



OUTLOOK

October 2009 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.



Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi...

Mark 8.27

Jesus did a lot of walking.

On October 18 you are invited to walk for hunger. The walk begins at 1:00 pm in the Suburban Square parking lot. Shortly after our 10:00 Worship Service for the day, join in the car caravan. We can walk as a group. Come with your walking shoes on. The walk is relatively short. For all the details go to www.cropwalkonline.org or call the Church office.

I recently was again asked the question about when our children took their first steps in this life. Learning to walk was an amazing process to witness to say the least. As much as their lives changed, so did ours as parents as whole new worlds opened for them to explore. Items that had previously been out of reach were now fair game. Anything our children were not to have needed to be sent higher in the room or removed all together- after walking comes climbing after all. I am not sure many of us remember the time in our lives when we started walking, but most of us did take first steps.

Learning to walk is a powerful metaphor for much of what we do in this life. There are always first steps to be taken before we can explore more thoroughly this world of ours. With walking comes running, with walking comes the broadening of our human experience.

Sometimes, I admit, it is nice to sit for a piece and take in the view. But walking allows us the ability to take it slow or move a little faster if we have to. Walking can certainly be done alone but it is much more fun to do it together in my opinion, even though I have those long legs and have been chided to slow down!

Walking has changed the world, walk to a sacred river in India or an organized walk through Birmingham or onto Washington. Recently, even some Bishops in England, it seems to me, took a walk through some city streets to help bring on some needed change.

Yes, Jesus will walk to Jerusalem and we know what happened then. My doctor informs me that I should get out and walk. I think that it is very good advice indeed. Let us all as we are able (and metaphorically speaking as well) put one foot in front of the other and get out and walk. Who knows, hunger may be curbed, the world might be changed.

Walking with you in Christ,

Fr. Barry J. Harte

Liturgy



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

ICONS Sunday



Experience Christianity in a Completely Different Way

ICONS Sunday is an innovative and holistic approach to worship which combines spirituality with popular culture. This worship engages you at multiple levels—scriptural, intellectual, psychological, aesthetic, musical, literary, cinematic, political, and communal—so that an experience of Christian, cultural, and popular icons can be directly connected to your everyday life. We explore everything from Flannery O'Connor and Mother Teresa to Bob Marley and South Park.

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>

Editor's Note: Imagine being in the same room discussing sin and amputation with the apostle Mark, Flannery O'Connor and Johnny Depp as "Edward Scissorhands," .With the help of modern-day technology, it happened on Sunday the 27th at 5 pm. I was stunned by the creative service that Blue put together. You must attend and be sure to bring your college-age family and friends. They would really "get it." (V. Blue Lemay, PhD is a professor at Eastern University. She specializes in English, Shakespeare, and popular culture. She earned her B.A. from the

University of New Hampshire, her M.Ed. from the University of Utah, her M.A. from Boston College, and her Ph.D. in English from Indiana University.)

New Season For Fresh Speech Theatre By Anne Speyer

Rehearsals are underway in October for the first of five new original liturgical dramas scheduled during Sunday morning services over the next eight months. St. Asaph's own resident theatre group is meeting **October 6** for the first reading and casting of a play to be performed in early November. Other plays are scheduled for December, February, April, and June.

Anyone interested in participating in all or some of the productions is welcome. annespeyer@comcast.net

Education

Adult Christian Formation The Lectionary for October (by Steve Lindsay)

Each week we come to worship at St. Asaph's and we hear various Bible readings and typically the preacher will speak on those readings. The readings are assigned by what is called a Lectionary. A Lectionary is a systematic method for reading the Bible. The Sunday readings are assigned by a pre-determined three cycle called the Revised Common Lectionary. The three year cycle is based on the three Gospels: Matthew, Mark and Luke with parts of the Gospel from John contained in each year. The lectionary also prescribes part of the Psalms, another portion from the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament), and one reading from the Letters of the New Testament. These readings form the theme of the worship for the day.

We are in year B and it is based with readings from the Gospel of Mark.

The readings for the Sundays in October are: Please use this list to prepare yourself for worship.

Date	Readings
Sunday 10/4/2009 Pentecost 18 Proper 22B	Genesis 2:18-24 Psalm 8 Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12 Mark 10:2-16
Sunday 10/11/2009 Pentecost 19 Proper 23B	Amos 5:6-7, 10-15 Psalm 90:12-17 Hebrews 4:12-16 Mark 10:17-31
Sunday 10/18/2009 Pentecost 16 Proper 24B	Isaiah 53:4-12 Psalm 91:9-16 Hebrews 5:1-10 Mark 10:35-45

Sunday 10/25/2009
Pentecost 17
Proper 25B

Jeremiah 31:7-9
Psalm 126
Hebrews 7:23-28
Mark 10:46-52



By Mary Chris Lindsay

What can a Catholic priest from 16th century Spain have to say to our community at St. Asaph's in 21st century America? And why should we listen? These are some of the questions we are exploring in the Adult

Christian Formation class on spirituality.

In our last class we examined Ignatian spirituality. The class opened with the question, "What do you know about St. Ignatius?" There wasn't a whole lot of enthusiastic response. One said he had devised a method of praying with scripture and another that he was the founder of the Jesuits. That was pretty much it.

We went on to discover a bit more about Ignatius himself. He was born in 1491 in Basque into a fairly wealthy family; he became a courtier and soldier. At the age of 30, he had a profound conversion experience during a long and painful recuperation from a wound suffered in battle. His spiritual journey led him to become a priest and founder of the Society of Jesus, or Jesuits. He also established colleges, universities and charitable organizations. Ignatius had an extraordinary love of the poor, the sick, and the dying, and was deeply concerned about the religious education of youth. Along with being the founder of the Jesuits, he is perhaps most well known for devising the Spiritual Exercises, a method that is foundational in the work of discernment.

Ignatian spirituality is richly incarnational, finding God in all things and all things in God. He believed our deepest authentic desires will lead us to God. His conviction that experiencing God in an immediate way was not a favor reserved for a few mystics but that God speaks to any/everyone who is willing to spend extended time in solitude and prayer is key to Ignatius's spirituality. Some features of Ignatian spirituality are:

1. Grounding of everything in profound gratitude and reverence.
2. Continuous cultivation of critical awareness.
3. Confident expectation of empowerment to accept and exercise responsibility.
4. Unequivocal commitment to action that includes social and political dimensions.
5. Recognition that the gospel of Jesus Christ is essentially countercultural and revolutionary in a nonviolent way.

By the end of the class, participants had recognized some connections between Ignatian and their own

spirituality. There were many examples of how this spirituality relates to our contemporary lives. Toward the end of the discussion the question posed was, "Do you see a relationship between Ignatian spirituality and St. Asaph's mission?" An immediate response was, "Maybe we should just change the name of the church."

These classes are by no means an in-depth study of the various spiritual traditions. They are designed to give a taste, an overview of what the traditions contain. The purpose is to help participants hear an echo of their own spirituality and practices with the intention of finding a way to deepen what they have. We are also looking for connections to our community spiritual life and mission.

In upcoming weeks we will be exploring Franciscan, Carmelite and Salesian traditions. These names may mean nothing to you now. Come to the classes. With a brief introduction, you may discover a true friend you want to get to know better, a companion who can lead the way to a deeper and richer spiritual life.

Prayer Group

By Mary Chris Lindsay

Do you ever find yourself longing for a time to just sit quietly and contemplate what is important to you? Do you wish you had a place where you can get away for a few quiet moments of prayer or meditation? Wednesday evenings at St. Asaph's may hold the answer for you.

On the **first and third Wednesdays of every month at 7:30pm**, a small group meets in the church for quiet prayer and reflection. We open with an extended period of silence. After our quiet time, we read the gospel for the upcoming Sunday. After a brief time for reflection, the group shares whatever thoughts or insights may occur in response to the reading. We then close with prayer requests and Compline, including the parish prayer list.

Please plan to join us for all or part of a very renewing hour. All are welcome. For more information, contact **Mary Chris Lindsay** at 610-789-1099 or mclsilence@msn.com.

Editor's Note: You read in the last newsletter that **Mary Chris** meets with a small group in her home for those seeking spiritual direction. What I didn't know popularity of certified spiritual guides. In **the Philadelphia Inquirer** on **Wednesday, September 23**, an article in the **Style&Soul Section** describes spiritual direction as an "ancient practice with Christian roots." The paper goes on to say that "we are seeing a revival among contemporary seekers from all faiths and from some who don't necessarily believe in God."

Spiritual Directors International, a 20-year-old organization based in Bellevue, Washington has seen its membership swell from 4,000 in 2002 to 7,000 in 2008.

For those of you who are attending Mary Chris's sessions at the Adult Education hour each Sunday, you are getting a bargain—free. According to the article, Spiritual Directors International, reports that hourly rates range from a goodwill offering to \$80 an hour. St. Asaph is blessed indeed.

Kids



New Sunday school classrooms



New Nursery space

Children's Sunday School News

The first day of Sunday school was September 20. I managed to catch Kathy Hubbard as she sat in the newly refurbished Sunday school room for Kindergarten through 6th grade. It is a lovely, big, light room for children and teachers.

Also, above is a look at the new, larger nursery space.

Here are a few other events you should put on your calendar:

October 18: Crop Walk, 1pm- all children are invited to participate.
October 24: Potential date for "Haunted House for Hunger", created by the Rite 13.

Youth



Rafa Porrata-Doria was part of the J2A Pilgrimage to W. VA for World Vision. He answered some questions about his experiences doing this community service:

By Pam Sheeran (J2A co-leader)

- 1. Please share your most memorable experience(s) during your pilgrimage.**

I'd have to say that the most memorable experience was how well everyone bonded as a group. It was nice to make friends with the people of Pickens and the other people on the trip. That or when Gus stealthily grabbed Pam's sandwich.



(Above is a photo of Gus the sandwich thief. I'm told that Gus actually grabbed a sandwich right out of Pam's hand.)

- 2. What did you learn about your faith?**

I learned that the way I have faith can be wildly different than the way someone in the same religious group as I may keep faith.

- 3. What did you learn about other faiths?**

I learned that while other faiths may be different from the outside, the core values and beliefs are always the same.

- 4. What did you learn about each other?**

I think we all found unexpected aspects of each other. We found exactly how strong our beliefs are, and how we believe.

- 5. What did you learn about yourself?**

I found that I could work harder than I had thought. I also found that it's much nicer to go out and do something, than to be at home focusing on yourself.

6. Would you do it again?

I would definitely do it again. I had a lot of fun, and made some friends that I can keep in touch with.

Rite-13

By Steve Sheeran

On Sunday September 27th the Rite-13 ceremony was held for **Mary Chawaga, Kevin Harte-McCormick, Margaret Nelsen and Emma Ragsdale** during the 10am service. The ceremony celebrates God's gift of womanhood and manhood as well as the responsibilities that come with this gift. It also marks the start of the celebrities' independence from their parents as they begin their long journey to adulthood with prayers for and blessings of the celebrities and their parents. The ceremony also charges the congregation with the responsibility to help and support these young persons as they become young adults.



What did you do this Summer??

Are you inquisitive about what some of our young folks did this summer, but probably won't bother to ask? I asked and here is what I was able to pry out of them:

Mary Chawaga



Mary Chawaga was one of four counselors who worked with 26 third and fourth grade campers for 7 weeks at Friends' Central School. Mary explained how a typical day worked for counselors and kids.

During the first half of the day, the entire bunk of 26 kids (hers were called the Funky Flip Flops) traveled as a group to different activities. After lunch the kids picked a "Pathfinder" (a special activity) that they would enjoy. Choosing activities also encouraged their socializing with other campers.

Each counselor is responsible for a "Pathfinder" activity and Mary was assigned drama. If you know the Chawagas and their love of theater, helping to put a play together must have been one of the bright spots of Mary's counseling experience. Mary is 15 and her days were long--8:15 to 3.

Becky Barrett



Becky is now in the 10th grade. She was part of the J2A group that traveled to West Virginia on their pilgrimage. Becky spent about a week working with the St. A's group on a church in W. VA. She no sooner arrived home from West VA when she turned around and traveled to New Orleans on another community service project.

Becky lives in Oreland and for nearly 4 years has been a member of the Presbyterian youth group in her community. This is the group that she traveled with to New Orleans.

Her group joined an organization in New Orleans called "Son Servants." This organization is made up of many churches from across the country who are working on the damage to homes and churches resulting from Katrina. Becky said "Son Servants" rebuilt homes, classrooms, and churches. While in New Orleans,

Becky's group bunked in the Sunday school classrooms of the Baptist Church and ate in the parish hall. Teenagers from the host churches cooked and Becky said the food was terrific.

She didn't have much time off, but she did experience eating in a Cajun restaurant in the French Quarter.

Kelly Dougherty



I was talking to Kelly's dad, Terry, and asked what Kelly was doing this summer. He came up with two different interests—a backyard summer camp for kids and a month-long course at Temple in

Environmental Science.

I called Kelly and started my question about the backyard summer camp:

Kelly said that the camp is called Camp Kef, and it's a one-week, half-day summer camp for young girls. This past summer was its third summer, but only her second. Kelly's friend Sivahn Barsade initiated the camp in 2007 as a day-care activity for the girls in her little sister's Pre-K class the week between the official start of camps and the end of school. Because the camp was expanding and they needed another counselor, Kelly was asked to join in 2008. The other counselor is a fellow senior, named Rebecca Plotnick. Kelly admitted that the camp was a great experience for her as well as the kids and that she learned a lot about child care through the process."

I asked Kelly about the activities at camp. She said that they planned each day of the week to coincide with a special theme. This year, they focused on occupations, and two of the themes were Rockstar Day and Explorer Day. These themes provide the counselors with activity ideas. Favorites with the little girls included outside games (sharks and minnows, tag etc) and playing in the pool. On Rockstar Day, a particular favorite was the dance party and the talent show."

We talked about the ages, number of campers and camp hours. Kelly explained that the girls are from Sivahn's little sister's class, so they have been getting older. This year they were all about 6 years old (depending on birthdays). Daily attendance varied, but this year they had 8 campers and the sessions were half day from 9-12, which gave parents time to run errands. Kelly spoke with wisdom when she said It's difficult for parents to balance work, chores, and their kids for an entire week during the summer."

When I quizzed Kelly about challenges, she said that anybody who works with or has young girls knows the difficulty of having many of them coexist in one area. It

isn't easy keeping the girls going for three straight hours. Because the camp is so short, the counselors realized that this is probably play time for most of these kids for the day, so the counselors tried to maximize physical activity. Kelly said that she learned so much about little children, and what fascinating creatures they are.

Following her summer camp experience, our conversation transitioned to the course that she completed at Temple University for a select group of students. She responded to an invitation to attend a 4 ½ week course in July and August on Sustainable Environments, funded by the Toyota Foundation.

Kelly said that every attendee was from the 8-country area around Philadelphia and that everyone was a rising senior. She was the only attendee from her high school.

Kelly said that the course textbooks were Environmental Science, but the course syllabus was flexible and incorporated a variety of environmentally related themes and subjects. They went on field trips to Temple's Ambler campus to learn about a computer program that layers data into a map; traveled to the Zoo and the Waterworks, and had a final presentation which focused on greening Temple's city campus.

I asked Kelly about the personal benefits of completing this program. She explained that although the program gave her a good look into environmental science, she prefers the hard disciplines, such as chemistry. She liked that the program gave her an opportunity to explore and to enjoy the college campus experience.

Chris Nelsen



Chris Nelsen traveled to Japan for two weeks with a group called "People to People". According to this organization's website, they describe their travel opportunities as Ambassador Programs that offer extraordinary, life-changing educational travel

opportunities for students, athletes, educators, and professionals.

In looking at Chris's itinerary, he traveled to Tokyo, Hirado, Minpaku, Nagasaki and Kyoto and many provinces and sites within. You may want to ask him more about this exceptional cultural experience.

I asked him what surprised him about the culture of Japan. He answered, "I was surprised by the amount of English in the everyday life of Japan. Everything from street signs to billboards to basically anything and

everything you could think of was written in Japanese and English if not just English.

I asked if this experience changed him. He said, "I changed by interacting with the people of Japan: I don't think I'm really changed. I just have a better understanding of the world in general because I have seen how similar our two countries are even though we have so many slight, minute differences.

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

Outreach

PHILABUNDANCE GARDEN

James 2:14-17

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

This powerful scripture message I think describes the heart of what the Outreach Committee has been doing in its Philabundance garden to help stem hunger under the dedication of **Wendy Flegal** and her group of garden tenders.

Wendy reports: The second year of our Philabundance garden has been a great success thanks to many parishioners and friends. In August we sent **309 pounds** and pounds of beans, tomatoes, kale, cabbage and eggplant to food pantries and cupboards in Philadelphia. We'd even begun to harvest some carrots before the last pick-up. And our cherry tomatoes were incredibly plentiful and sweet up to the very end.

So many people helped with this project. There were the diggers, waterers, and harvesters. There were those who brought seedlings, equipment, or produce from their home gardens and those who cheered us on. Sunday school kids made scarecrows that really worked. We had no invading critters to speak of and the scarecrows attracted lots of attention from neighbors and pedestrians. And, thanks, too, to Maddy Ragsdale for the beautiful photos on the Tower bulletin board.

Watch for an announcement to attend a meeting/harvest dinner to put the garden to bed and to plan for next year. We hope to expand our Philabundance garden and to have space available for those without room for gardens at home. Come join us and help us grow! You can reach Wendy at: wendyflegal@yahoo.com

NORTHLIGHT COMMUNITY CENTER AND ELDERNET OF LOWER MERION AND NARBERTH

Our congregation continues to deliver donations to the pantries of Northlight Community Center and Eldernet of Lower Merion and Narberth

School Supplies

Thanks to everyone for your generosity in donating school supplies. These supplies are being distributed to a shelter.

Just Children

A Precious Gift by Anne Speyer

One of the most welcome gifts we can offer children is reading aloud a good story. For the past several months members of St. Asaph's have been taking turns on Wednesday mornings reading to youngsters at JUST CHILDREN, the Head Start school on Conshohocken Road, just over the City Line Avenue. All of the six readers report a great time is had by all. Or, as one reader said, "It is the shortest and most rewarding thirty minutes in my day!"

Now we have the opportunity to **read on Mondays and Fridays** as well. If you have been wishing to volunteer for Just Children, but could not manage the Wednesday date, speak to **Anne Speyer** or **Nicky Garvan** and specify which day would work best for you. annespeyer@comcast.net or nichola16@comcast.net

Looking Ahead

- Crop Walk for hunger on October 18.
- A visit from the director and assistant director of the Just Children Head Start program and visits from both Eldernet and Northlight to talk about our partnership with them.
- A workday at the Philabundance warehouse.
- Thanksgiving baskets in November
- Christmas Party at our church for Just Children in December.

Music and Arts



Roy Harker, director of Music and Arts

The Rhea Dennis exhibit of hand-made paper paintings will continue through October 18, 2009





Oasis Arts and Education
 October 23 through
 November 15, 2009
 Opening: Friday, October
 23, 2009

Oasis is an artist-run program working with adults with mental disabilities. In addition to classes and workshops they also run a gallery that strives to broaden the students experience and display their artwork. Students are empowered to realize their creative potential, improve their quality of life, and gain life skills. Art workshops are open to the public and work towards goals of inclusion and integration. Oasis' art program includes a gallery of regularly changing artwork from their students as well as other community members. They also exhibit student work through outside venues. While the work produced at Oasis is considered "outsider art" their students are encouraged to use high-quality materials and are taught many techniques and forms of artistic expression.



**The Elysian
 Camerata**
 Sunday, October
 18, 2009
 3:00pm

Mendelssohn:
 String Quartet in
 A minor, Op. 13

Hovhannes: String Trio, Op. 201
 Mozart: String Quintet in D major, K. 593

Congregation

Supper Club is Back

By Mary Allen

Several years ago the congregation of St. Asaph's began "supper clubs" to give us the opportunity to gather as small groups in each others' houses for an evening. This has become a great way to get to know newcomers, and for newcomers to become more familiar with people they may otherwise see only on Sunday.

Our first Supper Club this year will meet on the weekend of **October 23, 24, 25**. Look for the sign-up sheet and let us know that you are participating by **October 18th** at the latest. We need: your phone, email address; any evening you can NOT come (Friday, Saturday, Sunday); and the names of everyone in the family who will be coming. Groups will be assigned by **October 20th** and hosts should then contact their guests immediately.

Tell us if you are able to be a host. Hosts will be notified of their guest list (not to exceed a total of 8 plus children.). We will work on combining newcomers and more tenured members. The host can work out the menu when contacting the guests. Some groups may prefer a casual meal (tacos, pizza, etc.), others a more formal one. In this way expenses are shared and hospitality is contributed by all.

These suppers are always fun around food and conversation. The more the merrier!

215-473-0665 or email: marydallen@gmail.com.

St. Asaph's Celebrates a Wedding

St. Asaph's was the place where folks gathered to celebrate the marriage of **Marianna Allen and Adrian Ecker**. Marianna is the daughter of **Mary and Roger Allen**. The ceremony was beautiful and intimate and the church overflowed with friends and family. Following the service, buses awaited the guests to whisk them off to the Valley Green Inn in Fairmount Park for brunch.



Marianna and Adrian assisting Barry with Communion



Roger Allen and his son Tim making beautiful music



Roger and his daughter Marianna



Mary and her son-in-law Adrian

Diocesan News--Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania

Middle East Study Group

Mary Allen and Peter Doris are among the movers and shakers of the MESHG for the Diocese that meets at our church.

VISION and MISSION STATEMENT

Grounded in our vision of peace in the land of Christ's birth, and desirous of working together with those of all faiths who share that vision, we commit ourselves to prayerful and compassionate solidarity with Christians in the Holy Land.

It is our mission to create, support, and sustain opportunities for the people of the Diocese of Pennsylvania to connect with and better understand the people of Israel/Palestine, especially our Palestinian Christian brothers and sisters in the Diocese of Jerusalem, by reciprocal hospitality and by participation with them in advocacy for justice for the oppressed and reconciliation among all the peoples of the land.

By **Mary Allen, Secretary**



The Middle East Study Group invites participation by all in the Diocese of Pennsylvania who are interested in learning more

about the plight of the Palestinians and possible paths to lasting peace with justice and security for both Israelis and Palestinians in the Holy Land.

- Our **next meeting will take place on October 14th at 7:30 here at St. Asaph's.**
- **Ambassador Warren Clark**, from Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP), will speak on "US Policy in the Middle East" on **October 19th at St. Asaph's at 7:30.** There will be a free will offering for the support of CMEP.
- The **first meeting of 2010 will be on January 13th, at 7:30 at St. Asaph's.**

By **Peter Doris, Chair**



We were formed in 1993 as the result of a vote at the 1992 Diocesan Convention. Since that time we have continued to meet in support of efforts by the United

States to help create a just peace between Israelis and Palestinians. We have worked to support the institutions and people of The Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. We have sponsored educational events to promote an objective understanding of the particular difficulties faced by Palestinian Christians who are citizens of Israel and Palestinian Christians who live in territory occupied by Israel since 1967. Members of The Middle East Study Group have participated in study tours and pilgrimages to The Holy Land. Some members have traveled to Washington to lobby for non-violent solutions to problems that seem intractable.

The members of our group are not experts. We are best described as ordinary Episcopalians who are desire to educate ourselves and support the significant witness of The Episcopal Church USA in peacemaking. **Bishop Allen Bartlett** has been a member of The Middle East Study Group since its formation. We have clerical and lay members. For further information, please contact **Mary Allen** at marydallen@gmail.com or **Peter Doris** at peterdoris1@verizon.net

Book Review

For the **October 5** meeting, we will discuss. *Purple Hibiscus* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. The following is a review by **Joan Frank**:

"A good book should leave you slightly exhausted at the end You live several lives while reading it."

None of us will forget Kambile Achike the fifteen year old narrator as she tells the story of her Nigerian family. Through Kambili we become part of the family life; a privileged one with a religious fanatic demanding father who keeps his children on very short leash as well as a loving subservient mother. In the outside world the father is a wealthy business man who reaches out to the poor, supports the publication of a liberal newspaper and attends sees himself as the most holy worshiper at his catholic church. Meanwhile Nigeria is in revolt. Adichie carefully chooses details that make the narrative vivid. The reader needs her five senses as the story unfolds with wonderful descriptions of food, customs, city and country scenes. We are given hints of secrets and cruelty within the family. We visit the father's ancestral village in the country for the annual Christmas celebration and we meet Auntie Ifeoma who is the agent of change for Kambili and her brother Jaja. This is an amazing first novel and has been followed with another novel and a book of beautiful short stories.

Property By Steve Sheeran

With the opening of the new addition, St. Asaph's has reclaimed most of the basement of the parish house. One former classroom has been converted to our new nursery and a new Sunday School room. Thanks to the following parishioner's who helped clean, paint and set up the new nursery and Sunday School room: **Mary Allen , Joanne Behm, Jonathan Cellars, Steve Chawaga & Laurie Novo, John Chou & Theresa Wallace, Andi Gray & Neil Desnoyers, Fr. Barry Harte, Kathy Hubbard & Smith , Emma & Maddy Ragsdale, Bob Powell, Joan Roberts, and Pam & Steve Sheeran.** There are plans to move the flower guild from the church undercroft to a former storage room that has a working sink and the largest former classroom may become a multipurpose room once it has been painted and some windows repaired. Again thanks to all the volunteers who turned out in August. The next church work day is scheduled for **October 10th** from 9am until 1pm. The focus of the work day will be the grounds.

This Space for Rent By Katherine Kurtz



The above are shots of the conference room in the new wing showing a kitchenette at the end. This room will accommodate 35 to 40 people comfortably. The room has wireless, data and voice connections. There is a projection screen that is operated automatically from the ceiling. The floor is carpeted.

Below is our beautiful parish hall with halo lighting



Somehow, in spite of her work load, **Linda Staton, Parish Administrator**, has been fielding rental inquiries for years, but now we have a team who can devote more time to finding out what people want and how to accommodate them: **Stephanie Shore, Joanne Behm, and Katherine Kurtz** are experimenting with rates and services for community groups and individuals who need places for meetings, classes, parties, concerts, performances, and celebrations.

Available is not only our new meeting room, but also our large parish hall with halo lighting and convenient kitchen on the first floor. Our sanctuary is located adjacent to the parish hall with cathedral chairs that can be positioned in different configurations. These rooms are all handicap accessible. On our lower level, we have an additional all-purpose room. St. Asaph's also makes available the open space around our beautiful campus which includes a labyrinth.

We are conveniently located to the City or the suburbs. Contact the church office at **610-664-0966** or e-mail our Parish Administrator at office@saintasaphs.org.

Loaves and Fishes



Casablanca Night at St. Asaph's

On Saturday, November 21st you don't want to miss Casablanca Night – an evening of fun, fellowship and fantastic auction items. Come dressed as your favorite *Casablanca* character or as your favorite "altar"-ego!

Our evening begins at 6:00 PM with wine, appetizers and the silent auction in the Gallery. At 7:15 PM we move to the Church for a candlelit festive supper. The silent auction continues throughout the evening. To finish the festivities, we will conduct a live auction of some of our most exciting items.

The St. Asaph's room in the new wing will be set up with kid-friendly food, games and child care.

Make your reservations now. This is a free will offering event and all proceeds will go to the needs and mission of the church. If in addition you would also like to help sponsor the event, here are different levels of sponsorship: **Sam - \$25.00; Ilsa - \$50.00; Rick - \$100.00.** Auction items of all sorts are welcome and needed. Do you have an item or service you would like to contribute? **Contact Karen Love (610) 896-5943 or Gwen Hauser (610) 525-2440.**

Flower Guild



We remind parishioners and their friends that we are here to do flower arrangements for you in celebration of a life or an event. Please contact our Parish Administrator who takes care of the calendar—610-667-1538. Above is a sample of an arrangement done by the guild commemorating the life of a young man who died much too early—age 21. He loved baseball, acting and the theater:



We are proud to announce that St. A's will be a Pit Stop for the Breast Cancer 3-Day Event

St. Asaph's will be set-up as a Pit Stop for the Breast Cancer 3-Day on Saturday, October 17, 2009 from approximately 7:00am to 10:00am

Thousands of women and men will unite for three days, October 16-18, 2009, and walk 60 miles in a bold display of courage and commitment. Net proceeds benefit Susan G. Komen for the Cure to fund breast cancer research, education, screening and treatment programs, as well as the National Philanthropic Trust, to provide a special field of interest fund for breast cancer initiatives.

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:

Everett William Frank, Geraldine Lindsay, Karen Love, Kayte Reeves, Joan Schroeter, Glenn Stroud, and Raymond Weston, Sr., Nicky Garvan, Phillip Allison

Those who have died in the parish: Virginia Graves (George Graves), Joseph Touchstone, (Phyllis Touchstone), Florence Sheeran, (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 Sun only)

Holy Days as announced

Summer Schedule

9:15 am

Parish Staff

Roy Harker, *Director of Music & Arts*
Kathy Hubbard, *Children's Formation*
Steve Sheeran, *Youth Formation*
Lynda Staton, *Parish Administrator*

Parish Vestry

Neil Desnoyers, *Accounting Warden*
Teresa Wallace, *Rector's Warden*
Janet Barrett, Joanne Behm, Chris Dennis, Nicky Garvan,
Michael Kaufmann, Katherine Kurtz, Mary Chris Lindsay, Lori Wernersbach, Bob Powell, Connie Stelzenmuller

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 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.