GladTidings

"Publish Glad Tidings, Tidings of Peace"

The Monthly Newsletter of
Incarnation Holy Sacrament
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October 2011

CLERGY & STAFF

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Diane Tapley
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Kevin Dale

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BettyLou Hadley-Laird

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Bev Rorer

Dane Tanner

Ashley Thomas

Barb Thompson

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Ed of Nashville

As we waited for the shuttle to take us back to the airport, up walked a homeless man, asking for help. I gave him a dollar from my pocket, and he lingered a while. We knew Ed from before; we knew that he didn't just take the money and move on. After a little small talk, he asked my wife, "what do you do?" She answered that she was a minister. To that he replied, "I knew you was either a piano player or a minister. One of those two." Heather offered that we were both ministers, opening a gap so wide that Ed jumped in with both feet. Looking from one to the other of us, Ed asked, "So, what's it all about?" Oh my. Hoping that it was either a rhetorical question or that he was about to give us his opinion, we nodded our heads and repeated his question slowly, "what's it all about…" Ed responded in turn, "Yeah, what's it all about?" There was no escaping it now. My wife and I looked at each other wide-eyed and came up with the brilliant response, "That's a good question," stalling. In a moment of blind inspiration, the word "relationships" came out of my mouth. "Relationships to God; relationships to each other." While speaking to Ed, of course, I didn't realize what grace had transpired there. I was just relieved to have had an answer to offer him. It was weeks later that a personal epiphany allowed me the joy of that truth.

Relationships.

We do good things; we do bad things. We do well; we do poorly. Life is good; Life is bad. Life is easy; Life is hard. The only thing that survives and pulls us through it all is our relationships. Our bind with others grows with us, bending and flexing with our inconsistencies, our shortcomings, and our triumphs. In relationships we find understanding, receive forgiveness, and feel love.

In Romans 12:18, we read that we are to "strive to be on good terms with everyone…?" The only way to achieve this is to actually be in relationship with others. We can't love our neighbors without forgiving them; we can't forgive them before understanding them, we can't understand them without some level of relationship.

Our relationship to God should be simpler. Earthly relationships are difficult and complex because both individuals can be inconsistent, unforgiving, and closed-minded. Knowing that God is consistent, forgiving and open to us leaves the real stumbling blocks of the

relationship squarely on our side of the equation. If we don't feel as though we have a relationship with God, we have the heavy weight of the knowledge that it's our fault. With this in mind, it would seem that we have the awesome responsibility of reconciling our differences, and the mind-boggling amount of work that goes with it to do. Faced with such a task we often stumble, or worse, turn away, adding to the reconciling that we have to do – perhaps when we're feeling stronger, up to the challenge. But when will that be? When are we going to be up to the challenge of righting our relationship with God? Of making amends for all that we've done? The Bible confirms our worst fears: we're never going to be up to that challenge. Ever since we were first called "*big* boys and girls" we've held tightly to the exhilaration that doing things on our own brings. The worst fear of any adult in this society is to not be self-sufficient. Our first clue about a right relationship with God comes from this: We are the *children* of God. Jesus bade the children to come to him in Mark 10:13 saying that their faith, the way they came forward, was the way we should receive the Kindgom. We are to be as children with our trust and our faith in a greater power than we possess. "But not *me*, I've done too much, been too bad, gone too long…" From this comes our second understanding of our relationship with God. Just as we are to be like children to God, God is to us as a perfect parent. It is in this understanding that Jesus gave us the illustration of the Prodigal son. It doesn't matter what you've done, how much you've done, how little you've done, God is waiting with open arms, more than willing to offer you complete forgiveness for the sake of the relationship. The heavy burden of lifting away all of our self-imposed obstacles is rightfully ours, but God will effortlessly sweep them away to allow for our return. A right relationship with God is able to pull us through any earthly or unearthly trial.

In response to my answer, Ed held together the index and middle fingers of his right hand, and waving them said, "Closeness. Closeness. That's what it's all about. Whether it be closeness to each other, between man and wife," he said, his hand indicating the space between Heather and me, "or between you and…" his hand traversed a line between us and the heavens. He didn't want to say it, but of course he didn't have to. "Closeness." God bless you, Ed of Nashville.

October CELEBRATIONS

10/02 Barry Wilson VanRensler
10/03 Robert Verna, Jr.
10/08 Joanne Gentry
10/12 Anthony Schwab, Sr.
10/13 Valeri Lynn Mertin
10/17 Robert Conn
10/17 Lilly Johnston
10/18 Christopher Tapley
10/21 Mark Johnston
10/22 Ifunanya Asuzu
10/22 Carlo Buonviri
10/23 Ryan Ewen
10/26 Mark Gentry
10/27 Richard Bernasz
10/29 Joseph W. Ackerman
10/29 Anthony (AJ) Schwab, Jr.
10/29 Cameron Dominic Vona

10/12 Andrew and Nanci Mertin
10/17 Amy and Edwin Williams

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

Fellowship Gathering Sign-Up

We have started a "team concept" similar to the Altar Guild. Presently we have 8 teams and a list of substitutes. If you'd like to join one of the teams or start your own, please contact Bev in the church office (610-259-5148 or via e-mail bev@ihschurch.org . If you are not able to host, 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! *To help save our planet; bring in an extra mug or two from home – put your name on the bottom and keep it in the kitchen for coffee hour – just remember to wash it!*

October 2nd	*Dot & Newt Wade*
October 9th	*Nanci Mertin & Dane Tanner*
October 16th	*Vestry*
October 23rd	*Margaret Chadwick & Bev Rorer*
October 30th	*Lee Schultz & Maria Buonviri*

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.

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 the summer 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!

October 2nd	**Development Committee and Sewing Group**
October 9th	**Choir and Sunday School**
October 16th	**Finance Committee and Ushers**
October 23rd	**Girls Friendly Society and Vestry**
October 30th	**Eucharistic Ministers and Wednesday Wonders**

Blessing of the Animals **(Feast of St. Francis)** will be on Sunday October 9th 1 PM on the front lawn**!** All are welcome, regardless

of the number of legs they possess, accompanying humans, even humans without animals!

Glad Tiding Newsletter – Articles for the November, 2011 Glad Tidings should be in the church office by Tuesday October 25th. Thank you.

Fall Festival The Upper Darby Historical society is holding its annual "Fall Festival: at Collen Brook Farm located behind the Aroni mink school at Marvine and Mansion Rds. It will be on Sunday October 16th from 1:00 to 4:00 PM. There will be pumpkin painting, apple biting, antique fire truckc rides, attic treasure sale, games of the 1800's, ivil war reinactions, tours and refreshments. A small donation is appreciated. Contact Bev Rorer for more details.

Sunday School News

Sunday School is up and running. Our theme for the year is "Build A Church". We

have taken a little field trip around our church building to see what our church actually looks like. We all noticed the red doors and the light above the one entrance. We practiced building a church of blocks by ourselves (too small) and using everyone's talent and help as well as all the blocks to build a church with everything we remembered we wanted. We have begun our own construction by clearing our bulletin board building area. Yes, we took down all the Children of the Bible, we hated to see the "Big Guy" go (Goliath), but in order to build something new you must have a clear space.

We will be learning the symbolism of the parts of a church as well as finger plays and hymns about church building. We are striving to conduct all our lessons on various levels. We have planned activities for middle and high school, elementary grade levels, and pre-school level for our 3-5 yr olds. Each week we set up tables and chairs suitable for all 4 age groups, so please come down and check us out.

Submitted by BettyLou Hadley-Laird

Picture Directory – Have you scheduled your appointment yet?

Appointments are filling up fast! There is no charge to you; no obligation to purchase any additional pictures plus you get a free 8 x 10 portrait. With the holidays just around the corner – this would make a great gift to yourself, the grand parents or someone else; so why not be included in the church directory? Call the church office or see Dane Tanner any Sunday to schedule your appointment - for **October 18th from 2 PM to 9 PM**

All Saints Sunday Celebration

We are pleased to announce a special day of remembrance on All Saints' Sunday (November 6, 2011). Each year on this Feast day, the church remembers those who have died, with a reading of the Necrology (a list of those who have died in the past year since the last All Saints'/All Souls' liturgy), and special prayers for the dead.

As in past years, we would like to incorporate pictures of our loved ones into the liturgy. Please start bringing these pictures to church as soon as possible, to help us with planning – we hope to not be overwhelmed at the last minute! Thank you for your help in making a special liturgy even that much more personal and meaningful. Make sure that both the name of the deceased and your name are on the back of the picture – so they may be returned the following week.

Has Alzheimer's Disease or Dementia touched your life?

~Gather in Love, Hope, & Mutual Support~

A Liturgy of Hope,
Love and Memory

"… speak to our souls of love that never alters..."*

Sunday, November 6, 2011
Incarnation Holy Sacrament (IHS) Church
2pm
3000 Garrett Road
Drexel Hill, PA 19026
ihschurch.org

**From the Hymn "When Memory Fades" by Mary Louise Bringle*

Congratulations to LORI MC CLELLAND AND ROB ROBINSON on their upcoming nuptials. You have everyone's best wishes on this happy occasion!

Building Development Committee Update

Throughout the summer months, your Development Committee has continued working to bring us closer to our parish family vision for IHS. On June 1st and 2nd, we met with four contractors who submitted budgetary proposals based upon the project concept design. On June 28th, the committee reviewed those proposals and narrowed the field to two of the bidding contractors. Following the advice of our architect, we made our first round of selections focusing mainly on responses to experience-related questions around such issues as their involvement with similar construction endeavors, knowledge regarding what is required when working in the presence of children, ability to keep the facility accessible during construction and willingness to adapt to plan changes that might be necessary to reduce costs. We submitted our recommendations to the Vestry.

On June 15th, the property manager for the diocese met with committee members to lend his expertise. His advice and suggestions included emphasis on first obtaining the services of an engineering firm to conduct surveys required to obtain township approvals.

Cornerstone Architects sent proposal requests to five engineering firms asking them to submit their budgetary costs. All responded and the architect gave us his recommendation based upon cost, his knowledge of the firm and the location from which service would be provided.

With approval of our Vestry, we have moved into the Capital Campaign's Feasibility Study Phase discussed in the summer 2011 Glad Tidings newsletter. On August 31st, during a conference call, we presented a high estimate of costs to our Episcopal Church Foundation consultant.

Keep in mind that some design adaptations can be expected along the way in order to manage costs without compromising quality of construction. Be assured, the vision of a welcoming church with full accessibility and visibility to the community will not be compromised. In fact, a recent schematic change suggested by the architect brings us even closer to our goals with some expected cost reduction.

We have minutes from our meetings and records of all communications concerning our building project. Many thanks to Bev Brescia who has worked hard to keep up to date a Building Development Committee file which she organized and is available in the church office.

Additional information will be coming your way very soon regarding the Feasibility Study. As always, input will be greatly needed from members of our parish family.

This is an exciting time for IHS and we continue to ask for God's prayers for His grace and guidance to lead us in the direction He chooses for us.

Submitted by Joyce Bernasz

HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

"You don't want to go there for tricks or treats... they only give peppermints."

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