, University Park
- Oct 8** 10am Episcopal Home, Shippensburg, Board Meeting
- Oct 13-14** BACOM
- Oct 13-16** School of Healing Prayer Level 2, Trinity Williamsport
- Oct 15** 10-2pm Congregational Development Task Group meets at All Saints to hand out application forms for Congregational Development Grants
- Oct 16** Bishop visits St. Luke's, Altoona
- Oct 21-22** Clergy Spouses Retreat, Villa Sacred Heart, Danville
- Oct 23** Bishop visits St. Paul's, Lock Haven
- Oct 24** LARC Day of Dialogue
- Oct 25-26** Bishop at HOB Pastoral Development Committee
- Oct 29** Deacons' Day
- Oct 30** Bishop visits St. Stephen's Cathedral, Harrisburg

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

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT FLOOD ASSISTANCE

A disaster declaration for Individual Assistance (IA) for flood damage has been made by the President. That means flood victims in Adams, Cumberland, Dauphin, Lancaster, Lebanon, Perry, Schuylkill and York counties are eligible for federal funding. The money could come in the form of grants for temporary housing and home repairs as well as low-cost loans to cover uninsured or under-insured property losses. Individuals and business owners who sustained losses can now begin applying for assistance

You can apply at www.disasterassistance.gov or call 1-800-621-FEMA (1-800-621-3362). The phone lines are open 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days a week until further notice.

If you know others who have lost their computer connection or their systems, please consider having them into your home to register. Public libraries may also have computers available. Finally, Township offices are a good information resource.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS...

All those in our region who have been affected by the recent flooding caused by TS Lee.

There are many who have lost much and have a long way to go to recover some normalcy in their lives.

Ms. Carol Anne Oldberg, sister of Susan Hinton, who is undergoing treatment for lung cancer.

The Rev. Tom & Dr. DeeAnn Reeder, who are on sabbatical in South Sudan until October. Follow his blog at: www.southsudansabbatical.blogspot.com

Rayelenn Casey continues to recover at home following a car accident.

The Rev. Deacon Barbara Hary, continues doctors' care for heart-related issues.

Thomas Kerr, father of The Rev. Lauri Kerr, continues in care for lung cancer.

The Rev. Tom Gregg, father of The Rev. Rowena Gibbons continues in care for brain cancer.

Maddie Letsche, Acolyte at St. Luke's, Altoona, who continues treatment and physical therapy for Image Negative Transverse Myelitis.

Bob Rose continues his cancer battle.

Flood Report; from our Diocesan Family

Tropical Storm Lee cut quite a path up the Susquehanna and through our diocese. Here are some of the reports we have received from around the diocese.

The Diocesan Center is on a high point along the river and so remained dry, despite its proximity to the river.

Several staff members' homes, however, were affected by the flood.

Christ Church, Milton had feared they would have major flooding, but were spared from all but their basement.

They were able to get cleaned up enough to hold services on Sunday.

St. Edward's, Lancaster did not suffer any damage from the flooding, but have several parishioners who were affected.

St. Paul's, Harrisburg got several inches of water in their undercroft and were without power for a couple of days, but are thankful the river didn't crest as high as expected in Harrisburg.

St. Andrew's York, is a VOAD site. VOAD stands for Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster, and so they were called into action both to assist during the flood and in the clean up efforts in York.

St. John, Marietta was spared the flood waters, although several parishioners have been affected and are still cleaning up their homes.

St. James, Lancaster was activated as a Red Cross Emergency Shelter on Thursday morning and fed and sheltered up to 74 people over the weekend.

St. Paul's, Bloomsburg got only a little water damage in their basement. However, several parishioners will probably have to gut their houses and start over and there is quite a lot of damage around Bloomsburg.

St. Paul's, Manheim had their basement flooded, which damaged the computers as they were under water for two days. Many baptismal, wedding and funeral records were damaged, as well as furniture and Sunday School materials.

GLEAM churches all fared well, but several parishioners have sustained major flood damage.

Christ Church, Berwick is situated high above the river, so was not touched. However, people in the area did sustain serious damage. Christ Church will hold a clothing give away this weekend for flood victims and will be helping The Salvation Army in their efforts to feed 1,000 people a day.

The Disaster Response Commission is available to assist with flood cleanup. If you *need help* with cleanup, please contact the diocese. If you would like to *volunteer for cleanup*, please go to the diocesan website at www.diocesecpa.org and complete the online form. The Commission will collect the names and create teams to provide assistance where needed. To *make a donation* for relief efforts, please send a check to the diocese with "Diocesan Disaster Relief" in the memo line to Episcopal Diocese of Central Pennsylvania, Attn: Flood Relief, P.O. Box 11937, Harrisburg, PA 17108.



"HONOR AND REMEMBER" Annual ECW Gathering November 5, 2011

The Diocesan ECW Board extends an invitation to every woman in every parish within the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania to attend the Annual ECW Gathering on Saturday, November 5th, 2011 at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 21 South Main Street, Lewis-town.

Elections for the upcoming ECW Board will be held. Each parish is asked to Honor a woman in their home parish who has made a significant contribution to their community. The nominee will be recognized and honored at a special luncheon immediately following the Annual Gathering Meeting. Bishop Baxter will hold a Eucharist and memorial service in the afternoon, where our deceased Sisters in Christ will be remembered. See attached forms for honoring your women and registering for the event.



UTO Grant Applications

Does your parish (or an organization affiliated with your parish) have a project intended to "expand the Church's faithfulness to God's mission"? You may be eligible for a grant from UTO.

Submission dates have changed for 2012!

**The Diocesan Office must receive a copy by
DECEMBER 1, 2011.**

Applications for a 2012 grant will be available to review and fill out at www.episcopalchurch.org/uto on October 1st. Not sure if your project would be eligible or if the affiliated organization can apply? Information will be available at the same website after October 1st or contact Bonnie Chambers, at uto@diocesecpa.org or 717- 838-4416.