

ST. ANNE'S EYE

Proclaiming the Stories of God's Love

at St. Anne's Episcopal Church,
Trexlerstown, Pennsylvania

INFORM INVOLVE INSPIRE

Dec. 2016

Let Us All Be Trail Blazers in The Spirit

I have always had admiration for those who left behind comfortable surroundings to explore, pilgrims, those who went west on wagon trains, astronauts, and other adventurers. As children, we have all heard stories of the hardships and challenges of those who blazed new trails. These hearty explorers faced death and suffered a lack of many of the comforts that most take for granted. As for me, I find it frustrating when the electricity goes out or the water is shut off for repairs!

It is important to remember, as Americans, we share their blood. Whether our ancestors came here on a boat, plane, or crossed a land bridge between present day Russia and Alaska, no one is truly indigenous to America. Even the fact that America exists is due to many courageous, brave, risk takers who had a vision and followed it. Similar praiseworthy people have defended this country and serve to protect our welfare. None of that was or is easy. All of us benefit from their choices, sacrifices, and actions.

Even our religious ancestry as Episcopalians finds its roots in decisions to follow a distinctive path. At different times in our denomination's history, people of faith and vision decided to live as Christians in fidelity to the Gospel message. Even when it was not popular. That was not easy, however, they lived and worshipped as faithful disciples following Jesus' teachings.

This spirit of courageous faith was evident in the founding of St. Anne's, too. It endures to this day. After



50 years of growing in and sharing the love of God, we still hear the Spirit's call. The Spirit's call stirs up that faith, courage, and risk-taking blood that runs through our veins and is very much a part of us. We are called to continue growing as a community of faith and love that serves and welcomes all others.

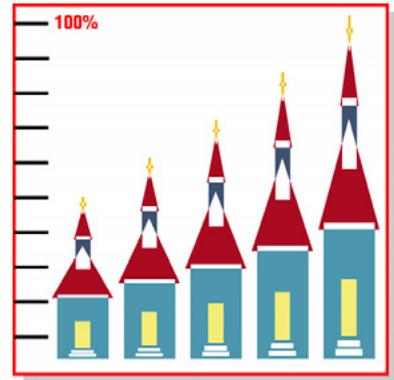
If, when we feel this blood stir, we feel a little hesitant and a bit of fear, it is only natural. Only crazy people run headlong into the unknown without a little hesitancy and fear! Even the bravest of soldiers and explorers will admit

to these feelings. However, it does not stop them.

In the New Year, we will rejoin the "pilgrimage" in prayer, with purpose. We will pray for God's guidance and follow God's lead. All at St. Anne's are invited to pray, each in their own way and time to seek God's guidance. As we listen to God's gentle, guiding voice, we are reassured by the wonderful people and events of the past that we have benefitted from. God has been guiding us and will continue to do so. We will have the chance to share what God has said to us as we make plans for the future.

If we experience moments of hesitancy or fear, we only need to look to each other to see how blessed we are in the beauty and diversity of each of our sisters and brothers. We have been richly blessed and need to continue to serve and welcome others by sharing our blessings and the message of the love of God.

- Father Don



Capital Campaign exceeds its goal

The Capital Campaign Committee would like to thank all of the parishioners that made a capital campaign pledge for their generous support. We are happy to convey that we have met and actually slightly exceeded our overall funding objective of \$110,000.

The next phase of the campaign is to move forward with the approved projects. As you are aware, the resurfacing of the parking lot has been completed, and we are continuing to move ahead with the other four projects:

1. Upgrade to the bathrooms
2. Refurbishment of the playground equipment
3. Improvements to the landscaping
4. Installation of an electronic, programmable sign

All of these projects have been started, and all are scheduled to be complete by the end of June 2017. Landscaping work in front of the church and in the Memorial Garden was accomplished this summer (prior to our 50th anniversary celebration). This represented a small piece of the overall scope for the landscaping project, with the remaining scope to be finished in the spring of 2017. Bids are in hand for the remaining landscaping scope and for the electronic programmable sign schemes. Discussions have begun with the architect for the bathroom upgrades, and we are pursuing an option for securing near new, but used, playground equipment.

Further updates will be provided as these projects proceed through their execution phase.

St. Anne's 50th Anniversary Celebration

St. Anne's 50th Anniversary was a wonderful celebration! With over 170 people attending, the church was packed. Special guests included Char Molrine, Rev. Canon Anne Kitch, Rev. Ellie Hart Garner, Rev. Canon Michael and Rita Piovane, Helen Forshaw (one of our original parishioners), and Molly Woodin. Following the service, everyone gathered outdoors under a tent for a catered celebration lunch. Much work by many hands made it all possible, from the beautification of the church grounds to the historical display in the parish hall. Special thanks to all!



Consecration Sunday a success

Thank you to all involved in staging Consecration Sunday 2016!! It is the major event on the stewardship team's calendar that we begin planning in the spring when prospective guest speakers are first contacted. We have been fortunate to get excellent speakers from outside St. Anne's as well as our own lay witness speakers. If

you feel moved to provide a lay witness with a stewardship theme, please contact anybody on stewardship and we can get you on the schedule for 2017 (you may wish to speak to the congregation on other subjects and for this, please speak with Pastor Don about sharing your story during a Sunday service).

If you have not yet sent in your financial commitment for next year, it is not too late and can be sent to Jim Harding, Treasurer.

With appreciation, Pete Mathieu



St. Anne's re-forms Liturgy Committee

The newly restarted Liturgy (Worship) Committee has 12 members. The Committee is working together with Fr. Don and Nancy to plan all of the services starting with Advent, beginning Nov. 27. The members of the committee are excited to gather and prepare our liturgies to assure that we have the best worship experience possible.

The committee uses the guidelines (rubrics) for Episcopal worship as well as other related resources to plan each service and select appropriate music and other options for each service. Nancy has provided the committee with "hymn banks" for each season. These hymn banks list all of the songs that we know for each particular season.

The first goal of the committee is to honor the worshipping preferences of both services as well as try some other options that the Prayer Book includes. Members of the committee welcome the input of all who attend our services.

A special effort will be made to include our Sunday School children at the 10:30 a.m. service. Their curriculum is based on the readings for each Sunday. It is hoped that those who attend both services will feel welcome to participate in a deeper fashion, in ways they feel most comfortable. We are always looking for altar guild members, greeters, ushers, readers, acolytes, and Eucharistic ministers.

Looking towards the future, the Liturgy Committee is discussing adding another opportunity for prayer and worship to open St. Anne's up to many in the surrounding community who might be looking for a different worship opportunity. Some of the ideas being considered are a service with more contemporary or praise music, scripture-based study and reflection, and informal opportunities for adult formation. Times for an alternate worship service might be Sunday afternoon or

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MUSIC MINISTRY

"Prepare The Way, O Zion"



Blue Hymnal No. 65

Advent is a time for journeying. When we go on journeys we have to first, know where we are going and second, prepare. What do we take? How do we get there? Music often assists us in knowing what to do and how to do it.

"Prepare the Way, O Zion" is an old hymn dating back to the early 1800's. Here is an interpretation to help you understand the text and how it relates to us as travelers:

*Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near!
Let every hill and valley a level way appear.
Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story,
O blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name*

Zion: literally a fortified hill known as "God's capital city." In David's time the name Jerusalem was applied to Zion and is often called the "daughter of Zion." Zion represents Jerusalem where God's presence entered into the Temple. Zion represents God himself; it is synonymous with God's presence.

Hill: all rulers, kings, people in high places
Valley: all lowly and humble people; average people
Level way appear: straighten out your life

*Christ brings God's Rule, O Zion; He comes from heaven above.
His rule is peace and freedom, and justice truth and love.
Lift high your praise resounding, for grace and joy abounding
O blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name.*

How God helps us to prepare:

Christ brings God's rule:

God's rule of peace: with God and others; of God - inner selves and inner harmony

God's rule of freedom: from being slaves to sin - we are free to choose

God's rule of justice: conduct ourselves in relationship to others; give others their rights

God's rule of truth: that which is consistent with the mind, character and will of God

God's rule of love: be patient, kind, willing to give, persevere, never lose faith, do not be immoral in any way, endure.

*Fling wide your gates, o Zion; your Savior's rule embrace
And tidings of salvation proclaim in every place.
All lands will bow rejoicing, their adoration voicing
O blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name.*

How we can prepare:

Fling wide: Open our hearts and minds to all God offers; embrace the rules God has given us.

And tidings: share God's rule with everyone;

All lands will bow rejoicing: everyone will rejoice and praise God for His goodness and grace.

How does the song help you prepare for this journey? First: know where you are going. Second: Make a list of what you need: the will to straighten out your life, peace with God and yourself, kindness, willingness to give, faith, a heart and mind open to what God has to offer, willing to share God's "rules" with others, etc. Third: Take a road map: choose the moral route, conduct yourself in a way that is consistent with the character of God, watch for detours, side trips and rough roads. Good preparation makes the journey smoother.

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ST. ANNE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, P.O. BOX

UTO – Should We Apply for a Grant?

As a church community, St. Anne's has participated in United Thank Offering for many years. UTO is a practice in our life of Christ that begins with daily prayers and gifts of thanksgiving. Each year, the gifts are given as grants for projects throughout the Anglican Communion. These grants support and strengthen the mission and ministry of the church throughout the world.

Just the other day, the Outreach Team received a letter from Little Blue and Little Bluette. Although retired and living on the Isle of Little Blue Box, they wanted to say hello to their favorite church. Little Blue and Little Bluette know how strong St. Anne's outreach programs are and how much energy and generosity our congregation has given to UTO year after year. So, their question to us is this: Have you ever considered taking the next step by identifying a worthwhile outreach project and actually applying for a UTO grant?

On Dec. 1, 2016, annual grant application forms and materials will be available. At that time, the Outreach Team will obtain information about grant criteria/focus for 2017, as well as the steps required to pursue a grant funded project. Once we have received and reported 2017 grant details to you, the Outreach Team will encourage your ideas/thoughts in regard to potential projects, as well as interest in participation/leadership to move forward with the grant process and project planning.

FELLOWSHIP

- DECEMBER 4: St. Nicholas comes! - He should arrive at the end of the 10:30 service
JANUARY 8: Epiphany Party - stayed tuned
FEBRUARY 4: Bear Creek Outing
FEBRUARY 28: Pancake Supper

Look for information concerning these events in the weekly calendar and the bulletins.

All events are open to all ages. Please look for sign-up sheets for January and February events. If you have any new ideas for events, please see a Fellowship Team member.

www.stannesepiscopal.net

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SERVICES

Sundays: 8:00 & 10:30 a.m. The Holy Eucharist and Sermon
9:15 a.m. Family Service – 3rd Sunday of the month
Sunday School: Sundays September through May

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evening or possibly a weekday evening such as Wednesday. While these ideas are just being discussed at this point, the desire is to serve those who might not be able to attend on a Sunday or who might prefer a different style of praise and worship. If such services are successful, the people who attend might join us on Sunday if they are able. Additionally, if these praise and worship opportunities are tried, they will in no way impact or change our current services.

The agendas, minutes, and a listing of members is posted in the parish hall. Everyone is welcome to provide suggestions or attend the meetings. If you wish to join the Liturgy Committee, see Fr. Don.