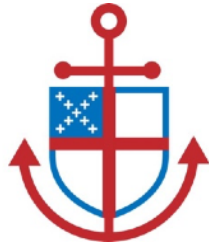


2024  
Fall  
Edition



# THE ANCHOR

NEWSLETTER FOR HOPE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Pentecost

## Mark Your Calendar:

### October 21st

Yarn Ministry Meeting

### October 22nd

Hope & Transforming the  
Garden

### October 30th

Dec. Nancy's Book Study

## Blessing of Backpacks

On September 15th we had a wonderful "Blessing of the Backpacks" service! The children all brought their backpacks to worship and during the service there was a special liturgy for Blessing of the Backpacks.

It was a great way to kick off the school year with our students and we look forward to carrying on this tradition each year!



## Blessings at the Baptismal Font

We are blessed to have officially welcomed Brooks Ernest Brown into the Hope Church Family through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, on Saturday, August 17th.

Brooks is the youngest son of Jeremy and Katie Brown and grandson of Tom and Lynette Brown. Brooks is a happy baby and is always keeping an eye on his older brothers.

In addition to Fr Bradley, we were thrilled to welcome Brooks's St. Thomas snuggle buddy, the Rev. Jennifer Mattson to co-officiate the service!

Big brother, Max, and Gail played a beautiful duet on saxophone and piano during the service.



## Verger Ministry

This summer, we were pleased to graduate J.D. Hynick to Jr. Verger!



J.D. has been Acolyting the longest out of our current crews and with a little additional training from long-time Verger, Bob Sims, he received a robe upgrade and was made Jr. Verger.

J.D. made his debut as Jr. Verger on Pentecost during the Bishop's Visit and is excited to serve in his new role.

## Yarn Ministry

The next meeting of the Yarn Ministry of Hope is October 21st at 10:00 AM in the Parish House.

The Yarn Ministry meets monthly to work on yarn creations of each person's choosing, which will be used as donation for individuals suffering from illness, grief or in need of other types of comfort.



## Vacation Bible School

We are thrilled to report another successful Vacation Bible School week. Over the past few years, we have been building on the theme "Building In God", the children have been able to build a different wood project each year! The last two years we built Birdhouses and planter boxes.



This year we hosted over 20 children from both Hope Church and St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Lebanon. We are thankful to volunteers from St. Luke's who "bussed" over the children from St. Luke's each day.

The children built toolboxes for this year's woodworking project!

Led by Fr. Bradley, Dec. Nancy and a wonderful volunteer crew, the

children heard Bible stories, learned fun songs, decorated picture frames, built marshmallow walls, went on nature walks, enjoyed lots of yummy snacks and even built marshmallow sling shots!



JD, Liam, Eli & Keegan enjoying lunch!

## Welcoming New Roles

Hope Church is delighted to welcome Doug Beach to the Dunlap+Stohler Organ! In July, Doug began working as part of a regular rotation with our Adjunct Organist, Terry Heisey, and our Principle Organist, Gail Edgell.

Doug is a native of Bel Air, MD where he began taking piano lessons at age 5. A graduate of the Maryland Conservatory of Music, he studied piano under Dr. Duke Thompson. In 2013, Doug began a bachelor's degree at Messiah College, now Messiah University, taking piano lessons from the Music Department Dean, Dr. Richard Roberson. Since graduating, he has served as Director of Music at St. John's, Hain's United Church of Christ, Yorkshire United Methodist Church, and most recently at St. John's Episcopal Church in downtown Lancaster City, where he currently resides. This past May, he decided to pursue a vocational change, and is attending Liberty University's flight school program in hopes of becoming a commercial airline pilot. Doug is thrilled to be involved at Hope Church, and looks forward to sharing his gifts and talents in this capacity!



*Douglas Beach,  
Adjunct Organist*



*Micah Roldan,  
Digital Communications*

We are also excited to welcome Micah Roldan to Lay Ministry at Hope Episcopal Church and beyond!

Micah has been a wonderful part of our congregation for the past year, having been baptized at Shearers Creek in April. His dedication to Creation Care and volunteerism at the Beth Shalom house has already made a significant impact.

Now, with his talents in digital communication and production, he's excited to grow in his ministry. Micah says, *"With a deep love for evangelizing coupled with a passion for community, I'm excited to take on this role in digital communications."*

Join us in welcoming Micah and Doug to their new roles!

## We're Hiring!

Hope Church is looking for a new Parish Administrator. Under the supervision of the Rector and Sr. Warden, the Parish Administrator provides general office support to the parish, staff, congregation and committees in order to support the ministries and mission of Hope Episcopal Church.

This work includes, but is not limited to: data management, phone and email support, supplies and inventory management, communications work, managing use of church space, supporting church ministries and committees, and collaborating with volunteers. The Parish Administrator will be a welcoming and responsive presence. It is expected that the Parish Administrator will demonstrate initiative, be resourceful and have the ability to work independently.

The position is for 15 hours per week. Those interested should reach out to Fr. Bradley or email resume to [office@hopeepiscopal.org](mailto:office@hopeepiscopal.org).

## Hope in the News

### Episcopal News Service

Hope Church is joining the important work of environmental stewardship through a grant aimed at cleaning up the Chesapeake Bay. To learn more about how Hope Church and other congregations in the Episcopal Diocese of Central PA are involved, scan the QR code or visit the Episcopal News Service for the full article.



### Manheim Merchandiser:

Don't you just love it when a baptism, loving God, and loving God's world makes front-page news?

Our Green Team project has been featured on the front page of the Manheim Merchandiser! Pick up a copy locally or download the full paper by scanning the QR code. A heartfelt THANK YOU



to everyone involved—you are the reason this mission is growing and thriving. Let's keep celebrating and serving together!

## From the Rector

Dear People of Hope,

This season brings with it an abundance of joy and anticipation as we celebrate our 175 years of ministry and look forward to what the future holds for Hope Church. Our journey together continues to be filled with grace, growth, and the movement of God's spirit among us. As we reflect on our rich history, we also celebrate the strength we have today and the bright future that lies ahead.

One of the most exciting updates I am pleased to share is that Hope Church has been awarded over \$56,125 in grant funding through the Shaped by Faith initiative, which will support the expansion of our youth, music, and digital ministries. In collaboration with St. Thomas, St. John's, St. Paul's in Columbia, and All Saints in Hershey, these funds will deepen our connections and extend the reach of our ministry, supporting vibrant new programs and collaborations. Working together with our neighboring churches has been a true blessing over the nearly four years of my ministry here at Hope, and I encourage you to visit these congregations and join our opportunities to worship with them if you haven't already. Worshipping with our neighbors is a beautiful way to experience the fullness of our shared faith. The people of God show up.

We are also excited to collaborate with St. Luke's to get our youth together for fun and meaningful activities, building on the success of this past summer's "Building In God" Vacation Bible School. It was a joy to see the energy and enthusiasm of the children, and we hope to recreate that spirit in the coming months with more joint events. Jeremy, our Jr. Warden, has a fantastic vision for investing in a new play area for the children, and we're exploring ways to make that part of a broader plan for outdoor spaces and much-needed improvements to our Parish House.

Our focus will be on creating welcoming spaces for everyone—both for our congregation and for all those whom Hope Church could welcome in the future. As we heed the call to "welcome the stranger," we reflect on the words of Scripture, reminding us, "I was a stranger and you welcomed me" (*Matthew 25:35*). The

vision for our outdoor and indoor spaces includes fixing areas of the Parish House that need updating – trim, lighting, and new fixtures – to create an environment that reflects the hospitality and care that defines our mission.

With grant money continuing to flow, and Hope Church in the strongest financial position it has ever been, there are no obstacles in our path toward a bright and hopeful future. We have the resources, the spirit, and the commitment to ensure that we continue to live out the Gospel. Jesus encouraged us to be doers of the word, not merely hearers (*James 1:22*), and now is the time to embrace that call. Together, we celebrate the strength of our community, support the vision, and commit ourselves to the movement of God.

As we continue our 175th Anniversary celebrations, I invite you all to reflect on how we can come together to build a future full of possibility and hope. The best is yet to come, and I look forward to walking this journey with each of you. I remain faithfully yours in The Good News.

With Hope Always, Bradley+

### **From the Senior Warden**

Dear People of Hope,

It is such an exciting time at Hope Church. How wonderful that we are partnering with the Center for Watershed Protection. We will be developing plans for bioretention and green infrastructure. These projects will improve water quality, green spaces, reduce erosion, and so much more. Keep your eyes open for more information.

Have you noticed the new prayers during worship? Father Bradley has been busy. I am so enjoying them, and how these prayers include all the ministries at Hope Church. I hope you are also enjoying them.

Have you checked out our Facebook page or the page for the Lancaster Convocation lately? Our own, very talented, Micah Roldan has been putting together some fun and informative videos. Check them out!

Blessings to all as we enter this next season.

Jo Steffy , Senior Warden

### **Lights, Camera, Action!**

What's better than having one Sight & Sound full-length feature film produced at your church?

**TWO!**

As a historic filming site, and after an absolutely amazing experience two years ago with "I Heard the Bells", Hope Church is thrilled to announce we're teaming up with Sight & Sound once again for their upcoming blockbuster, "A Great Awakening"!

You can sneak a peek here:



Stay tuned and keep your eyes peeled as this film comes to life! Big things are happening, and you won't want to miss a second!



What a way to kick off Hope Church's 175th Anniversary celebration—starting THIS Sunday!

## Salsa Sunday

The weather was perfect for Hope Church's very 1st Salsa Sunday Celebration!

After worship everyone enjoyed a delicious array of cherished family recipes, offering a taste of the rich culinary traditions that reflect the vibrant spirit of Hispanic culture.



As The Episcopal Church reminds us, Hispanic and Latino members enrich our faith with "their love of Jesus, passion for ministry, vibrant music, and evangelistic spirit" (*The Episcopal Church*).

Salsa Sunday was a wonderful celebration of the diversity that strengthens our community.



## Pentecost Bishop's Visit

On Pentecost Sunday we welcomed our Bishop Rt. Rev. Audrey Scanlan, The Dean of our Cathedral, Very Rev. Amy Welin, and Rev. Carmen M. Gaud, retired minister of the UMC and member of vestry at St. Luke's Episcopal Church of Lebanon, PA in the Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem for many joyful confirmations, receptions, baptisms, and reaffirmations from Hope Episcopal Church and St. Stephen's Episcopal Cathedral.



With Dr. Anthony Leach on the Dunlap + Stohler Organ and the Hope Church "Pop Up Choir", the music was remarkable. We were blessed to be able to offer the liturgy with portions in English and Spanish. Doves flew overhead, incense rose in the air, and a sweet spirit filled this place!

Included in the festivities from Hope Church were the newly baptized: Natanael Echevarria Pacheco and Francisca Lynn Medina-Perez, Confirmands: Ethan Weckerly, Micah Roldan and Damaris Perez-Roldan, and newly received members: Elva Boyles and Betsy Greist.



## Supporting Refugees in Need: Hope's Donation to the UNRWA

We are excited to announce that Hope Church's Outreach Committee has successfully funded a donation to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the

Near East (UNRWA). This initiative reflects our commitment to standing with vulnerable communities and demonstrating Christ's love through action. UNRWA provides essential services such as education, healthcare, and emergency relief to over five million Palestinian refugees who face tremendous hardships daily. By supporting this organization, we are joining a global effort to bring hope and dignity to those who need it most.



The decision to contribute to UNRWA aligns with our calling as a congregation to care for the oppressed and marginalized. In regions facing conflict and instability, the agency offers critical support – particularly to children and families. The services they provide not only address immediate needs like food and medical care but also equip individuals with tools for a better future through education and vocational training. Our donation helps sustain these vital programs and reminds us of the shared responsibility we have to care for our global neighbors.

Through this partnership, we are living out our faith in tangible ways. We give thanks for the opportunity to stand alongside organizations like UNRWA, and we invite you all to continue praying for peace and justice in the region. Let this initiative inspire us to seek justice, love mercy, and walk humbly as we support those suffering from the devastating impacts of displacement and conflict.

### **Outreach Ministry Food Drive**

The Read to Feed challenge has officially concluded and we are still tallying the winner!

During the Read to Feed event, everyone was encouraged to bring in a non-perishable food item or got friends and family to sponsor them for each book the read. Together we collected 80 pounds of food!



If anyone still has books out on loan, please return them as soon as you are able.

Stay tuned for the next food drive theme.

### **Book Study**

Deacon Nancy's bi-weekly book study began Wednesday, September 18th in the Parish House.

The book study, has been exploring "Liturgy of the Ordinary:

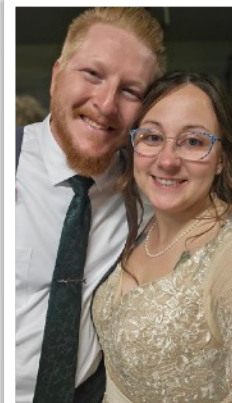


*Sacred Practices in Everyday Life*" by Tish Harrison Warren. This inspiring book helps us discover how God is present in even the most ordinary moments of our day. It's a chance to reflect, learn, and grow in faith.

### **Newlyweds**

Congratulations to Aaron Dupler and Nichole Hubbard who were married on Wednesday, October 16th!

Aaron is the son of Debbie and Jae Dupler. The lovely, backyard service was officiated by Aaron's uncle, Bob Sims.



## The Big Way of Love for Kids

The Big Way Of Love for Kids made it's debut in Episcopal Diocese of Central Pennsylvania this summer. We are grateful to Episcopal Evangelism for this wonderful resource for families and faith communities to share the love of Jesus with our youth!

We invite you to check it out and discover Jesus with your children! You can learn more at [iam.ec/bwol](http://iam.ec/bwol) or scan the QR code.



The BIG Way of Love for Kids follows the Way of Love, encouraging children to pray, learn, and love like Jesus did.



## Creation Care

In alignment with our call to "Love God, Love God's World," we are thrilled to announce Hope Episcopal Church's new Green Infrastructure initiative in partnership with The Center for Watershed Protection!

Following the Episcopal Church's commitment to Creation Care, this project focuses on sustainable practices to improve water quality, reduce erosion and flooding, create beautiful green spaces, and increase storm resilience.



Scripture reminds us in Genesis 2:15 that God placed humanity in the garden "to till it and keep it." As stewards of this earth, we are responding faithfully by implementing bioretention practices that will:

- Filter rainwater & improve water quality.
- Provide habitat for God's creatures.
- Reduce erosion and flooding.
- Foster green spaces that nurture both body and spirit.
- Build resilience against storms.

Our master plan will guide this project from design to completion, helping us fulfill our duty to care for creation. This effort reflects our belief that "the Earth is the Lord's, and all that is in it" (Psalm 24:1), and we are committed to ensuring a healthier future for our community and God's world. Stay tuned for updates on how YOU can participate in this incredible journey of creation care right here at Hope Church!

## Good News Gardens

You're invited to the Episcopal Good News Gardens October virtual gathering on Tuesday, October 22 at 7:00 p.m. ET. This gathering will feature the Rev. Bradley Mattson, Rector of Hope Church, and Micah Roldan, a member of Hope's "Green Team" in Manheim, PA - located in the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania. Together we will focus on the heart of Good News Gardens –how we proclaim and witness the love of Christ through the ministry of the land.



Register Here