

APRIL
2023
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ISSUE



THE ANCHOR

NEWSLETTER FOR HOPE EPISCOPAL

EASTER

Altar Guild Training

Are you interested in joining the Altar Guild? Join Deacon Nancy and Patty Gokey on May 7th following Coffee Hour for Altar Guild Training. This will be for all new and current Altar Guild members. See you then!

Bible Buffet

Haven't had a chance to join our monthly Bible Study yet? You've got one more chance before we take a break for summer! Join via Zoom on Wednesday, May 17th at 7:00 PM!

Acolyte Training

Is your child interested in becoming an Acolyte? Training for *new and current* Acolytes will be on June 4th with Deacon Nancy, following Worship and a kid-friendly lunch! Training will last about 90 minutes - parents are not required to stay. Acolyting is open to all children ages 7 and up! We will be measure for robes, so if your child is not able to attend on June 4th, please contact the church office.



Pop-Up Choir Makes Sweet Harmony

Thanks so much to those who participated in our Pop-up Choir Easter Sunday! It was a great success and sounded like the Choir been rehearsing for weeks! If you haven't checked out the recording of the service, make sure to give it a listen! The Choir starts at exactly one hour and one minute into the recording. A performance to be proud of!

For those interested in joining our Pop-up Choir for Pentecost, May 28th, the music and materials will be available soon! We plan to let everyone rehearse on their own again and meet in the church at 9:15 AM for a group rehearsal that morning.

Additionally, if anyone is ever interested in doing a solo, or has a grandchild, niece, nephew, etc. who would like to share their talents, please let Gail or Phil know.



BAPTISM

The next date scheduled for the Sacrament of Holy Baptism will be Sunday, May 21st!

If you are interested in Baptism, please contact the Church Office to be added to the list!



VBS GOES B.I.G.

We are excited to announce another BUILDING themed Vacation Bible School this summer where we will go on a journey to Build In God!

Mark your calendars for June 26-29th! EventBrite registration is open now! You can scan the QR code to register your child or as an adult volunteer!

- Dates: June 26-29
- Time: 9AM - 1PM
- Cost: FREE!
- Includes:
T-Shirt,
Lunch &
Take-home
Wood Project



Property Committee Update

Thank you to all who came out and helped with work day on April 8th. We cut up a lot of wood and strategized on a walking path with the Creation Care team.

You will notice work beginning on the wall in front of the church over the next month. Over the years with the widening of the road and the increase in truck traffic, the ground has eroded in front of and under the stone wall. It has been hanging precariously for several years and needs to be stabilized before it falls into the street.

We will be replacing the siding and the roof on the shed behind the church in the upcoming weeks as well. More to come on that later! If anyone is interested in serving on the Property Committee, please let me know.

Jae Dupler, Junior Warden 717-203-9628



Rogation Service

The Bangor Episcopal Church in Caernarvon will be hosting a Rogation Service on Sunday, May 21st at 4:00 PM. Rev. Mark A. Scheneman will lead a 30-minute outdoor liturgy, followed by a walk of the and a light supper. For more details, see the flyer on the white board in the Parish House.

Easter Egg Coloring

Our annual egg coloring party and Easter morning egg hunt was, once again, a huge success! Check out some photos below of our happy egg decorators!



RIP Medical Debt Update

We are thrilled to announce that we are so close to hitting our \$10,000 fundraising goal for RIP Medical Debt! The Outreach Committee will guarantee our success. Checks and donations are still coming in!

Over next month, the resources that we gathered in collaboration with St. Luke's in Lebanon, as well as multiple church offerings and donations, are going to be gathered and sent to a debt abolishment team, who will gather those resources, purchase the debt for pennies on the dollar, and pay it off for countless families right here in our home state of Pennsylvania. Instead of a bill, these people will get letters from RIP explaining that their debts have been paid off, in full, by the Episcopal Church.



(Photo of Fr. Bradley preaching about RIP at St. Luke's, Lebanon)

It is a humbling experience to be able to help so many people who struggle with stifling medical debt. Over half of all collections activity in this country is medical related! Together, let us in Jesus' name offer Help, Healing & Hope!

The campaign website with direct debit card donations will close on Friday, May

12th! After that, you may still make donations by check made payable to Hope Church with "RIP Medical Debt" in the memo line. Press releases to local news in Lancaster and Lebanon are going out today for the final push.

RIP Medical Debt was featured on CBS this past Sunday! Scan the BLUE QR code to check the article out!



If you would like to help meet our \$10,000 goal, you can scan the RED QR code to make a donation!



St. Edward's Blood Drive

It feels good to be a hero and you can do just that at St. Edward's Episcopal Church on Thursday, May 18th from 2:00-7:00 PM. All donors will receive two tickets to redeem at any home, regular season Lancaster Barnstormer's game! To register online at LGHealth.org/giveblood or by calling the Blood Donor Center at 717-544-0177.

National Acolyte Festival

Washington National Cathedral is delighted to welcome back acolytes from across the country for the National Acolyte Festival on October 7, 2023. The day includes the Grandest of Processions and the celebration of a festival Holy Eucharist, followed by opportunities for exploring the Cathedral and joining a variety of workshops. We hope to attend and register as a group.



Keep an eye out on more information as we plan a group trip to the National Acolyte Festival!

Food Donations

Lebanon County Christian Ministries shares the love of Jesus by providing clothing, food, shelter, and guidance toward personal sustainability. Now more than ever, people need your help. We need to continue to support our local food banks. One in 10 Lebanon County residents face food insecurity, which means nearly 14,000 individuals do not have certain access to adequate food throughout the year. There is a collection basket in the back of the church.

Committee Updates

Creation Care - Rob Gokey

The committee has applied for grant funds to facilitate design of projects to mitigate erosion occurring in several areas on church property.

Finance - Steve Palmer

As Chairperson of the Finance Committee, I can report that we will be having our normal mid-calendar year meeting to deal with finance issues. However, most financial issues do not wait for one of our three meetings each year but are handled when the issues present themselves, and need resolution, by the Treasurer, Father Bradley and Vestry.

GriefShare - Jo Steffy

We've had 3 GriefShare meetings so far and a Loss of Spouse Meeting. We currently have 2 participants in the GriefShare group and it's going well! Patty Gokey has come aboard as co-facilitator. Thank you for your support!



Welcome Patrick Ishler!

Patrick Ishler is a Music Ministry Consultant with the Diocese of Central PA Shaped by Faith project, with whom we have started working to help expand our Music Ministry here at Hope Church!



As a church musician (and parishioner) in the Episcopal Diocese of Central PA, Patrick spent over 29 years focusing on ways that the congregations would be empowered to enhance worship experience. Most recently, he served for 12 years at St. Edward's Episcopal Church in Lancaster, as their choir director, with their Praise Band and occasionally with the children and youth programs.

Under the leadership of Rev. Martha Harris, Hope Church is on of five parishes within the Lancaster Convocation who applied for the Shaped By Faith Grant last year and was awarded \$37,000 to help churches expand their respective Musical Ministries, individually and in collaboration with each other.

This past Sunday during Coffee Hour, we had the pleasure of sitting with Patrick and going over our hopes and goals for music at Hope Church! If you were unable to be with us last Sunday, April 30th, but would like to share your thoughts on our musical future, feel free to email the church office and we will include your email in Patrick's notes!



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CeaseFire PA | Heeding God's Call to End Gun
Violence | Saving Lives: Ending Gun Violence

SUMMER COOKOUT

SATURDAY MAY 20th 12pm-3pm

CULLITON PARK (behind the Mission)
210 Conestoga St.

Lancaster, PA. 17603

FREE | FOOD | MUSIC | GAMES | PRIZES

TOGETHER WE STAND
GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS COMMUNITY
COOKOUT

kcookmessengerforthecommunity@gmail.com

Save the Date!
Saturday, May 20, 2023
6:30 PM



Convocation Night at the Barnstormers!
2022 Atlantic League Champions

We have secured a section of seats for the ten Episcopal Churches of Lancaster County to have a night at the ballpark with FIREWORKS following the game. Cost will be \$23.00 per seat which will include a \$13.00 money card to use for food or fan gear.

Please email the parish administrator at St. Thomas, Bev Rider, with the number of tickets you will need no later than Monday, May 15. sainthomaschurch@comcast.net

Make checks payable to St. Thomas and write "Barnstormers" in the memo section of your check. Checks can be mailed to 301 St. Thomas Rd., Lancaster, PA 17601. If you prefer, you can also pay online by visiting our website at <https://www.stthomaslanaster.org/> and making a donation using the memo line "Barnstormers".

See you at the Ballpark!
Gate opens at 5:30 PM