



# DIOCESAN DIGEST

## for Central Pennsylvania



November 22, 2010

### FROM THE DESK OF.....

#### BISHOP NATHAN BAXTER

Dear Sisters & Brothers;

This is the first day that I have returned to work since being diagnosed with pneumonia. While I still feel some effects, my recovery is going well. I have very much felt the prayers and faithful messages from clergy and congregations in the diocese; and I am very grateful for the wonderful administrative support of my staff. My sincere thanks to all of you for every expression of caring concern.

We are approaching Thanksgiving and the Season of Advent. I find them both an integral part of a season of Hope, culminating with the joy of Christmas. Often Christmas joy is lost because we have not prepared ourselves spiritually to receive its gift. Commercialism, busyness and social events often exhaust us and distract us. This Monday, I visited the Thanksgiving chapel service of St. Stephen's Episcopal School. In the Class Prayers (their version of the Prayers of the People) each class named that for which they were most thankful. The thanksgivings were written on autumn leaves, which were then posted on bulletin boards to continue to remember their thanksgivings as they go into Advent. Being thankful prepares our spirits, and gives us a deep spiritual nurture.

In Advent, the season of expectations, we enter prayerfully into a season of anticipating God's coming into our life and the world. If in Advent our prayer life can be just a little deeper and a bit more focused; if we can find some quiet time during Advent to rest in God (perhaps just 30 minutes at lunch time in a local church); if we can become more aware of God's goodness to us—even in times of difficulty; if we can believe more in God's love for our neighbor and the world; then we will truly be spiritually ready for the great joy and meaning of Christmas.

Thanksgiving and Advent: May these be for us seasons of gratitude and expectation for the living God in our life and in the world.

Peace and Grace,

+Nathan



### UPCOMING EVENTS...

#### November - February

- Nov 25-26** Diocesan Office closed for Thanksgiving
- Nov 28** Bishop visits St. Andrew's, York
- Nov 30** 7pm Northern Tier Convocation Fall meeting
- Dec 3 & 4** Eucharistic Workshop, St. Andrew's, State College (see p. 2 for more details)
- Dec 9** 10am Council of Trustees (location to be confirmed)
- Dec 9** 6:00pm Southern Convocation Christmas Dinner
- Dec 5** Bishop visits Prince of Peace, Gettysburg
- Dec 12** Bishop visits Nativity, Newport
- Dec 17** UTO 2011 Grant applications due at Diocese (see p.2)
- Dec 19** Bishop visits St. Paul's, Harrisburg
- Dec 24** Diocesan office closed for Christmas
- Jan 2** Bishop visits St. John, Marietta
- 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 22** *note new date!* Council of Trustees meeting (*budget presentations*), All Saints, Selinsgrove (snow date Jan 29th)
- Jan 16** Bishop visits St. Mark's, Lewistown
- Jan 17** Diocesan Office closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Jan 23** Bishop visits St. Andrew's, Harrisburg
- Jan 26** 7pm Evensong to celebrate new diocesan staff Canons at St. Stephen's Cathedral
- 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 25-27** Winter Conference X-Teen, Camp Mt. Luther
- Feb 27** Bishop visits Hope Church, Mt. Hope

*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](mailto:officemailbox@diocesecpa.org) or 888-236-5959*

### Liturgical Items Available

As you know, Christ Church Lykens was one of the parishes that was closed at this year's convention. There are several books, vestments and altar items available for any parish that has need of them. A list is attached. Please contact Ted Babcock or Debbie Robelen at the Diocesan office (888-236-5959) if you are interested in any of these items.

**MAILING ADDRESS**  
PO Box 11937  
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**EMAIL**  
[officemailbox@diocesecpa.org](mailto:officemailbox@diocesecpa.org)

### REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS...

**Bishop Nathan Baxter** as he continues to recover from pneumonia

**Mr. Peter Van Deusen**, Brother of The Rev. Bob Van Deusen, recently entered hospice care.

**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.

### JUBILEE MINISTRY GRANTS APPLICATION DEADLINES NEAR



The deadlines are nearing for applications for 2010 and 2011 Jubilee Ministry grants in several categories for mission and ministry throughout the Episcopal Church.

Jubilee Ministries are congregations or agencies with connections to The Episcopal Church whose mission efforts affect the lives of those in need, addressing basic human needs and justice issues. Grants to Jubilee ministries are awarded annually.

#### 2010 Grants

*Health and Nutrition*, due **December 1**; \$750 grants; Jubilee Ministries that respond to the nutritional needs of food deserts. A food desert is a district with little or no access to foods needed to maintain a healthy diet but often served by fast food restaurants.

*Building a Just Society*; due **December 1**: \$2,500 grants supporting local poverty alleviation initiatives that emerge from local communities and leaders.

#### 2011 Grants

*Jubilee Ministry Partnership Grants*, due **February 1**; \$1,000 for 2011 summer camp programs targeting literacy or children of people who are incarcerated. A total of 30 grants will be awarded in early 2011.

*Protect God's Creation*, due **November 1 through February 01, 2011**: \$250-\$500 grants to supplement congregational participation in GreenFaith certification program in collaboration with the Episcopal Church.

For guidelines, additional information, and to apply for any of the grants go to the Jubilee Ministries website at [www.episcopalchurch.org/jubilee.htm](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/jubilee.htm)

For more information, or if you have questions, contact the Rev. Dee Calhoun, Diocesan Jubilee Officer, at 570-923-0571 or [deemc41@yahoo.com](mailto:deemc41@yahoo.com).



### Eucharistic Workshop

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church  
208 W. Foster Ave, State College

**Friday, December 3, 2010**

6:00pm (light supper included)

**Saturday, December 4, 2010**

9:00am to Noon

**No Registration Fee** ~ Please RSVP by calling Parish Office at 814-237-7659

### SAVE THE DATE

### WINTER CONFERENCE X-TEEN

February 25-27, 2011

### Focus Theme: C.S. Lewis The Voyager

This event for 9th - 12th Graders, will be held at Camp Mt. Luther. There will be an emphasis on spirituality and mission. Mission opportunities will be a part of this winter conference and will become an integral part of our ministry with teens.

More details will follow, but if you have any questions, please contact The Rev. Cn. Robyn Szoke at 888-236-5959 or [rszoke@diocesepca.org](mailto:rszoke@diocesepca.org).

### IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL CLERGY

Hopefully by now you have received a card or email from the Office of Transitional Ministry (formerly the CDO). This card will have your new password to access your profile for review or to change your *Portfolio* (formerly Profile). If you have received a new password please contact the TMO using the following web address [www.otmportfolio.org](http://www.otmportfolio.org). A video link has been established to help you better understand the process should you need additional information. That link is <http://vimeo.com/14483190>.

You may also contact Bill Graffius for more help at 888-236-5959 or [wgraffius@diocesepca.org](mailto:wgraffius@diocesepca.org).

### UTO 2011 GRANT APPLICATIONS

The United Thank Offering grant applications for 2011 are available. This year applications will be completed and submitted electronically. Instructions, application form, & information are available at:

[http://www.episcopalchurch.org/110043\\_42235\\_ENG\\_H\\_TM.htm](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/110043_42235_ENG_H_TM.htm). Please note, the process has changed significantly, so **please read instructions carefully!**

When completing the online application **do not hit submit!** A draft copy of your application, including supporting documents, **must** be emailed, faxed or mailed to arrive at the diocesan office by end of day, Friday, December 17, 2010. **NO APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO UTO WITHOUT PRIOR APPROVAL OF THE BISHOP.** Contact Bonnie Chambers at (717) 838-4416 or [bchambers242@comcast.net](mailto:bchambers242@comcast.net) with any questions or for assistance.

