



DIOCESAN DIGEST

for Central Pennsylvania

January 4, 2011

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

Dear Sisters & Brothers;

In about one month's time, the clergy of our diocese will be gathering in Harrisburg for our the Winter Clergy Conference. This is a time of fellowship, worship, and learning for our clergy. A time to "loosen our collars" and relax with the friends and colleagues who best understand the life to which we have been called, and a time to enrich and expand our minds in our understanding of God and our world.

It is also an opportunity to learn of our brother and sister clergy's journey and particular experiences. One way this happens is in Affinity Circles (Tuesday evening). This year's Affinity Circles will include: the joys and tears of small churches; children and youth ministries; stewardship & fund raising; and preparing for and making the most of sabbaticals. In each group, there will be a facilitator and a couple of clergy who will begin the sharing with their own experience in that area. If there is another topic you would like to add, please contact Linda Arguedas by January 14th.

Clergy Conference is also a time to expand our understanding of our diocesan community and the wider church. Each year, we have a "fireside chat" on Monday evening with someone who speaks on a topic of diversity. This year, our guest will be The Rt. Rev. Mark Lawrence, Bishop of S. Carolina. As you may know, S. Carolina is a diocese that is currently struggling with finding their place and voice in the Episcopal Church because of the conservative theology of many in that diocese and the conflict it has engendered with the National Church. Bp. Lawrence will speak to what it is to be that conservative/conserving voice, the diversity within the diocese and the mission and ministries of the diocese.

Tuesday is a day that is devoted to more scholarly study. This year, Dr. Richard Hughes, Distinguished Professor of Religion and Culture at Messiah College, will speak to us on challenge and opportunity of mainline Christianity in America today. Dr. Hughes is the author of several books, the most recent being "Christian America and the Kingdom of God". He will address how and why the Church is declining today and what could be its relevance locally and in our larger society. He will also speak to the issue of the conservative voice in our churches and how that is affecting the fabric of our church and our faith. Dr. Hughes is a columnist with Huffington Post, and there are links to his posts in the Clergy Conference area on our website. One of his most nationally discussed columns is the 2 part article: "Why Conservative Christians So Often Fail the Common Good."

Throughout the conference the Bishop is available to

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UPCOMING EVENTS... January - March

- Jan 9** Bishop visits All Saints, Hershey
- Jan 10** 5:30pm HIV/AIDS Commission mtg., Nativity, Newport
- Jan 11-12** Bishop attends mtg of PA bishops at State College
- Jan 16** Bishop visits St. Mark's, Lewistown
- Jan 17** Diocesan Office closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Jan 22** Council of Trustees meeting (*budget presentations*), All Saints, Selinsgrove (snow date Jan 29th)
- Jan 23** Bishop visits St. Andrew's, Harrisburg
- Jan 26** 7pm Evensong to celebrate new Diocesan Staff Cans at St. Stephen's Cathedral
- Jan 27** COM meeting - Postulancy interviews
- Jan 30** Bishop visits St. James, Muncy & St. James, Exchange
- Feb 4-5** Bishop to Florida to speak at Statewide Interfaith Symposium
- Feb 7-9** Winter Clergy Conference
- Feb 13** Bishop visits Mt. Calvary, Camp Hill
- Feb 20** Bishop visits St. John's, Bellefonte
- Feb 23** Bishop to preach at Lancaster Seminary Chapel
- Feb 25-27** Winter Conference X-Teen, Camp Mt. Luther
- Feb 27** Bishop visits Hope Church, Mt. Hope
- Mar 6** Bishop visits St. Mark's, Northumberland and Christ Church, Milton
- Mar 13** Bishop visits St. Andrew's, Shippensburg
- Mar 20** Bishop visits Good Shepherd, Hawk Run & St. Paul's, Hollidaysburg
- Mar 24-31** Bishop to attend House of Bishops

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

From the Desk of Bishop Baxter

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talk with clergy and all of Wednesday morning is devoted to a collective "Time with the Bishop".

So, members of the clergy, I would encourage you to register for conference as soon as possible (the deadline is January 19th). And I would ask that all vestries and congregations support our clergy as they prepare for this time away. Support them with prayer and support them with understanding of their absence from your midst February 7-9, knowing that what enriches them will enrich their ministry with you.

May God continue to bless each of you with a happy and healthy New Year. I feel excited about what God may have in store for me and my ministry this year and I pray you also have such happy anticipation.

+Nathan

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REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS...

Sandi Imboden, wife of Canon Stan Imboden, who underwent surgery for cancer. She is recovering well from surgery and weighing treatment options. Stan asked to pass on the message: "we are remaining optimistic and are grateful for all prayers and kindness we receive."

Ryleigh Madison Benninghoff, the 7 year old daughter of State Rep. Kerry & Mrs. Michele Benninghoff of Bellefonte passed away on December 31, 2010 of cancer. Her funeral was held on January 5th. Please remember the Benninghoff family as they navigate the difficult days ahead.

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, continues treatment for both thyroid cancer and Image Negative Transverse Myelitis.

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

Bob Rose, who continues his cancer battle.

St Andrew's, State College Seeks Youth Ministry Coordinator

St Andrew's State College has a part time staff position open for a new Youth Ministry Coordinator to take charge of the Journey to Adulthood program. More information on this program can be found at www.standrewsc.org/youth-programs. For an informal conversation about the opening please contact Robin Bagby, at christianed@standrewsc.org or 814-237-7659

Letters of interest and resumes should be sent to Fr Richard Wall by January 24th - by mail to St Andrew's Church, 208 W. Foster Avenue, State College, PA 16801 or to rector@standrewsc.org.

YOU ARE INVITED

EVENSONG FOR INSTALLATION OF DIOCESAN STAFF CANONS

All are invited to attend an Evensong on Wednesday, January 26, 2011, 7:00pm at St. Stephen's Cathedral to celebrate the installation of The Rev. Ted Babcock as Canon to the Ordinary and The Rev. Robyn Szoke as Canon for Children & Youth Ministries. Also during this service, Bishop Baxter will honor the Rev. Deacon Carol Snell with the title of Archdeacon for Deacons Emeritus in recognition of her role as the first Archdeacon for Deacons in our Diocese. The joint choirs of St. Andrew's, York; St. John's, Carlisle; St. Andrew's, Shippensburg; and St. Stephen's Cathedral will provide anthems and canticles for the Evensong. Youth of the parishes will participate in the readings. Check our website www.diocesecpa.org, and click on "Our Publications" and "Audio/Visual Materials" to hear podcasts from Fr. Babcock and Rev. Szoke.

YOUTH EVENT NOTICES

E.Y.E. Episcopal Youth Event Registration Deadline ~ January 12th

EYE will take place June 22-226, 2011 at Bethel University in St. Paul, Minnesotan. It is open to young people who have completed grades 9, 10, 11, or 12 by Spring 2011, but have not already attended college. The cost for EYE is \$735, including travel costs and meals. A \$100 down payment is required with your registration. For more information and registration applications go to the website at www.diocesecpa.org, click on "our programs" and then "children & youth". A link to the EYE information is found there. If you have questions, contact Canon Robyn Szoke at 888-236-5959 or by email at rszoke@diocesecpa.org. **Check out Hannah Boston's EYE PodCast at www.diocesecpa.org**

WINTER CONFERENCE X-TEEN

February 25-27, 2011

Focus Theme ~ C.S. Lewis The Voyage of the Dawn Treader

WHAT? Join us on the voyage into the light!

Who? All 9th-12th Graders welcome

Where? Camp Mount Luther

More details will follow, but if you have any questions, contact The Rev. Cn. Robyn Szoke at 888-236-5959 or rszoke@diocesecpa.org.

DIOCESAN CONVENTION DEADLINES

Nominating Committee: Nominee names must be submitted to the Nominating Committee by *January 25, 2011*. Available positions are:

Standing Committee - 2 clergy and 2 laypersons

Council of Trustees - 1 clergy and 1 layperson

Ecclesiastical Trial Court - 2 clergy and 1 layperson

Please send names, biographical and contact information for Nominees to: The Rev. Canon Stephen Casey at vicarsteds@aol.com or c/o St. Edward's Episcopal Church, 2453 Harrisburg Pike, Lancaster, PA 17601.

Resolutions: The deadline to submit resolutions for consideration at the 2011 Diocesan Convention is *February 15, 2011*. Please send your resolution to The Hon. Susan Caravaggio at susanc3@comcast.net or c/o 600 Grampian Blvd., Williamsport, PA 17701

ST. STEPHEN'S CATHEDRAL SEEKS CATHEDRAL OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Attached with this Digest is a posting from St. Stephen's Cathedral for a Cathedral Office Administrator. This is a full time position (40 hours a week).

For more information, and to download an application, go to www.ststep.org and click on "Contact Us". Completed applications can be sent to St. Stephen's by email at hrststephens@gmail.com or by mail at 221 N. Front Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101.

The deadline for applications is January 15, 2011. If you have any questions, please call the church office directly at 717-236-4059.