



DIOCESAN DIGEST

for Central Pennsylvania

October 24, 2011

FROM THE DESK OF.....

BISHOP NATHAN BAXTER

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ:

First, I wish to note that in acknowledging institutions of the diocese I failed to mention the Episcopal Commons, Newport, which is one of two federally subsidized housing projects (along with Honaman House) in Perry County. Episcopal Commons has 30 housing units for low income elderly and/or certified disabled men, women and couples. Both of these projects come from the vision and initiative of Nativity Church in partnership with the Diocese and HUD. Their mission adds to the rich witness of the Episcopal Church in Central PA.

Speaking of our Diocesan witness, it is heartening to experience the sense of "diocese" we share. Last Friday, October 21st, was the 5th anniversary of my episcopacy and it was a week of affirming the good spirit of our diocese.

On Thursday of that week we celebrated the Resurrection Eucharist of a priest of this diocese, the Rev Barton (Bart) Berry. It is the duty and privilege of a bishop to preside at the funeral of a priest or deacon. But my heart was greatly moved, seeing the incredible turn out of clergy friends and representatives of former congregations from the west, east, south and north of the diocese.

Then at 5 pm I participated in a service and dinner sponsored by St. Barnabas Center at St. Paul's Church in uptown Harrisburg. It was an event which brought the families of the children into the center. With the help of volunteers and staff, the children planned both the service and the dinner. Volunteers and staff from congregations on both sides of "The Great Divide" (aka the Susquehanna River) came to show support. Once again, our Diocese coming together.

That evening I arrived at Manheim where clergy and congregations from all parts of the Lancaster Convocation and representatives from the York Convocation came together to support St. Paul's congregation, whose church is devastated by the flood. When I arrived, the dining area was packed with persons eating in shifts so all could be accommodated. The decibel level of fellowship was palpable. Then a beautiful liturgy acknowledged both the challenges and the blessings facing St. Paul's and all communities affected by the flood. The power of the singing, the prayers and the word proclaimed was, once again, "the sense of being a diocese"---many congregations but one Church.

It was quite a week---a glorious week---and on the day of my anniversary as bishop I felt blessed to be chief pastor of such a rich community of holy caring people.

The journey continues and we have many challenges. But together, caring for one another, we can make a witness worthy of Jesus' command "Love one another. For by this shall all the world know you are my disciples; because you have love one for another". (John 13: 35)

Peace & Grace,

+Nathan

UPCOMING EVENTS...Oct. – Dec. 2011

Oct 25-26 Bishop at HOB Pastoral Development Committee
Oct 29 Deacons' Day, St. Stephen's Cathedral, Harrisburg
Oct 29 5pm Ordination of Loyde "Bud" Hartley as Deacon, St. Stephen's Cathedral, Harrisburg
Oct 29 St. Barnabas Center dinner to honor Cn. Joe Seville
Oct 30 Bishop visits St. Stephen's Cathedral, Harrisburg
Oct 31 *Deadline* to submit Project Grant application (see p. 2)
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 the Baptist, York
Nov 8 3pm Partners in Mission, St. Andrew's, State College
Nov 9 6pm West Branch Convocation, All Saints, Williamsport
Nov 10 7pm Northern Tier Convocation, St. Paul's, Wellsboro
Nov 12 Bishop in Washington DC for Consecration of new Bishop of Washington
Nov 13 Bishop visits Transfiguration, Blue Ridge Summit & Calvary Chapel, Beartown
Nov 14-16 PCC PA State Pastors' Conference, Harrisburg
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
Dec 1 *Deadline* to submit UTO Grant Applications to Diocese
Dec 3 Bishop in Washington DC as Keynote Speaker at DC ECW Prayer Breakfast
Dec 4 Bishop visits Prince of Peace, Gettysburg
Dec 11 Bishop Visits Nativity, Newport
Dec 18 Bishop visits St. Paul's, Harrisburg
Dec 23 noon—Jan 2 *Diocesan Office Closed for Christmas*

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



UTO Grant Applications

Applications for a 2012 UTO grant are now available at www.episcopalchurch.org/uto.

Please note: **the Diocesan Office must receive a copy of your application by DECEMBER 1, 2011.**

Not sure if your project would be eligible or if the affiliated organization can apply? Information is available at the same website, or you may contact Bonnie Chambers, at uto@diocesecpa.org or 717- 838-4416.

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REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS...

Ed Thompson, Commission on Ministry member and parishioner at St. Andrew's, State College, died suddenly on Sunday, while participating in a charity run. His funeral will be held on Saturday at Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Steelton and a memorial service will be held on November 8th at 7pm at St. Andrew's, State College. Also remember his wife, **Patricia** in your prayers.

The Rev. Bart Berry passed away on October 14th. His memorial service was held on October 20th at Trinity, Chambersburg. Please remember Bart's wife, **Janet**, and their family.

William Selvage, father of Cn. Dan Selvage, who is at home following a hospital visit and dealing with serious heart and lung issues.

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

Rayelenn Casey continues her recovery 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.

UNITED THANK OFFERING

The suggested Fall 2011 UTO ingathering date is **October 30th**. As always, your parish should choose a date that works best for you.

Please remit any funds collected to Bonnie Chambers, UTO Coordinator, 242 W Walnut St., Palmyra, PA 17078. **Please do not send to any other address, as this will slow the process!** If you have any questions, contact Bonnie at 717 838-4416 or uto@diocesecpa.org.

Thank you for your part in "expanding the circle of thankful people."

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 can be 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.

Sacred Stitches' Pocket Prayer Shawls for our Wounded Warriors

Come to St. Mark's Church, 21 South Main Street, Lewistown Saturday, **November 5th 10am-2pm** for the Fall meeting of Sacred Stitches to 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.

We will be collecting as many Pocket Prayer Shawls as possible for our wounded warriors, the Veterans who pass through the doors of the Lebanon Veteran's Hospital. Instructions for the shawls can be found on the diocesan website at www.diocesecpa.org.



Bishop Baxter will bless our shawls during the ECW Annual Meeting Eucharist. They will then be taken by members of Sacred Stitches, to the Veteran's Day chapel service at the Lebanon VA hospital on November 10th. We will be joined there by members of the Diocese of Bethlehem, with prayer shawls that the members of St. Luke's, Lebanon's knitting group have made.

Project Grants application deadline has been extended to October 31st

Damage caused by recent natural disasters, such as the flood and the earthquake, have created a need in certain parishes for financial help with repair costs and insurance deductibles.

The application and process requirements for these grants can be found at www.diocesecpa.org. Please include as much detail and documented cost estimates as possible in order to facilitate your application processing.

Should you have any questions please contact Bill Graffius at the Diocese at 888-236-5959.



"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.