

News From The Pews

Quarterly Newsletter of the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania



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Hello from Diocese CPA! Welcome to the third issue of News From The Pews.

This online newsletter is published quarterly and is meant to be a communication tool between all parishes throughout the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania.

Please send us your stories and join in the sharing of Diocesan ministry and glad tidings.

Email your stories to Linda Arguedas at larguedas@diocesepa.org

Chemo Caps—A Mission of Encouragement

Sandy Peck is involved in a wonderful ministry of creating bright, fun caps for patients undergoing chemotherapy for cancer. Sandy survived a cancer scare and feels blessed. During a bus trip to Maine she re-connected with a woman from a previous bus trip who knew of her ministry of making the chemo caps - "You have no idea of how important these are", said the woman, a breast cancer survivor of ten years. The caps, some crocheted and some sewn of fabric, boost a cancer patients self-esteem. Since last April, more than 240 chemo caps have been crocheted and sewn. St. John's, Carlisle, keeps an inventory of caps and some are sent to the Chambersburg and Hagerstown, MD., Chemo Units and the American Cancer Society. The cloth caps are bright, fun caps in patterns of cats, m&m's, frogs, purses, music notes, flowers, animals and seasonal prints.

If you know of anyone who might enjoy having a cap email Sandy at sandra_peck@comcast.net.



Sandy Peck shows off a kerchief style chemo cap—the pattern of jelly beans brightens the cap and the heart of the patient.



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Diocesan staff spread Christmas cheer! by Carolyn Patterson



The staff at the Diocesan Office decided this year that, instead of just spreading Christmas cheer amongst ourselves, we would send it out into the community also. So this year, instead of exchanging gifts and having a Christmas staff party, we “adopted” a local senior to share our Christmas spirit. We found out what she wanted for Christmas, what she liked to cook for her holiday meal and some other things she might need at this time of year. Then we had a blast getting gift cards, buying candy, baking goodies (remembering to keep it diabetic friendly... anyone want a recipe for Splenda shortbread that’s not so bad?), and finding other goodies and surprises to include in the big laun-

dry basket we filled to take to her. Then on Tuesday, at the time we would have been sitting down to eat far too much at our usual potluck festivities, we gathered for a simple lunch and then Bishop Baxter and a group of staff members headed out to Sue’s with her and after a prayer for Christmas blessings, we headed back out into the rainy afternoon with warmer hearts for having made a new friend.

Freezer sale raises funds for outreach by Deacon Jan Brown



The 9th annual Divine Delights Freezer Sale was held at the Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist in York, Pa. on Nov. 19, 2011 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. A 3rd annual Gourmet Bake Sale was held at the same time. The proceeds of these sales benefit the Outreach Ministries of the parish, providing about one fifth of the annual outreach budget. The Freezer Sale is a unique combination of community building within the parish and support for ministry to the “world” in York. The planning, shopping, cooking, and packaging are carried out by a large church-wide group of volunteers. Parishioners participate in the project for love of cooking, the

Saturday morning fellowship, and to support St. John’s Outreach Ministries. The Spirit led work-in-community gives rise to much energy, creativity, problem solving, humor, gift discovery, and relationship. The Freezer Sale evolves and improves every year as new and favorite recipes are identified, organizational and sales approaches are evaluated, and feedback is gathered from customers and cooks alike. Publicity efforts welcome the community of York to St. John’s and identify the variety of ministries through which the Church makes Christ present in the world.



Mural Ministry at Memorial Church of the Prince of Peace—Gettysburg



The Sunday School room at the Memorial Church of the Prince of Peace, Gettysburg is a panorama of stories told in murals that decorate the walls. “The murals are learning tools on the wall”, says Jill Lowe, Christian Ed Director and the creative mind and artist behind this ministry. The murals depict biblical scenes that make you feel you are surrounded by a big story. The mural has become a ministry itself, taking three people over two years of continuous sketching and painting.

Bishop Baxter visits with the Sunday School class during his visit to Prince of Peace Gettysburg in December.

Knitting for Seamen’s Church Institute – A Labor of Love for Sixty-Two Years

By Lois Cruikshank—St. John’s, Huntingdon

At the age of 15, Lois Cruikshank was handed a ball of woolen yarn and a pattern to knit socks for the Seamen’s Church Institute – and she has been knitting for them ever since.

Now, sixty-two years later, the yarn is not wool, but acrylic, and the project is not socks, but caps, scarves and vests.

Lois has been a part of a knitting ministry at St. John’s Church, Huntingdon, for twenty-four years. The number of “knitters” varies depending on the time of year. “Some people don’t like to knit in the summer because of the heat,” says Lois. There are eight actual knitters but eleven in the group, three who join in by volunteering yarn and supplies and pay for the shipping of the items which are sent to Newark, New Jersey where the articles are stored and used for “Christmas at Sea.” With more than 4,500 knitters drawn from all 50 states, SCI’s Christmas at Sea provides over 17,000 hand-knitted gifts to merchant mariners working on Christmas Day. Begun during the Spanish America War, SCI expanded this program to include river tow-boat crews and cruise ship workers in the Port of New York & New Jersey and along American inland waterways.



To date this year, a total of 37 caps, 34 scarves and 26 vests have been sent to the “Christmas at Sea” project by the knitting group at St. John’s, Huntingdon

“Knitting can be done anywhere, at any time when it pleases you”. Some say it can be a relief to have this hobby, especially in times of stress. The knitting group at St. John’s recently sent 24 caps, 26 scarves and 16 vests to SCI. The items are packed in egg cartons, which are donated by Weis Markets. For additional information on this project, please contact Lois Cruikshank at 814-542-4825.



Episcopal Congregations of Potter County host shoe drive for charity



The Rev. Janis Yskamp is all smiles - and proud of the drop-off of over 850 pairs of shoes collected by the Episcopal Churches of Potter County.

Potter County residents recycled their 'gently worn' shoes during the month of July in an effort to help distribute shoes to people in need. During the month of July gently worn shoes and financial donations were collected at Christ Church in Coudersport and All Saints Church in Brookland.

Soles4Souls Inc. was committed to collect and distribute shoes to people living in extreme poverty and recovering from natural disasters. The shoe charity provides one pair of shoes to a person in need every 7 seconds. Since 2005, Soles4Souls has distributed more than 13 million pairs of shoes because of the generosity and commitment of people and organizations like the Episcopal Congregations of Potter County, Christ Church Coudersport and All Saints Brookland.

Soles4Souls believes partners like the Episcopal Congregations of Potter County will challenge others to become a force of change by helping the charity cater to the evolving needs of the global community. The shoe charity recognizes its success is the result of individuals and industry partners such as Episcopal Congregations of Potter County who clean out closets and warehouses so that individuals around the world can have a better life through Americans' excess.

Special thanks to all who donated the successful campaign, especially St. James Episcopal Church of Mansfield and St. Eulalia Roman Catholic Church of Coudersport.