



St. John's United Church of Christ
500 West Main Street, Lansdale Pa. 19446

Enlightener

May, 2017 Vol. XXXVII, No. 05

Real GEMS

As I talked with a wise older pastor recently, he pointed out that those of us who preach tend to have a handful of themes around which all of our sermons gravitate, regardless of the passage of Scripture on which we are preaching. The more I thought about his observation, the more I realized it was true. I rather suspect that those of you who have been around St. John's for awhile would concur that my "themes" include the following:

- ~ We are our sisters' and brothers' keepers; we are in this together.
- ~ We are not alone; God will never abandon or forsake us.
- ~ Our God is a God of grace and mercy, a God of forgiveness.
- ~ God draws the circle wide and large.
- ~ Our words matter.
- ~ We are called to be compassionate and kind.
- ~ To whom much is given, much is required.

Regarding the last item on my list ~ *to whom much is given, much is required* ~ I would note that you, the people of St. John's, are without question, among the most generous people I know. Clearly you understand "it is in giving that we receive," for you have demonstrated that in countless ways in recent months. Because of the generosity of those who have made gifts to our benevolence fund known as the GEM fund (Going the Extra Mile) ~ a fund which is also replenished whenever we receive an undesignated bequest and one tenth is automatically placed in the fund to help others beyond St. John's ~ we have been able in recent months to match gifts to the Worm Project, continue to meet our commitment to North Penn Commons and Manna on Main St., support the creation of an endowment fund for students engaged in Clinical Pastoral Education through Phoebe Ministries, and support the work of Vision and Mission Ministries, a ministry in India touching the lives of orphans, women caught in the destructive web of prostitution and human trafficking, and those who do not know the good news of God's love.

Closer to home, your generosity has enabled the dream of a new and improved pipe organ to become a reality. In the weeks ahead, you will see the fruits of that generosity as the new organ console finds its home in the Chancel and hundreds of pipes find their home in the chamber above my office. As we enjoy the beautiful music this new instrument will make possible, may it remind us of the importance of living generously ~ not only so that we might engage in projects that benefit us, but especially so that we might enable projects and ministries that touch the lives of countless others beyond St. John's. Your constant willingness to go the extra mile, at St. John's and beyond, makes you the real GEMS!

Rev. Sue



Church School	Sundays	9:00 AM
Worship	Sundays	8:00 & 10:15 AM

"After Worship" refers to the 10:15 AM service

EVENTS		
5/9	Men's Breakfast	9:00 AM
5/13	Women's Retreat	9:00 AM
5/14	Music Sunday Manna Sunday	
5/17	Potluck Production	6:30 PM
5/25	Ascension Day	
5/29	Memorial Day	
5/31	Noon Communion	

WEDNESDAY CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES ENRICHMENT/CHILDREN'S CHOIR & UNITED VOICES	
Gather in Activity Room Children's Choir Practice	5:30-6:30 PM
Youth "Hang-Out" (Grades 7-12)	5:30-6:30 PM
Dinner	6:30-7:00 PM
United Voices	6:45-7:30 PM
Enrichment Activities Age 4-7th Grade	7:00-7:30 PM

REHEARSALS		
United Ringers	Thursdays	6:15 PM
Chancel Choir & Friends	Thursdays	7:30 PM

MEETINGS		
AA	Fridays	8:30 PM
Boards and Council Meetings	5/8	7:00 & 8:00 PM
Brownies and Girl Scouts	Tuesdays	7:00 PM
Chess Club	Fridays	7:30 PM
Diakonia Outreach	5/29	4:30 PM
Health Ministry	5/7	After Worship
NAMI	5/2	7:00 PM
Prayer Group	5/15	7:00 pm
Prayer Shawl	5/15	6:00 PM
Prayer Walk	5/11, 5/25	7:00 AM
St. John's Stampers	5/11	1:00 PM
Stewardship Committee	5/1	7:00 PM
The Art of Living	Saturdays	10:00 AM
Yoga	Thursdays	7:00 PM

May 2017 Nursery Schedule

May 7 CHARLENE & PAUL HERRICK
 May 14 BRENNAN GAGE & SHIRLEY HALE
 May 21 KELLY DWYER & AMY FAGA
 May 28 JESSICA & PAM ACE



THANKS TO THOSE CARING FOR OUR INFANTS AND TODDLERS DURING THE 10:15 WORSHIP SERVICE. IF YOU ARE ON THE NURSERY SCHEDULE, PLEASE ARRIVE AT 10 AM. IF YOU CANNOT SERVE ON THE SUNDAY YOU ARE SCHEDULED, IT IS IMPORTANT TO FIND A REPLACEMENT. PLEASE FOLLOW THESE GUIDELINES:

FIRST: CALL SOMEONE ELSE ON THE SCHEDULE TO SWITCH. MOST SCHEDULING DIFFICULTIES CAN BE HANDLED THIS WAY. IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO FIND SOMEONE, PLEASE CALL ME AT 215.527.6237.

THANKS AGAIN FOR SERVING!
 MARY BILLY, NURSERY COORDINATOR

May Social Host Schedule

5/7 Gerry Cartwright
5/14 Judy & Alan Johnston
5/21 Aly Faga
5/28 Judy Haiges & Cindy Reese



If you have a conflict, please try to find a replacement from your complete list of social hosts.



Thank you for your contribution to the Worm Project during the months of January and February. The total congregational contribution was \$1437.40. The Council voted to match the congregational contribution from the GEM Fund. The total contribution sent to the Worm Project was \$2874.80.

Were You There?



Twenty-five Years Ago: Earl Wonsidler made and expertly finished new usher's benches and small tables for the narthex and

library entrances to the sanctuary.

Twenty Years Ago: During the weekend of May 16 to 18 Project Hope and St. John's church invited the public to a display of the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt at St. John's. In places of worship the quilt display offers a profound emotional, symbolic, and spiritual experience.

Fifteen Years Ago: All Sunday School teachers were encouraged to attend a meeting to hear about the new curriculum, *Seasons of the Spirit*. The curriculum development was an ecumenical effort with many other denominations working with the United Church of Christ.

Ten Years Ago: From the 2007 May *Enlightener*—Thoughts for Mothers:

- ♥ Children will soon forget your presents but they will always remember your presence.
- ♥ Children seldom misquote you. In fact, they usually repeat word for word what you shouldn't have said.
- ♥ Ever notice that human babies don't walk until they're tall enough to reach a parent's hand?
- ♥ There is only one pretty child in the world and every parent has that child.

Five Years Ago: A Baked Spud Lunch was held after worship on May 20 as a fundraiser to help cover the \$1200 cost of transport for those attending the National Youth Event at Purdue University.

One Year Ago: The University of Mount Union Concert Choir from Alliance, Ohio—one of the oldest collegiate choirs in the United States—presented a concert at St. John's on May 10.

Family Health History:



Knowing your family health history risk can help you—if you act on it. Collecting your family health history is an important first step.

Whether you know a lot about it or only a little, take time to talk to your family about their health histories at family gatherings. It might not be easy. Your family members might not feel comfortable talking about their diseases. But starting the conversation is important. Remember, you're asking not just for your own health, but for the health of everyone in your family.

Knowing Is Not Enough—Act on Your Family Health History

People with a family history of disease may have the most to gain from lifestyle changes and screening tests, such as mammograms and colorectal cancer screening, which can detect diseases like cancer at an early stage, when they are most treatable. Screening tests can also detect disease risk factors like high cholesterol and high blood pressure, which can be treated to reduce the chances of getting a disease. You cannot change your genes, but you can ACT; change unhealthy behaviors such as smoking, inactivity, and poor eating habits. In many cases, adopting a healthier lifestyle can reduce your risk for diseases that run in your family.

Here's a challenge: The Health Ministry Bulletin Board (HMBB) has a title, see if you can match the title to its location in the community. The location is to be revealed on the HMBB next month.

Below you will find the chancel flower donation list for May 2017. Please review this list and contact the church office if you would like to remove, add, or update any information on the list.



Reminder—the requested donation for the chancel flower listing is \$25.

May 7

In memory of her parents from Corrine McNabb
In memory of Robert Gilbert from Bonnie Moyer and family

May 14

In memory of their mothers, Ruth Ekberg and Mae Brown, from Sandy and Scott

In memory of Lillian Wurster’s birthday and Mother’s Day from her daughters, Shirley Ehrlich and Christine Wiley

In memory of Nancy Schultz on Mother’s Day from her daughter, Merle Anne Morcom, and Walter Hawkins

In memory of Sue Wilson on Mother’s Day from her daughters

In memory of Ada Wallrath on Mother’s Day from daughter Carol Smith, Jim Jr, Anne, and Dan

In memory of Mary Franks from her parents, Donald and Suzanne Franks

In loving memory of her sister Bonnie Stott from Nancy Roberts

In memory of Denise Kasander from Ted, Jack, and Ben Kasander

Happy 89th Birthday on May 13 to Lorene K. Ahrens from her loving family

In memory of George Ruth’s May 15 birthday from Chriss Bodde and family

In memory of William Patton’s May 18 birthday from his wife, Jo, and family

May 21

In memory of Anne Carolus from Dick, Mary Sue, and Betsy Anne

In memory of Paul and Betty Fehnel from their son, Robert, and Jean Fehnel

In memory of Willoughby Moyer and loved ones from Jackie Hunsberger and Grace Moyer

In memory of Paul H. “Buck” Bergey’s May 23 birthday from his daughter, Melody

May 28

In memory of Philip Richart Jr.’s May 30 birthday from his wife, Nancy, and Holly and Ken Fisher, and the Kim and John Milliron family

In memory of Michelle Snyder’s May 29 birthday from her grandmother, Louise Snyder

From Edna McGinley in memory of her mother Edna’s June 3 birthday

Chancel Flower Ministry

Thank you for being a part of this important ministry. Many lives have been touched by your efforts.



Flowers should be delivered after the 10:15 AM church service or on Monday. Feel free to deliver the flowers to whomever you want—anyone who is celebrating a birthday or an anniversary, people who are ill, people who are in the hospital, people who need a little extra care. The people you deliver to do not need to be members of St. John’s. They can be your friends, loved ones, and neighbors. The flower ministry is part of our outreach.

The flower room is through the door on the left side of the chancel—the side where the pastor preaches. All the supplies you will need are in this room; plastic vases, St. John’s address directory, and cards.

Please take the flowers out of the brass vases and put them into the plastic floral containers located on the shelves in the flower room. Return the liners back into the gold vases. Please include a card for each bouquet. There will be a copy of these instructions in the flower room. If you are out of town on your assigned Sunday, please switch with someone else. Again, many thanks for being a part of St. John’s flower ministry. Please leave the plastic liners in the gold vases, they belong to the florist.

Lisa

<i>May 8</i>	<i>Bonnie & Ken Hales</i>
<i>May 15</i>	<i>Judy Zoll</i>
<i>May 22</i>	<i>Wendy & Rick O’Connor</i>
<i>May 29</i>	<i>Peter Conner</i>



News From The Pews

As I write to you this month, it is from my vantage point in the large cavernous space above Rev. Sue's office, where an awful lot of work has been going on in recent days in anticipation of ranks

of pipes returning and being carefully put in place to make wonderful sound as St. John's new organ console and all of its accompanying parts are installed. In fact, by the time you read my words, the new organ console will be in place and the pipes—hundreds and hundreds of them—will be filling the space where I am currently perched safely in a corner! I suspect you, like this little church mouse, cannot wait to hear the wonderful sounds that will grace our Sanctuary in the days ahead!

This undertaking would not have been possible without the help of many St. John's folks sharing their time and talents, among them Leroy Horst, Steve Hendricks, Tim Morton, Jim Lederach, Ken Hales, and countless others who have schlepped pipes, climbed ladders, moved heavy things, and done whatever was necessary at any given moment. This project, which has been nothing short of monumental, is in so many ways representative of what this little church mouse sees happening at St. John's all the time: people claiming ownership for what needs to be done in the life of the church and then sharing their time, talent, and resources to "make it so." What I have seen over the course of the last few months is a living out of the truth "many hands make the load light."

And I must tell you that while we have been without a pipe organ at St. John's, I really have enjoyed the music provided by our brass players: trumpets, baritone, French horn, trombone, tuba . . . music to my little mouse ears! I never cease to be amazed by, and thankful for, the gifts so freely and generously shared by you, the members of St. John's.

So, now that May has arrived, I am looking forward to those wonderful raffle baskets that appear at this time of year: baskets filled with all sorts of things that make this little mouse smile! Thanks to all of St. John's members who create these masterpieces and to our Deacons, who organize and oversee this fund raiser. I sure do love being part of St. John's and I sure do love sharing the pews with you! Looking forward to seeing you in those pews in the weeks ahead.

AMOS

News From Church Council



Financial Report— Sandy and Bob Taylor: The financial reports for March 2017 show that ordinary income of \$50,347 was \$4,151 more than our ordinary expenses of \$46,196. While the income in March was quite good, it was augmented by an extra transfer of budgeted investments that had not been done in February (\$5,486) that more than explains our surplus. Although our income exceeded budget even without the extra transfer, our expenses exceeded budget by more. Nonetheless March was, on balance, a good month. Our OCWM contributions in March totaled \$4,351. This exceeded our monthly commitment of \$3,714.17, making us ahead \$368 YTD. Donations to the Worm Project totaled \$1,437.40. This was matched, by Council decision, with an equal amount from the GEM Fund, bringing our total contribution to \$2,874.80. Please feel free to share your questions or concerns with our cotreasurers, Sandy and Bob Taylor.

Staff Reports:

Rev. Sue Bertolette, Senior Pastor: Rev. Sue reported that 27 different people have attended Lenten Bible Study sessions, and six others purchased the book even though they could not attend the sessions. Rev. Sue will celebrate the marriage of her daughter in late April. In early May, Rev. Sue and Rev. Addie will attend the Clergy Convocation. Both have assumed leadership roles: Addie will serve as "emcee" and is on the planning committee, and Rev. Sue will share her faith journey. While Rev. Sue is on sabbatical in July and August, Patti Thomas will be assisting Addie.

Rev. Addie Stong, Associate Pastor: Addie is busy getting ready for Easter and the Sunrise service. Addie and Rev. Sue are aware that there are many young families now attending St. John's. Addie has been planning for an informal group meeting on April 27 that will reach out to the younger women of our congregation (those in their 20s, 30s, and 40s). In time, she would like to expand the focus to include families as well.

[continued on next page]

David Furniss, Minister of Music: David distributed Save-the-Date cards for the final Artist Series concert, *A Chorus of Alleluias*, to be held on April 30 at 7 PM. He gave a summary of the work that has gone on at St. John's in preparation for the return of the organ as well as an update on the work taking place at Reuter Organ. He will be traveling to Kansas to see the progress in person. The organ is due to arrive the week of April 23, with the pipes to arrive on May 1. Help is needed to unload the truck and get pipes ready for Reuter employees to install.

Allison Bruen, Minister of Music for Children and Youth: Allison has been busy preparing for the Easter Sunrise service. The next Potluck Production will take place on Wednesday, May 17. She will be having a miniature festival featuring the songs that were prepared for the Choristers Guild Festival.

Lisa Delp, Office Administrator: Everything is falling into place for the upcoming events of Easter, the church picnic, and Lansdale Day.

Board Reports: See individual board minutes.

Old business: Last month Council heard from Rev. Mark and Rev. Victor about their work in India. Council determined to make a \$3000 donation to Vision and Mission Ministries, Inc. The money will come from the GEM Fund, which currently has a balance of \$20,718.

Jo-Ann Sine noted there will be a Worm Project dinner in September, and she would like to see a table filled by St. John's members. More information will follow.

Board of Educators:

A Thank You for all those who attended St. John's Movie Matinee of *Moana*. We had a great lunch that was provided through our potluck invitation to share. The movie showed us that Moana follows a higher calling to help her family and Polynesian community. A wholesome and uplifting movie. A thought to ponder...What is your "calling" in life?

Junior Church Schedule May 2017				
5/7	Kim Sands	215.412.2837	Powerful Witness	John 10:1-10
5/14	Cindy Benedict	215.285.9038	Enduring Witness	John 14:1-14
5/21	Jen DiPlacido	215.542.1058	Witness of Love	John 14:15-21
5/28	Susan Donahue	215.412.4095	Spirit of Witness	John 17:1-11

Acolyte Schedule May 2017	
5/7	Jared & Jon Sands
5/14	Fran Bishop & Susan Popjoy
5/21	Kelsie MacIntosh & Riley Saxman
5/28	Lauren & Erin Arney

Board of Elders:

Elder of the Morning

Date	Elder	Special Activity
5/7/16	Bob George	
5/14/16	Marcia Stacy	Mother's Day Music Appreciation
5/21/16	Jo-Ann Sine	
5/28/16	Sumiko Booraem	Memorial Day Baptism

Attendance for March 2017

Date	8:00 AM	10:15 AM	Total	Past 5 Years	Average
3/5	63	173	236	2016	327
3/12	50	200	250	2015	281
3/19	48	168	216	2014	262
3/26	60	185	245	2013	338
TOTAL	221	726	947	2012	256
		Average/Week = 237		5-Year Average = 293	
Ash Wednesday					
Date	12:00 PM	Dinner	7:30 PM		
3/17	30	60	92		

Board of Trustees:

Projects Completed

Wayne Weber completed refinishing the Fireside Room floor. The final cost was \$2700.

Projects in the Works

An engineer reviewed what's needed for repairs to Boiler #1 Work is ready to begin this April. Leroy will install oak flooring in the Chancel and paint the outside of the pipe chamber grill. A lift will need to be rented (\$370) and two gallons of

paint will need to be purchased. New fabric will also be installed.

The Trustees conveyed best wishes to Sean Arney and family as they relocate to Pittsburgh.

NEW MEMBERS



WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS MATTHEW CARSON AND JESSICA RICE, WHO JOINED ST. JOHN'S ON FEBRUARY 26.

MATTHEW CARSON WAS BORN IN DOYLESTOWN AND RAISED IN JAMISON WITH HIS TWIN BROTHER CHRIS. HE IS A GRADUATE OF CENTRAL BUCKS HIGH SCHOOL EAST AND WENT ON TO ATTEND THE UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH, RECEIVING A DEGREE IN

ECONOMICS. AFTER GRADUATING MATT BEGAN WORK AT PRUDENTIAL FINANCIAL, WHERE HE HAS BEEN EMPLOYED FOR THE PAST 7 YEARS. MATT CURRENTLY LIVES IN LANSDALE WITH HIS LONG-TERM PARTNER, JESSICA RICE, ENJOYING AS HOBBIES HIKING, COOKING, AND SAMPLING THE LOCAL RESTAURANTS, ALONG WITH A LOVE OF MOVIES AND VIDEO GAMES.

JESSICA RICE WAS RAISED IN GREENBELT, MARYLAND, WITH ONE, YOUNGER SISTER. SHE ATTENDED THE UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH, GRADUATING WITH A DEGREE IN PSYCHOLOGY. WHILE IN COLLEGE SHE SPENT THREE YEARS PROVIDING CARE FOR MEDICALLY FRAGILE CHILDREN AT THE CHILDREN'S HOME OF PITTSBURGH AND LEMIEUX FAMILY CENTER. JESSICA LATER MOVED TO LANSDALE WITH HER LONG-TERM PARTNER, MATTHEW CARSON. THEY ENJOY FOOD AND DINING, BEING BEACH BUMS IN THE SUMMER, HIKING AND CARING FOR THEIR TWO CATS TOGETHER. CURRENTLY SHE WORKS AT VICTIM SERVICES CENTER OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY AS A SEXUAL ASSAULT CRISIS COUNSELOR, VICTIM ADVOCATE, AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION PROGRAMS SUPERVISOR. JESSICA HAS INTERESTS IN CULTURE AND THE ARTS, PHOTOGRAPHY, AND MUSIC. SHE LIKES COOKING, YOGA, GYM TIME, AND TEA TIME.

PLEASE JOIN US IN WELCOMING MATT AND JESSICA INTO THE ST. JOHN'S FAMILY!

JOHN & SUSAN HENDRICKS

ARTICLES DUE FOR JUNE ISSUE

DEADLINE: MAY 14

Leaders: Please provide articles for these coming events for the next *Enlightener* issue:

- ◇ Confirmation
- ◇ Graduates
- ◇ Father's Day
- ◇ Church Picnic
- ◇ Pentecost
- ◇ Vacation Bible School
- ◇ 60th Anniversary of the UCC

All submissions must include your name and phone number and be typed or printed. Submissions can be placed in the *Enlightener* bin in the Church Office (bottom bin), or emailed to erickinsey46@gmail.com. If you have questions, please call Eric Kinsey at 215.513.2237.

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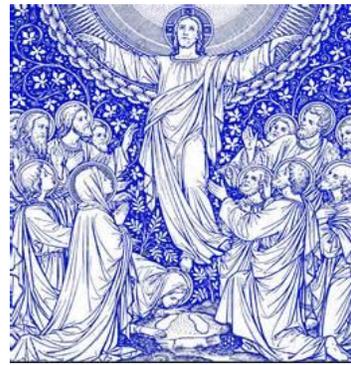


May 2017 Usher Team Leaders	
5/7	Nancy Roberts, Roger Atkin
5/14	Thomas Beggs
5/21	Jim Lederach
5/28	Sally Jarinko, Mark Methlie

Wednesday, May 17
St. John's Children's Choir will be sharing a year's worth of songs they have worked to prepare for the Choristers Guild festival.
Support our young singers by joining us for our own mini festival!
When: Dinner at 6:30 PM with performance to follow.
Where: St. John's Assembly Hall

See you there with a dish to share!

SUMMARY OF LAST MONTH AND YTD INCOME AND EXPENSE	Mar 2017	Jan-Mar 2017
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Current Taxes/Offerings	34,575.28	96,774.64
Event Income/Fundraisers	0.00	564.00
Flowers	583.00	933.00
Investment Income	11,824.36	19,014.75
Rental Income	2,350.00	7,050.00
Use of Building Income	180.00	826.00
Misc. Unrestricted Income	818.80	3,282.85
Interest Income, Savings Accts	15.77	43.20
Total Income	50,347.21	128,488.44
Gross Income	50,347.21	128,488.44
Expense		
Salaries and Benefits	30,308.66	90,925.98
Elders Expenses	0.00	386.05
Deacons Expenses	585.22	2,208.98
Educators Expenses	398.94	827.24
Trustees/Building Expenses	798.58	3,643.39
Building Operation Expenses	9,328.58	20,824.51
Operating Expenses	4,471.25	13,602.48
Miscellaneous Expenses	304.76	1,611.71
Total Expense	46,195.99	134,030.34
Net Ordinary Income	4,151.22	-5,541.90
Other Income/Expense		
Other Income		
Artist Series Income—Special	692.00	692.00
Benevolence Offerings	6,339.00	16,728.89
Special Accounts	8,508.68	54,801.70
Soup/Cookies Sales	258.00	1,472.00
Rummage Sale	0.00	50.00
Endowment Income	0.00	3,000.00
Immediate-Needs Income	250.00	3,500.00
Total Other Income	16,047.68	80,244.59
Other Expense		
Benevolence Disbursements	5,752.40	10,524.90
Special Fund Expenditures	232,250.10	465,622.04
Artist Series Fund Expenditures	1,000.00	2,000.00
Immediate-Needs Expense	5,800.00	5,800.00
Endowment Withdrawals/Transfers	10,314.99	15,670.61
Total Other Expense	255,117.49	499,617.55
Net Other Income	-239,069.81	-419,372.96
Net Income	-234,918.59	-424,914.86



Ascension Day

The common thread linking all the New Testament Ascension references, reflected in the major Christian creeds and confessional statements, is the exaltation of Jesus, meaning that through His ascension Jesus took His seat at the right hand of

God in Heaven: "He ascended into Heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty." It is interpreted as marking the completion of Jesus' physical presence among His apostles and consummating the union of God and man.

As expressed in a famous statement by theologian **Rudolf Bultmann** in his essay *The New Testament and Mythology*: "We no longer believe in the three-storied universe which the creeds take for granted... No one who is old enough to think for himself supposes that God lives in a local heaven..." Modern theologians have therefore demythologized their theology, abandoning a God who sits enthroned above Jerusalem for a heaven which is "the endless, self-sustaining life of God" and the Ascension "an emblem in space and time of God's eternal life."

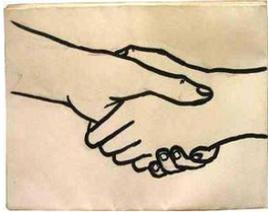
Life

Why do we do the things we do even knowing they could be wrong? To adjust our lives as they should be is not very easy to accomplish. But then I wonder "What are we doing that isn't right?" Are we honest to ourselves and also to other people? Can our friends rely on us because we live an honest and good life or are we letting greed and wrong things take over? Only we can answer that question. Seek the Lord and the correct path will be chosen. Faith in God is a must or life has no meaning. To live a life not caring and thinking of ourselves is wrong.

So study yourself and you will know if the path you chose is the right one.



Pete Ehly



WHAT DOES ST. JOHN'S OUTREACH TEAM DO?

We want to help heal our ailing world and we invite you to consider joining our team.

The Outreach Team...

...Communicates the special needs of Manna on Main Street to the congregation, anything from diapers to cleaning items to food to gift cards for Christmas, and delivers donated items to Manna.

...Through Bread for the World keeps the congregation alert to the need to speak for those who are hungry in our country and in our world.

...Keeps the congregation aware of the Worm Project. Intestinal worms, common in children in underdeveloped tropical countries, can be treated.

...Collects funds to support four overseas children and maintains contact with these children.

...Serves supper to St. John's young folks on their return from a day of volunteering and encourages the church's youth in other ways.

...Organizes sewing bees to make items such as bags for walkers and bags for school supplies.

...Collects and sends off items like supplies needed by school children, or cleaning supplies, as requested by Church World Service.

...Organizes trips for volunteers for Ten Thousand Villages.

...Publicizes the annual community Crop Walk and encourages participation.

Do consider joining our committee. We promise you won't have to do everything on our list. And, we would welcome your ideas on what else St. John's might do to help heal our ailing world.

Contact any of us with questions, or, better yet, interest in joining our team.

MEMBERS OF ST. JOHN'S OUTREACH TEAM:

Lorene Ahrens 215/855-6161

Harry & Sylvia Bingham sbandhb@comcast.net

Peter Conner 267/640-8984

Nicole Groff (chair) nic@groffiti.com

Janet Morton mortfam116@juno.com

Pat Rieker (chair) pkrieker@verizon.com

Jo-Ann Sine jsine241@verizon.com

Ruth & Charles Strasbaugh cstrassie7@aol.com

Memorial Day

In traditional observance, the flag of the United States is raised briskly to the top of the staff and then solemnly lowered to the half-staff position, where it remains only until noon. It is then raised to full staff for the remainder of the day. The half-staff position remembers the more than one million men and women who gave their lives in service of their country. At noon, their memory is raised by the living, who resolve not to let their sacrifice be in vain, but to rise up in their stead and continue the fight for liberty and justice for all.

Other traditional observances included wearing red poppies, visiting cemeteries and placing flags or flowers on the graves of our fallen heroes, and visiting memorials.

Traditional observance of Memorial Day has diminished over the years, and many Americans have forgotten the meaning and traditions of the day. At many cemeteries, the graves of the fallen are increasingly ignored or neglected. Most people no longer remember the proper flag etiquette for the day. While there are towns and cities that still hold Memorial Day parades, many have not held a parade in decades.

There are a few notable exceptions. Since the late 1950s on the Thursday before Memorial Day, 1200 soldiers of the 3rd U.S. Infantry place small American flags at each of the more than 260,000 gravestones at Arlington National Cemetery. They then patrol 24 hours a day during the weekend to ensure that each flag remains standing.



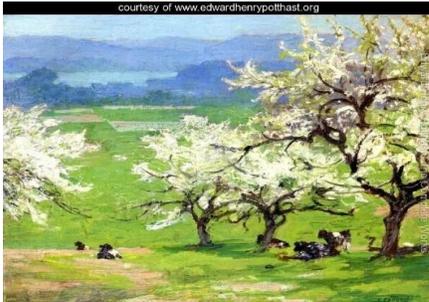
In 1951, the Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts of

St. Louis began placing flags on the 150,000 graves at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery as an annual Good Turn, a practice that continues to this day. Beginning in 1998, on the Saturday before the observed day for Memorial Day, the Boys Scouts and Girl Scouts place a candle at each of approximately 15,300 gravesites of soldiers buried at Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park on Marye's Heights (the Luminaria Program). And in 2004, Washington D.C. held its first Memorial Day parade in over 60 years.

To help reeducate and remind Americans of the true meaning of Memorial Day, the "National Moment of Remembrance" resolution was passed in December 2000. It asks that at 3 PM local time all Americans "voluntarily and informally observe in their own way a Moment of Remembrance and Respect, pausing from whatever they are doing for a moment of silence or listening to Taps."

Spring Is Here

Spring has finally arrived
After a very long wait.
The winter seemed so cold and long.
When it's gone we all feel great.
In spring we can do so many things
Without all those winter clothes;
Traveling to places far and wide,
Enjoying everywhere we go.
So make the most of springtime,
It really won't last that long.
The summer will be upon us
And we'll regret that spring has gone.
Summer can really get you down.
The heat can be unbearable.
So enjoy the spring while you can.
Enjoy it as long as you're able.
Pete Ehly



OFFERING OF LETTERS

On Sunday, May 21, St. John's Outreach Team will sponsor a letter-writing event at church for Bread for the World's 2017 Offering of Letters campaign. The theme of this year's campaign is **Doing Our Part to End Hunger**.

The United States and the world have made significant progress toward ending hunger and poverty over the past few decades. Worldwide, extreme poverty—living on less than \$1.90 a day—has been cut in half over the past 30 years. Even so, almost 800 million people in the world are still hungry. In the United States, 1 in 6 children lives in a family that struggles with hunger.

In the fall of 2015, our country, along with other nations, committed to ending extreme poverty by 2030. To get on track to reach this goal, people from many religious traditions are urging Congress to pass a budget that sustains programs that help people get enough to eat. You can be a part of this campaign by participating in the 2017 Offering of Letters.

Background information, sample letters, and related DVDs will be available in the Library in early May. Additional resources, including videos, can be found at www.bread.org/OL.

Please join us on May 21 in this important advocacy work. Letter writing will take place after both services of worship and will be dedicated with the regular offering on a following Sunday. Paper, envelopes, pens, and stamps will be provided.

It's not too late to donate a basket for the Deacons' Annual Basket Raffle.



Please contact Judy Johnston at twostitches@comcast.net or 215.661.1680 (or any Deacon) if you would like to contribute a basket. Baskets need to be delivered to the church office by May 12. They should be wrapped in clear cellophane and include a list of some of the contents. The baskets will be on display on Mother's Day in the Assembly Hall after each service (doughnuts and coffee will be served). They will also be displayed on Lansdale Day, June 3, and each Sunday after the 10:15 service until the church picnic on June 11, when the winning tickets will be drawn. Last year the funds were used to purchase much needed kitchen equipment. A contribution was also made to the organ fund. All are encouraged to participate in this fun and profitable cause! If you need ideas for basket themes, the Deacons are happy to help.



Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of Melba Lee, mother of Tim Morton, and Warren Brady, father of Susan Popjoy.

Renovation of the Schultz Memorial Organ

Progress Report

Significant progress has been made on the organ renovation since the removal of the entire instrument was completed in January. St. John's task of preparing the pipe chamber for the installation of the renovated pipe organ is nearing completion. Thanks to Leroy Horst, Steve Hendricks, Tim Morton, Ken Hales, Jim Lederach, Bill Leslie, Alan Malachowski, Bill Morris, and tenors and basses from the Chancel Choir for their hard work!

Preparation of the Pipe Chamber

Structural repairs

- Water-damaged plaster has been repaired
- Walls and ceiling have been painted
- The grille facade facing the west transept has been reassembled and both grille facades have been painted

Grille cloth

- The old (and very dirty!) grille cloth was removed and the new grille cloth was installed

Enhancements

- The new tone opening has been created between the pipe chamber and the choir loft
- An entire new lighting system has been installed in the pipe chamber

Chancel area preparations

- Preparations for the electrical connections to the organ are underway
- The former pit for the organ console has been filled in to the level of the chancel floor
- The new floor covering for the former organ pit has been installed

Meanwhile, the Reuter Organ Company has been hard at work on hundreds of details in their shop in Lawrence, Kansas. The new console is finished, and the organ has been assembled in the shop to be tested before transport and delivery.



The first delivery of large construction parts and some of the larger pipes will arrive on Sunday, April 23, following the worship service. The remainder of the pipes and the console are scheduled to arrive on Monday, May 1. On both delivery days, we will need volunteers to help unload the truck. Please contact David Furniss if you are available to help.