St. Mary’s shares the bread

BY EILEEN O’NEILL

Early every Sunday morning, parishioners of St. Mary’s, Reading go to the local branch of Panera Bakery to pick up donations, take them into church, and package them for distribution.

There is a large and tempting array of baked goods: sourdough bread, whole grain bread, bagels of every type, coffee cake, and more in this wonderful reflection of Panera’s community spirit.

After the 10:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist, parishioners deliver the baked goods to a broad variety of recipients. This includes folks who need a “lift;” men in a small personal care home; a nearby boy’s and girl’s club; residents in a senior citizens apartment house, just to name a few.

This “bread ministry” has quickly become a favorite among St. Mary’s parishioners, as we recognize bread being a fundamental symbol of Christianity and feel the joy that sharing it brings.

“It is so very gratifying to be a part of St. Mary’s Bread Ministry because it is truly intergenerational. Our young people as well as our 80+ year old members participate in repackaging and distributing this beautiful bread.” said The Rev. Nancy Packard, rector of St. Mary’s. If you would like more information, please call the office at 610-374-7914.
Celebrating the Revolution

BY BISHOP PAUL MARSHALL

In the Episcopal Church, we have an obligation to observe Independence Day in church. It is what the old prayer books called a “red letter” day, in fact. Unlike some denominations, we have the National Anthem (written by a vestry member) right in our hymnal. It is, therefore, easy to forget that the American Revolution was opposed by many good Christians because the New Testament is clear about the duty owed to kings. They couldn’t reason themselves out of obedience to the old country and its king-in-parliament.

In Pennsylvania, many members of what would become the Episcopal Church and many Lutherans distinguished themselves in fighting the Revolution. However, for even more of those people, the Revolution was a crisis of faith, and many of them did not participate. It rearranged their thinking not only about government but also about how God has ordered the world.

The Declaration of Independence is in part a theological document that claims that God is the author of human life and human rights, that governments get their power from The People, and that The People have the right to overthrow governments that do not appropriately provide for those rights. It reversed the traditional theology of divine right of kings deliberately and skillfully. For many Christians then and now, such an assertion lives in the face of passages by both St. Peter and St. Paul that command absolute loyalty and obedience to kings and emperors who, they believe, hold God’s authority.

Having made that radical statement that The People have the right to overthrow governments that do not serve the public interest, the Founders wrote a constitution that forbade our simply even talking about such an activity. They also could not see slaves or women as fully human. Nonetheless, they planted seeds from which more freedom would grow.

Had I been alive at the time, I believe I would have been as torn as many other Pennsylvanians, who realized that a message about human rights from the secular, something “Deist” culture was asking me to change my thinking about God. I hope I would have made the radical change we now take for granted, two centuries later.

I have my doubts, however, about myself and about you who read this because it was not a lesson we learned once and were done with. Christians opposed the abolition of slavery, remarriage of divorced persons, votes for women, earning interest on money lent, life insurance, and even Social Security -- all because of fairly clear passages or groups of passages in the Hebrew and Christian scriptures that would otherwise need to be reinterpreted or quietly discarded.

These resistant people were not stupid or benighted, but they did base their thinking on the idea that things do not change, the idea that the scriptures themselves have only one view of things. They also assumed that religion cannot and ought not learn from “the culture,” much less from the spirit of the times.

But we do learn, all the time. The assumption that religion must always be the judge and teacher of the culture and not also its student and beneficary seems strangely atheistic. It is, after all, quite scriptural to believe that “the spirit of the Lord fills the earth” and that nowhere and never is God “without witnesses,” whether or not they know they are witnesses.

At the same time, it is also true that Christians have put a unique stamp on some social movements, as the Rev. Martin Luther King’s Southern Christian Leadership Conference or the work of Fathers Philip and Daniel Berrigan may illustrate.

My own basic beliefs are rather conventional, and I say the Creeds without crossing my fingers. At the same time, I do not find any reason to believe that God’s Spirit does not work in and through the lives of those who do not know or accept Christ.

Artists, poets, scientists are examples of those in whom I see the Spirit working -- especially when they challenge or expand my awareness. Social theorists, psychoanalysts, and philosophers come to mind as well. My basic beliefs mature and broaden because of their work: the implications and the applications of what I say in the Creeds become more real.

Even fundamentalists preach differently than they did a century ago because of what Freud began in Vienna. They might perhaps be reluctant to recognize it, but they have been taught by an atheist who sprang from another religious tradition. We do not need to resist this; we need to celebrate the multitude of our teachers.

Social movements, the arts and sciences, present opportunities for perception to grow. July’s celebration of the Revolution is for religious people the reminder that “the world” is not necessarily the enemy, but may in fact be our teacher -- or, at the very least, may ask us important questions. Long live the Revolution.

Social Ministries Committee to consider requests for New Hope grants

BY DANIEL GLUNN

The Social Ministries Committee is ready to receive and consider requests for grants from the New Hope Campaign. The total amount we are able to grant for the 2011-12 calendar year is $100,000. We are inviting letters of intent from parishes and Episcopal related organizations within the Diocese of Bethlehem. The deadline is July 15, 2011.

The letter of intent should contain:

- The mission statement of the parish/organization.
- A summary of the proposal including a brief project description.
- An outline of the focus and scope (who will be served?).
- Amount to be requested from the Social Ministries Committee (one time or multi-year request).
- Partner churches, agencies, organizations, etc., if any.
- Project start date.
- Name, e-mail day and evening telephone number of contact person(s).

Letters of intent should be sent to The Rev. Daniel C. Gunn, St. Stephen’s Pro-cathedral, 35 South Franklin Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701 or emailed to dgunn@ststephenswb.org with “Social Ministry Application” in the subject line.

A member of the Social Ministries Committee will be in contact soon thereafter. These Letters are preliminary proposals and will be considered in the order in which they are received. Applications will be sent after the initial contact.

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DIOCESAN LIFE

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The Good Shepherd and functioning up

BY ARCHDEACON HOWARD STRINGFELLOW

Jesus said, “Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit” (Saint John 10:1).

Today, the Fourth Sunday of Easter, is a special day for the Church of the Good Shepherd. For today is “Good Shepherd” Sunday, the Sunday every year that we recognize that Jesus is the Good Shepherd and that we pray we shall follow where he leads. The case could be made that today is our Patronal Feast, the day when we recognize that our Patron is Jesus the Good Shepherd and that our identity (among many) is in following the Good Shepherd.

Rather than preach about sheep, and shepherds, and shepherds’ crooks, and pastures, and wolves, and gates, I want to move in another direction and speak about “functioning up.” I frequently ask groups to function up. And I remember a particular occasion here at the Church of the Good Shepherd when I asked everyone, including me, to function up. It was about twenty months ago. You may remember the time. We were in the midst of a controversy about the Garden. There were hurt feelings. There were people who wanted to use those hurt feelings to get their way, and I held firm and asked people to function up. What does functioning up mean, any way?

Someone asked me that the other day, and I confess I had no specifically good answer. But one came my way. I was trying to say that functioning up means seeing the whole situation from the big perspective and not one’s own narrow point of view. It means transcending your personal myth about how you are right most of the time and how other people, consequently, and not right when the two of you don’t agree. And I couldn’t come up with a way of conveying the idea in a way that was compelling. But, as I said, one came my way.

Like some of you, perhaps, I have been fascinated recently with the Navy SEALS, those soldiers so thoroughly trained, so competent, and so courageous, who so successfully completed the mission they were given, a mission they did not choose, just two weeks ago. And I saw an article in The Wall Street Journal that spoke about functioning up though that term was not used. The writer was explaining how difficult SEAL training is, how few recruits actually complete the course, and how few of them have the opportunity to put to work in the field the things they have learned. About the recruits who made it through the rigorous training, the author wrote:

Almost all the men who survived possessed one common quality. Even in great pain, faced with the test of their lives, they had the ability to step outside of their own pain, put aside their own fear and ask: How can I help the guy next to me? They had more than the ‘fist’ of courage and physical strength. They also had a heart large enough to think about others, to dedicate themselves to a higher purpose (Eric Greitens, “An Inside Look at the SEAL Sensibility,” 7 May 2011).

Putting aside our agenda, whatever that may be, for the good of the parish is functioning up and functioning up in a powerfully impressive way. And, we are called to do it. We are called to pursue a mission and a ministry. We are called to pursue the mission of restoring “all people to unity with God and each other in Christ” (Book of Common Prayer [BCP], page 855). And the Church pursues that mission “as it prays and worships, proclaims the Gospel, and promotes justice, peace, and love” (BCP, page 855).

And to do these things we have to put ourselves aside. We have to put God and God’s mission first; we have to seek more than our vindication; we have to seek more than evidence that we are right as usual. We have to put the good of us all beyond the pleasure and fuzzy feelings of each one of us.

It is not lost on me that we have a powerful example of setting aside ourselves for a greater good. For I believe that the Good Shepherd functions up on our behalf. Specifically, I believe the Good Shepherd functioned up on our behalf when he made the supreme sacrifice of himself on the cross for you and for me, and for everyone who was, who is, and who is to come. And by that sacrifice, he opened the gate to let any one of us in who puts her or his trust in him. If he gave his life for us (and he did), can we not do likewise following his example? Can we not lose our pride, our assurance that we are always right, our determination to have our way, our conviction that no one else gets it as clearly as we do? Can we not put ourselves aside for the good of us all?

The Christian life is not, of course, a military operation though expert military have something to teach us. They can certainly teach us how to follow a mission not our own; they can show us how to follow where the Good Shepherd leads. They can show us how big a difference there is in following him rather than doing what we want and calling it what he wants. They can give us an example of hearing our Leader’s voice, who calls each of us by name, and following where he leads (BCP, page 225). And if we persevere, if we succeed, the Good Shepherd will not have failed, either. He will have given us life, and we shall have it abundantly (Saint John 10:10).

Editor’s note: This sermon was preached at Church of the Good Shepherd, Scranton on May 15, 2011.

“Cultivating Attentiveness” across Moravian and Episcopal traditions

BY DEACON SALLY BOSLER

The clergy/staff retreat of the Moravian Church, Eastern District was held at the Jesuit Center for Spiritual Growth in Wernersville on May 23rd to May 25th. This year, The Rev. David Bennett, President of the Eastern District, invited Bishop Paul Marshall to send three clergy members from the Diocese of Bethlehem to attend expanding the process of exploring full communion between the Moravian and Episcopal denominations. Joining the thirty-plus Moravian pastors, gathered from New York, New Jersey, Ohio, Maryland, and Pennsylvania, were The Rev. Andrea Baldyga, Church of the Redeemer, Sayre; The Rev. Sally Bosler, St. Gabriel’s, Douglassville; and The Rev. Terrence Wible, St. Luke’s, Lebanon. The retreat, entitled “Cultivating Attentiveness” was led by Kairos School of Spiritual Formation.

I arrived tired, still burdened by unfinished work, half relishing the promise of retreat and half begrudging the time set aside from my busy schedule. I was immediately welcomed by our Moravian brothers and sisters, who were also tired, but eager to journey together. My heart, mind, and body all reacted to the deceleration; the conscious letting go of distractions advised by the team from Kairos. Cell phones, computers, books, unwritten sermons, were left in our parked cars. I was invited to “simply be”, to rest and allow myself to be refreshed. I began to approach, and then to practice silence, often awkwardly and imperfectly. Our shared “speaking” times together were rich with insight and the comments shared were often accompanied by nods born of common experience. It was a time for listening to God, to self, and to others, both when we were together and when alone. The retreat was a constant invitation to draw near. I embraced the diversity of people and experiences. With distractions at a minimum, conversation progressed past social convention into dialogue and relationship. It was a blessing to have the opportunity to greet several former classmates and to begin additional new friendships among the Moravian clergy.

Live God’s love: tell what you have seen and heard
Unbinding hearts at St. Anne’s, Trexlertown

BY CANON MICHAEL PIOVANE

During Lent, St. Anne’s, Trexlertown participated in a renewal process entitled “Unbinding Your Heart.” A total of 130 children, youth, and adults sought to grow in their relationship with Christ through prayer and faith sharing. The children and youth explored the main theme for each week during Sunday School classes while eleven small groups of adults met at different times and locations during the week. The book, Unbinding Your Heart, provided the topics for the small groups to discuss as well as a Prayer Journal to use during the 40 days of Lent.

Prayer and faith sharing were the primary focus of the six week spiritual journey. Kathleen Jennings, chair of the Unbinding Team, made these observations about the renewal process, “As a community, we grew in our understanding and appreciation of prayer and faith sharing. The prayer life of the parish has been affected in positive ways. Parishioners have indicated that their prayer is more personal, focused, and intentional. In particular, people liked the structure provided by the Prayer Journal in the book Unbinding Your Heart. They also appreciated having prayer partners during the week. There was a sense of accountability that the prayer partners and the small groups provided.”

The adult participants shared how the small group discussions helped them to be comfortable in sharing reflections of their faith journey in life. One person stated that “The discussions were open and non-threatening; we were encouraged to participate but not pushed. We all had experiences that were meaningful.” Yet another said, “Hearing that others are struggling with similar issues and praying for each other increased my desire to share small experiences with a few people - co-workers and friends - where I would not have in the past.”

The “Unbinding Journey” begun in Lent is continuing. The Rev. Judith Snyder, priest associate for Christian Formation, notes that “We are continuing our journey. In particular we are continuing to use two practical ways of praying for one another that were introduced during Lent - the Prayer Cross and prayer partners.”

Ron Reichard designed and crafted the Prayer Cross located in the foyer of the church entrance. Each week people are encouraged to place prayers they have in the Prayer Cross. The following Sunday the prayers are brought to the altar along with the offering gifts and lifted up to God. The prayers stay on the altar until the mid-week Eucharist. At the end of Wednesday morning service everyone is invited to join in lifting up these prayers as they are burnt and ascend to God.

Many parishioners who participated in the small “Unbinding” groups liked the idea of having a weekly prayer partner so much that each week everyone who comes to worship is invited to print his or her name on a piece of paper and place it in a basket. As each person leaves church, or she takes a name from the basket and prays for the individual named throughout the week. Some prayer partners send notes, call, email, or text one another.

Many suggestions and ideas have emerged from the “Unbinding Journey.” The vestry, the “Unbinding” leadership team, the worship team, and the evangelism team are reviewing the recommendations and will implement as many as possible. St. Anne’s is committed to continue the “Unbinding” process in the months ahead. It is a spiritually rooted process that provides a congregation with a practical resource to grow in the Spirit and to respond to the renewal efforts promoted by the Congregational Renewal Committee in From

Yarns of Love shares handiwork and more with others

BY KAT LEHMAN

Yarns of Love knitting and sewing ministry was started about a year ago and they have already given out more than 100 prayer shawls, afghans, christening blankets, mittens, scarves and hats.

Sally Snyder, coordinator for Yarns of Love, has about 25 active knitters and crocheters in her group. Many are members of Cathedral Church of the Nativity but about a quarter of them are either friends of group members or are community members who found out about their ministry.

Snyder started Yarns of Love after reading Unbinding the Gospel. “This ministry is what God laid upon my heart. This is the outreach that came out of that. The power of prayer shawl ministry is overwhelming and the level of appreciation is just amazing.”

Yarns of Love came together in about two weeks after Snyder became inspired at last year’s Quiet Day for Knitters at the St. Francis Renewal Center in Bethlehem. She said it was meant to happen as a closet space was empty. yarn was on sale at A.C. Moore, labels were ready and bags just appeared. Over 20 people attended the first meeting and Snyder knew the group would be a success. Subsequent meetings have around 14 to 15 people attending one of two sessions each month. Snyder has both day and evening groups so those that work can participate as well. When I asked Sally how she determines who the items go to, she said “God just puts someone in our path and we respond. We always have enough items when we need them.”

The group has expanded to include sewing walker bags and other items as needed. If you would like to learn more about the group or how to start your own group, please call the Cathedral Church office at 610-865-0727.

Yarns of Love will be hosting the fourth annual Prayer Shawl Gathering on Saturday, September 10th in Sayre Hall from 9:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. Brunch will be served and knitting groups from the region will be represented. If you plan to attend please RSVP by August 27th.
Farewell and thank you for all you do

BY KIM ROWLES

Effective July 1, I am resigning from the staff of the Diocese of Bethlehem. I will be focusing on my studies at General Theological Seminary of the Episcopal Church, where I will be starting my second year in September. I have been truly blessed to be integrally involved in the spiritual life of 295 youth and adults who work with youth over the past two years. I have slept on floors of churches and cathedrals. I have eaten more pizza than I’d care to admit. I have spent sleepless nights comforting people in their times of trial, and quieting riotous laughter in times of joy. I have seen teens and adult transform each other’s faith lives and I feel blessed to have known each and every person with whom I worked, worshiped and witnessed.

In youth ministry leaders are told “don’t measure your success by the numbers, the attendees, the money raised” or what have you. Youth ministry success is measured in the future. You might never see the results of your hard work. I hope to get the chance to see the results of my work in a few years after my ordination (God willing and the people consenting) in 2013. I pray that I will see the teens I know and love grow into strong young adults and strong young adults grow into leaders in their parishes, in the diocese and in the national church. I know that the spirit is working in each of us in more ways than I can imagine, and I trust that the Holy Spirit is already working in the new missioner’s life to guide, direct and keep her steadfast in the love of God, the fellowship of Christ and under the supervision of the Holy Spirit.

I offer up this prayer for the Diocese of Bethlehem in thanksgiving for an amazing two years that have been spiritually fulfilling and inspiring:

May the Holy Spirit guide and strengthen you (all), that in this ministry: to, with and by the youth of the Diocese of Bethlehem, and in all things you may do God’s will in the service of the kingdom of Christ.

May the youth of the diocese grow in strength, courage, and service to the Lord our God as faithful witnesses of the leaders in the church.

May the adult leadership of the diocese continue to have grow in faith pursue their own vocations and lead the future of the church to witness the love of Christ.

May all who support the youth and leadership through prayer, administration and finances continue to do so for all the days of their lives.

May the youth missioner of the diocese have a sense of humor, be patient with herself and others, and remember that the Holy Spirit works in strange and mysterious ways, sometimes at 4 a.m. and sometimes 4 years after an event but the spirit is always working even when we cannot see it.

I ask all this through Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit through whom all things are possible, with love, patience, and understanding. Amen.

I thank you again for the opportunity to work, worship and serve the youth and young adult community of the Diocese of Bethlehem.

Please keep your eyes on Diocesan Life in September for my final article for Diocesan Life, which will be a review of the Episcopal Youth Event in Minnesota at the end of June.

St. Andrew’s Community Garden

BY SCOTT ALLEN

St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church, Allentown/Bethlehem has received a $500 grant from the SUN*LV Community Garden Challenge for the development of their community garden. The garden which is visible in front of the Church is for neighborhood and parish gardeners who wish to have a sunny bed for vegetables and to share a portion of their fresh produce with guests of the Pennsylvania Avenue Interfaith Food Pantry.

SUN*LV receives funding from the Priscilla Payne Hurd Foundation and Capital Blue Cross with the Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley (CACLV) serving as fiscal agent for the program and to which they also added funding.

Six projects received funding totaling $12,300 for a variety of gardening needs such as fencing, shed, water system, lumber, soil, compost bins, etc.

This grant will provide funds for fencing around the St. Andrew’s Community Garden.

Cathedral plants Mamo’s Garden for New Bethany

BY MELINDA RIZZO

Stocking the food pantry of New Bethany Ministries with fresh produce this summer is the goal of the Cathedral Parish in Bethlehem.

About a dozen Nativity church school students raked and hauled compost into eight newly built raised gardening beds.

They trimmed and stapled black garden fabric and planted “Better Boy” tomatoes, peppers, eggplant and more in the hopes of furnishing fresh produce to New Bethany Ministries food pantry shoppers.

While 50 percent of the eight beds were planted by the Nativity church school youth, the remaining beds are to be taken on by various members of the Nativity church community from all generations.

Colleen Stone and Grace Verosmartti, two Nativity youth members, will help tend the garden as their confirmation service project. “We’ll water and weed and harvest the vegetables when it’s time throughout the summer,” Colleen explained.

Grace, who works a vegetable garden with her family at home, said she’d enjoy tending the Nativity garden. “We’ll make sure it gets watered,” Grace said.

Though these two confirmands have taken on Mamo’s Garden, it takes a village to raise fruits and vegetables to donate to New Bethany Ministries.

“Really, anyone can come by and pull some weeds or take a look at things,” said Canon Mariclair Partee. Donated garden tools will be available on site. Rain barrels will be placed to collect water from the Deanery roof and provide easy access for the volunteers to care for the plants.

Partee said the garden is an extension of the winter “Room at the Inn” shelter program, which is hosted by several area churches including Nativity.

“What we hope to do is supplement the supply of canned and processed foods at the food pantry,” Partee said.

Mamo’s Garden is named in memory of long-time Nativity member Helen Vaughan, who died at the age of 101. Vaughan was known for her fabulous garden, and nearly three-pound, heirloom tomatoes.

www.diobeth.org
You are the light of the world

BY CANON ANNE KITCH

How much light does it take to dispel the darkness?

In this part of the world, we do not live with much darkness in our daily lives. Light is everywhere all the time. Street lamps, night lights in children’s rooms, book lights, flashlights, glowing screens on phones. Just this past week my daughter discovered the light in the glove compartment of my car. We use light all the time, and not having it seems to be the exception.

One summer while visiting my husband’s uncle on his cattle ranch in Wyoming, we stayed in the old ranch house which has few modern conveniences. In the middle of the night I awoke and needed to use the bathroom. I opened my eyes and waited for them to adjust to the dark. They didn’t. The unfamiliar room remained pitch black. Not a glimmer. Not even the slightest hint of the outline of a single object. It was the middle of the night in the middle of Wyoming. No street lights, no porch lights, no faint glow of distant city lights. No moon, no light at all. I lay there and started to be very afraid. Unseen terrors filled the vast unmeasured space between me and the bathroom. It really took effort for me to propel myself across the room and reach the hall light.

We do not live with much darkness in our daily lives...or do we? There are other kinds of darkness which invade our lives: the shadow that crosses a parent’s face when his child is diagnosed with a behavioral problem, the darkness that walks in the door alongside the woman who comes home from work to tell her family that she has lost her job, or the gloom of despair that wraps itself around the heart of one recently widowed. Perhaps we hope that lighting up the world around us so aggressively will help combat our daily fears. But we are not in this alone...Jesus knows the kinds of darkness that we encounter in our lives. Jesus knows our fear of the dark of night as well as the darkness of broken relationships, loss and death, fear and anxiety. Jesus also knows the power of light.

John’s gospel heralds Jesus as the light that came into the world, the light that the darkness cannot overcome, the true light which enlightens everyone. This is the light that Jesus does not keep to himself. It not only emanates from him, it spreads so that Jesus proclaims to his disciples, “You are the light of the world.” (Matthew 5:14) You are the light of the world. Not, you might be or you could be the light. Not, if your work hard enough or have enough faith you can be the light of the world. No. Jesus says then and now, “You are the light of the world.” The “you” is plural. We, you and I, all of us together are the light of the world. What are we to make of this?

Being a follower of Christ is not something we do for ourselves by ourselves. It is much, much more than that. It is about being the light of the world. What does that look like? To be light is to dispel the darkness. To be light is to be a beacon of hope and safety. How do we do that? When we offer a kind word and a helping hand to someone in pain, the darkness is dispelled. When we decide that we have enough and offer out of our abundance to those who truly need, the darkness is dispelled. When we reach for words of compassion rather than taunts of disdain, when we give companionship to one who is lonely, when we greet the stranger with respect—the darkness is dispelled.

American novelist E. L. Doctorow once said that “writing a novel is like driving a car at night. You can see only as far as your headlights, but you can make the whole trip that way.” (as quoted by Anne Lamott in bird by bird, p. 70.) Living a life in Christ is like driving a car at night. We can see only as far as we light the path for one another. But we can make the whole trip that way. We are the light of the world. How much light does it take to dispel the darkness? One flame. Where there is even the flame of a single lit match, the darkness flees. We are called to be that light to one another and the world. More than that, we are named so. You are the light of the world. Find ways to let your light shine.

Learn to earn: 5 reasons your teen should have a summer job

BY NATHAN DUNGAN

As parents, we want to give our children every possible advantage to help them grow up to be mature, responsible, contributing members of their communities.

Teens and college students who work part-time in high school or college earn 16 percent more after college than those who do not. And colleges are factoring in work experience as a vital component of the college application process more than ever before.

Here are five reasons it is critical for teens to have a part-time summer job:

1. Discover the value of a dollar.

Working and earning money helps your teen understand the real value of a dollar. Often teens can develop what I call “magical thinking about money” - that it simply appears to their roles and responsibilities, as well as what they have learned from each of their varied work experiences to help demonstrate their ability to handle the academic rigors they’ll face in college.

2. Develop interpersonal and time management skills.

Holding down part-time jobs in high school and college imparts lessons and rewards that will serve your teen throughout their lives. Their world view will broaden by interacting with people from a variety of different backgrounds and ages. They will have to adhere to expectations of people outside of their family and peer group, which will increase confidence, responsibility, and appreciation for the unique demands of working.

3. Significantly enhance their college applications.

While being class president and captain of the swim team can help distinguish your teen on a college application, more and more colleges today are just as heavily valuing work experience. The country’s top universities, such as Harvard, believe in the direct correlation between an applicant’s work experience and their anticipated success in college. They advise applicants to focus on

"Live God’s love: tell what you have seen and heard”

BY ANNE KITCH

"Learn to earn: 5 reasons your teen should have a summer job"

BY NATHAN DUNGAN

"You are the light of the world. Find ways to let your light shine."
What’s happening...

July
July 2: First Saturday Giant Neighborhood Yard Sales, Trinity, West Pittston, 8:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. The Every First Saturday sales run from May-October with at least 30-40+ vendors and hundreds of the regions neighbors stopping to browse, and enjoy our “famous” chili dogs.

July 2: Bluegrass Mass, St. James’, Dundaff 6:30 P.M.

July 9: Bishop’s Day with kids: “Called to be Heroes”, Good Shepherd, Scranton 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. Registration will open May 23rd online at www.diobeth.org

July 16: Concert by Wyoming Seminary PAI with choirs, orchestra, and organ, St. Stephen’s Pro-Cathedral, Wilkes-Barre 8:00 P.M.

July 23: Commission on Ministry, Trinity, Mt. Pocono 10:00 A.M.

July 24: Bishop Paul, St. James’, Dundaff

July 25-31: RSCM King’s College Summer Choir Training Course, St. Stephen’s Pro-Cathedral, Wilkes-Barre. For more information go to www.kingscollegecourse.com

July 25: Congregational Renewal Committee Meeting, Grace, Kingston 7:00 P.M.

July 27: Bishop’s day with clergy and staff children, Knoebels 9:00 A.M.

July 30: Sale of All Things, St. James’, Dundaff 9:00 A.M.

August
Aug. 1: Standing Committee Meeting, Diocesan House, Bethlehem 2:00 P.M.

Aug. 2: Deadline for September Diocesan Life

Aug. 5: Finance Committee, Diocesan House, Bethlehem 2:00 P.M.

Aug. 6: First Saturday Giant Neighborhood Yard Sales, Trinity, West Pittston 8:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. The Every First Saturday sales run from May-October with at least 30-40+ vendors and hundreds of the regions neighbors stopping to browse, and enjoy our “famous” chili dogs.

Aug. 6: Bluegrass Mass, St. James’, Dundaff 6:30 P.M.

Aug. 12: Incorporated Trustees, Nativity, Bethlehem 10:00 A.M.

Aug. 13: Daughters of the King Picnic, Gouldsboro State Park, 9:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M.

Aug. 15: Lifelong Christian Formation Meeting, Holy Annunciation Monastery, Sugarloaf 10:00 A.M.

Aug. 22: Congregational Renewal Meeting, Grace, Kingston 7:00 P.M.

September
Sept. 2: First Friday Art Walk, St. Luke’s, Lebanon Featured artist is Jerome Wright.

Sept. 3: First Saturday Giant Neighborhood Yard Sales, Trinity, West Pittston, 8:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. The Every First Saturday sales run from May-October with at least 30-40+ vendors and hundreds of the regions neighbors stopping to browse, and enjoy our “famous” chili dogs.

Sept. 3: Bluegrass Mass, St. James’, Dundaff 6:30 P.M.

Sept. 4: Bishop Jack, Trinity and St. Philip’s, Lansford

Sept. 6: Deadline for October Diocesan Life

Sept. 10: COM Meeting/Retreat, Kirby House, Mountaintop 8:30 A.M.

Sept. 10: 4th Annual Prayer Shawl Gathering, Nativity, Bethlehem 9:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. Brunch will be served. RSVP to Sally Snyder via the church office at 610-865-0727 by August 27th.

Sept. 11: Bishop Paul, St. Paul’s, Montrose

Sept. 12: Evangelism Committee Meeting, Trinity, Easton 6:30 P.M.

Sept. 17: Bishop’s School, St. Stephen’s Pro-Cathedral, Wilkes-Barre 10:00 A.M.

Sept. 18: Bishop Jack, St. Paul’s, Troy Sept. 20: New Hope Anniversary Sept. 23: Incorporated Trustees, Nativity, 10:00 A.M.

Sept. 24: Bishop’s School, St. Stephen’s Pro-Cathedral, Wilkes-Barre 10:00 A.M.

Sept. 25: Bishop Paul, Trinity, Pottsville

Sept. 25-27: Clergy Retreat, Jesuit Center, Wernersville

Sept. 26: Congregational Renewal Meeting, Grace, Kingston 7:00 P.M.

Sept. 27: Pre-Convention meeting, St. Alban’s, Sinking Spring 7:00 P.M.

Sept. 29: Pre-Convention meeting, Epiphany, Clarks Summit 7:00 P.M.

October
Oct. 1: Bishop’s School, St. Stephen’s Pro-Cathedral, Wilkes-Barre 10:00 A.M.

Please let us know of any events we are missing!

Pray for

Diocese of Bethlehem
www.diobeth.org

July 3: All Saints, Lehighton: The Rev. Jane Arrington Bender, Priest-in-Charge

Congregational Renewal Commission

July 10: Good Shepherd and St. John the Evangelist, Milford: The Rev. Dr. William J. McGinty, Rector

Daughters of the King

July 17: St. Paul’s, Montrose and St. Matthew’s, Stevensville: The Rev. Paul Walker, Rector

Diocesan Council

July 24: St. Thomas, Morgenown: The Rev. Donald A. Howells, Deacon

Ecclesiastical Court

July 31: St. Mark’s, Moscow: The Rev. Earl P. Trygar, Sr., Rector and The Rev. Christine Sutton, Deacon

Evangelical Interfaith Commission

August 7: St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Moutaintop: The Rev. Daniel FitzSimmons, Rector

Environmental Stewardship

August 14: Trinity, Mt. Pocono: The Rev. Beth Haynes, Supply

Episcopal Appalachian Ministries

August 21: St. Brigid’s, Nazareth: The Rev. Bill Martin, Rector

Episcopal Church Women

August 28: St. Mark’s, New Milford and Christ, Susquehanna: The Rev. Randy Webster, Supply

Evangelism Commission

Anglican Communion
www.anglicancommunion.org


July 10: Panama: The Rt. Rev. Julio Murray


July 24: Port Elizabeth, South Africa: The Rt. Rev. Nceba Bethlehem Nqopce

July 31: Qu’Appelle, Canada: The Rt. Rev. Gregory Kerr-Wilson

August 7: Remo, Nigeria: The Rt. Rev. Michael Fape

August 14: Riverina, New South Wales, Australia: The Rt. Rev. Douglas Stevens

August 21: Ruwenzori, Uganda: The Rt. Rev. Benezeri Kisembo

August 28: Colleges and Universities of the Anglican Communion and Santiago, Philippines: The Rt. Rev. Alexander A. Wandag

Diocese of Kajo Keji
www.kajokeji.anglican.org

July 3: Gurube: The Rev. Charles Kwoli

July 9: For the new independent nation of the Republic of South Sudan, a peaceful transition and for peace among all Sudanese in both nations.

Prayer for the new nation of South Sudan by The Rt. Rev. Anthony Poggo, Bishop of the Diocese of Kajo-Keji, Sudan

Almighty God, we thank you for the new nation of the Republic of South Sudan.

We pray for its political leaders that they will be united and serve the people with all diligence and put the nation first. Give them your wisdom as they lead the people of South Sudan.

We pray that religious leaders will guide and speak a prophetic message of hope, peace and reconciliation to the new nation of South Sudan.

Purge the new nation of all corrupt practices and instill to the people and leaders a fear of God and the culture of hard work.

We pray for those who have taken up arms that they will agree to peace and resolve all grievances through peaceful means.

We pray that South Sudan will have peace with all its neighbors.

We pray this through Jesus our Lord. Amen.

July 10: Redo: The Rev. Rufas Soke

July 17: Ajira: Deacon Alfred Lomena

July 24: Gaderu: The Ven. George Keny and Deacon Timon Tumiyani

July 31: Mondi: The Rev. Elizama Rabok

August 7: St. James’, Wudu: Deacon Apollo Able

August 14: Loopo: The Rev. Chaplain Wori and The Rev. Charles Jame


August 28: Wuruta: The Rev. John Jiggo and Deacon Gamaniel Loguya

www.diobeth.org

Live God’s love: tell what you have seen and heard
Curry connects stewardship, evangelism and mission

BY CANON ANDREW GERNS

Eighty people from around the diocese heard Bishop Michael Curry at the Stewardship-Evangelism Workshop on Saturday, May 14 at St. Stephen’s Pre-Cathedral in Wilkes-Barre.

Curry, Bishop of the Diocese of North Carolina, spoke about the connections between the resources we have and the Gospel message we have been entrusted with. After his talks, people joined small group discussions to share their stories of faith and ways they can help their congregations to better communicate the Gospel.

In the morning, Curry cited Matthew 4:14 and 28:19-20. Jesus calls his disciples (and us) to be “fishers of people.” Turning to the Great Commission, Curry described the role we have been given by Christ, which he described as “Follow Jesus - Obey Jesus - bringing others to Jesus.”

Using many illustrations and story, Bishop Curry drove home that “We are called, charged, and empowered.” He challenged us to teach the “new disciple” the ways of God saying “Your life belongs to God.”

“Live like Jesus: Love like Jesus, practice justice like Jesus, forgive like Jesus. This will change your life!”

In the afternoon, Curry focused on two passages from the Gospel of John, and talked to us about the day to day work of bearing witness to our faith and carrying out the mission of Christ in the world.

Beginning with John 18:25, Curry asked us to think and discuss the times when have denied being a disciple of Christ, asking us to instead be like the beloved disciple in John 19:26 and 19:35, who was the only apostle to witness the crucifixion. He noted that while others were hiding, the beloved disciple was both present and shared the story of what he saw and heard.

During the second question and answer period, Bishop Curry asked us if “we (were) willing to witness to the dream and love of God in our lives?” He reminded us that “The core of mission is that Jesus came to show the way and only way to be reconciled to God.”

“Being a member of the Human race is no big deal,” Curry said. “Life is more. (Through our faith and baptism) we have become the human family of God. We are to treat everyone as our brother, sister, mother, father just as Jesus treats you. Jesus has shown us the way... love one another.”

The Stewardship and Evangelism Commissions sponsor a conference every other year, bringing in a significant leader in the Episcopal Church to help us in the Diocese of Bethlehem connect the dots between our stewardship, our evangelism and our mission.

The Rev. Canon Andrew Gerns is Rector of Trinity, Easton and chair of the Evangelism Commission.

St. Matthew’s Society success

BY CHARLIE BAREBO

On May 15th, St. Andrew’s Altentown welcomed twenty-two new members to the St. Matthew’s Society, over 25% of the parish’s average Sunday attendance! This is a record for enrollment at a single parish in a year for our diocese. A beautiful Giving Tree Memorial was donated by the St. Matthew’s Society, consisting of new members at St. Andrew’s. The memorial is based on the St. Matthew’s Society logo, a large oak tree, and motto, “We have all rested in the shade of trees planted by others.”

The Rev. T. Scott Allen created a vision for his parish regarding this ministry. “Planned giving is something that is important for the future well being of this church and community,” he stated last November. Allen enlisted the support of his vestry and stewardship team. We conducted two training meetings and a St. Matthew’s Sunday, consisting of a targeted planned giving homily and a workshop focusing on creating personal medical directives, funeral and burial plans, writing or updating your will and the importance of including your church in your will. Just over six months later the program was publicly launched with great success. Our prayers of thanksgiving go out for this ministry at St. Andrew’s and thanks to Fr. Scott Allen and his leadership team for a job well done.

On the afternoon of the 15th, the St. Matthew’s Society hosted its ninth annual reception. In that time over 150 members of the diocese have joined the St. Matthew’s Society. Creating millions in potential gifts to the parishes of the diocese, over $2,000,000 in gifts have already been received. This year’s reception was attended by over 70 members and featured remarks from Bishop Jack Croneberger. A “Giving Tree” pen was given as a favor. The event was a warm celebration of fellowship and of the freedom that comes from realizing and sharing our abundance. For more information on the St. Matthew’s Society please contact Charlie Barebo, Diocesan Missioner for Development.

Prince of Peace honors Prater

BY JANINE UNGVARSKY

The Rev. Jack Prater claims to be a man of few words, but on one recent Sunday, he was nearly speechless.

“Overwhelmed. That’s all I can say. I’m overwhelmed,” Prater said.

In his sermon, Prince of Peace rector, Rev. John Major, asked those present what they could learn from the Praters’ long and faithful ministry.

Major also acknowledged the Praters’ reluctance to be recognized for their tireless service.

“Thank you for allowing the spotlight to shine on you so we can see you, so we can give thanks for you and your family -- a great cloud of witness to how we are called to improve life...to make life all it can be,” Major said. “You are fine witnesses to our calling and to the mission of the church.”

“I’m loving seeing all the old friends,” Ingrid Prater said. “I’m overwhelmed and humbled with all the praise. If I had heard it before we started, I would have said I don’t think I can live up to it. But they say that we ministered to them. I say they have ministered to us. It has all just been such a wonderful time.”