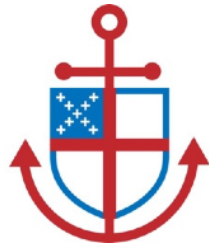


2024
Spring
Edition



THE ANCHOR

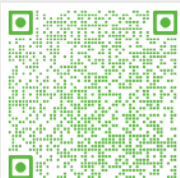
NEWSLETTER FOR HOPE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Pentecost

Creation Care

The Creation Care Ministry Team is excited to announce that they recently applied for and received approval of their grant proposal for \$70,000 for watershed improvements from the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation. They also submitted a grant proposal for \$16,000 to the National Church for improvements to the property around the parish house.

On June 14th there will be a *"Sacred Habitats Nature Walk at Hope Episcopal Church"* hosted by Interfaith Partners of the Chesapeake and The Lancaster Conservancy. The nature walk will be from 9:00 to 10:30 AM. Everyone is invited! For more information and to register, scan the QR code:



Down By The Riverside

Beneath the dappled sunlight filtering through the early Spring leaves, the congregation of Hope Church gathered along Shearers Creek for a Baptism! It was a perfect setting, where the gentle murmur of the flowing water complemented the solemn yet joyful ceremony. Fr. Bradley gently blessed the waters and we welcomed our newest members, Micah and Damaris with the cool, clear water, symbolizing a rebirth into the faith. The powerful affirmations of the baptismal covenant resonated deeply with the gathered faithful in our beautiful setting. The congregation promised to uphold and guide the newly baptized in their spiritual journey and the air was filled with a profound sense of community and commitment to living out the vows of our shared faith. Baptism is not just a welcome into a life of faith, but a beautiful reaffirmation of the community covenant that binds each of us to nurture and support one another in our walk with God. We are blessed to have one another.

Yarn Ministry of Hope

The next meeting for the Yarn Ministry will be held on Monday, June 10th at 10:00 AM in the Parish Hall.

On June 2nd, the Yarn Ministry is looking forward to presenting their first group of creations to be blessed!

Mark Your Calendar!

May 19th

Pentecost - Bishop's Visit

June 2nd

Yarn Ministry Creation
Blessing

June 10th

Yarn Ministry Meeting

June 14th

Sacred Habitats Nature
Walk

June 17th-20th

Vacation Bible School

June 20th

3rd Thursday Noon
Healing Service

August 20

Next 13-week GriefShare
session begins

October 12th

National Acolyte Festival

Church Work Day Highlights

It's always exciting to show up to a church work day and see so many cars in the parking lot! There were plenty of projects to go around on May 11th and plenty of happy helpers in attendance!



Rob Gokey and the Creation Care Team lead the charge in tackling a massive mulch pile in front of the Parish House to recreate a beautiful garden area and added some mulch to the beds in the

churchyard. They also spent time working on the entrance to the walking path on the other side of the parking lot.



The Creation Care team has kept their work rolling all week long adding more mulch to the gardens in the church yard and



plants to the new garden in front of the Parish House. Jeff and Lydia Engle were thrilled to donate perennials to the church that they were splitting off of plants on their own property.

The Property Committee had its own list of jobs for church work day. In addition to repairing a broken statue in the cemetery, collecting sticks, testing out a new super-long reach duster in the church, removing the swing set, and taking care of lots and lots of tree and bush trimming, they had a mound of fresh stone delivered that was spread and smoothed throughout the parking lot later in the week. The parking lot lines were also freshened up in time for this weekend's service!



Easter Highlights

Holy Week 2024 was one for the books! The week started off with a wonderful Palm Sunday Service. Maundy Thursday was celebrated with an evening service led by Deacon Nancy in the Parish House, with a delicious Agape Meal and foot washing for all wanting to participate.

Good Friday's traditional service featured beautiful music from Terry Heisey on the organ.



Pictured: Isabella Fiore coloring eggs

On Saturday morning, the children enjoyed a long running Hope Church tradition by coloring dozens of Easter eggs that they would search for the next day! A breathtaking joint service of The Great Vigil of Easter with St. Luke's Episcopal Church of Lebanon, PA and Hope Episcopal Church was held Saturday evening. We had a great big group from our congregation participate in addition to Fr. Bradley, Jo Steffy served as a lector and Claire Wrage served as an Acolyte.

On Easter Sunday, in addition to Hope Church's traditional celebration and Easter egg hunt around the churchyard, the restored Altar Brass was unveiled and the Pop-Up Choir sang beautifully once again.



Pictured above: Maundy Thursday foot washing with Dec. Nancy, Jo Steffy and Micah Roldan



Pictured: Fr. Bradley and Claire Wrage serving during the Great Vigil of Easter



Cemetery Updates

This year we started a project to update the cemetery blueprints to accurately document recent additions to the cemetery. Bob Sims, Jeff Gebhard, Jeremy Brown and I spent hours measuring rows and locating site markers.

There is some additional space behind the last row and we're hoping, with some laser work and site markers, to be able to add the last two rows to the church cemetery. We are grateful for the expertise of Justus and Matthew Edgell who will assist with documenting these rows.

I have gained great appreciation for the generations before us who plotted all of these sites. It is a very tedious and precise methodology to get markers set to dig graves and set tombstones.

We will keep everyone posted as the work is completed.

Forever grateful for all of those who volunteer their time,

Gail Edgell



We are excited to have another wonderful Vacation Bible School program in coming up this summer!

During this year's "Build In God" themed Vacation Bible School we will build toolboxes for our woodworking project, hear Bible stories, enjoy yummy snacks and learn fun songs! Registration is free.

VBS 2024 will run from June 17th through the 20th from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM, with lunch served daily.

Stay tuned for registration information for Hope's VBS program, as well as other wonderful area Vacation Bible School programs coming soon!

From the Rector

Dear People of Hope -

As we continue our journey from the reflective season of Lent into the joyful celebration of Easter and into Pentecost, I am moved to share how our beloved community has grown and flourished in these past months. Since Christmas, we have seen remarkable displays of community spirit, fellowship and growth in worship. The success of our medical debt relief initiative that spanned all the churches of our two diocese has exceeded expectations. With contributions continuing through the end of Easter, our campaign directly benefited 5,695 people across our commonwealth - doubling the amount of debt we sought to relieve.

The amount topped out at \$6,089,787.16!



More than the community impact, we have advanced the Gospel of Jesus Christ by loving our

neighbors, with our neighbors. We strengthened our bonds with one another in our Central Pennsylvania - Bethlehem Diocesan family, but also extended our hands to those in need beyond our church walls. It's been a profound reminder of the power of making space for others, allowing us to truly embody the inclusive love that Christ teaches us.

In our quest to deepen connections within our church family, we have also focused on the spiritual practice of making space within our hearts and minds. *Thy Kingdom Come* launched on the feast of the Ascension, and the prayer journey we have been on has been a sanctuary for many. Praying for others in their relationship with Jesus, or asking God to deepen our own has provided quiet internal spaces for reflection and deeper communion with God. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, with many expressing how these sessions have enriched their prayer lives and provided much-needed solace and strength. It was really fun to be at The Church Center in NY



when Thy Kingdom Come launched. I was able to meet the Archbishop of York and our Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry, early in the day just after prayer, and then spend the remainder of the day with the good people of our church office and see their dedication and hope for the future. We had a wonderful time!

Looking forward, let us continue to nurture these seeds of community and spirituality that have been planted. Whether through joining a ministry team at Hope, participating in our local outreach initiatives, or simply sharing a pew with a newcomer, every action we take builds up our shared sense of belonging. As your Rector, I am immensely proud of the compassion and energy you have all shown. Let's carry this momentum forward, growing ever closer to the wholesome and holy community we aspire to be.

With all blessings. Hope Always,
Bradley +

From the Senior Warden

Having just come home from an amazing retreat all about *One Family/One Church*, I am so excited to be participating in the *Thy Kingdom Come* prayer journey. What a wonderful guide for personal, family, and workplace prayer. I am working through the Prayer Journal, and Novena. Again, the theme of One Family/One Church. The videos are fantastic!

I think my favorite part is focusing on praying for 5 people in my life who are not walking with the Lord and praying for the spirit to move over them. I would encourage everyone to participate, even if you didn't start "on schedule".

I want to thank everyone who has been working so hard in the Church, the parish house and the yard. The dedication you have shown Hope Church is evidence by the wonderful results! We are blessed to have so many gifted workers here, caring for the property and for the next generations who will call Hope Church "home".

Grief Ministry

Our most recent *Loss of Spouse* session was held on February 6th with 4 participants, and our most recent 13-week GriefShare session ran from February 20th through May 14th with 3 participants.

The next Loss of Spouse session is scheduled for August 13th and the next 13-week GriefShare session will run from August 20th through November 12th, concluding with our *Surviving the Holidays* session on November 19th.

In our final session, we asked people to share how they felt about their experience with the program. I cannot share any specifics due to confidentiality, but I will say that our participants have shared how much these sessions have truly helped in very important ways.

We look forward to this year's Blue Christmas service and are happy to see people borrowing books from our little library.

Hope Church graciously supports this loving ministry. The diversity of the program helps to meet people where they are at in their grief and in ways specific to each individual's needs.

Thank you, Jo & Patty

Outreach Ministry

The Outreach Committee supports a variety of local, national, and international organizations whose mission is aligned with Hope Church.

We strive to uplift people who are experiencing violence, poverty, oppression, or are affected by natural disaster. We have recently expanded our reach by forging partnerships with other Hope Church ministries, like GriefShare and the Yarn Ministry.

Outreach is proud to have recently contributed to funding the renovation of Beth Shalom's backyard in Lancaster. We are excited to announce that a new food drive will be starting in June -- stay tuned!

The Outreach Committee meets monthly and always welcomes new members! If you are interesting in learning more about joining the Outreach Committee, please contact LeAnne Burchik at 717-490-1235 or leanneburchik@gmail.com

Playground Update

Jesus said "Let the little children come unto me, and do not hinder them, for theirs is the kingdom of God" - Matthew 19:14

Hope Church is deeply grateful to the Property Committee for their new vision for an expanded play area for the children at Hope Church. We extend a special thanks to Deacon Stacy and James Catigano, whose vision got us the swing set we had, even as



we pave the way for something new. We are glad to see the old swing set retired in support of this exciting new vision.

"Wonderful! It served its purpose. All that matters is that there is one and they have an incredible rector 🍷👏"
- Rev. Dec. Stacey Catigano
(On plans to replace the existing swingset)

The Property Committee is actively working on a new parent and child-led plan and design, ensuring the new play area meets our hopes of being a welcome and well

equipped place for families of all ages to enjoy. The new area will be expanded to complement all of the beautiful projects taking place on our land, creating a harmonious church campus for everyone.

Stay tuned for updates, and thank you to everyone who carefully dismantled and preserved parts of the old set, allowing us to cherish those memories while looking forward to new ones.



175th Anniversary Paraments

Hope Church is thrilled to announce the arrival of our new 175th Anniversary Vestments and Paraments, which will be unveiled on Pentecost Sunday and blessed by our Bishop.

These beautiful new additions symbolize a significant milestone in our church's history, are designed to reflect the historic 13th



century style that the Grubb family employed when building Hope Church, and will enhance the reverence of our worship services. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the generous donors, including both congregants and clergy past and present, whose contributions during the silent phase made designing and purchasing these possible.

As we work on them over the summer, leading up to the start of our 175th year-long celebration, a dove motif will be added to one side of certain pieces. This will allow them to be used not only on Pentecost Sunday but also for other special occasions, such as the celebration of St. Luke's Day. We are especially thankful that the items arrived ahead of schedule, as we



look forward to a year of meaningful celebrations. These paraments continue the legacy of the generously donated Dissinger paraments and vestments donated in years past, and were likewise custom made by the Robert Gaspard Company.

The Brass is Back!

As we prepare for a year of celebration of our 175th Anniversary starting this October, we are thrilled to have the brass restoration complete! Just before the start of Holy Week, Dec. Nancy, Fr. Bradley and Jo Steffy took a trip over to Chelsea Plating Company in Philadelphia to pick up Hope's Altar brass to have it back for our Easter morning Celebration! If you haven't yet, make sure to take a few moments before or after the service to check out how beautifully all of these treasures came out!



Property Committee

The Property Committee has been busy the last couple of months working with Vestry on some important building updates! A lot has been accomplished in addition to the trees being trimmed, grass fertilized and the parking lot being refreshed.

A new HVAC system was installed in the main floor of the Parish House with an updated propane cylinder. The hot water tank was replaced due to failure and a UV water sanitizing lamp with a water softener was installed.

In preparation for basement renovations, Jeremy Brown, Tom Brown and Rob Gokey removed the drop ceiling and Gail Edgell lightened up the walls with fresh paint.

During the recent church work day the swing set was removed to make way for the new plans that are in the works.

On the other side of the road, the concrete was repaired at the sacristy entrance to deter water intrusion in the basement and several book holders in the pews were repaired.

Laetare Golden Rose

The tradition of the golden rose is one that many may not be familiar with. For centuries, popes would present a golden rose as a gift to royals, nobles, or even cities that had demonstrated a particular character of dedication to the Faith. These golden roses were traditionally and symbolically blessed on Laetare Sunday -- the 'rose Sunday' of the Lenten season.

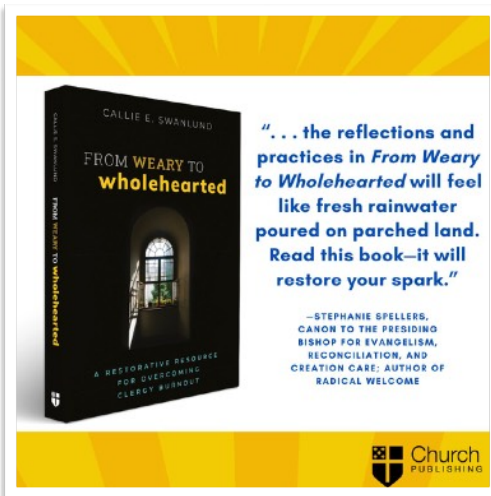


This year, we started this tradition at Hope Church! The first annual Laetare Golden Rose goes to Stephanie Seaman. Stephanie is a lifelong member of Hope Church, reads the Psalms for us beautifully, and is the principal communications volunteer who runs our weekly livestream.

Convocation Meal & Business Meeting

On Sunday, June 9th at 5:00 pm the Lancaster Convocation of Episcopal Churches will have a convocation business meeting and meal at Hope Church. We will pray together, discuss important convocation business and shared ministry, and hold elections. Following the meeting and meal, all are invited to attend an evening Eucharist where our guest preacher will be Rev. Callie Swanlund. Callie is a well known speaker, author, and priest in the Episcopal Church and recently released a new book by Church Publishing entitled "*From Weary to Wholehearted*". Clergy and their Sr. Wardens in attendance will be offered a free copy. Worship will begin at 6:15 PM and our guest organist will be Erik Meyer.

Callie Swanlund is an Episcopal priest, retreat leader, spiritual companion, and coach who helps others know their belovedness and find their Spark. Her new book, *From Weary to Wholehearted*, is a restorative resource for overcoming ministry burnout. Callie is a creative minister and leads individuals and groups in the work of Dr. Brené Brown as a *Certified Daring Way Facilitator*. Her *How2charist: Digital Instructed Eucharist* film has reached Christians and curious individuals around the world, and her *Wholehearted Wisdom* movement invites others into deeper reflection and connection across social media. Callie is an Episcopal Church Foundation Fellow and has keynoted such conferences as: Kanuga Christian



Formation Conference, Episcopal Communicators Annual Conference, and Episcopal Camps and Conference Centers Annual Conference. She lives in Philadelphia with her co-dreaming partner Jeremy, their two tween/teen children, and a rescue pup named Rufus.