



DIOCESAN DIGEST

for Central Pennsylvania

October 11, 2011

FROM THE DESK OF.....

BISHOP NATHAN BAXTER

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ:

Did you know that our Diocese of Central Pennsylvania has "institutions"? While we are essentially a diocese of congregations, we have a number of incorporated or diocesan recognized institutions which formally bear the witness of our Diocese and the Episcopal Church.

This week it has come to my attention that three of our institutions have received distinguished honors.

- Episcopal Home, Shippensburg
- Episcopal Square Apartments, Shippensburg
- Episcopal Gardens, Thompsettown (Perry Co)

The latter two are owned through HUD and are an independent corporation of the Diocese. The ministry of these institutions is outstanding in mission, efficiency and applicable government standards.

The **Episcopal Home** (www.episcopalhome.com) is a seniors' assisted living community where all residents receive some form of need based financial aid. This program has been administered for more than 25 years by Canon Mary Grace Shearer, MSW. Canon Shearer is recognized as a leading expert on elder care and over the years the Home has received numerous national and local awards. Recently the Home received a report with no infractions noted in their annual, unannounced, Dept of Public Welfare inspection in June. To receive such a report is rare in the industry.

Episcopal Square (<http://st-andrews-shippensburg.diocpa.org/Become%20Involved/episcopal-square.html>) is a 2 tower independent low-income apartment complex for independent elders and disabled persons. **Episcopal Gardens** (Honaman House) is also a low-income independent living for seniors and disabled persons. Both have just received "Superior" rating from The Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency. They will be recognized at the AHMA Fall Conference in Delaware on October 26th.

We have three other institutions which provide great witness and ministry in the diocese: **The Diocesan School of Christian Studies** (<http://www.diocesecpa.org/Our%20Programs/school-of-christian-studies.html>), providing theological education for lay and ordained ministers; and **St. Stephens Episcopal School** (www.sseschool.org), a fully accredited Pre-K to 8th grade school. The School, which serves a highly diverse student population in Harrisburg metro area, is currently pioneering a Learning Community to serve students studying through cyber-high schools for grades 9-12. The **St. Barnabas Ministry Center** (www.stbarnabascenter.org), located at St. Paul's Harrisburg, serves at-risk children in uptown Harrisburg. The center is a joint ministry of the Diocese and the Lutheran Synod.

(continued at right)

UPCOMING EVENTS...Oct. – Nov.

- Oct 13-14** BACOM, Camp Hebron, Halifax
- 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 19** 7pm Ordination of John Harwood to priesthood, Trinity Pro Cathedral, Williamsport
- 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, St. Stephen's Cathedral, Harrisburg
- Oct 29** 5pm Ordination of Loyde Hartley as Deacon, St. Stephen's Cathedral
- Oct 29** St. Barnabas Center dinner to honor Cn. Joe Seville (see p. 2 for details)
- Oct 30** Bishop visits St. Stephen's Cathedral, Harrisburg
- Nov 1** Bishop visits Christ Church, Milton
- Nov 2** 7pm Harrisburg Convocation, St. Luke's, Mechanicsburg
- Nov 3** 7pm Susquehanna Convocation, St. Paul's, Bloomsburg
- Nov 5** ECW Annual Meeting, St. Mark's, Lewistown
- Nov 5** 10am-2pm Sacred Stitches at St. Mark's, Lewistown
- Nov 6** Bishop visits St. John, York
- Nov 9** 6pm W. Branch Convocation, All Saints, Williamsport
- Nov 10** Bishop at Lebanon VA Hospital to bless and present Sacred Stitches Pocket Prayer Shawls to wounded veterans.
- Nov 10** 7pm N. Tier Convocation, St. Paul's, Wellsboro
- Nov 15** 7pm Lancaster Convocation, Hope Church, Mt. Hope
- Nov 17** 7pm Southern Convocation, St. Andrew's York
- Nov 20** Bishop visits Holy Trinity, Hollidaysburg & Trinity, Tyrone
- Nov 24-25** Diocesan office closed for Thanksgiving
- Nov 27** Bishop visits Christ Church, Danville
- Nov 30** 7pm Altoona Convocation, St. John's, Bellefonte

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

BISHOP'S MESSAGE (continued)

All of these institutions make great witness to the caring spirit of the Episcopal Church in Central Pennsylvania. They provide models of ministry for which we should have great pride. They also offer our congregations rich forum speakers, retreat leaders and consultation on subjects including ministry with elderly and the disabled, private school ministry, outreach to at-risk-children, and topics on Christian faith and theology for all ages. Check out their websites and invite their leaders to your Church.

Peace & Grace,

+Nathan

MAILING ADDRESS
PO Box 11937
Harrisburg, PA 17108

DIOCESAN CENTER
101 Pine Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101

PHONE (717) 236-5959
FAX (717) 236-6448
TOLL FREE (888)236 5959

WEBSITE www.diocesecpa.org
EMAIL officemailbox@diocesecpa.org
FACEBOOK www.facebook.com/diocesecpa
TWITTER www.twitter.com/diocesecpa

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS...

Thomas Frascella, Father of Michael Frascella (St. Stephen's Cathedral Verger) passed away on October 12th in Hershey.

Vickie Fritz, Mother-in-Law of The Rev. Deacon Janice Fritz passed away last week in Massachusetts.

The Rev. Bart Berry has been undergoing several tests and is dealing with a lot of pain and weakness.

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

Rayelenn Casey continues to deal with pain as she recovers 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.

St. Barnabas Center for Ministry

Giving Children Hope & Building Futures

1st Annual Recognition Dinner

Honoring The Rev. Canon Joseph Seville

Saturday, Oct. 29, 2011

Radisson Hotel – Camp Hill

4 p.m. Silent Auction

5 p.m. Cash Bar Cocktail Reception

6 p.m. Dinner & Recognition Program

\$40 per person

Please RSVP **no later than Oct. 22** to

Carol Witzeman @ 717-763-9276

Proceeds benefit St. Barnabas Center for Ministry



LARC DAY OF DIALOGUE

"Hopes, Facts and Fears:

Understanding the

Palestinian-Israeli Conflict"

Speaker: The Rev. Dr. Bruce Chilton

Monday, October 24, 2011

Harrisburg Roman Catholic Diocese

4800 Union Deposit Road, Harrisburg

Deadline to Register: October 17, 2011

Cost (Lunch is included):

\$25 for 1 registration from parish

\$22.50 each for 2 registrations from parish

\$20 each for 3 or more registrations from parish

Registration form attached. Send form and fee to:

Deacon Charles Clark, Diocese of Harrisburg

4800 Union Deposit Road, Harrisburg, PA 17111

For questions call Deacon Clark at 717-657-4804 ext. 265

How Can You Help a Wounded Warrior?

Jeannie Zeller, Sacred Stitches

Come to St. Mark's Church, 21 South Main Street, Lewistown Saturday, November 5th 10am-2pm for the Fall meeting of Sacred Stitches! We hope to collect as many Pocket Prayer Shawls (PPS) as possible for our wounded warriors, the Veterans who pass through the doors of the Veteran's Hospital in Lebanon, PA. Bishop Baxter will bless our shawls before we send them off in time for Veterans Day.



This is personal for me as my Dad received loving care at the Veteran's Hospital in Wilkes-Barre, PA until his passing into the Heavenly Kingdom. I will be thinking of him as I knit those PPS. Maybe you have someone you will keep in mind as you knit or crochet your Pocket Prayer Shawls. Knitting and crocheting instructions for the shawls can be found on our website, www.diocesecpa.org.

You are invited to join in fellowship with people from all over our diocese and share your own stitching ministries. Bring patterns to share, yarn to trade and come prepared to make some good friendships. Please bring a bag lunch. Our hosts at St. Mark's will provide beverages and snacks. Questions? Contact Jeannie Zeller at jeanniez@comcast.net.



"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 S. Main St., Lewistown.

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. Go to www.diocesecpa.org for forms for honoring your women and to register for the event.

OPERATION UNDERSTANDING

The Operation Understanding Commission is now accepting applications for the November grant cycle. Priority will be given to new ministries that have not been funded in the past. Applications are found on the Diocesan website www.diocesecpa.org under Programs. Click on Operation Understanding and read all 4 links at the bottom of the page.

Applications must be sent by October 31st to Nancy Forgang at nforgang@embarqmail.com. If you have questions about the grant process or Operation Understanding, you may call Nancy at 717-334-0510.