



THE PARISH VISITOR

VOLUME 74, ISSUE 3

NOVEMBER 2015

***Auction & Music, Hors D'oeuvres Galore.
Beverages, Desserts, Surprises & More...***

Sunday, November 8 5:00-7:30 PM

Sayre Hall @ Nativity Cathedral

Ticket \$25, reserve: 610 865 0727

**Live Music by the Celtic duo, Apples in Winter,
George Fairchild and Andréa De Carlo**



Live and Silent Auction Includes:

Cape May Getaway, 1,000 Islands Fishing Trip,
Hotel Bethlehem Sunday Brunch, Handmade Quilt

Plus, you won't want to miss the chance to bid on the auctioneers' surprise item!

Join the fun and reserve your ticket: 610 865 0727— \$25/person

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From the Dear's Desk... A Priceless Treasure God Is Dying For You To Have!

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field." Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it. "

I remember the day we dropped our 8 and 10 year old children off at Nativity Youth Camp. Now, I understand that we had a bit more comfort level than most, in that Felicia and I had both served on camp staff many years earlier. We knew it was a safe place. We knew that children were cared for, loved, prayed and played with. Nonetheless, they were OUR children now and they had never been away from us for more than a sleep over at a friend's house. They were nervous and given the choice I am guessing they would have chosen to stay home with us. Nervously we dropped them off. Bella our daughter swallowed hard and cried throughout the first day.

But then it happened. What happens at camp happened. Over the week and over time, they discovered the most amazing and beautiful treasure hidden in the fields of that camp experience. They found a safe place to be themselves. They found a connection to God they would NOT find anywhere else, through the beauty of that place, the beauty of relationships they have made. They learned what it was to have and take responsibility. They learned that they could fail and still be loved and valued. They learned that no matter what, they were and are made in God's image and that is more than enough for life. ---As the commercial goes---Priceless. My wife and I also learned something valuable. We had to let go, even though we were uncomfortable, we had to let go in order for our kids to discover this experience. We had to trust that this powerful experience was in the hands of the Christian community, through the lives and witness of loving other adults on camp staff, and the fine young people entrusted to be counselors.

Our children are like thousands (literally) of other children who over the past 103 years have experienced the power of Christ in community through the Cathedral's camp ministry. I am very aware of firm faith friendships that have endured long into camper's adult lives. I am finding it hard to come up with a more potent example of Christ alive and lives transformed in my 25 years of ordained ministry. What God does with our campers is a priceless gift AND we'd love to give this gift away!

If you are a parent of a child who is finishing second grade up to senior year in high school. Consider receiving this gift and giving it to your child. Camp will take place this year June 18-25 at Camp Lackawanna which is located just north of Tunkannock Pennsylvania. Canon Michelle or I would be happy to answer any questions you have as would Brian and Marie Mauro who are Nativity Youth Camp Directors. Please see page 4 to hear directly from two of our long-time campers about their experience at camp and the treasure they have discovered there.



THANKSGIVING WORSHIP ECUMENICAL CELEBRATION

Sunday November 20th, 4:00 P.M. at the Cathedral

Please join us Sunday afternoon, November 20th, as we join together with the congregation and choir of St. John's A.M.E. Zion Church (Fountain Hill) to celebrate Thanksgiving. Songs of praise, short reflections by Pastor Gachie Selby and Dean Pompa, and a thanksgiving offering to be given to the Boys and Girls Club of South Bethlehem.

This great opportunity will be our Thanksgiving worship opportunity this year. Come out and join in voice and song. Cider and cookies to follow in Sayre Hall.

FROM THE CANON'S CORNER

When my husband and I searched for a home when our children were young, we hoped to find a neighborhood in which there were many young children close in age. We were fortunate enough to find such a neighborhood. There were numerous neighborhood picnics, parties, and game nights for adults and children. My husband and I knew the parents with whom our children played and we knew they would be safe playing at a neighbor's home. We have lived very happily in our home surrounded by wonderful neighbors as we watched our children grow.

Likewise, when my husband and I worked in careers prior to entering the priesthood, we established many friendships with co-workers from our places of employment and then likewise with people we met in our home church. We had a large network of neighbors. During the October 10 workshop at the Cathedral, The Rev. Dr. Dwight Zscheile helped the congregation consider a vision for the parish and the manner in which we conduct church. One of the many points he asked us to consider is the way we engage our neighbors in our church community. In response someone asked, "Who is our neighbor?" While Dr. Zscheile replied that is for us to define, I immediately thought of Luke's Gospel in which the lawyer asked the same question. Jesus' response was the parable of the Good Samaritan in which he expanded the definition of neighbor to everyone we meet.

The question of "who is my neighbor" encompasses more than those neighbors who live in close proximity or those with whom I have chosen to develop a relationship. My neighbors are those I meet in grocery stores, drug stores and doctor's offices. They include those I pass on the streets walking to and from the parking lot even though their faces are unfamiliar to me. My neighbors include the guests who sleep at the Cathedral Thursday evenings during the winter months; those who visit the thrift shop, and the multitude I pass on the streets of Bethlehem speaking many different languages. Neighbors intersect my life by living in an adjacent town, county or state. My neighbor is impacted by my actions and I am impacted by my neighbors'. My neighbor is so much more than the select few I consciously decided to live near or with whom I continue to socialize. The people I meet each day are my neighbor. Each is a child of God just as I am and each is worthy to receive my love and to be invited into this Church community. May we see the face of Jesus in all the people we encounter daily knowing that each is created in love by God. May we find the grace we need to meet each person where they are in life and extend Christ's mercy and invitation to share in the hope that Jesus offers; a hope which sustains each of us. *-Canon Michelle*

NOVEMBER ADULT FORUMS

1-Nov All Saints/ Anniversary Sunday	Lehigh/Nativity efforts at education	Dr. John Smith
8-Nov	2nd Mark of Mission Discussion	Dean Pompa
15-Nov	Emergency Shelter Info Session	Deacon Rodney Conn
22-Nov	Mission Mary- Putting together Thanks-giving Baskets	Youth Mission Presentation
29-Nov	Advent Series - The Visitation	Rebecca Randall/Canon Michelle Moyer

Ever since I first came to Nativity Youth Camp when I was 8 years old, my life has been forever changed. I can truly say that camp has shaped me into the person I am today. Camp has taught me to be kind, respectful, and accepting to all people, to be patient and friendly with children, and to be responsible in all that I do. I have become more of a leader because of camp and I have built a strong relationship with God at camp. I see God in all of the people I met at camp and I have built relationships with these people that I believe will last my entire life. I met my best friends at camp, and three of them live across the country so I only see them one week of the year. I can still honestly say that they are my best friends and I feel completely comfortable to be myself when I am with them.

Nativity Youth Camp is my favorite week of the entire summer. It is the most fun week of the year and I will treasure the memories I made at camp my entire life. Peaceful moments with nature, dance parties while washing dishes, exciting kickball games, swimming in the pool, hilarious campfire skits, and late nights in the cabins are some of my favorite memories. I'm always smiling or laughing when I'm at camp because the people there are so awesome. Everyone can be themselves at camp without fear of judgement. Together, with all of the diverse personalities, we form a huge happy family. Camp has positively impacted my life and made me into who I am today. *-Bella Pompa*



NATIVITY YOUTH CAMP: FROM THE CAMPERS

I have been attending Nativity Youth Camp since I was 6 months old. Over the past 15 years I have been a mascot, a camper, a counselor. I have spent weeks in the miserable rain, and I have spent weeks basking in the sun for seven days. I have won championship softball games, and I have lost kickball matches by too many runs to count. I have been laughing, playing, crying, coughing, but no matter how divergent my camp experiences are there is one thing that will perpetually stay the same: camp feels like home.

I think really that that's how camp has changed my life. For one week out of every year, I have the opportunity to be in a community where I know I am valued. It is not so much the activities or the location that make camp great, it is the people. They are the sort of people who will crack a joke, share a blanket, play a card game, offer comfort. They are the sort of people who remind you that you have worth, even on the days when you feel most worthless. That is what a home should be. A place where you are irrevocably and unconditionally loved. Camp has been that sort of home for me.

-Lucy Kitch-Peck

THE 153RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY



Please join us as we celebrate...

**Sunday November 1, 9:15 A.M. Church
School and Adult Forum**

**10:30 A.M. Festival Eucharist,
Stewardship In-Gathering,
Very Special Musical Surprise**

(You don't want to miss this!)

Reception to follow in Sayre Hall



NOVEMBER LECTIONARY

November 1

Wisdom of Solomon 3:1-9
or Isaiah 25:6-9
Psalm 24
Revelation 21:1-6a
John 11:32-44

November 8

Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17
Psalm 127
Hebrews 9:24-28
Mark 12:38-44

November 15

1 Samuel 1:4-20
1 Samuel 2:1-10
Hebrews 10:11-14 (15-18) 19-25
Mark 13:1-8

November 22

2 Samuel 23:1-7
Psalm 132:1-13, (14-19)
Revelation 1:4b-8
John 18:33-37

November 29

Jeremiah 33:14-16
Psalm 25:1-9
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
Luke 21:25-36

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH RETREAT – CONNECT

When: November 13, 2015 @ 5:00 P.M.
- November 15 @ 12:00 P.M.

Where: Kirby Episcopal House
381 Sunset Road
Mountain Top, PA 18707

To Register: Contact The Rev. Donald
Schaible II; dschaible2@hotmail.com

Cost: \$125, Scholarships available

**Come be a part of the Diocesan
Youth Community!**

PARISH REGISTER



Deaths

Elwood Seasholtz - 09/22/2015
Ruth Pook - 10/08/2015



MINISTRY CORNER WANT ADS:

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A WAY
TO SERVE?

HELP WANTED FOR THE
FOLLOWING MINISTRIES

Altar Guild

We very much need folk who can offer their time and talents to the ministry of setting up and cleaning up for our multiple worship services. Altar Guild members typically serve on a team for a given month-sharing the responsibility for preparing the Bread, wine, candles, altar, etc. for worship.

This typically can be one or two hours a week for a specific period of time (a month) OR a general helper who can serve as needed. If interested in learning more please contact the Dean tpompa@nativitycathedral.org Or Barbara Ianelli at bianelli@me.com

Thrift Shop

Volunteers are needed to staff the thrift shop located on the lower level of Sayre Hall. Volunteers typically give 3 or 4 hours a week sorting and selling lightly used clothing and making clothing available to those in our neighborhood in need. If interested please contact Connie Gilbert at cgill123@hotmail.com or call the Church office.

Cookstaff

New Bethany Ministries volunteer opportunity exists for folk to help prepare and serve lunch meal at New Bethany Ministries as part of Cathedral Team. The Cathedral team cooks and serves at New Bethany the first Tuesday of each month 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 P.M. If interested please contact Sue Snyder at subs@ptd.net, Bob Wilkins at wilkinsr090@gmail.com or call the church office. (610-865-0727)

A CALL TO PILGRIMAGE: A PASTORAL LETTER FROM BISHOP SEAN

October 2, 2015

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

From the earliest times of our forbearers in faith, when we humans have been in need of spiritual sustenance and signs from God, we have packed our bags and headed out on the road. The Israelites encountered God in new ways and experienced transformation on the journey. They were released into the full range of their creativity as they let go of Pharaoh's imagination and embraced God's imagination.

In our eighteen months of ministry together, we have made progress toward getting our house in order. The diocese's governing bodies, financial practices, communications and clergy support structures are all working more effectively, and we are beginning some hopeful collaborative ministries that will help us do more with the resources God has given us.

While this work will continue, I believe that it is now time for all of us in the Diocese of Bethlehem to turn our attention more fully to discerning the future of God's mission in our congregations and communities. In our hearts, souls and minds, we need to take a pilgrimage toward God's future.

Beginning on the Feast of the Epiphany and lasting until next year's diocesan convention, I urge all of the people of Bethlehem to undertake this pilgrimage. Together we will pray, sing, reflect, and most of all, have holy conversations. During this time, I pray that we will see ourselves in the biblical stories of faithful people called again and again to worship a loving God whose power working in us can accomplish far more than we can ask or imagine.

I have asked two long-time clergy leaders of our diocese, the Very Rev. Tony Pompa and the Rev. Charles Cesaretti, to help guide us on this journey. In the coming months, you will hear from Tony and Charles and other leaders working with them about how you can participate in this pilgrimage through prayer, reflection, and conversation. I ask that we begin to immerse ourselves in prayer by using the collect that we have developed for this pilgrimage in our corporate worship.

There will be a place for us all on the journey. As we, together, engage God's imagination, a compelling vision for our future will continue to emerge.

Yours on the Journey,



Sean W. Rowe (The Rt. Rev.)
Bishop (Provisional)

Collect of Pilgrimage

God of Journeys, as you led and nourished your ancient people through the wilderness, give us the courage to set off on pilgrimage to seek the forms and styles of life and ministry you have prepared for us. You call us to leave familiar things and leave our "comfort zone." Guide our footsteps, open our eyes to new experiences, open our ears to hear you speaking to us, touch our imaginations, and clear our vision that we may become the people you would have us to be. We ask this in the name of Jesus, who travels always with us. Amen.

Blessing

May God the Father who created you, guide your footsteps;

May God the Son who redeemed you, share your journey;

May God the Holy Spirit who sanctifies you, lead you on life's pilgrimage; and,

The blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you wherever you may go. Amen

[from Pilgrimage Prayer, Canterbury Cathedral]

OUR YOUTH MISSION GROUPS ARE COLLECTING:

Mission Group Mary - Canned goods to make Thanksgiving baskets. Please drop off canned goods for baskets (canned vegetables, instant potatoes, gravy, cranberry sauce, sweet potatoes) in the box outside the Sunday School classrooms downstairs near the nursery.

Mission Group Samuel - School supplies for local inner city schools; or donations for schools in Kajo Keji. Please drop off school supplies outside the Sunday School classrooms downstairs near the nursery.

Mission Group Martha - Children's hats, gloves and scarves for homeless youth. Please drop off hats, scarves and gloves in the box outside the Sunday School classrooms downstairs near the nursery.

Please support our youth in their Mission Projects!



CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY

CLERGY AND STAFF

The Rt. Rev. Sean Rowe, Bishop Provisional

The Very Rev. Anthony R. Pompa, Dean and Rector tpompa@nativitycathedral.org

The Rev. Canon Michelle Moyer, Canon for Family & Formation Ministry canonmichelle@nativitycathedral.org

The Rev. Rodney Conn, Deacon, Homeless Shelter Ministry

The Rev. Charles Barebo, Deacon

The Ven. Richard I. Cluett, Archdeacon-in-Residence

The Very Rev. Robert D. Schenkel, Dean Emeritus-in-Residence

Stephen Williams, Director of Music Ministry and Organist swilliams@nativitycathedral.org

Debra Smith Nobles, Asst. to the Dean & Administrator dsnobles@nativitycathedral.org

Peggy Bankowski, Administrative Assistant pbankowski@nativitycathedral.org

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Find the Cathedral Church of the Nativity on Facebook at:

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