

ST. ANNE'S EYE

Proclaiming the Stories of God's Love

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

INFORM INVOLVE INSPIRE

June 2018

Enriching your spiritual life through positivity, camaraderie

"You will show me the path that leads to life; your presence fills me with joy and brings me pleasure forever." Psalm 16:11

Life is what you make it. There are many things that are out of our control. However, how we meet each other, approach the day, and face the challenges of life makes a big difference. On a purely secular (non-religious) level, it is proven that a positive attitude on life can make a difference in the quality of life. An example of this is how a person deals with a serious health challenge. A positive attitude and the support of others goes far in improving both health and quality of life.

The impact of attitude and the support of others also is essential to happiness and a better and healthier spiritual life. Factor in the grace of God, and the sky is the limit on how much better life can be.

In preparing for our Easter Eucharistic thanksgivings, we had the opportunity to pause and reflect on the many ways we are blessed at St. Anne's. We are blessed with sisters and brothers who step up and serve us in so many ways. Whether it is simply and quietly cleaning up after coffee hour or responding to the many charitable causes we embrace, there is much to be thankful for. We are thankful for each other. We are thankful for you.

On one of the next few Sundays take some time to look around. While you will see the same familiar faces, take a moment and reflect on each person (just



MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2018

JULY 9-13

REGISTRATION, MEDICAL RELEASE, AND VOLUNTEER FORMS ARE
NOW AVAILABLE IN THE PARISH HALL AND ON THE ST. ANNE'S WEBSITE
VOLUNTEERS WANTED & NEEDED!

not during the sermon!). I am sure you will see what I am blessed to see each Sunday as I sit in the sanctuary. So many wonderful people with whom it is a blessing and privilege to share community. Too often we are rushed and keep things superficial. However, in the moment it takes to pause and reflect, I am sure a smile will follow as will a sense of gratitude for each other.

We are blessed with a wonderful diversity of sisters and brothers at our church. As with all members of our family (either biological or spiritual), we need to savor the moments and take the time to deepen our

bonds of love.

This summer we will have the opportunity to gather at different events to spend time together other than at service or coffee hour. Be a part of Vacation Bible School, the parish picnic, the Iron Pigs game, the golf outing, or other events. Come and share at Daybreak, the Blood Drive, Origami Owl or Iron Pigs fundraisers, the "Beyond the Broken Heart" group or Bible study.

#BLESSED #THANKFUL
#FULLNESSOFLIFE

- Father Don

Their Ticket to Ride

Donations in honor of Elfie Maniatty supply Good Shepherd residents with new wheels

Thanks to the generosity of donors and seed money from a philanthropic volunteer, Good Shepherd's long-term care residents will be getting a new van for community outings.

Elvira "Elfie" Maniatty loved many people during her lifetime, among them her husband George, her four children and the residents of the Good Shepherd Home Raker Center where she was a volunteer since 1995. Elfie also knew what she didn't like. High on her list of frustrations was watching residents wait a long time for public transportation to pick them up when they wanted to go somewhere in the community.

Seeing an opportunity to enhance the independence and quality of life for Good Shepherd's residents, several resident families put forth a matching gift challenge to raise money for a new van able to accommodate four residents in wheelchairs. The new van will replace an old van that will be retired.

Elfie, who lived in Allentown, passed away in March 2017 at age 77. But Elfie's family remembers her as a woman who "led a prayerful life and had the faith of a mustard seed." So it seemed only appropriate that with her family's blessing, a \$10,000 bequest to Good Shepherd from Elfie's estate became the first gift towards the purchase of the van.

But the Maniatty's generosity didn't stop with that first gift. George was so moved to further honor his wife's legacy of compassion that he made an additional \$10,000 gift towards the van fund. "She had backbone and she was very generous," says George. "I would say she was always eager to support the things she believed in."

Like the parable of the mustard seed that yielded a mighty tree providing shelter to birds, Elfie's gift was the seed money for a successful fund raising campaign generating more than \$106,000 from 576 donors. The outpouring of generosity not only covers the cost of the van but also provides additional funds for more resident outings such as holidays and special events with families, concerts at the PPL Center, plays at the Shakespeare Festival, and trips to Hershey Chocolate World and the Philadelphia Zoo.

"Elfie didn't live to see the new van but she would have been thrilled," says JoAnn Frey, volunteer coordinator. "She had everybody's best interests at heart."

Echoing that sentiment, Elfie's daughter Antoinette says, "I think she would have liked it very much. One of the things she used to do was take residents out shopping. Sometimes they had to use public transportation, which could be challenging. She also had difficulty walking in the last few years and standing waiting for the bus was very hard."



Finance Committee Update

As announced at our Annual Meeting in January, the Finance Committee has expanded its membership and is playing a more active role in the management of St. Anne's financial assets. The committee now has eight members and is chaired by Joe Terrible.

One of the primary roles of the Finance Committee is to recommend to the Vestry the best ways to manage the funds within St. Anne's checking and investment accounts. Over the past quarter, the team met with representatives of BB&T, the management team responsible for the Diocesan Investment Trust. We were impressed with their presentation and recommended reducing the excess balance in our non-interest-bearing checking account by transferring those funds into the DIT portfolio. This is projected to generate over \$6,000 in annual income. Further, the team is conducting a complete review of the securities in our Vanguard portfolio which have been donated by parishioners over the past several years. Once the review is complete, adjustment recommendations will be enacted which are targeted to generate an additional annual income stream.

Elfie so enjoyed getting out and about with the residents she shared the experience with her two grandchildren. In the fall of 2015, Elfie took them on a resident shopping trip to the mall, which was both rewarding and a special memory for them.

Elfie was among Good Shepherd's most devoted volunteers giving thousands of hours over the years; 241 hours in 2012 alone. As a resident personal assistant Elfie would visit residents weekly writing letters for them, tidying up rooms, switching seasonal clothing in and out of closets, and just being the best friend and companion she could.

"I think she had a real closeness with the residents she visited on a regular basis," says George.

Ingrid Baruch Lande, director of rehabilitation services for long-term care, is deeply grateful to every donor who made it possible to buy the van which will serve residents in both the Allentown and Bethlehem homes. "It is because of the kindness of our friends in the community that we are able to provide our residents with the opportunity to live a meaningful life by being able to travel with safety and dignity to places and events that bring them joy," says Ingrid. "On behalf of all of us in long-term care at Good Shepherd, I cannot say thank you enough. Please know how very grateful we all are."

(Reprinted with permission from Spring 2018 Sweet Charity Magazine, Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Network)

Preschool and Diapers come together

I don't have too many memories of when I was 4 years old, but I do remember attending St. Anne's Preschool in 1993.

After graduating from St. Anne's, I graduated from East Penn School District (2007), Lehigh University Undergraduate School of Business and MBA (2011 and 2016 Respectively). I can't seem to leave the Lehigh Valley!

Fast forward 25 years to 2018. I have been blessed with good fortune early in my life through various ventures and I have made it my mission to try to help as many children as possible in the Lehigh Valley. Compassion, giving back and sharing were 3 things I learned in Preschool. I figured I won't be leaving the Lehigh Valley anytime soon, why not give back and try to make it a better place?

Last year, I went around to local homeless shelters asking them what they needed the most, they all said the same thing: Diapers. I knew this was a problem I could take on and address. I decided I was going to host a Diaper Drive on May 13th and collect as many diapers as I could to start a Diaper Bank. I had flyers printed out and was handing them around town asking everyone and anyone to support this cause. The response I was receiving from most organizations could be described as tepid, at best.

Every day on my commute to work, I pass 2 of my old schools: LMMS and St. Anne's. One day in April on my way to work, I decided to pull into St. Anne's to see if there was a bulletin board I could place my flyer on. I saw parents bringing their children to preschool and it brought back

many memories. I noticed 2 nice ladies walking into the entrance and ran up to them with my flyers asking if they would be willing to post one up on the community board. I was blown away.

One of the ladies instantly lit up and said "Yes! Yes, we will post this up and help you raise diapers!" She explained St. Anne's had run diaper drives in the past and they understood the severity of the problem. A few days later I received an email from St. Anne's explaining to me not only would they send the message out to their entire community, they would host a collection in-house and post the message on the outdoor electric board. This email filled my heart with joy and brought me to the verge of tears.

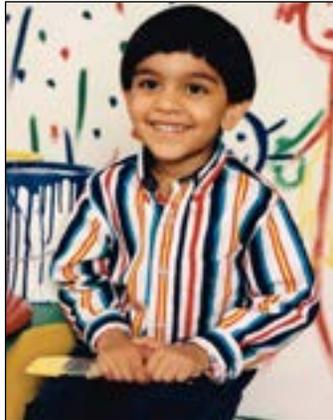
On the morning of May 13th, one of our first drop offs was from St. Anne's collection with over 2,500 diapers and 5,600 wipes. That day, we did end up collecting over 25,000 diapers, with St. Anne's alone bringing in almost 10% of our collection. This event gave us the ability to start the Lehigh Valley Diaper Bank and help our homeless children all around the valley. I could not be more grateful and blessed to have the support of St. Anne's.

I hope this is just the beginning of a venture where we can all come together to help our neighbors.

My wife and I are eagerly expecting our daughter in August of this year. Rest assured, she will require many diapers and will be registering in St. Anne's Nursery School!

St. Anne's made a huge difference in my life; I am confident it will make the same difference in hers and many, many others.

Sapan Shah
Executive Director
LV soLve - Lehigh Valley Diaper Bank



Sapan Shah, who attended St. Anne's preschool in 1993 (pictured above), is the Executive Director of the Lehigh Valley Diaper Bank.

PASTORAL CARE AT ST. ANNE'S

Galatians 6:2 "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."

The Pastoral Care Team's mission is to provide nurturing of body, mind, and spirit, and provide health and welfare to St. Anne's people and the community.

Our Vision is to be more alert and sensitive to the needs of our parishioners. To strive for good and improved communication between parishioners, laity, and other teams, and clergy.

We strive to accomplish our Mission and Vision by offering these services to our St. Anne's Family...

Transportation: Pastoral Care has a list of about a 8 people who are willing to take fellow parishioners to doctors' appointments when they themselves cannot drive to it.

Altar flowers: After church on Sundays, if there are fresh flowers on the altar, the Pastoral Care Monthly Visitors distribute them to parishioners

(Continued on Page 4)

FELLOWSHIP

JUNE

- 9th - Blood Drive
- 10th - St. Anne's Picnic
- 17th - Family Service
- 30th - Golf Outing

JULY

- 9th - 13th - Vacation Bible School
- 15th - Ice Cream Sundae Sunday
- 15th - Family Service
- 27th - Iron Pigs Baseball Game

ST. ANNE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, P.O. BOX
368, TREXLETTOWN, PA 18087,

(From Page 3)

who are celebrating an event or have been ill or hospitalized.

Sunshine Cards: We have three people who send cards from "Your St. Anne's Family" to fellow parishioners who are in need a pick-me-up.

Meals: Our team has a list of about 15 people who are willing to make meals for fellow parishioners who don't need the added stress of trying to figure out how to feed themselves and the others in their household due to a recent hospital stay, death in the family, or other reason.

Bereavement Crosses: When a parishioner has a loss in the family, that person will receive from the church a cross or Psalm 23 remembrance for the loss of their loved one.

Parish Nursing: Our Nurses offer their knowledge and caring hearts regularly through Blood Pressure Sundays and articles to enlighten us.

Prayer Chain: Our prayer chain has two sides to it. On one side are those who pray! On the other side there are prayer requests sent out so parishioners who are ill, have had accidents, have had a death in the family, or have any other kind of need for prayer can

have fellow parishioners pray with them for their need. **PRAYER WORKS!** Just knowing someone else is praying for you is a great comfort. The other side is those who pray!

Prayer Shawls, Lap Blankets, Baby Blankets: We have and have had parishioners who crochet and/or knit and provide us with prayer shawls and lap blankets which are given to parishioners who are ill or recovering or in need. We also give handmade blankets to babies at they're baptism. If interested in this loving ministry, contact Sandy Harding.

Lay Eucharistic Ministry: Our Lay Eucharistic Visitors visit parishioners at home and in the hospital to bring the Communion service to them.

Pastoral Care Ministers: We have 2 parishioners who serve for 2 months out of the year together, (usually 6 months apart). The parishioners will visit with and/or call parishioners unable to come to church for various reasons including that they are in the hospital, ill or rehab. They will coordinate meals and or transportation from the list of those who volunteered to provide services for those in need.

The Pastoral Care Team is in need of a few more volunteers. If you would like to help in any of these ministries listed above, and experience the warmth and love that will fill your heart, please contact Janet Whitehill, Pastoral Care Team Lead.

Your Pastoral Care Ministry Team

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SERVICES

Sundays: 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. The Holy Eucharist and
Sermon

10 a.m. Church School

September - May