

ST. ANNE'S EYE

Proclaiming the Stories of God's Love

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

INFORM INVOLVE INSPIRE

Dec. 2016

The Season of Hope

Advent brings a time of optimism, anticipation

Advent is considered the season of anticipation and hope. It may be a challenge to put ourselves in the place of Mary and Joseph as they anticipated the birth of Jesus. They, along with many people of faith, awaited the birth of the messiah. As people of faith waited, they wondered and tried to envision what the messiah would do and how things would change with his arrival.

The people of Israel were certain that the messiah would come and remove Roman occupation. The messiah would right all wrongs and answer every need. God and humanity would be one again, like it was in Eden. Those were their expectations.

It was not necessarily God's plan. At least not as the people envisioned it. Even Mary and Joseph had certain ideas of they way things would be when Jesus was born. They too, for being as faithful and holy as they were, could not have imagined what was to come. A significant difference between Mary and Joseph and many others, was that they were people of true faith. Their hopes were on God and his will, not on things happening as they wanted or expected. What could have been more unexpected than the way Jesus came into the world? Who saw that coming?

The answer is no one, except God.

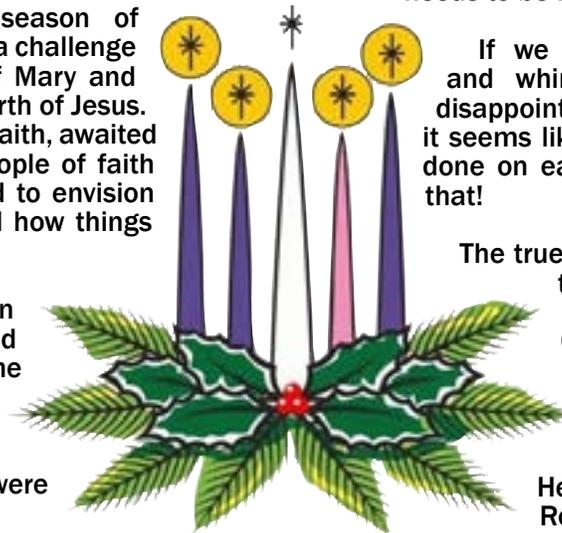
If we participate in the season of Advent in faith, we need to anticipate that things will not go as we would envision, plan, or maybe even like. God's plan is far greater and better than what we could wish for. Our hope needs to be in God's plan, not ours.

If we hope that all our wishes dreams and whims will be satisfied, prepare for disappointment and frustration! Sometimes it seems like we want God to make our will be done on earth and heaven. How backwards is that!

The true nature of hope for people of faith is that God's will, will be done and we will allow ourselves to be a part of it. One of the things we can learn from the life of Jesus is that he did the unexpected. His life, words, and actions continually astounded the people of his time and people since. He did bring freedom. Not from the Romans, but from sin. He did restore humanity to its proper place. That place was not one of dominance, but service and love, humility and equality, as children of God.

Our hope should not be an anticipation of our own satisfaction. In faith, our hope must be the unimaginable wonders and blessings that come from letting go of our well-intentioned but short-sighted and often self-serving ways. We need to put our trust in God. Seek God's way. Live life as God calls us to.

- Father Don





Capital Campaign Update: Nov. 2017

The following are updates to the three remaining Capital Campaign projects:

1. Upgrades to the bathrooms:

The bathroom design was finalized by our Vestry and the architect last August. The architect then completed the construction drawings in October that will be utilized to request bids from contractors. Contractor solicitation will commence after the holidays. Once a contractor is selected, we will need to apply for a building permit. Pending receipt of permits, construction is targeted for spring/summer 2018 once the Nursery School is out for the summer.

2. Installation of an electronic programmable sign:

With our planning and zoning variances in hand, a building permit was successfully secured for our new electronic sign, and a contract negotiated with GC Electric for its installation. The new sign was delivered on-site in mid-September. In early November GC Electric relocated the old sign and dug a foundation for the new sign. Forms were assembled and concrete was poured. After the concrete had cured, the new sign was mounted onto



the foundation and electric power hooked up. Wireless communication to the sign was then established. GC Electric's portion of the project is now complete. However, we still need to construct stone columns on either side of the sign to meet our permit requirements. These columns will be constructed in the spring once weather allows. In the meantime the sign will continue to function and provide active messaging to our existing and prospective parishioners.

3. Refurbishment of the playground equipment:

A lot has been accomplished on this project over the past three months. We proceeded to procure a commercial grade multi-slide plastic play system for the playground to replace the "wooden boat" that was removed due to its deterioration.

Upon delivery, the play system was successfully installed. A special thanks to Joe Terrible, John Bates and Joe Whitehill for assisting in the installation.

Our Eagle Scout candidate, Carter Lowell, received approval from the Boy Scouts for his proposed playground upgrade project. He and his team of scouts subsequently repaired and realigned the perimeter timbers, secured and spread 22 cubic yards of playground mulch and sanded and painted some existing playground equipment. In the spring, Carter will return to add several benches to the playground.

With the exception of the benches, the playground capital project is complete.

Further updates will be provided as these projects continue.

ST. ANNE'S VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL REACHES OUT TO THE COMMUNITY WITH SERVICE PROJECTS

Our St. Anne's Vacation Bible School was a huge success again this year. Once again, the program was filled with fun, excitement and opportunities for learning at "Hero Central: Discovering Your Strength in God". In addition, there were two service projects that allowed us to reach out to those in need in our community.

The first project was the creation of backpacks that contained a wide variety of school supplies. These backpacks were distributed by Everlasting Life Ministries (ELM) to children in need helping them to be ready for a new school year.

The second project was the decorating of grocery bags by the children which were then filled with non-perishable food items for ELM's food bank. The folks at ELM added the food items to their shelves for distribution to the homeless and those in need. Not letting an opportunity



go by, ELM then dual-purposed the decorated bags filling them with items of need for children at local hospitals.

Many thanks to all the volunteers who made "Hero Central: Discovering Your Strength in God" such a success. Also, thanks go out to the children and parents who helped by contributing resources that helped make the service projects possible. And finally, our thanks go to our partner ELM who serves those in need in so many ways. May our Lord bless us all.



ADVENT OUTREACH

Our Advent Giving Tree this year will provide us an opportunity to once again gift the residents at Mosser Nursing Home.

On the first Sunday in Advent (Dec. 3rd) our tree will be up and decorated with an ornament for each resident. Their name and room number will be printed on the front. On the back is a suggested item they would like.

If you would like to participate, just take an ornament. Please be sure to attach the ornament to your purchased gift-wrapped package and place it under the tree. Packages must be delivered to church no later than Dec. 17th.

Thank you, your Outreach Team

New flu information for 2017-18

Getting an annual flu vaccine is the first and best way to protect yourself and your family from the flu. Flu vaccination can reduce flu illnesses, doctors' visits, and missed work and school due to flu, as well as prevent flu-related hospitalization.

What's new this flu season?

A few things are new this season:

- The recommendation to not use the nasal spray flu vaccine (LAIV) was renewed for the 2017-2018 season. Only injectable flu shots are recommended for use again this season.
- Pregnant women may receive any licensed, recommended, and age-appropriate flu vaccine.

When should I get vaccinated?

You should get a flu vaccine now, if you haven't gotten one already this season. It's best to get vaccinated before flu begins spreading in your community. It takes about two weeks after vaccination for antibodies to develop in the body that protect against flu. CDC recommends that people get a flu vaccine by the end of October, if possible. Getting vaccinated later, however, can still be beneficial and vaccination should continue to be offered throughout the flu season, even into January or later.

Can I get a flu vaccine if I am allergic to eggs?

The recommendations for people with egg allergies are the same as last season. People who have experienced only hives after exposure to egg can get any licensed flu vaccine that is otherwise appropriate for their age and health.

When will flu activity begin and when will it peak?

The timing of flu is very unpredictable and can vary in different
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368, TREXLETTOWN, PA 18087,
ST. ANNE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, P.O. BOX

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parts of the country and from season to season. Seasonal flu viruses can be detected year-round; however, seasonal flu activity often begins as early as October and November and can continue to occur as late as May. Flu activity most commonly peaks in the United States between December and February.

What should I do to protect myself from flu this season?

CDC recommends a yearly flu vaccine for everyone 6 months of age and older as the first and most important step in protecting against this serious disease. In addition to getting a seasonal flu vaccine, you can take everyday preventive actions like staying away from sick people and washing your hands to reduce the spread of germs. If you are sick with flu, stay home from work or school to prevent spreading flu to others. In addition, there are prescription medications called antiviral drugs that can be used to treat influenza illness.

Flu Symptoms

Influenza (also known as the flu) is a contagious respiratory illness caused by flu viruses. It can cause mild to severe illness, and at times can lead to death. The flu is different from a cold. The flu usually comes on suddenly. People who have the flu often feel some or all of these symptoms: fever, cough, sore throat, runny/stuffy nose; muscle and body aches, headaches, fatigue.

Can the flu be treated?

Yes. There are prescription medications called "antiviral drugs" that can be used to treat flu illness.

What are the benefits of antiviral drugs?

When used for treatment, antiviral drugs can lessen

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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

symptoms and shorten the time you are sick by 1 or 2 days. They also can prevent serious flu complications, like pneumonia.

What are the benefits of flu vaccination?

- Flu vaccination can keep you from getting sick with flu and protects others around you, including more vulnerable people like children and elderly.

- Flu vaccination can reduce the risk of flu-associated hospitalization, including among children and older adults.

- Flu vaccination is an important preventive tool for people with chronic health conditions.

Stay healthy and Get your flu shot now.