DIOCESAN DIGEST

for Central Pennsylvania

September 13, 2010

FROM THE DESK OF…..
BISHOP NATHAN BAXTER

Dear Sisters & Brothers in Christ;

With the recent tension we have seen surrounding the Muslim festival of Eid, the controversy with the Islamic cultural center to be built in New York and the threats made to burn Korans in Florida, I wanted to share with you a letter that I wrote last week to our Muslim friends. It is attached with this Digest.

As I listened to the debate going on in the last several days, I was reminded of a sermon I preached several years ago that I think is still relevant to our world today: "What Christians Can Offer a Polarized Society." I have also attached a copy with this Digest. I hope you will find it to be helpful.

As we confront the unknowns, the debates, the polarizations we face in the world today, I pray we will do so "with the love of God on our lips and in our lives."

Peace and Grace,

+Nathan

P.S. Please remember Mary Ellen and me in your prayers as we travel to the House of Bishops in Phoenix Arizona, where we will be considering many issues facing the nation and our Church, including immigration.

SAVE THE DATE for
HAPPENING # 4
NOVEMBER 12-14, 2010

Happening #4 is a wonderful opportunity for Senior High Youth. It is a renewal retreat weekend held at the Christian Retreat Center, November 12th – 14th, sponsored by the Youth Commission of the Episcopal Diocese of Central PA, and offered to senior high teens.

This event is a program designed by teens for teens and this year Janelle DelSignore is the Happening #4 "rector," who is presently calling together adult and teen staff to prepare for the event.

Questions? We are always delighted to respond, please contact Janelle at 814-574-9197 jed@scasd.org or Robyn Szoke at 717-236-5959 or rszoke@diocesecpa.org.

Check out all the information, including registration forms on the children and youth page on our Diocesan Web Site www.diocesecpa.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS…Aug.-Dec.

Sep 14-23 Bishop at House of Bishops, Arizona
Sep 25 10am-2pm Deacons' Day with the Bishop, Harrisburg
Sep 26 Bishop visits Holy Trinity, Shamokin & St. Stephen's, Mt. Carmel
Sept 28 Celebration of New Ministry and Installation of The Rev. Mary Kisner, Christ Church, Berwick
Sept 29 Exec. Comm. of Council of Trustees
Sep 30 COM + Standing Comm. Meetings for Ordinands at St. John the Baptist, York
Oct 3 morning ~ Bishop visits St. Andrew's, State College
Oct 3 evening ~ Bishop visits St. Francis, University Park
Oct 7 10-1 SCS Board meeting at Diocese
Oct 7 2pm Finance Committee meeting at Diocese
Oct 10 Bishop visits St. Matthew's, Sunbury
Oct 13-14 BACOM
Oct 16 9am-3pm Prayer & Healing Conference at St. Stephen's Cathedral (details p. 2)
Oct 17 Bishop visits St. Luke's, Altoona
Oct 23 Bishop to participate in Washington National Cathedral Prayer Center anniversary services
Oct 24 Bishop visits Christ Memorial, Danville
Oct 25 LARC Conference (details to follow)
Oct 26 Celebration of New Ministry and Installation of The Rev. Janis Yskamp, All Saints, Brookland & Christ Church, Coudersport
Oct 28 Council of Trustees meeting/retreat, Nativity, Newport
Oct 31 Bishop visits St. Stephen's Cathedral, Harrisburg
Oct 31 4pm Ordination of Deacons, St. Stephen's Cathedral
Nov 3 Southern Convocation Fall Meeting
Nov 5-6 Bishop at Dioc. of NW PA Centennial
Nov 7 Bishop visits St. John the Baptist, York
Nov 7 4pm Concert for Haiti, St. Stephen's Cathedral, Hbg.
Nov 9 Lancaster Convocation Fall meeting
Nov 10 Harrisburg Convocation Fall meeting
Nov 11-14 Bishop preaching at Diocese of No. CA Centennial
Nov 16 Altoona Convocation Fall meeting
Nov 18 Susquehanna Convocation Fall meeting
Nov 20 Bishop at Good Shepherd, Hawk Run Centennial
Nov 21 Bishop visits Christ Church, Williamsport
Nov 21 afternoon West Branch Convocation Fall meeting
Nov 25-26 Diocesan Office closed for Thanksgiving
Nov 28 Bishop visits St. Andrew's, York
Nov 30 Northern Tier Convocation Fall meeting
Dec 4 Concert #2 for Haiti (location to be confirmed)
Dec 9 10am Executive Comm. Of Council of Trustees
Dec 5 Bishop visits Prince of Peace, Gettysburg
Dec 12 Bishop visits Nativity, Newport
Dec 19 Bishop visits St. Paul's, 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 Deacon Pat Strohl at pstrohl@diocesecpa.org or 888-236-5959

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REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS…

Alice McNutt writes: "I want you all to know how much my family and I appreciate your prayers for my healing these many months. We are thankful that I have been relieved of most of the troublesome symptoms. The pancreatic cyst will continue to be monitored. With much, much gratitude and affection, *Alice McNutt*"

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.

Parish Health Commission Presents

Prayer and Healing Conference

With Special Speaker
The Rev. Nigel Mumford, Director of Christ the King Spiritual Life Center
For Pastoral Care-givers, Nurses, Doctors, Clergy
October 16, 2010 9:00am - 3:00pm
St. Stephen's Cathedral, 221 N. Front St., Harrisburg
Workshops include:
Parish Health, Parish Nursing, Pastoral Caregiving, Lay Eucharisitic Visitors and Healing, Developing Healing in the Congregation, Wellness
Fee: $20.00 per person (includes lunch)
Send check payable to The Diocese of Central PA
With "Prayer & Healing Conference" in memo line to:
Diocese of Central PA, Attn: Linda Arguedas
PO Box 11937, Harrisburg, PA 17108
Suggested reading to prepare for conference:
The Forgotten Touch
Heartfelt Prayers for Healing 31 Day Devotional
The Practice of Soaking Prayer
(all by Father Mumford)
If you have questions, please contact
The Rev. Robyn Szoke 717-243-4220

FALL CONVOCATION MEETINGS

SOUTHERN Wednesday November 3
LANCASTER Tuesday November 9
HARRISBURG Wednesday November 10
ALTOONA Tuesday November 16
SUSQUEHANNA Wednesday November 17
WEST BRANCH Sunday November 21
NORTHERN TIER Tuesday November 30

Details of location and time will follow. If you have any questions, please contact Linda Arguedas at 888-236-5959 or larguedas@diocesecpa.org

Annual Gathering of the ECW
November 13, 2010
Christ Episcopal Church, Williamsport
"Reshaping Traditions"

The Episcopal Church Women's Board is pleased to announce an Annual Meeting presenting changes that will ***'Reshape the Traditions of the ECW'*** throughout the Central Pennsylvania Diocese. A meeting that will explain how the Board is reshaping the traditional ECW to continually find ways to bring Jesus Christ, outreach, worship, celebration and fellowship to women, will take place November 13, 2010 at Christ Episcopal Church, 426 Mulberry Street, Williamsport.

Registration for the Diocesan Annual ECW Gathering is available through Mrs. Emily Gleckner. Registration form and information flyer are attached with this Digest and available on the Diocesan website. If you have questions or would like more information, please contact ECW President Amy Swiernik at 717-285-2036 or amyecwcpa@comcast.net.

SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN STUDIES

Classes for the Fall Semester of School of Christian Studies will begin on September 18th at Nativity, Newport. Scripture, taught by David Zwifka, and Liturgy, being taught by members of The Commission on Liturgy and Music are being offered in the Three Year Program.

Exploring Your Ministry begins October 9th, with the first class meeting at St. Andrew's in the Valley, Harrisburg.

For further details. please visit the School of Christian Studies under "Programs" on the diocesan website at www.diocesecpa.org.

For further information please contact the Dean, The Rev. Canon Kate Harrigan 717 236 5959 kharrigan@diocesecpa.org.

OPERATION UNDERSTANDING

The Operation Understanding Commission is now accepting applications for the November allocation of grants to parishes which support outreach ministries that feed, shelter, clothe, and provide energy assistance to the needy. Application forms, cover sheets, and guidelines are on the diocesan website.

Please send applications by e-mail *no later than October 31, 2010* to nforgang@embarqmail.com If you do not have access to e-mail, please send your grant application to: Nancy Forgang; 119 Rhodes Avenue; Gettysburg, PA 17325. If you have questions regarding Operation Understanding grants, you may telephone 717-334-0510

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