

Winter

2019



Diocese

of

Central

Pennsylvania

Daughters

of

the

King

Assembly



Winter Solstice

December 21

Getting in touch with the deeper meanings

of the Winter Solstice through

readings and prayers.

As the Winter Solstice approaches in the north, we notice the changes: the days of light are shorter, the darkness is longer, the weather is cold, the trees are bare, and snow is often on the ground. John Matthews, who has lectured widely on Celtic and Arthurian traditions, has written this lyrical passage about Winter Solstice:

"The Solstice is a time of quietude, of firelight, and dreaming, when seeds germinate in the cold earth, and the cold notes of church bells mingle with the chimes of icicles. Rivers are stilled and the land lies waiting beneath a coverlet of snow. We watch the cold sunlight and the bright stars, maybe go for walks in the quiet land. . . . All around us the season seems to reach a standstill — a point of repose."

Here are a few activities and spiritual practices to do in celebration of Winter Solstice.

Book Excerpts

This is an abbreviated excerpt of "A Celebration of Winter Solstice" from [*The Circle of Life*](#) by Joyce Rupp and Macrina Wiederkehr.

"There is a tendency to want to hurry from autumn to spring, to avoid the long dark days that winter brings. Many people do not like constant days bereft of light and months filled with colder temperatures. They struggle with the bleakness of land and the emptiness of trees. Their eyes and hearts seek color. Their spirits tire of tasting the endless gray skies. There is great rejoicing in the thought that light and warmth will soon be filling more and more of each new day.

"But winter darkness has a positive side to it. As we gather to celebrate the first turn from winter to spring, we are invited to recognize and honor the beauty in the often unwanted season of winter. Let us invite our hearts to be glad for the courage winter proclaims. Let us be grateful for the wisdom winter brings in teaching us about the need for withdrawal as an essential part of renewal. Let us also encourage our spirits as Earth prepares to come forth from this time of withdrawal into a season filled with light.

"The winter solstice celebrates the return of hope to our land as our planet experiences the first slow turn toward greater daylight. Soon we will welcome the return of the sun and the coming of springtime. As we do so, let us remember and embrace the positive, enriching aspects of winter's darkness. Pause now to sit in silence in the darkness of this space. Let this space be a safe enclosure of creative gestation for you."

Spiritual Practices

Give thanks for the darkness which is the yin to the yang of light. Think of how soothing darkness is when you are exhausted and want to take nap. Recall how irritated you were in a hotel or motel where you could not block out the bright lights from outside when you wanted to sleep.

Personal Explorations

"Hello darkness, my old friend, I've come to talk with you again," Simon and Garfunkel sang in a popular song years ago. Make a special effort today to greet darkness and share some of the feelings that arise in you when you think about darkness.

Ponder the darkness as a spur to reverencing the mysteriousness of God. What place have you made for the darkness of the divine as fertile and transformative in your spiritual path?

Prayers & Mantras

End this special once-a-year-day
with this prayer by Edward Hays
from

[*Prayers for a Planetary Pilgrim.*](#)



A Winter Solstice Prayer

The dark shadow of space leans over us. . . .

We are mindful that the darkness of greed, exploitation, and hatred
also lengthens its shadow over our small planet Earth.

As our ancestors feared death and evil and all the dark powers of winter,
we fear that the darkness of war, discrimination, and selfishness
may doom us and our planet to an eternal winter.

May we find hope in the lights we have kindled on this sacred night,
hope in one another and in all who form the web-work of peace and justice
that spans the world.

In the heart of every person on this Earth
burns the spark of luminous goodness;
in no heart is there total darkness.

May we who have celebrated this winter solstice,
by our lives and service, by our prayers and love,
call forth from one another the light and the love
that is hidden in every heart.

Amen.

Fall Assembly October 5, 2019

Our Fall Assembly was hosted by Apostles for Christ chapter in York and attended by 24 Daughters.

Our first speaker was Jennifer Mariani, co-chair of the 2018-2021 Strategic Planning Committee for the Daughters of the King worldwide. Several of us met Jen at the Province III Retreat in late spring where she presented the comprehensive strategic plans to audience. Being a Maryland resident, she offered to come speak to us. The strategic plan has six goals:

1. Inspire spiritual growth and development
2. Strengthen our call to service and evangelism
3. Nurture and grow our members
4. Raise up and mentor new leaders
5. Foster community and build connections
6. Instill a spirituality of giving

Jen distributed copies of the newly published Strategic Plan document so participants could follow along with her discussion. She encouraged us to take these home and engage in discussion at our chapter meetings to create our own individual plans.

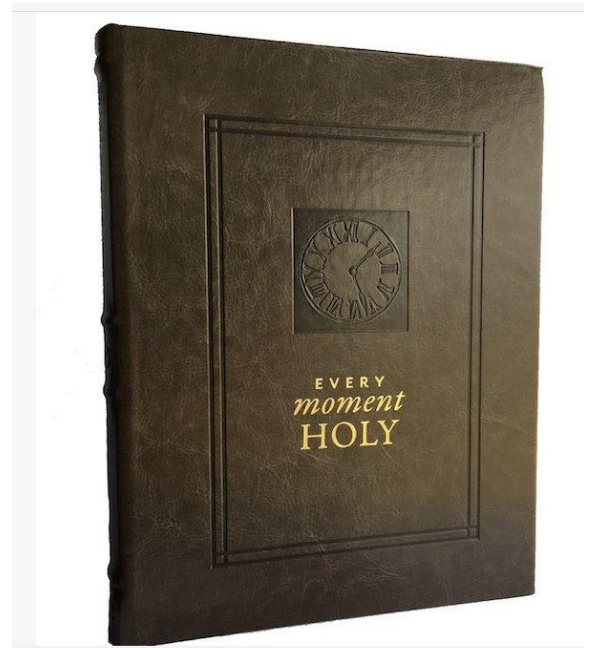


Fall Assembly (cont'd)



Our second speaker was our own Annie Brooks from Apostles for Christ who shared her passion for the book *Every Moment Holy*.

EVERY MOMENT HOLY by Douglas McKelvey is a book of liturgies for the ordinary events of daily life -- liturgies such as "A Liturgy for Feasting with Friends" or "A Liturgy for Laundering" or "A Liturgy for the First Hearthfire of the Season." These are ways of reminding us that our lives are shot through with sacred purpose even when, especially when, we are too busy or too caught up in our busy-ness to notice.



Fall Assembly (cont'd)



Ann Kordenbrock talks to Jen Mariano at the Fall Assembly. Ann is moving to Cleveland to be closer to her daughter. Ann, you will be missed so much!!

Sylvia Salerno talks to Jen Mariano at the Fall Assembly about ideas for creating our own strategy!



Kristle Evans discusses ideas expanding membership with strategist Jen Marini.



Apostles for Christ News

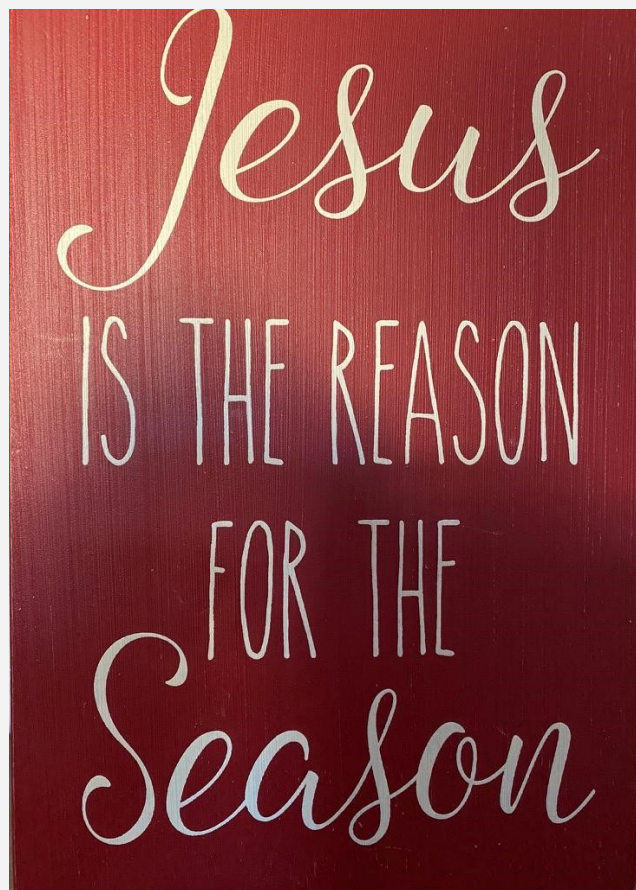
Dear Sisters in Christ.

During this Advent season, I am often reminded by a little sign I have in my home - "Jesus is the reason for the season."

Not just this season, but for **every** season. In the Spring we are reminded of his gift of everlasting life through the beautiful daffodils and tulips that come to life after a very dark cold winter. Christ spent time in a very dark and cold tomb, only to come to life so that we have everlasting life. In Summer, the warm summer sun brings to mind the warm love of God's son that shines on us everyday. Fall leaves brings the changing of the season with all the glorious colors of the leaves and the reminded that the Holy Ghost is all around us in all that we do.

We have all been blessed by our heavenly Father through the gifts of the Holy Spirit and Christ's love. This Christmas season, with the birth of that precious Holy Child, please pray for all the innocents in the world who are persecuted, when all they want and need is love.

Peace and love, FHS Carolyn Hinton



At the December 2019 executive board meeting, Carolyn Hinton announced that she and her husband are moving to Florida next year. She will be resigning her post as our Diocesan president in June, 2020. Discussions are underway regarding the succession plan.

Diocesan Officers

Carolyn Hinton
President

Linda Hoover,
1st Vice President

Kristle Evans
2nd Vice President

Kitty Mussett
Recording Secretary

Ross Fairweather
Corresponding Secretary

Alison Vedder
Treasurer

The Rev. Eric Hillegas
Chaplain

Dame Julian News

Chapter President Kitty Mussett fell recently in a cold dark parking lot in Pittsburg and had ankle surgery on Dev. 18th to put a plate and some screw in her right ankle. She is doing as well as can be expected. Please keep our sister Kitty in your prayers.

Michelle Marini provided these photos.



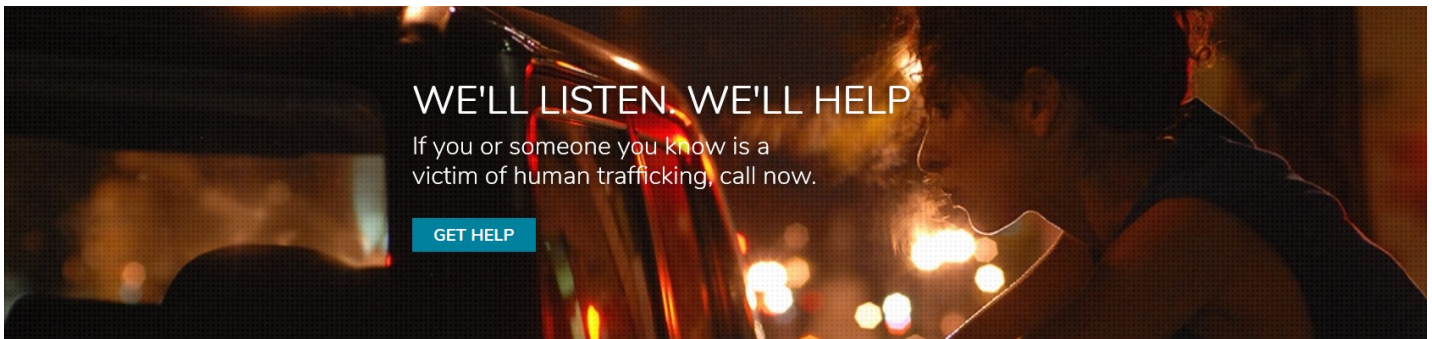
Left: The Dame Julian of Norwich chapter of Daughters of the King offered a beautiful candlelit Taize service for St. Andrews' parishioners this blessed Advent Season.

Below: We are also in the process of a discernment session in which four women are participating. We are currently at lesson 5. Please pray for Anne, Sharon, Sheryl and Sian as they learn about what it means to be a Daughter of the King.



Dame Julian News (cont'd)

Our Assembly funded Michelle Marini to attend a Human Trafficking workshop in October. Following is her report:



I attended the 2019 Rural Human Trafficking Summit on Oct 29, 2019 at the Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center. They reported on both sex trafficking and human (labor trafficking). There were over 200 participants at the summit, and presenters included members of law enforcement, the deputy district attorney from Allentown, a retired judge from Williamsport, and staff from the governor's office.

The human trafficking industry is more lucrative, and larger in scope than Starbucks. Labor trafficking includes foreigners who are employed as nannies, housekeepers and personal assistants, and are often older adults, who are threatened with deportation, and separation from families etc and are often not paid, or are paid only a pittance of a salary, given no benefits, but live in constant fear.

Sex trafficking in rural PA seems to be concentrated in residential brothels and tends to involve 14-16 year olds (both boys and girls), and exploits them through drugs and pornography. One presenter was a survivor, Jane Guerino from Glory House in Allentown. Jane was actually victimized when she was in her early 40s, and they coerced her into service with drugs. She acted as the "den mother" for the younger girls in the facility – counseling them, and trying in some small way to mother them. It took her more than two years to escape, and once she did she sought both medical help and drug rehabilitation. She founded Glory House, which is one safe location for victims of human trafficking can seek refuge. There is also Covenant House in York.

There were two messages that they emphasized. One was to target the sex-buyers. If there are no sex buyers, there is no demand, and no demand=no trafficking. The other was to work to develop safe spaces for victims of trafficking, and short of that to support those facilities that serve as safe spaces. The support comes in donating house supplies and food and in educating the public about the prevalence of sex and human trafficking.

If you suspect that someone is being trafficked you should use the National Human Trafficking Hotline (1-888-373-7888) or text "BeFree" to 233733. If you suspect that someone is in immediate danger you should call 911.

Additional resources can be found at www.truckersagainsttrafficking.org and www.traffickingresourcecenter.org.

Submitted by Michele Marini, Dame Julian of Norwich chapter, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in State College, PA.

Daughters of Glory



Ellen Kline Karins, 77, of Harrisburg, passed away surrounded by her sons and daughters at UPMC Community Osteopathic Hospital in Harrisburg, Sun., Nov. 24, 2019.

Ellen was born to Harvey and Estelle Kline in Philadelphia. After graduating from Palmyra High School in 1959, she married Howard Gordon and had four children. After receiving her LPN in 1970, she began her nursing career at the Good Samaritan Hospital in Lebanon and then continued at the Milton S. Hershey Medical Center. She married Thomas Karins in 1973, becoming a mother to his three children and a son of their own. In 1982, she received her Associate's RN from Harrisburg Area Community College and continued working at Hershey through the decade, ultimately as a clinical head nurse in surgery. She then found a new career, working for PA Department of Labor and Industry, Bureau of Workers Compensation, where she retired in 2006.

Ellen loved gardening, listening to classical music, playing the piano, spending time at the beach, and cooking her family's favorite Pennsylvania Dutch meals and desserts. She was active in the St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, providing accompaniment for the children's choir; playing in the handbell ensemble; and serving on the vestry, as a eucharistic minister, in the Stephen Ministry, and with the Daughters of the King. She will be remembered most by those whose lives she touched for her selfless devotion to her family and faith.

She is preceded in passing by her father, her mother, and her husband, Thom. She is survived by her sisters, Barbara Buder and Lenore Trotter (David); her ex-husband, Howard; her children, Larry Gordon, Susan Jarden, David Gordon, Candi Ressetar (Gregory), and Ryan Karins; her step-children, Jennifer Karins, Thomas Karins II (Geraldine), and Julia Fontenot (Ektor); nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

A memorial service was held Saturday, December 14th, at 11:00 AM, at St. Andrew's in the Valley Episcopal Church, 4620 Linglestown Road, Harrisburg. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to

Ellen Karins (in white sweater below) in attendance at the installation
for Apostles for Christ, Nov.2014



Daughters of Glory (cont'd)

The Daughters of Glory are grieving the unexpected passing of their sister, Ellen Karins. See prior page. Alison Vedder and Ross Fairweather attended Ellen's funeral on Sat., Dec. 14th at St. Andrew's in the Valley. A lunch was provided afterwards during which we chatted and heard stories about Ellen, her caring and compassion, and her gift as an accomplished pianist.

The Daughters of Glory are requesting your prayers and support of our sister, Carole Dembosky, who is grieving the loss of her mother in the UK.

Gladys Partrick shared this photos of the 92 scarves she recently crocheted for those in need!

Ross Fairweather reported for Daughters of Glory.



Harriet Lane Johnston News

The Harriet Lane Johnston Chapter is wrapping up 2019 by branching out in several ways.

We have taken to heart the intensity and incredibly sad plight of all those affected by the insidiousness of human trafficking. At this time, we are planning to develop, in conjunction with Bethany Woodcock Smith, an educationally interactive program we can take to each of the churches within our convocation. We are also looking into how we might assist the producer of the film with other screenings.

Saint James again offered its members and others the chance to travel to the Holy Land. Last year several of our daughters were fortunate enough to have the experience of this pilgrimage, and this year, another daughter, Frances, was able to partake of this deeply moving and meaningful opportunity.

Ross, Carolyn and Susan Steffan traveled to Episcopal Home to visit and see if there are ways the DOK can become more integrated in the lives of the residents. The home is completely dependent upon donations and good will of others. Perhaps DOK could assist in raising donations from parishes for the home.

We have committed ourselves to supporting the National DOK's Strategic Initiative to Reignite the Order. For the first seven months of 2020, seven of us will take on the mantle of a leader, and guide our chapter through the bible study, prayer and the homework associated with that goal, as we work to support the DOK and work toward raising leaders.

We have observed Advent with a beautiful service of prayer and Gregorian Chant, an Advent Gathering at the home of our sister, Debbie Wetzel (see photo below), and a prayer meeting centered around our favorite hymns. During this prayer meeting, we also had the opportunity to meet Esther Miller, daughter of Debbi, who spoke of her missionary work and time in El Salvador. The services were lovingly prepared and led by Wanda Stoltzfus.

As a Chapter, we look forward to celebrating the birth of our Lord and then a New Year of love, continued fulfillment of our vows, and the deepening our love for one another and sharing that love with others.

Submitted by Susan Landin

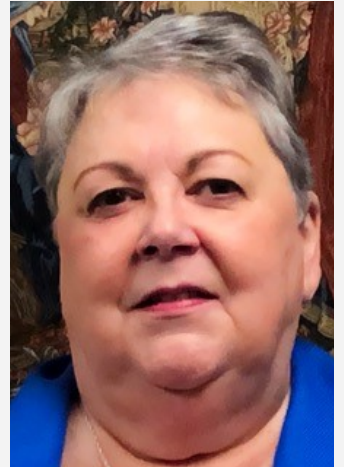


The Peacemakers News

The Peacemakers chapter of the Daughters of the King is once again hanging stars on our Giving Tree. Parishioners take down a star and make a donation toward buying a gift card for a cancer patient at Adams County Wellspan Cancer Center. The staff there takes care of the distribution to need patients. Last year we were able to give the Center 60 gift cards @ \$25.00 each.

This year we are doing something new. Using a Reverse Advent Calendar, a variety of food is purchased and brought to the Church. A Daughter then takes it to the SCAP Food Bank where it then becomes available to those in need.

Susan Steffen



Daughters at Large and Membership News



Dear Sisters,

Although we may only see each other a few times each year because of distance, we are never far away from each other because of our connection through prayer. Prayer is the tie that binds us together. As you pray each day, please consider adding to your list the chapters in our diocese. We may not know the specific needs of each chapter, but God does and if we lift up the chapter name, He will know just how to provide. Whether it's through healing, leadership, guidance, or wisdom, God always provides. Please pray especially for our sisters in The Daughters of Glory and Apostles for Christ chapters, as they move through a time of transition.

If you are a Daughter at Large and feel disconnected because you're not currently in a chapter, please know that you have been "adopted" by one of our existing chapters. You are always welcome to participate in any of our chapter meetings, special programs, assemblies, and retreats. We want you with us! If you're not sure how to connect, please contact me at kristleevans@yahoo.com, and I'd be happy to help you make that connection.

Merry Christmas and may you feel God's blessing upon you in the New Year!

Kristi Evans

2nd Vice-President—Membership and Daughters at Large



Diocese of Central Pennsylvania

DOK Spring 2020 Assembly



Saturday, April 25, 2020

The Memorial Church of the
Prince of Peace
20 West High Street
Gettysburg PA 17325

Save the date!

The theme will be God's Peace. Various members of our parish will share our history and lead tours of the church as well as the murals in the undercroft.

After lunch, there will be a presentation from members of the Better Angels.

The morning will begin at 9 AM and the service of Holy Communion will begin at 3 PM. There will be special music during and after this service.

Province III 2020 Retreat

The 2020 Province III Retreat will be held at the Claggett Center in Buckeystown, MD May 29-31 (Friday afternoon through noon Sunday). Mark your calendar!