

100th ANNIVERSARY AT ALL SAINTS, LEHIGHTON BY CYNDI LEVIS

Blessed for a purpose, to tell the Good News of God



On Sunday, September 30, we began our yearlong celebration of a ministry that began 100 years before.

Planning for the celebration at All Saints, Lehigh, began months before. Setting up started earlier in the week but kicked into high gear immediately after the morning service.

It was a beautiful, warm and sunny day. Excitement grew as food was set up in the undercroft and the flowers and registry book were prepared on the porch. Everyone from the committee who was involved with the service was present earlier in the afternoon, eagerly anticipating the arrival of Bishop William Smalley, our former rector and retired Bishop of Kansas, and our own Bishop Paul Marshall.

Sierra Walck was assigned to the guest register. She ably asked each person to sign the book before they entered the church.

Cyndi Levis snapped photos as they signed in. Ruth Andrews, Clare Fox, and Paula Sellix served as greeters and made sure each person had a copy of the service bulletin.

Parishioners, visiting clergy, members of Lehigh borough council, a former Lehigh mayor, and members of our former yoked parish, St. John's, Palmerton filled the church by 4:00 p.m.

Service participants lined up on the front

walk. Crucifer, Chad Reis, led the procession with the acolytes, Kayla Kromer, Kacey Galasso, and Meredith Sellix close behind.

The Banner Bearers, Emily Snyder, Emily Steigerwalt, and Emily Rose preceded the choir. Following the choir were the clergy assisting with the service: Archdeacon Howard Stringfellow, Mother Jane Arrington Bender, All Saints our priest-in-charge, Canon Doris Bray, associate rector emeritus of the former Episcopal Ministry of Unity, Father Peter Harer, former rector of All Saints, and Canon George Loeffler, Bishop Paul's chaplain, and the two bishops.

They processed into the church to the singing of *Lift High the Cross*.

Bishop Paul Marshall welcomed everyone to the celebration. After the opening acclamation, a hymn of praise, *This is the Feast of Victory*, and the collects, Sue Ellen Andreas and Tammy Weaver read the lessons and led the psalm. The sequence hymn was *The Church's One Foundation*. Deacon Loeffler read the gospel.

Bishop Smalley preached. He began by quoting Thomas Wolfe, "You can't go home again," and noting that he was "home again" after 27 years' absence, although there were many changes in his life and in All Saints over those years. He preached on Genesis



(L to R) Mother Jane Bender, Canon George Loeffler, Bishop Paul Marshall, Archdeacon Howard Stringfellow, Canon Doris Bray, Father Peter Harer and Bishop William Smalley

28:10-17, providing background on Jacob's theft of Esau's birthright and Esau's threats on Jacob's life and telling the outcome of the story to emphasize "coming home again." God had blessed both Jacob and Esau, so Jacob's "coming home again" was not to the same situation as it had been when he left.

All Saints is not the same as it was when Bishop Smalley left 27 years ago, nor is he the same, but we have been blessed by the same "always faithful God" who promised in 1 Peter 2:9-10 that "...you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ... you are God's people ... you have received (God's) mercy."

Bishop Smalley further noted that we are blessed for a purpose and that purpose is our mission, to tell the Good News of God in Christ to all people.

He closed by observing that in the past 100 years All Saints' parishioners have "faithfully proclaimed the gospel in word and deed" and "have lived into the baptismal covenant to seek and serve Christ in all others, reaching out in care and support for God's people" so that they may be a blessing also to others.

The Offertory Anthem, *Built on a Rock*

the Church Doth Stand, by Nikolai F.S. Grundtvig, was wonderfully performed by the All Saints choir, led by our organist and choir master John Kadilac.

Bishop Paul presided at the Eucharist. During the administration of communion, Thomas McCall, III, sang Cesar Franck's *Panis Angelicus*. More than 100 persons received communion. The closing hymn was *For All the Saints*.

Parishioners and guests were warmly welcomed to the undercroft where a magnificent buffet, organized by Charity Walck and Annette Muffley, awaited them. Refreshments included mini quiches, finger sandwiches, fruit salad, vegetables and dips, cheese, numerous desserts, wine, coffee, tea, and punch.

During the reception, Mother Bender took a microphone around to get comments from the visiting clergy and dignitaries who wished to speak.

Thomas McCall, III, read the proclamation that his brother, Keith, had brought to the floor of the PA House of Representatives. The proclamation honored All Saints for its mission and ministry to Lehigh and the people of Pennsylvania for 100 years.

How did you fall in love with the Episcopal Church?

Many of us have a story about "Falling in love with the Episcopal Church." Don't keep it closeted. Begin by talking about it with your friends. Then, put it on paper. Send it to Bill Lewellis, blewellis@diobeth.org, for publication on one of our online venues and, perhaps, in *Diocesan Life*. Write it in a way that a broader readership might find accessible. Writing for www.episcopalcafe.com, Ann Fontaine cites an essay wherein Emily Garcia reflects on her journey in faith as she discovers the Episcopal Church as a place where she finds love and redemption. On the Episcopal Cafe site, click on "The Lead," then on "October" under archives. Scroll down to "Falling in love with the Episcopal Church."

Q. What is the meaning of life? A. 154

Related somewhat to the item above, this is from Robin Yedlock of our Evangelism Commission. [You may have seen a "154" button at diocesan convention. To discover what it means, refer to the Gospel of John Chapter 21:1-14. The disciples caught 153 fish in the net - can we find one more? As folks came by the evangelism booth at convention, evangelism commission members explained that the buttons are an evangelism tool. But it's not just about the story. One of the convention resolutions encourages us to discern our personal faith statement. In other words, if someone asked you, "Why are you a Christian?" your answer would be your faith statement. A personal faith statement keeps us grounded and centered on Christ. When you wear your button, and someone asks about 154, you can tell them the story of the fish in the net, and share your faith statement. They may ask questions or just listen and nod politely, but you will have planted a seed. That's evangelism. Nervous about wearing the button? Wear it to church and practice on your fellow parishioners. You'll be amazed at how eager folks are to share their stories. Didn't get any of the nifty handouts from the evangelism booth? They will be available soon from Mother Jane Bender, janebender@prodigy.net.

Bishop's Day with Youth in NYC

January 25-26. For 6-12 graders. An overnight of fun, discovery and worship at *Nightwatch*, a program of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine which includes singing, games, exploration of the beautifully restored historic cathedral, time with Bishop Paul, a chance to be with other diocesan youth and to meet youth from other places and different denominations, and a candlelight meditation and midnight Eucharist. And on Saturday, we'll have lunch in Times Square at the Hard Rock Café. Find more information at www.lifeistasty.org/bishopsday2008.html.

Barbara Crafton live

Meet Barbara Crafton at a special signing of her new book, *Mary and Her Miracle: The Christmas Story Retold*, at Stone Soup Studios, 301 Broadway, Bethlehem, December 9, from noon until 4:00. Stone Soup (next to Wachovia Bank and across the street from Wendy's and Ahart's) is operated by "two seasoned artisans and one creative business lady," all women of the cathedral. Barbara's book tells Mary's story of the Christmas journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem with gentle humor, lively imagination and a sense of wonder. Each chapter is beautifully illustrated by acclaimed portrait artist Dianne Robbins. A lovely addition to every family's Christmas tradition. Find more information at stonesoupbethlehem.com and www.churchpublishing.org.

