



Glad Tidings

"Publish Glad Tidings, Tidings of Peace"

The Monthly Newsletter of
Incarnation Holy Sacrament
Episcopal Church
3000 Garrett Road
Drexel Hill, PA 19026-2217
610-259-5148
Fax: 484-461-6699
Email: bev@ihschurch.org
www.ihschurch.org

**MAY
2010**

CLERGY & STAFF

The Rev. Alexander (Sandy)
C. Graham, IV, Rector
FrSandy@ihschurch.org

Joanne Sabatino
Organist and Choir Director

Bev Brescia
Parish Secretary

Diane Tapley
Financial Secretary

VESTRY

Cheryl Avery
Susan Bevilacqua
Maria Buonviri
Kris Haelle
Cyndi Hartnett
Stacy Hawley
Bev Rorer
Sheila Spence
Matt Stromberg
Dane Tanner
Ashley Thomas
Bob Verna

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I've been growing asparagus now for a few years, and have recently decided that these odd but tasty little veggies have much to teach us about Christian life.

People are often under the impression that asparagus is especially difficult to grow. It can be, but it hasn't been my experience that they particularly fragile, and given the right conditions, they thrive. Some outsiders might think the Christian life to be too difficult or taxing, or that being somehow "saintly" is a prerequisite for calling oneself a Christian and following the Way. Again, this hasn't been my experience. There are aspects of Christian living that may be challenging, but as long as it is lived in neither an isolationist nor a judgmental way, it is life-giving; even in the every day. It is also organic - with "saintly" living having more to do with a relationship with Christ than human standards of perfection.

You cannot harvest asparagus for the first two or even three seasons after it has been planted. People who are newly Christian, or those Christians who find themselves planted in a new garden - whether this be physical relocation or upheavals such as grief or other life-changing events - need some time to get established, rooted, and nourished. We must be careful of the line between welcome, inclusion, and pushy-ness.

Asparagus must be harvested before it "ferns out" as it will become too "woody" and lose flavor. If we are too inactive, we become complacent. We - each of us - has an amazing capacity for doing. We have each been given unique gifts, talents, and energy to work for God's glory, on behalf of the church and on behalf of other people. In doing God's work, we are in many ways fulfilled. We can't miss the myriad opportunities that present themselves and then wonder why we feel disconnected or depleted.

There comes a time each season - different for each individual plant - when you need to stop harvesting the asparagus and let it "fern out". Eventually, the asparagus becomes too thin to harvest, and must be allowed to store enough energy for next year if it is to produce again; or even in extreme cases, if it is to survive. Just as God modeled in creation, we who are made in God's image need to enter into periods of rest. How do you Sabbath? How do you take care of yourself when your life becomes too "thin"? God also told the Israelites to let their fields recover by not planting in

them after seven years. It's in the Manufacturer's instructions. Recognizing the need for refreshment of our souls and bodies doesn't make us weak; it makes us in tune with the way God made us. It allows us to be strong for the long haul. It is how we thrive.

May you be filled with God's love, a fervor for God's work, and a healthy approach toward rest and nourishment. And have some asparagus. It's good for you.

MAY CELEBRATIONS

5/08 Matthew VanRensler
 5/10 Matthew Livoy
 5/11 Jane Buddenhagen
 5/12 John Conran
 5/13 Agnes Cooke
 5/17 Andrew Mertin
 5/18 Melissa Staley



5/18 Jeff Brooks
 5/19 Katie Graham
 5/20 Kerrie Ann Avery
 5/22 Geoffrey Taylor Hawley
 5/29 Jenna Gentry
 5/29 David Livoy
 5/28 Steve Norris, Sr.

5/01 Charles and Joan Gibson
 5/20 Melissa and Russell Staley

Please let the Church office know of any additions, deletions or corrections that need to be made in the above two lists. This is our most recent information, and we depend on you to keep us current.

Incarnation Holy Sacrament Prayer Cycle - You may have noticed in the bulletin and the Prayers of the People certain ministries named in our *prayer cycle*. This is a seven-week cycle, and this month's ministries are listed below. Please consider these ministries in your prayers, and allow us the privilege of connecting you with one or more of these ministries as the spirit moves you!

May 2nd	Girls Friendly Society and Vestry
May 9 th	Eucharistic Ministers and Wednesday Wonders
May 16 th	Acolytes and Lay Eucharistic Visitors
May 23rd	Altar Guild and Lectors
May 30th	Jr. Girl Scouts and Sewing Group

May 2nd	Joyce Bernasz, Steve Norris
May 9th	Mother's Day
May 16th	Vestry
May 23rd	Volunteers Needed
May 30th	Volunteers Needed

Fellowship Gathering Sign-Up

The sign-up for hosting Fellowship Gathering/Coffee Hour after church is



posted on the bulletin board in the back of the church and the parish hall. Please take the opportunity to sign-up – if you are not able to host one, you may bring in a box of cookies or crackers for the pantry, or a gallon of iced tea or lemonade. Fellowship Gathering is a “coming together” time, and many hands *do* make for lighter work!

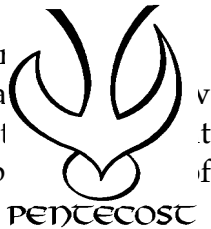
Parish Life Committee

Would you like to help with church dinners, bazaars or other special events that energize our parish through fellowship? If you are interested in helping with events that affect the Life of the Parish, please contact the office.

Glad Tidings Newsletter – Articles for the Summer, 2010 Glad Tidings should be in the office by Monday May 24th. Thank you.

Pentecost Sunday – is May

23rd and we would encourage everyone to wear white or orange clothing on this day, to celebrate the Holy Spirit in this place.



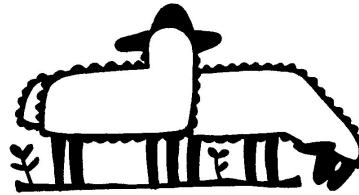
Graduations: Do you have a son, daughter or grand child who will be graduating from high school or college next month? **PLEASE** send their name, high school graduating from and where they will be attending college or if they are graduating from college – from where, degree earned, future plans to the church office so we can acknowledge them in our Summer Glad Tidings! Thank you.



Is Sunday the 9th of May – and we would like to take this opportunity to wish each and every one of the mothers, mothers-to-be, grand mothers and great grand mothers a very happy day!

Farm Life at Collen Brook

Come join us for “Farm Life” at Collen Brook on Sunday, May 23 from 1:00 to 4:00 PM. There will be activities showing early farm life.



Examples: early farm tools, sheep shearing, wool demonstration, live horse, soap making, stencilmansion and much

more.

It is located one block behind the Aronimink School at Marvine and Mansion. The school is at Burmont Rd. and Marvine Ave. Donation accepted. See Bev for more information.

Directory Additions/Corrections

Please add: Sandy, Mark & Lillian Johnston
450 Childs Avenue
Drexel Hill, PA 19026
610-626-3013

Corrections: Nick DiRosato phone:
#267-966-5737

Morgan Henderson e-mail:
mindgardnerer@gmail.com

Please let the office know of any other additions or changes. Thank you.

Alex's Lemonade Stand

The Sunday School will be having an Alex's Lemonade Stand on Sunday, June 13th from 10 am to 2 pm on the front lawn of the church. We need all children and parents who can help to see Steve Norris ASAP!

Delaware County Walk For Hunger

The first annual Delaware County Walk for Hunger will be held on Sunday, May 23rd at 2 PM; registration will start at 1 PM.

St. Albans is the founding sponsor of this walk, and would like each parish to consider being sponsors in some capacity – by:

1. Assembling a team to participate either by walking; driving in a car or cheering the walkers on.
2. Making a small monetary contribution from our annual budget or savings-outreach moneys toward the walk.

There is a flyer on the bulletin board with additional information and the sign up sheet is in the church office.

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"WELL, I'M A MUTT, SO I MUST BE NON-DENOMINATIONAL."

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