



OUTLOOK

April 2010 Newsletter

St. Asaph's Church is called to be a progressive Christian community

We will welcome everyone to God's table
We will stand with those in need and advocate for the poor, the sick, the friendless and the marginalized.
We will make children central to our life as a community
We will celebrate the presence of God with joyful, engaging and inviting worship.



He is not here, he is risen!

Happy Easter!

I know that you might be reading this in the middle of Holy Week and I sincerely invite you to participate in the liturgies of these days. April 4th we celebrate the Feast of the Resurrection of our Lord. Yes, I hope that you get the chocolate eggs filled with peanut butter; well I hope that there might be one of those in my Easter basket. Yes, I hope your egg hunt goes well and your baskets are full and that bunnies and chicks and lilies are everywhere reminding you that spring is upon us. The cycles of the seasons of nature certainly add to our celebrations at hand. However, the seasons are just that, cyclical. We also know that Easter is much larger than the celebrations we have devised to entertain our children and the child in us all. We are, as a people of faith, linear in our believing. We start somewhere, at Baptism perhaps, and end somewhere, that is in resurrection.

This Easter Season carries much more significance for us. Having said that, I find myself greatly concerned over yet again another scandal involving the abuse of children, this time, going all the way to the Pope. Children are the most vulnerable of our society. The numbers of children who have known abuse in our world

are staggering. The consequences of that abuse are life-long. Further, studies have shown that the rates of recidivism among offenders are extremely high and probably even higher considering the rates are based only in the cases that are reported. Somehow, the abuse of the "least of these" among us gets swept under the carpet or worse, sent to another parish in the latest case of abuse by priests in the Roman Church. (The abuse of children knows no denominational boundary- I know.)

I want to say absolutely that the abuse of children must never be tolerated or hidden in any way. As a priest of the Church, any such abuse that is revealed to me would be reported immediately to the authorities. Not only is that the law, it is the right thing to do. The safety of all people and especially the children among us at the Church of Saint Asaph and the Church at large is paramount.

Please, enjoy the Easter Season as a child. Delight in the signs of spring all around us. BUT be ye transformed as a people of faith by the power of resurrection life. We with the first believers are invited this Easter Season to change, not a cyclical sort of change, but to real change; change that affects the way we live our lives and our life together, change that affects the way others are able to live their lives- with dignity and even abundance.

God through the power of resurrection invites us to change, even more so, works change within us through the Holy Spirit. But then do not rush this liturgical season, Pentecost is coming.

Happy Easter,
Barry J. Harte+

Liturgy

ICONS Sunday

Every 2nd and 4th Sunday at 5:00 pm

St. Asaph's Episcopal Church

27 Conshohocken State Road

610-664-0966

<http://www.saintasaphs.org/Welcome.html>



V. Blue Lemay, the creative energy behind ICONS Sunday.



The intent of ICONS Sunday is to offer differing perspectives on the interaction between Christian, cultural, and personal icons. Some icons will be discussed as conventional Christian icons. Icons are meant to facilitate worship and devotion to God by representing or pointing to God. ICONS Sunday supports and encourages faithful devotion to God, and we will examine icons by artists who are believers of the Christian God. But icons from popular culture, which often adapt, transform, or mock conventional religious icons, will be analyzed; therefore, an active curiosity and an open mind is required from the congregation. Some of the popular icons could be unsettling, disturbing, and offensive; indeed, contemporary expressions are sometimes more skeptical of Christian events, doctrines, and beliefs, but they do represent sincere and perhaps valid attempts to view Christianity in a critical light. Regardless of our personal judgments, ALL icons provide an opportunity to learn about our relationship to God. ICONS Sunday seeks to stimulate questions about the icons so that the congregation can grapple with the contradictions or the answers they find. It is assumed that until one actively wrestles with Christianity and its critics, Christianity is less likely to become a living reality and strong interior belief. The main goal of ICONS Sunday is to give the congregation a greater appreciation for *all expressions about Christianity and all expressions of Christianity.*

Editor's Note: On the second Sunday in March, I brought my Sufi neighbor and friend to ICON Sunday. At this liturgy, we reflected on The Prodigal Son parable using the art of Barbierii, Rembrandt and the writing of Henri Nouwen. Nouwen describes in one of his writings that love and forgiveness are unconditional, but he challenged us to reflect on his approach from the positions of the father, the younger son and the elder son. We have all read and discussed this parable many times, but I found this session provocative.

My friend was so stimulated by the personal responses on the parable that she sent me poems that she was inspired to read upon arriving home. I thought you would enjoy the poems that she sent to me:

THE SUN NEVER SAYS

Even after all this time,
The Sun never says to the earth,
"You owe me!"
Look what happens with a love like that.
It lights up the whole sky.
Hafiz - (1320-1389) Persia

THE CHRIST'S BREATH

I am
A hole in a flute
That the Christ's breath moves through-
Listen to this.
Hafiz

WRING OUT YOUR CLOTHES

Such love does
the sky now pour,
that whenever I stand in a field,
I have to wring out the light
when I get home.
St. Francis of Assisi

IN ALL THINGS

It was easy to love God in all that
Was beautiful.
The lessons of deeper knowledge, though, instructed me
to embrace God in all things.
St. Francis of Assisi

Palm Sunday Services

As has been done in other years our Palm Sunday service began on the Labyrinth and then we processed to the church accompanied by drums and other fun instruments.



Holy Week and Easter at St. Asaph's

April 1, Thursday

FEAST OF FRIENDS and the **washing of feet**. Our **Maundy Thursday** liturgy begins promptly at **7:00 pm** with a lasagna meal and guided conversation. At 7:45 pm, we will move to the sanctuary for readings, the washing of feet, the celebration of the Eucharist and the traditional stripping of the Altar. This liturgy should be completed by 8:30 pm.

April 2--Good Friday

There are two opportunities for worship on this most holy day on the Christian calendar. One service of readings and prayers will be at **12:00 noon**. Please know that this service will be completed within your lunch hour.

From **7:00 to 8:15 pm** you are invited to gather in the sanctuary around the cross for prayers, the reading of the Passion and the ancient act of adoration. The large wooden cross stands at the center of our space; candles are lit, the sound of hammering is heard, hymns and chants are sung a-capella-- making this a very moving

and meaningful liturgy. This service will end in darkness. Please pray for as long as you wish at the cross upon the conclusion of the liturgy.

The Good Friday offering at the request of the Diocese is designated for the Episcopal Diocese in Jerusalem

April 3, Saturday

The Triduum concludes with the **Great Vigil of Easter**. A light soup supper will be served at 5:00 pm and the liturgy will begin at **6:00 pm** outside with the lighting of the first fire of Easter. We will move indoors for the sacred readings that remind us of God's saving acts throughout history. These readings will be presented to us by our different Christian Formation classes by the St. Asaph's Fresh Speech Players and through music. The service continues with remembering our Baptism, the litany of those who have died in this last year, the freeing of the Alleluia, and the joyous first Eucharist of Easter. This liturgy is a wonderful two hours filled with activity and movement and will conclude by 8:00 pm.

April 4, Easter Sunday

At **8:00 am** we will gather outside on the Labyrinth, weather permitting, in the early sun to greet the first Easter morning and share in the Eucharist.

Then at **10:00 am** we gather for our principal celebration of the Feast of the Resurrection. This will be a liturgy with full choir, familiar joyous Easter hymns and celebration of the Eucharist. At **12:00 noon**, our celebration continues with the brunch and Easter egg hunt.

Christian Formation

Have you noticed the vitality that has been injected into Christian Formation this past year? Look what we have coming up:

Beginning the week after Easter and for the next three weeks we will have the following education choices for adults beginning at 9 am:



Norman Hjelm will lead a group on our Creeds.

Norman says that in countless liturgies regularly celebrated in churches of all Christian traditions, people together recite the Creed, professing in unison the beliefs that have been shared for centuries and that

make them participants in "the Great Tradition of the Church." What really does this mean? How can theological statements formulated centuries ago have relevance in the postmodern world? Why don't the churches write current statements of faith? (Many do so regularly, but they are not called "creeds.")

You are invited for three Sunday mornings at 9:00 in April -- 11, 18, and 25 -- to discuss questions like these with Norman. The origin and use of the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds; creeds as liturgical acts; creeds and "the apostolic faith" in the 21st Century; the ecumenical authority of creeds. Such issues as these will be raised. Welcome to these conversations that will precede the Sunday liturgical celebration at St. Asaph's.

Mary Chris Lindsay will continue her discussion of the Gospels for that Sunday morning.

Katherine Kurtz Creativity and Us: In a paperback workbook called *The Artist's Way*, Julia Cameron has used a twelve step model to foster creativity. Borrowing from her approach, we will find ways to get unstuck from the limitations we and others put on our creative expressions and to explore how our creativity may be connected to our understanding of God. Bring a notebook, come ready to support one another-- and consider buying the book.

Tim Gavin and Kelly Dougherty will continue Ethics for Teens Part 2. Our **Senior High Youth** will examine ethics and our world

In the second half of Ethics for teens, we will build on the foundation of secular ethics by exploring Natural Law and Theistic ethics. In addition to Natural Law, we will examine Jewish ethics, Roman Catholic Natural Law, The Literalist, Via Media Ethics, and Situation Ethics. Each of the ethical paradigms will be analyzed and applied through the use of case studies. The course centers on discussions and open dialogue among the participants in order to explore all possible solutions to a given situation.

Palm Sunday Effort

The saying that "it takes a village" is true at St. Asaph's. It takes a community. The Saturday before Palm Sunday was a beehive of activity. I not only saw **Stevie Graves and Barbara Rideout** dressing the altar; but, other altar guild members were working their magic to prepare for the liturgy. (By the way, Stevie, thanks for bringing the doughnuts.)

Robin Spencer was guiding another group in the parish hall in the craft of making palm crosses with Audrey displaying some fancy braiding.

In the midst of these groups, the Flower Guild had already stripped the palms and was creating palm arrangements within the church.

I know there are others such as the musicians, the vergers and the bread makers. **Audrey and Sandra**, your coffee hour was over the top abundant. Thanks.





St. Asaph Community Recycled Fiber Weaving Project

**Earth Day for Bala House and St. Asaph
April 24, 2010**

Ellen Sall and Linda Lou Horn are artists involved in recycled art and are going to be featured in an exhibit at the Gallery entitled "Tossed and Found: Recycled and Found Object Art" beginning in May. They are mounting a project that will be offered in connection with our Earth Day Celebrations.

Ellen and Linda Lou will be working with the Bala House to develop a take home project for the kids called the "Recycled Flower Pot." But for the St. Asaph project, Ellen and Linda Lou will facilitate the **Community Recycled Fiber Weaving Project**, involving children of all ages, as well as adults, using a large strung loom.

The completed weaving will be hung in the "Tossed and Found" exhibition. The opening for that exhibit is Friday, May 7.

In order to accomplish this joint project, please begin saving the following suggested recycled materials:

- Clean, untoned plastic bags prefer colored bags.
- Untoned, clean, plastic newspaper bags
- Rope, string, twine
- Ribbons, thick yarns
- Tin foil, clear plastic wrap
- Old tee shirts, bright colors – that can be torn into strips
- Interesting, colorful fabrics
- Clean plastic/foil bags from vegetables, fruits, garlic, frozen foods, snack foods (chips, etc)
- Or anything you would like to recycle and include in a weaving

A box, labeled "For Recycled Earth Day Weaving" will begin appearing in the church entrance for these recycled materials throughout the next month. Make note of the items above and make an effort to join in this parish project. **Then come and view the results at the art opening on May 7.**

Help save the planet and make some art in the process!

**Behold what you are; become what you see.
(St. Augustine)**

Outreach

Janet Barrett, chair

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Dining Out for Life Thursday, April 29, 2010

Dining Out For Life® is an annual fundraising event involving the generous participation of volunteers, corporate sponsors and restaurants.

In 1991, Dining Out For Life® was created by an ActionAIDS volunteer in Philadelphia. Dining Out is now produced in over 55 cities throughout the United States and Canada. More than 3,500 restaurants donate a portion of their proceeds from this one special night. Nearly \$4 million dollars a year is raised to support the missions of agencies throughout North America. With the exception of the annual licensing fee of \$1,000, all money raised in these cities stays there.

Bob Ranando and Roy Harker are opening their home as they did a few years ago as one of the private dinner venues. If you would like to support this event and dine at Bob and Roy's house, the price is \$40 per person.

Unlike the restaurants participating in the Dining Out for Life event who offer 10% to 15% of the price of your meal for the fundraiser, 100% of the \$40 per person price will go to ActionAIDS support. Roy and Bob live in University City at 4514 Chester Avenue.

To help couples with children, St. Asaph's has engaged adult baby sitters (The Lindsay's and Katherine Kurtz) from 6pm to 9 pm who will give your child pizza, a movie and perhaps crafts at St. A's. In return we ask you to donate to St. A's \$5 to \$10 per child for the 3hr-period and we will in turn donate that money to the Dining Out for Life event.

Having experienced the last event at Roy and Bob's, I can personally say that if you are a foodie and want a memorable dining experience, make your reservations as soon as you see the signup sheet.

Volunteers for food prep, cleanup, and bartending are also welcome

St. Asaph Organizes a Local Breast Cancer Walk on Saturday, May 1



WALK FOR HOPE By Sally Pearne

St. Asaph's is proud to host a **local** walk to support a **locally-based** breast cancer organization, benefiting women and their families internationally. This walk will be held on **Saturday morning, May 1, from 9:30 to 11:30**, and will proceed from the church down to Bala Cynwyd Park (about 20 minutes), and return. Upon arriving back at the church, participants will be treated to **light refreshments by "Flip and Sip"**, and a talk will be given by **Dr. Dahlia Sataloff**, Clinical Professor of Surgery at U. Penn and Director of the Integrated Breast Center at Pennsylvania Hospital. The walk and Dr. Sataloff's presentation are open to public. Fr. Barry will contact houses of worship in the area; the walk will be posted on the St. Asaph's website and the **Breastcancer.org website**; other forms of notifying the Lower Merion community are also being considered. A donation is requested but not required.

Proceeds will benefit Breastcancer.org, a highly informative, medically up-to-date, compassionate, thoroughly vetted web-site which reaches women and their families throughout the world. The founder and president of Breastcancer.org is **Dr. Marisa Weiss, radiation oncologist at Lankenau Hospital**, who has appeared as an expert witness at Congressional hearings and has been featured on public radio and television in her roles as a physician and leading advocate for early detection of breast cancer.

This walk offers the congregation and surrounding community an accessible, easily manageable means of expressing hope and support in the ongoing effort to combat and overcome breast cancer. Members of the congregation will be asked to sign up during April at coffee hour, either to join the walk or to help out with hospitality tables. If you have any questions or want to be involved in organizing and coordinating this event, please feel free to contact **Sally Pearne** at 215-848-4014, or at psa48@aol.com.

SHARE Food Program of Pennsylvania

Saturday, March 20 was a successful volunteer experience for St. Asaph folks who arrived at the SHARE warehouse to help bag apples, potatoes and oranges. They joined about 80 other families, churches,

corporations and non profits. Thanks to the following who participated—**The Barrett family, Janet, John and Becky; Barry and Kate Harte-McCormick; Lori Wernersbach and her nephews Sean and Ryan and niece Bridget; Sue and Zack Love; Mary Chawaga; Nicky Garvan; Chris Nelsen; Bill Clayton.** (I think **Bob Ranando** was really working that day and not just a volunteer.)

I asked **Bob Ranando**, who works for SHARE to give me some background on the organization. He said anyone can come to their warehouse to purchase discounted food and in return they must give 2 hours of community service each time they make a purchase. The acronym SHARE stands for **SELF, HELP AND RESOURCE EXCHANGE**. They serve five states—Pennsylvania, Maryland, New York, New Jersey and Delaware. Here is the SHARE website: <http://www.sharefoodprogram.org/>

Here are some of our folks at a kick-off breakfast that Janet provided for our families before heading to the warehouse.



Helping Out Our Own

Don't Ask Don't Tell

We will fill plastic market bags with food and place them on the desk of the empty office across from Lynda. If you need food or if anyone you know is hungry, please help yourself to a bag of groceries. We will do our best to keep food available for our own from our food panty donations.

The Philabundance Garden Blessing and Garden Kick-Off April 25

By Katherine Kurtz

After the 10 o'clock service we will process to a Blessing of the Garden; then, following the coffee hour, the garden crew -- kids and adults-- will work to get our beds ready for planting, plant seeds in the cold frames, make scarecrows, and put in any early crops that we can. Meanwhile the Chill and Grill men will be firing up the grills for a simple burger and hot dog lunch.

Come join us. All levels of gardening skill or just brute labor are welcome. If you'd like a small plot to cultivate on your own for Philabundance, talk to Katherine Kurtz or Wendy Flegal. So come to church in your work clothes and don't forget to bring your tools!

Kids and Youth

By Steve Sheeran

Rite-13

As part of their focus on poverty and hunger in the Philadelphia region the Rite-13 group asked the parish to fast with them before the Super Bowl. According to **Mary Chawaga**, once she was able to ignore her hunger pangs, what surprised her was how tired she was and she thought it would be very hard to do anything when you are hungry. The fast was broken with a "rice & tea" coffee hour where **the group raised \$306 for Share Food Philadelphia**. Thanks to all who contributed and thanks to all who brought in canned soup during Soup Bowl Sunday. **Over 200 cans were contributed to local food banks.**

News from the Vestry Meeting March 15, 2010

At the March 15th vestry meeting, the vestry discussed the following:

- The progress of the *Pastoral Care Committee*. Committee members wrote a mission statement and are preparing for their training sessions.
- The *Marketing Committee's* fresh ideas. They've come up with some clever sign ideas-- apparently some people drive by St. Asaph's just to see our signs!-- and may even use Twitter and text messages to keep people informed about St. A's events.
- The *Hospitality Committee's* plans for the next year. Stay tuned for some great new gatherings.
- Upcoming repairs to the *property*.

- The possibility of bringing the *Property and Personnel Committees* together to brainstorm about how to best use our budgeted funds and personnel resources to maintain our property.
- The recent *audit* (completed in at the end of 2009). In general, the auditor was pleased with St. Asaph's operating procedures. She also made specific suggestions for further strengthening our procedures and overall financial situation.
- The upcoming formation of a new *Invested Funds Committee*.
- The upcoming formation of *Parish "Teams."* While we are all part of the same team (St. Asaph's), we discussed how forming smaller teams, each composed of a cross section of parishioners, would help us get to know each other better and ...
- The upcoming formation of a *Strategic Planning Committee*. This committee's goal is to envision St. Asaph's in 2013 and 2020.

The vestry has also designated members to serve as liaisons to various parish committees and groups. Here are the liaisons for the coming year:

Outreach: Nicky Garvin

Property: Bob Powell and Lori Wernersbach

Stewardship: Mary Allen

Budget and Finance: Teresa Wallace

Personnel/Staff: Chris Dennis

Invested Funds: Neil Desnoyers

Marketing: Joanne Behm

Hospitality: Sandra Haye

Worship: Teresa Wallace

Christian Formation: Lori Wernersbach (children) and Mary Chris Lindsay (adults)

Bala House: Bob Powell

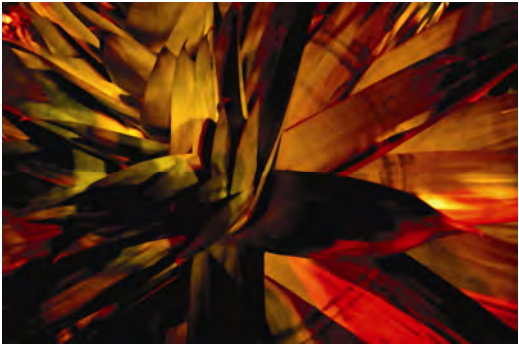
Communications: Laura Brennan

Music and Arts

Roy Harker, director of Music and Arts



Roy, thanks for the beautiful Palm Sunday music. The choir was wonderful and we all enjoyed **Sherrie Rosenblum's** *Pie Jesu*.



Ric Best
Digitally-altered Photography
April 4 through May 2, 2010

Opening Reception:
 Friday, April 9, 2010, 6:00-8:00pm

Ric Best was born in Beaver Falls Pennsylvania on November 14, 1959. He attended the Ivy School of Art in Pittsburgh, The School of Visual Arts and Parsons School of Design in New York and the University of Arts in Philadelphia. He has shown extensively in New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

Ric's Artist Statement:

I was in the midst of deciding what direction to take my work and was looking to get inspirational imagery to begin a new series. I have worked close to twenty years with digital media and I wanted to do some relaxed work; I wanted to play with the images. This show is a result of that decision. These photographs were taken during the Philadelphia Flower Show. I set mood by manipulating color and shape. On the computer using both Photoshop and Painter software programs I was able to add a secondary more creative vision to the images I first captured. I found working on these photographs was like tending a garden; work a bit everyday, check the results and ultimately (sometimes) you get a bloom. It truly was a joyous and freeing experience and I hope the work reflects that.

Congregation



The Poetry Corner by Virginia Powell

Once the Door Opened

(St. Asaph's sanctuary had just been stripped of its pews at the same time that the school construction continued. The only way in

and out of the school was through the sanctuary. This is what I observed in the children as the class passed through one day.)

Once the door opened,
 The clitter-clatter,
 The jibber-jabber
 Of the little children...ceased.
 They walked through,
 Not talked through.
 They Ooh'ed through,
 Not boo-hoo'ed through.
 They went in silence,
 Not silenced.
 They stepped lightly,
 Not making light of.
 The space had been emptied,
 Their spirits...filled.

Editor's Note: I passed through the parlor recently and saw Virginia sitting in reflection during her lunch break. We talked about what she was pondering; then, the way conversation does, she talked about leading her Montessori kids through the sanctuary that first day that the children discovered that the pews were gone. One little girl exclaimed, "When did they build this castle."

Slopes and Angles, and Golden Memories

I'm noticing slopes and angles in my house,
 Slopes and angles
 That never grabbed my gaze before.
 Slopes and angles
 That beg me to look for more.
 Slopes and angles
 That keep me guessing,
 What's behind that door?

Only one right angle do I see.
 And now that angle holds a memory.
 A memory from thirty-six years ago.
 A gold-leaf memory stuck up high,

A memory to savor when I pass by.



Johnathan Zellars is a warm and generous human being who also happens to be a wonderful photographer. Recently he escorted some of the Obeng family downtown to meet some of his friends and to take them to the flower show.



Jonathan took this photo of **Kris Obeng** and his two daughters, **Breonna, and Olivia**, along with Sibylle Young who Chaired The Philadelphia Sketch Club's Flower Exhibition of Flower Portraits.

Jonathan says that Sibylle is an international artist from Austria who now resides in Philadelphia. Her work is being shown throughout the Delaware Valley. She will be taking Olivia and Brianna on a tour of the Philadelphia Museum of Art where she is a volunteer.

St. Asaph's Fresh Speech Theater

By Anne Speyer

"Touching Thomas" an original liturgical drama based on John 20 will be performed during the ten o'clock service on Sunday, April 11. Written and directed by Anne Speyer, the play is set ten days after the crucifixion in the home of Nicodemus, a member of the Sanhedrin, and a follower of Jesus. Nicodemus, his wife Joanna, and their friend Lazarus welcome a bedraggled and desperate Thomas into the household. Thomas had disappeared after the crucifixion and does not know of the resurrection. After days of wandering in the desert, he comes to them overwhelmed with grief. The three friends tell him the good news, but he can't accept it at first.

The Fresh Speech Theatre production features Christopher Dennis as Thomas, Robert Powell as Nicodemus, Janet Barrett as Joanna, Michael Schieffelin as Lazarus, and Doris Weiman as Voice.

Let's Dance

Line Dancing every Thursday evening from 8 – 9pm in the parish hall. Wendy Flegal who organizes these fun evenings has one very experienced instructor leading and at least two others who assist her. There is plenty of help for



those of us who are challenged when we need to pair the "grapevine" with the "kick and cross step"

Property

I don't always have it in my head so I'm glad to be reminded with e-mails and the like that the second Saturday of the month is always clean up at St. A's. Our last Saturday clean up competed with that Nor'easter rain storm that could have covered us with another punishing snowfall if the temperatures were right, but instead we had rain and wind. I know many of us lost power and our basements were flooded. St. A's was no exception. **Bob Powell and Steve Sheeran** know the cause and hopefully will make the fix. Here they are in our basement room during that rain directing the water into the drain.



John Chou painting the new office space . He was joined by **Katherine Kurtz, Jeff Bacher and Tim Gavin, Gunesh Gery and John Barrett.**



The kitchen cupboards were raided by the kitchen police who tossed, cleaned, and sorted—**Teresa Wallace, Joan Frank, Connie Stelzenmuller, Linda Nelsen, Karen Love and Wendy Flagel.**



Jim Robertson Begins the Process of Ordination to the Priesthood.

I received the following about Jim. Many of the long-time members of St. Asaph's will remember the ordination of Jim Robertson to the diaconate in 1993. The following is about his next journey to the priesthood.

Jim Robertson, who was ordained to the diaconate at St. Asaph's in 1993, has been recommended by the Commission on Ministry of The Diocese of Pennsylvania and has received approval from Bishop Edward L. Lee, Jr. to be a Postulant for the Priesthood. Jim has been studying part time at The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia the past two years and plans to attend The General Theological Seminary in New York City in the fall to complete his work toward a master's degree. According to the Canons of the church, those persons changing direction of call must be in process a minimum of 18 months. So, it would be in the late summer, early fall 2011 before Jim could be ordained.

He asks your prayers as he continues in this journey.

Bala House and St. Asaph's

Matthew A. Heckendorn, AIA, LEED AP, the architect who was the principal in the design of the new St. Asaph's wing from the firm of **HOOPER SHILES ARCHITECTS** let us know that the new wing was featured in the Winter/Spring edition of Context (the Journal of the American Institute of Architects – Philadelphia Chapter). The article went on to say that:

"The real key was respecting the scale of the existing campus, yet providing a building appropriate to 2009," Heckendorn said.

Sensitive site planning rotated the addition to parallel the church. Scale is kept further in check by using a pair of gable roofs rather than a single volume. Modern versions of architectural elements – buttresses, masonry colors and joint profiles, and hipped roof forms – complement, rather than copy, their historic predecessors.

Book Review

The book group meets on the second Monday of the month in St. Asaph's parlor. All are welcome even if you have not read the book and want to hear the discussion.

Sandy Tolan's *The Lemon Tree: An Arab, A Jew, and the Heart of the Middle East* is a riveting account of two

families, one Palestinian and the other a Bulgarian Jewish family that immigrated to Israel into 1947. Amhad Khairi, a Palestinian furniture-maker from a prominent clan, built the house that the two families inhabit in 1937. The Palestinian family is forced to leave this house in 1948 during the war that followed the creation of Israel. Amhad, his wife Zalia, and their eight children fled to Ramallah. His oldest son Bashir eventually decides to return to visit his house in 1967 and thus begins the relationship with Dalia Eshkenazi and her family. Tolan weaves his narrative by recounting the lives of these two families from before World War II to the early part of the 21st Century. The house and in particular the lemon tree connects the lives of these two families.

Tolan's non-fictional account reads like a novel. The reader is taken into the lives of Bashir Khairi and Dalia Eshkenazi by Tolan's descriptions of their experiences throughout the various political decisions and events of the Palestinian/Israeli Conflict. Significant historical events are recounted from both perspectives. Tolan, an international journalist, provides an even handed account as he alternates back and forth in time and place between the lives of each family and their respective nations. His account is thoroughly documented by copious notes of each chapter and his extensive bibliography. His narrative illustrates the complexity of the issues that continue to haunt this conflict-ridden region.

It is a history told through personal accounts that captivate the reader and evoke compassion for both families and their respective desires for a homeland. The dialogue and the relationship that developed between Bashir's and Dalia's family began in 1967 when Bashir returned to visit his former home that had become the home of Dalia's family. The symbol of their relationship is the lemon tree in the backyard of the shared home. Bashir's family takes lemons back to Ramallah as a way to keep a piece of their homeland with them as they bear the pain of their lives as refugees.

Tolan recounts the lives of Bashir and Dalia. Bashir, a lawyer, and activist spent many years in prison and in exile. He refuses to give up his hope to return to his homeland and often suffers experiences torture and imprisonment for his beliefs. Dalia's years in the university and in the army temper some of her views but she still has difficulty understanding some of Bashir's views; however, she continues to try to reach out to Bashir and his family. They agreed to make their shared home a kindergarten for the Arab children of Ramallah and a center for Arab-Jewish co-existence.

Tolan's moving story invites the reader to engage in the dialogue that must continue to resolve this terrible crisis. Although there is a sense of some hope in this story, Tolan clearly describes the obstacles to a peaceful solution. He does provide the reader with a poignant account of the Middle East conflict that is not often portrayed in the media.

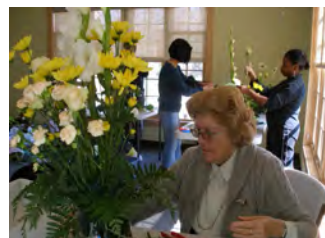
Pictured are **Mary Allen, Carolyn Ramsey and Dalia**, the Bulgarian Jew--one of the main characters--in *The Lemon Tree*. They met during a lecture that Dalia gave to their tour group in Jerusalem.



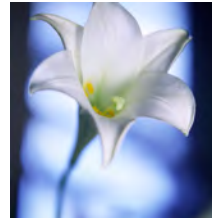


Workshop for Flower Guild

You know how energized you can get when you are in a workshop having to do with something you like. That was the case with the flower guild who participated in flower arranging on Saturday, March 20. Michele Spence who is a member of the garden club that some of our parishioners belong and who is an expert arranger led the workshop. Here are photos of some who participated.



Easter Lily Memorials



Again this year, we are making Easter Lily Plants available for your memorials at the same price as last year--\$10. We will decorate the church with them on **Easter**

Sunday, April 4; however, the lilies will then be available to take home the following Sunday.

Please look for the special Easter Lily envelopes for your donation with space to print your memorial names. You may also call in your order to Lynda Staton in the church office if that is more convenient—610-664-0966 or e-mail her at office@saintasaphs.org.

We distribute the newsletter via e-mail. If you change your e-mail or if you wish to receive a black and white hard copy, **call the office at 610-664-0966**. Our newsletter is also available on the St. Asaph website at www.saintasaphs.org

Welcome Guests:

St. Asaph's is a place that expects guests: people of all faiths, race, nationalities and walks of life; urban and suburban; rich and poor, gay and straight; families and singles; young, old, and in-between. We view hospitality as an important part of our ministry, and we hope you will feel welcomed here.

PRAYERS

Those for whom our prayers have been asked:

We pray for Christine and Deron Heimerdinger, John and Janet Longdin, Felix Okolo, Nico Clothier and his family, The Achuff Family, Everett William Frank, Kayte Reeves, Annabelle Shore, Joan Schroeter, Glenn Stroud, and LCpl William Kurtz Zuzzio.

Those who have recently died in the parish:

Clyde Fairfax Newman, M.D., (Pat Wood), and George Lieb (Steve Sheeran).

St. Asaph's Church is a house of prayer for all people and a community that works to be progressive in belief and inclusive in practice.

Contact **Connie Stelzenmuller**, stelzen@verizon.net, newsletter editor, to submit articles or to request changes.

Sunday Schedule

- 8 am, Contemplative Communion
- 9 am, Spiritual Formation for all ages
- 10 am, Parish Eucharist
- 5 pm, Emerging worship (2nd and 4th Sundays)

Holy Days as announced

Summer Schedule

9:15 am

Parish Staff

Roy Harker, Director of Music & Arts
Steve Sheeran, Youth Formation
Lynda Staton, Parish Administrator
Tim Gavin, Seminary Intern

Parish Vestry

Neil Desnoyers, Accounting Warden
Teresa Wallace, Rector's Warden
Mary Allen, Joanne Behm, Laura Brennan, Chris Dennis, Nicky Garvan, Sandra Haye-Carr, Mary Chris Lindsay, Bob Powell, Kristen Stewart, Lori Wernersbach

Parish Office

Hours: Mon-Fri, 9a-3p
Phone: 610-664-0966
Fax: 610-664-3760

Diocese of Pennsylvania

The Rt. Rev'd Charles E. Bennison, Jr, *Bishop*
The Rt. Rev'd Rodney R. Michel, *Assisting Bishop*
The Rt. Rev'd Allen Bartlett, *Assisting Bishop*
The Rt. Rev'd Ed Lee, *Assisting Bishop*

TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL -- PLEASE HANDLE PROMPTLY

OUTLOOK

CHURCH OF SAINT ASAPH

27 Conshohocken State Rd
Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004

On the web at
www.saintasaphs.org

Check and return to church office
If you no longer wish to be on our mailing list.