

May 2025



ST. EDWARD'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Scepter



Reflection From the Rector's Desk

By The Rev. Dr. Richard C. Bauer



At the Great Wall of China and the Forbidden City

This month, I began my reflection, freshly awakened from a nap (and fifteen hours into a flight) from the seat of a 747. Because after fully being immersed in a deeply engaging experience of Holy Week with our church family, I set out to fulfill a promise that I made to myself twenty years ago. Pondering my own understanding of 'honoring the gift of being alive' it became a personal mission of mine to visit the Seven Wonders of the Modern World by the time I turned 50. This is a quest that has brought me from the Coliseum in Rome to the Corcovado in Rio de Janeiro, from Petra in the Jordanian desert to Chichen Itza in the Mexican jungle, and from Machu Picchu in Peru to the Taj

Mahal in India. And so it is, that my journey (as the big "5 O" looms) led me to the Great Wall of China. But anticipating the completion of a personal goal, on my way to Beijing, I found myself reflecting on more than just travel plans.

I was profoundly curious about what I might encounter in the days ahead, as I prepared to travel alone throughout the three biggest cities and the holy mountains of the oldest continuous civilization on earth. Because, like the rest of us, I had been led to believe that China was a dangerous and a scary place, a socio-political adversary of the principles undergirding the freedom and the prosperity that we value. Indeed, like the rest of us, I had been

raised to fear communism and celebrate the ideals of democracy. I wondered: what would "Red China," "the Factory of the World," really be like?

By my fifth day, I found myself onboard a high-speed train, observing rural settings and sprawling new cities across the countryside. I can honestly say that: I've been impressed with the Chinese infrastructure. The subways are clean. The rail networks are state-of-the-art. And sophisticated e-commerce enables a cashless payment system for vendors large and small to engage hassle-free business transactions throughout the country. In many eye-opening ways, I've felt like I'm in a highly advanced society that has managed to maintain its roots.

Contrary to my assumptions, it's hard to describe how safe China has felt, thus far. Perhaps this has something to do with the manner in which Chinese people are educated to respect other people and look out for one another. I have yet to see a gun here...not even the police carry them. Even in Beijing, a city of 22 million, I was taken aback by the sense of peace and the overall atmosphere of security around me. Yes, there were cameras everywhere and the people

Inside this issue:

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------|
| Memorial Day Tribute | 3 |
| Bible Study and Lunch and Learn | 6 |
| Coffee Hour | 9 |
| Guess Who's Coming to Dinner | 10 |
| The Chosen | 13 |
| Faith in Action | 14-16 |
| Holy week | 18-21 |

Special points of interest:

- • *Worship services and Parish hours are on the back cover of the Scepter*
- • *Staff and Vestry Members are listed on the back cover of the Scepter*

Reflection

walked very fast. Yes, there were many police on the streets and few folks spoke English. But I didn't see homeless people on the streets, nor a single drunken, drugged, or mentally ill person wandering the urban centers.

Befriending a man from the city of Nanjing, he explained to me that the "Han ren" (Chinese people) inherit a particular set of beliefs that undergird the social order on display: serving others, being respectful in words and action, and always doing your very best are understood as shared responsibilities. Trying to understand what this means a little better, I found myself reading through a compendium on Chinese philosophy. And as a bit of a meta perspective, it was explained that the thousands of years living from the land, as a people tied to generational family systems on agrarian plots, informs a deep shared sense of communal belonging in China that we simply don't have in America.

In the synopsis of the cultural framework that I read: it suggested that a fundamental difference between the Chinese (Eastern) and Graeco-Roman (Western) sensibility could boil down to the contrast between 1) the mercantile, trading identity of the maritime system for selling goods and generating profits (at the foundation of Western culture) and 2) the subsistence-based, relational way of life that grows out of working the land, maintaining it for future generations, in a continental country (typical of Eastern cooperative culture). Indeed, our nation is motivated by extracting resources for current use and the accumulation of private wealth. We don't seem to think a great deal about how our methods provide for future generations.

But sitting with the passing of Pope Francis, I've been thinking about how the Chi-

nese culture might mirror (in some significant ways), the kinds of values lifted up by Jesus Christ, particularly in the convictions of our Lord's Social Gospel, to better effect than we ourselves tend to do in the western world. After all, Francis frequently critiqued what he called the "economy of exclusion," declaring that an economic system that leaves people out, that allows for inequality and unemployment to persist, is fundamentally unjust. "Such an economy kills," he wrote. This was not merely political analysis on the Pope's part—it was a moral and spiritual indictment, drawn directly from the heart of the Gospel.

Because in a world that divides and dehumanizes, Francis called for a universal kinship rooted in love, justice, and mutual care. (It's funny how easily we let ourselves forget that the first followers of our Lord's "Way" shared everything in common, modeling an unapologetically socialist manner of being in the world together). Jesus and his followers were certainly not free-market capitalists!

As my journey continues, I'd like to close, here, sharing an encounter that I had with a fellow American. Striking up a conversation in a long line to enter the Forbidden City, I made fast friends with a retired Marine captain whose eldest son was killed in action while serving in Iraq. Upon learning that I was an Episcopal Priest, he told me his story and spoke candidly with me about how he understood the responsibility of other Americans to honor his family's sacrifices on behalf of our people. He lamented the lack of respect among our citizenry and the misplaced confidence we've placed in leaders that fail to care for ordinary citizens. Having served all around the world, he spoke to me about how welcomed he had felt in so

many places, and how important he believed that it was for the moral standing of America in the eyes of the world to be a welcoming place. Not unlike Jesus or Pope Francis, my Marine friend asserted that welcoming the stranger was an ethical test of our common humanity, that sharing our strength for the benefit of our world order is what makes a country great.

I'm keeping my mind open as the journey continues, over here, and I'm thankful to have been able to see beyond the divisive rhetoric that would have us believe that our friends are our enemies. In Christ,

Rick+



Parish Office Hours

Tuesday- Friday:
11:00 – 4:00PM

Parish Administrator
Michelle Bentley

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H. J. "Mac" Miller
hj_miller@outlook.com

Joyce Kamm
kammjel@gmail.com

Photos by:
Mary Snyder
starleo1328@yahoo.com

If you're the last person to leave the building following Sunday services or an event, please take the time to make sure all the lights are turned off (including the rest rooms) the thermostat is reset and the doors are locked.

To Be Lead

By Beth Lynch

A soldier came home, he wept at the sight of his family. Three years of deployment, have led to this moment. Family and friends, Aunt Susie in the corner smiling at him with her eyes glistening. Grandpa Bob and dad over by the bar, Mom with tears in her eyes.



A soldier looks around the room at this homecoming party. Memories of the last party he attended in this room flood back.

Family and friends, Aunt Susie in the corner smiling with tears in her eyes, His high school sweetheart, Becky, sitting on his lap. Grandpa Bob and dad at the bar toast to another Bob going to war. Mom with tears in her eyes.

A soldier reflects and remembers being told to be strong, loyal, and brave. He is not brave.

The drill sergeants will pick the weakest and break them. I am the weakest! He sets his mind that the microscopic eyes will not find him. He will wear a suit of lead and veil himself from their eyes.

A soldier toils with his mates as drills and screams and profanity are sent their way. Trudging through mud on hikes of more than ten miles, swallowing in dirt as they belly crawl along. "You'll be men we can call soldiers, just you see," barks the sergeant in his crisp clean uniform.

A soldier soon finds out that the veil of lead has made buffoons of them all. Unit leader is now my title

and men look at me for inspiration and leadership. I silently giggle, if they only knew. A man of lead leads, whose fears are plain to see, especially when he looks in the mirror and it reflects back at him.

A soldier is sent to battle in a foreign land. The days are long as patrols return, and we replace their toils. Supply and arm the troops! Ready yourself for battle! Forever on the alert for the gunfire and bomb blasts. Exhaustion comes from the waiting as our minds wander home and back again.

A soldier adapts to the tedium with hopes of news from home. Mail is a silent luxury that is savored for days end. A box and letters are on my bunk. I sort and see, one from my mom, Aunt Susie, and Becky. Becky's for last to savor the most. The sweet temptation to place against my heart.

A soldier slices the seal on the envelope. Becky writes she hopes I am well. The news from home is she found a man so brave and courageous. She goes on to say he speaks with courage and strength against this war. She hopes that I can see that all she wants is to be content and hopes that for me. My head shouts in silent blasts "I am brave and courageous." I throw a leaden veil around the core of who I am. No one will see the heart that shattered with one phrase "I found a man ..."

A soldier spends his tour stoically day-to-day. "Yes, Sir!" "Patrol reporting!" Never the person to leave undone the order sent his way.

"He's a machine." "Never seen a more dedicated person." "He will go far in this man's army." His final orders appear, home in ten.

A soldier will fly home at the end of the week. Ordered to go back to the village and resupply. He finds the village school, food and meds are secure as firing begins. The pings of sniper's bullets sling around the air. He spies a child on the ground writhing in pain. He calls for the medic as he sprints to scoop up the child. Blood is pouring down the legs as the medic comes.

A soldier looks at the medic in horror and surprise. The child in his arms is calm and still, Yet the medic is still readying the vial. He plunges in the needle to numb the coming pain. The hazy feeling is too hard to battle, the soldier lays in slumber.

The soldier looks around from his position in the home where childhood play and love was all he knew. Now "*the feeling*" has been replaced with foreboding thoughts and prayers. Grandpa Bob and dad stare into space from the bar, Mom is crying and Aunt Susie just stares at the walls.

A Soldier who held himself together with veils of lead had them shatter, The shrapnel pierced and spread into his back. The only metal surrounding him now is his new wheelchair. A soldier wonders why they cannot see him for who he is not, the broken sorrowful soul they see, but the brave and courageous soldier he is.

Military News

Please keep in your prayers those close to us who are serving in the military.

★Richard Mutari
★Tyler Trimble

Please advise Michelle Bentley in the Parish office or HJ Miller@Outlook.com if these should remain on our list:

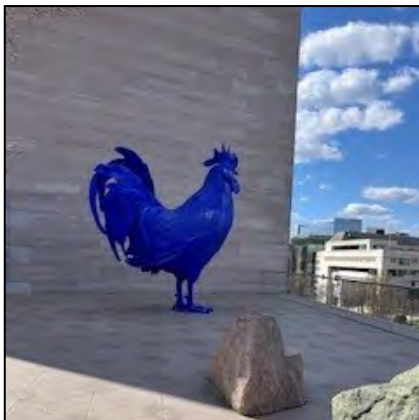
★Justin Carnahan
★Brandon Fox
★Gordon Frankenfield
★Matt Fuhrman
★Jack Hawk
★Drew Johnson
★William Justice
★Anthony Koser
★Alex Kube
★John Lewis

★David Peck
★Capt. Andrew Pfeiffer
★Mike Spurr
★David Sternberg
★Clayton Tennes
★Connor Tennes
★Evan Westgate
★Seamas Whitesel
★1st Lt. Thomas Whitesel



Washington D.C.

Even if you have been to Washington, D.C, numerous times, you might find some interesting new sights that Gail and Richard Irons saw with relatives on a recent trip to our nation's capital.



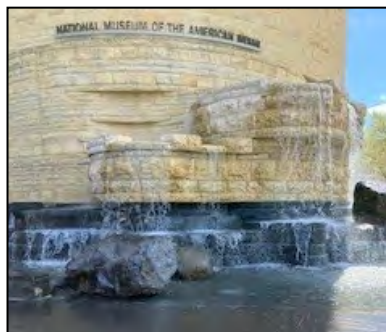
Hahn/Cock is a sculpture of a giant blue cockere! by the German artist Katharina Fritsch. It is at the National Gallery of Art.



Turn DC into your own mobile tea room. Discover Washington, DC in style with Tea Around Town! Our charming double-decker floral haven offers breathtaking views, fine teas, delectable treats, and live entertainment.



The National Museum of the American Indian is part of the Smithsonian.



The National Museum of the American Indian is a museum devoted to the culture of the Indigenous peoples of the Americas.



Gail and Richard Irons in the center with their relatives visiting from California.



Pokémon Club meets Wednesdays from 6:30 - 8:00 pm

May 7, May 14, May 21, May 28

Play Pokémon, either the game or GO. There are crafts and giveaways. Some trading as well.

It is all FREE. You can drop-off or stay.

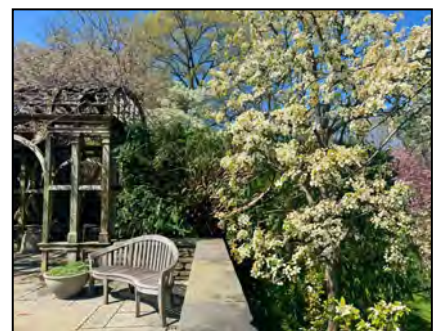
St. Edward's Parish Hall

2453 Harrisburg Pike, Lancaster, PA

If you need more information feel free to contact Beth Lynch



Dumbarton Oaks Garden was not on the Irons trip but it is another "worth a visit" place in DC in the Spring.



Dumbarton Oaks Gardens in Georgetown. <https://www.doaks.org/visit/garden>

Easter Egg Hunts



Westgates had an egg hunt for their grandchildren.



Easter Sunday at St. Edward's



Teatime treat

Make these sweet sandwiches for a Mother's Day tea party.

What you need:

- 4 oz. cream cheese, softened
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 3 Tablespoons powdered sugar
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice
- 6-10 strawberries, washed and sliced
- 6 slices of white bread
- Cellophane
- Adult help




What you do:

1. With an electric mixer, whip the cream cheese in a bowl until fluffy.
2. Add cream, powdered sugar, and lemon juice. Continue whipping on high speed until mixture is stiff.
3. On each slice of bread, spread a layer of the mixture. Then arrange some sliced strawberries on top.
4. Place the sandwiches together, with filling on the inside.
5. Wrap tightly in cellophane. Chill for two hours so the filling sets.
6. Trim off crusts with a serrated knife. Cut sandwiches in squares or triangles. Serve and enjoy!

Bible Quiz

What was the name of the wealthy merchant of purple cloth who met Paul and his companions, was baptized and became a leader in the Philippian church?

- A. Priscilla
- B. Lydia
- C. Dorcas
- D. Joanna



PUZZLE

A NOBLE EXAMPLE

Proverbs 31 describes a God-honoring woman. How are the women in your life like her? How can you follow their example?

Directions: Use the word bank to complete all the Bible verses. Then write the circled letters in order below to complete Proverbs 31:30, NIV.

WORD BANK
bread, household, women, laugh, children, clothed, speaks, husband, tongue

She is _____ with strength and dignity;
she can _____ at the days to come.

She _____ with wisdom,
and faithful instruction is on her _____.

She watches over the affairs of her _____
and does not eat the _____ of idleness.

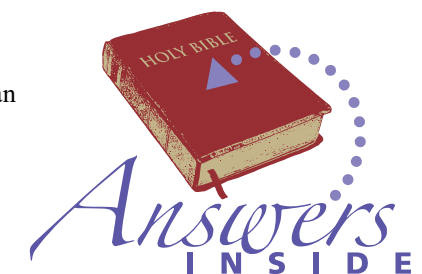
Her _____ arise and call her blessed;
her _____ also, and he praises her:

"Many _____ do noble things,
but you surpass them all." Proverbs 31:25-29, NIV

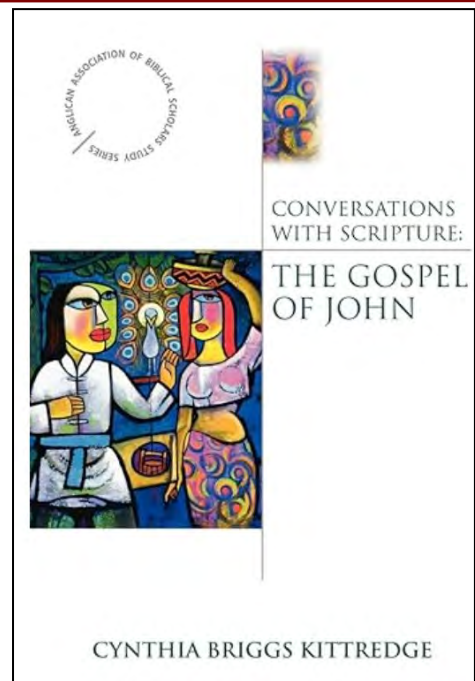
Charm is _____ eceptive, and be _____ ty is fl _____ eting; but a
woma _____ w _____ o _____ f _____ rs the Lo _____ d is to be prais _____ d.

Proverbs 31:30, NIV

Answers: clothed, laugh, speaks, tongue, household, bread, children, women, husband, tongue. Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. Proverbs 31:30, NIV



Answer: B (See Acts 16:11-15, 40.)



A scholarly evaluation of the fourth Gospel and Johannine community.

For contemporary Christians, Johns Gospel is a paradox. On the one hand, it stresses boundaries: "No one comes to the Father except through me."

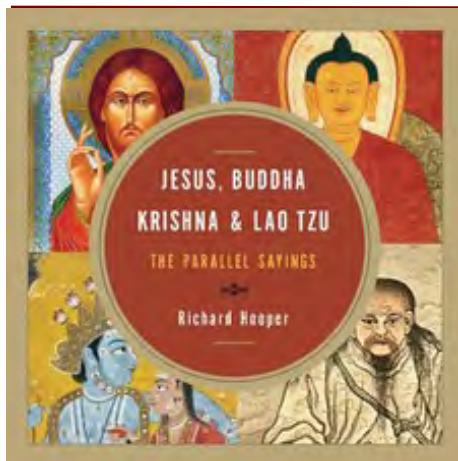
But on the other hand, it's all about community: "I have no longer called you servant, but friends."

Conversations with Scripture: The Gospel of John encourages readers to draw out the tensions between these two perspectives for an open, inclusive reading of this difficult Gospel—and to find in it reaching meaning for their lives. With a study guide that includes thoughtful, challenging questions for reflection and discussion, this is an ideal resource for individual and parish study.



Join the zoom group Wednesday
Evenings from 6:30 to 8:00 PM

Lunch and Learn Spring Session



By Michelle Bentley

Our next Lunch & Learn session begins Friday, March 14th at 12 Noon via Zoom.

This book should be a fantastic exploration and discussion. Here are some words from the book descriptor on Amazon and from the book jacket:

In this fascinating volume, theologian and philosopher Richard Hooper reveals the common spiritual threads of the world's great religious traditions.

Hooper organizes hundreds of sayings attributed to Jesus, Buddha, Krishna and Lao Tzu thematically and assembles these parallel sayings into four columns for easy reference. Culled from more than fifty ancient Christian, Buddhist, Hindu and Taoist texts, *Jesus, Buddha, Krishna, and Lao Tzu* includes topics such as, "The Great Way, "Suffering," and more.

Each topic includes an insightful introduction that sends a powerful message that will be welcomed by all who seek the truth within, and within their own spiritual tradition.

"A much-needed journey into the minds and hearts of the great prophets of our world; academic, yet heart-filled, stimulating and illuminating. . . This rare text answers many questions that others

leave hanging, and touches the spirit as well as the mind." – Alan Cohen, author of *A Deep Breath of Life*



Richard Hooper is a former Lutheran pastor with degrees in both theology and the philosophy of world religions. Once a nationally syndicated radio commentator on religion, Hooper is now a columnist for United Press International's web forum: ReligionandSpirituality.com, and has recently founded The Sedona Institute for Comparative Theology. His other books include *The Crucifixion of Mary Magdalene* and *The Gospel of the Unknown Jesus*. Visit him at: religionandspirituality.com

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Kindness Ripples



Seizing Holy Opportunities

In *Holy Moments*, Matthew Kelly discusses the world's need for more small (but sometimes large) instances of people caring for others, cultivating joy, encouragement and love instead of anger, envy, fear. Kelly defines a Holy Moment as "a single moment in which you open your-

self to God. ... You set aside personal preference and self-interest, and for one moment you do what you prayerfully believe God is telling you to do."

This may mean mowing the lawn for a neighbor with a broken leg, praising a child on his artwork, buying a surprise snack for someone having a bad day, working extra shifts for a coworker with cancer so she can receive her full salary while out sick, paying for the next car's drive-thru order. Anyone can create a Holy Moment, because you don't need special skills, position or wealth. "If you want to see miracles, make yourself available to God," Kelly suggests.

He adds that God has a track record of collaborating with "the most unlikely people to make amazing things happen, and now He wants to collaborate with you." When we're open to God's leading, holy opportunities abound. And we will experience as much joy as the ones to whom we show care.

Loving My Enemies

By Heidi Hyland Mann

In polarized times, when people view huge concepts such as justice, government policy and care for neighbors differently, how do we follow Jesus' command to love our enemies? I prefer the word *opponents*, but our Lord's instructions still stand.

In the Bible, "love" doesn't mean liking someone; it means caring for them, treating them kindly. I find *The Message* paraphrase of Luke 6:27-36 helpful: "Let them bring out the best in you, not the worst," Jesus says about one's enemies. So, when I contact government leaders to express my opinions, I address them with respect, whether I agree with them or not. When I encounter a neighbor whose views oppose mine, I ask myself what I would want them to do for me, whether help with an errand or be friendly. Then, as *The Message* puts it, I "grab the initiative and do it for *them*."

And this, which might be the hardest: Amid tough times, Jesus says, "Respond with the supple moves of prayer." It's human nature to pray that God change our enemies' or opponents' minds. But it's more Christlike to pray for their health, their families and whatever *God* desires for them, not what *I* want. Can I do this? With God's help, yes.

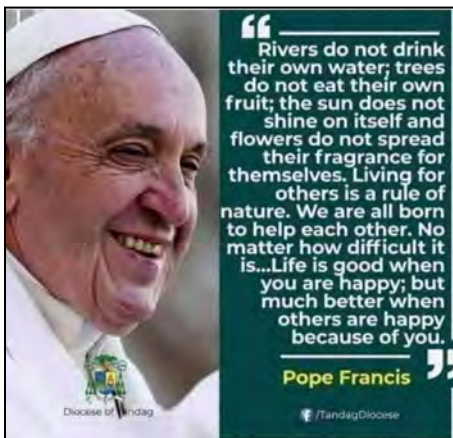
"Great opportunities to help others seldom come, but small ones surround us every day."

-Sally Koch

Constancy

Br. Luke Ditewig, SSJE

Constancy comes through daily habits of showing up, contributing, listening, being kind, giving thanks, being gracious with our own frailty and the imperfection of those around us. Constancy is all the little choices day by day and choosing to stay and seek God right here, to stick with each other, and remain through the hard.



Needle Arts

The Needle Arts Ministry meets Tuesday at 1 PM in the lounge area.

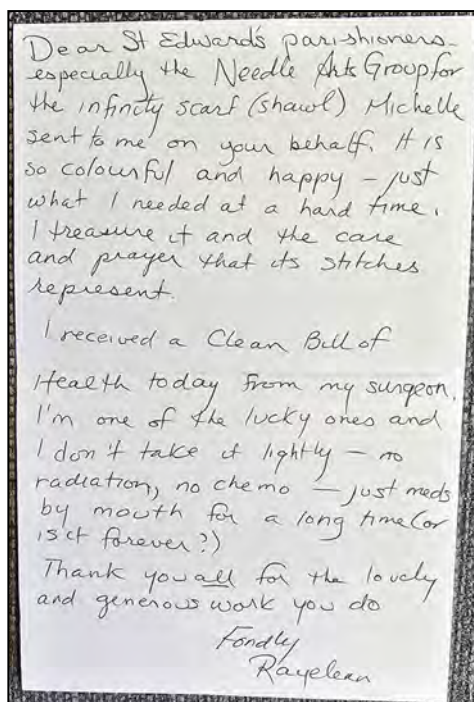
Members of this group, plus volunteer crafters, work all year to create a variety of items for the cookie/craft sale. They also make items such as prayer shawls and baptism blankets, as well as hats and scarves to be donated to any in need.

All are invited to be a part of this enjoyable and productive group. Yarn, patterns and "expert assistance" are available, so you do not need to have a project started to join in the fun.

Remember, everyone's always welcome to pop up at a Needle Arts meeting on Tuesdays at 1 PM in the lounge. No reservations required—just bring your sense of humor with you.



Payer Shawl Ministry



Women's Spirituality Group



By Michelle Bentley

The Women's Spirituality Group will be on hiatus until August 2nd. . For those of us who have participated in this group since its inception, it has been a most fruitful experience of fellowship, prayer,

meditation, and discussion. For women who have thought about joining our group, but have yet to try it, I am here to encourage you to give it a try. What we hope for in 2025 is for a time of peaceful and thoughtful prayer and discussion as we begin each month. There is some-

thing that is very simple and comforting about gathering at the start of each month, in simple prayer, meditation, and discussion that gives us the opportunity to look inward and express what is in our hearts and minds so that we can venture with a renewed sense of faith, mission, and ministry each month. Our gatherings do not exceed 90 minutes and we offer tea, coffee, and pastries. We hope you will join us beginning in August! We are always looking for fresh voices to lead us in Morning Prayer and in discussion. Perhaps you would consider leading one of our Saturday gatherings?



Sunday Prayer



Sunday Evening Prayer, at 7:00 PM:

We use the 1979 *Book of Common Prayer* and the readings for the Sunday Lectionary. It is a quiet service and a good way to end the weekend and prepare for the week to come. :

Anyone interested can send me an email to be put on an email distribution list:

drutledge1225@gmail.com

Sunday Evening Prayer@ 7:00pm
Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84700614072>

Meeting ID: 847 0061 4072

Passcode: SunEP

Wednesday Noon



Looking for a meditative complement to Sunday services? Need a peaceful break mid-week? Join us for the Wednesday Noon Contemplative Eucharist and Meditation in the Parish Hall chapel. Each Wednesday, about 16-20 of us gather for reflection, meditation, and Eucharist, led by Father Rick. It truly is a refreshing reset to the week. For some, this is their weekly service they attend. We welcome donations to our free-will offering plate at this service.

Include your news and announcements in the next Scepter.



Due date for June will be:
May 20th.

Send articles and announcements to:
HJ_Miller@outlook.com

Men's Group



Saturday Men's Group: 2nd Saturday of the month from 8 AM -10 AM. **Join us for two hours of fellowship**, including Morning Prayer. Coffee and donuts will be served. **Next meeting Saturday May 10.**



Coffee Hour

**Pictures by Mary Snyder
and Meredith Aul**

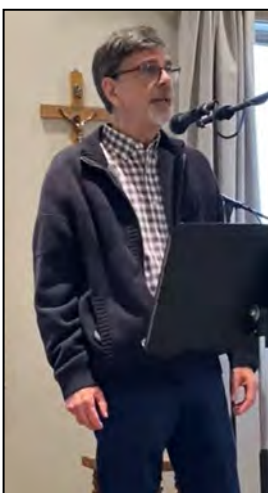
Join Us for Coffee Hour By Michelle Bentley

One of the foundations of our weekly fellowship is our Sunday coffee hour. From 9 AM to 10 AM each Sunday, we offer folks a chance to gather, as one community, between the services, as well as the space we hold for our fantastic Coffee House Band to perform.

Join us at a coffee hour, sign up to serve as a coffee hour host, participate in our craft activities, or, if you hold musical gifts, contact Randy Westgate about joining the Coffee House Band.



Always a good time to meet together



Bill Deegan "What a Wonderful World"



Roger and Ginny Kloepping and Michelle Bentley



Meredith Aul and Deann



Amy Yovanovich
"Somewhere Over the Rainbow"



Ruthie Miller accompanied Amy



Seasonal Craft Days During Coffee Hour

The craft for Lent was decorating crosses with gems. These were sent to many of our homebound parishioners to let them know they are in our minds. Barb Obrien included a picture with a thank you for the crafts that have been sent to her.

Thank you so much, Beth for these. They are a reminder of how much St. Edwards means to me and keeps me a part of St. Ed's family.



The Coffee House band

Guess Who's Coming to Dinner? May 17th



By Meredith Aul

The semi-annual Guess Who dinner is scheduled for Saturday, May 17th at 6 p.m. Please mark your calendar for an informal evening of delicious food and great conversation. It's a great way to spend time with old and new friends.

Would you like to be a host?

Hosts are still needed - guests will be accommodated on a first-come, first-served basis based on host availability

If you are interested in hosting an informal meal, your role is to set a table for six or eight (whichever your home best accommodates) and provide the main dish and beverages. Hosts will be given a guest list in advance to coordinate the menu.

Please consider hosting. While I have never had to turn anyone away, it helps to know how many hosts are available ahead of time. It would be wonderful to have new hosts so those who have opened their homes multiple times can enjoy an evening out.

Would you like to be a guest?

Guests bring an appetizer, salad, dessert, rolls, or wine to complement the meal. The fun is in the mystery. Guests don't know who else will attend the dinner until they arrive at their designated home.

If you would like to participate as a host or guest, as soon as possible, please complete the form below and return it to the box in the Narthex (or call or text Meredith Aul at 717-575-2119



Deadline for host sign-up 5/7

Deadline for guest sign-up - 5/7

Dinner -- 5/17

Yes! I will participate in the Guess Who's Coming to Dinner on May 17th at p.m.

Name(s) _____

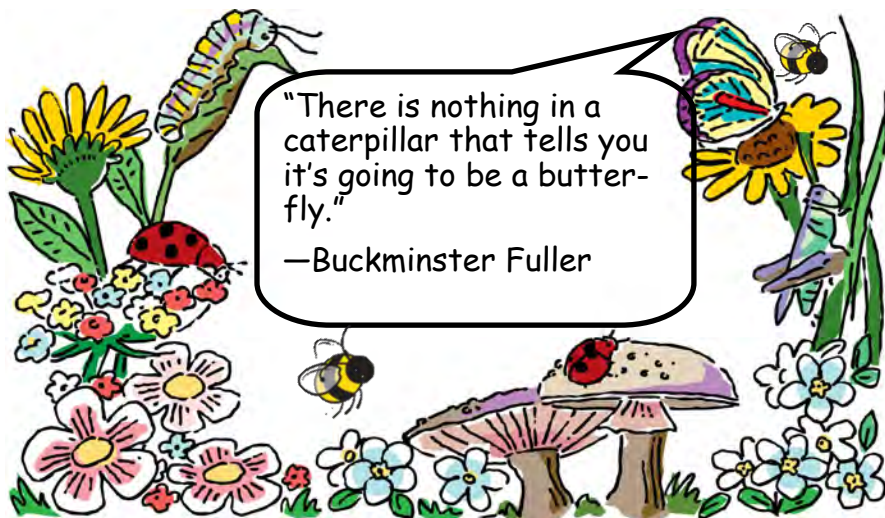
I am/We are able to host 6 _____ 8 _____ people.

I am/We are happy to either host or be a guest _____

I/we would like to attend as a guest _____

I'm a single, please seat me with _____

Your host will get back to you by May 11 to discuss details. Please call or text Meredith Aul at 717-575-2119 if you have any questions.



My Dad Has Bees

Shared from Bee Kulture

"My dad has bees. Today I went to his house and he showed me all of the honey he had gotten from the hives. He took the lid off of a 5 gallon bucket full of honey and on top of the honey there were 3 little bees, struggling. They were covered in sticky honey and drowning. I asked him if we could help them and he said he was sure they wouldn't survive. Casualties of honey collection I suppose.



I asked him again if we could at least get them out and kill them quickly, after all he was the one who taught me to put a suffering animal (or bug) out of its misery. He finally conceded and scooped the bees out of the bucket. He put them in an empty Chobani yogurt container and put the plastic container outside.

Because he had disrupted the hive with the earlier honey collection, there were bees flying all over outside.

We put the 3 little bees in the container on a bench and left them to their fate. My dad called me out a little while later to show me what was happening. These three little bees were surrounded by all of their sisters (all of the bees are females) and they were cleaning the sticky nearly dead bees, helping them to get all of the honey off of their bodies. We came back a short time later and there was only one little bee left in the container. She was still being tended to by her sisters.

When it was time for me to leave, we checked one last time and all three of the bees had been cleaned off enough to fly away and the container was empty. Those three little bees lived because they were surrounded by family and friends who would not give up on them, family and friends who refused to let them drown in their own stickiness and resolved to help until the last little bee could be set free.

We could all learn
a thing or two from the bees.
Bee kind always!



ST. EDWARD'S FISCAL FITNESS "EXTRA GIVE" CHALLENGE

MAY 4 – JUNE 29, 2025



FUNDRAISING GOAL: \$10,000

ST. EDWARD'S PARISH COMMUNITY YARD SALE

SATURDAY, JUNE 7, 2025 7:00 AM – 2:00 PM
(RAIN DATE, SATURDAY, JUNE 14TH)



FUNDRAISING GOAL: \$2,500

**READ ALL ABOUT OUR NEW FUNDRAISERS IN THE VESTRY ARTICLE
ON THE NEXT PAGE!!!**



By Michelle Bentley

As our new vestry met on April 13th we stood at the threshold of Holy Week anticipating the journey Father Rick invited our spiritual community to participate in over the course of the seven days that were ahead of us. We spoke, with inquisitive minds and open hearts, about how St. Edward's is embarking, in many ways, on our own journey of renewal as a spiritual community. We are aging, but we are also growing, and our shepherd, Father Rick, will be abiding by what is directed in our Canons and embarking on a period of rest and renewal – a sabbatical – during the months of June, July, and August. I have been in my position long enough to have served through two prior rector sabbaticals and a rector search and transition, and I can say, from where I sit, that each experience has not only strengthened our spiritual leader, but our parish family. These are ministry invitations to ensure our vitality and our legacy! Rest and renewal is NOT overrated and is always a welcome, necessary, and beautiful opportunity for ALL of us to look inside, embrace our own intentional challenge we can set for ourselves, and see what we can see! And, for me, it is always exciting to embrace the challenge and make our rector proud of how our beautiful parish family strives to embrace, in word and deed, what “time well spent” is truly all about!

To that end, we have set two challenges for our parish community this late spring/early summer. After five solid years of capital improvements and beautification of our spiritual home and campus, we are now in a place where it is imperative to properly steward these legacy assets with professional care. While we have a good cadre of volunteers, there are just certain items that we cannot “DIY.” We have accomplished amazing improvements together –

from the Memorial Garden to the sanctuary space; the parish hall updates to the refurbishment of our front entry, narthex, and restrooms; the Swarr Run revitalization to landscaping our various garden areas and construction of a new parking lot. Not to mention our energy efficiency measures we completed last year to protect our stained-glass window and decrease the negative impact of the heat index on our summer cooling costs, without sacrificing the beauty of our exterior views, and all the major building work that was completed during the pandemic. ALL of these amazing projects could not have happened without YOU! The best way forward for us to support the need for creating funds to support our increased costs related to professional support in stewarding these assets is through fundraising. Traditionally, we have had two signature fundraisers in the fall – our basket raffle and our Christmas Cookie and Craft sale. In recent years, both fundraisers have exceeded our expectations, and we look forward to our 2025 fall season to meet or exceed our goal, once again.

But here we are in spring, and we are presenting the opportunity, before the calm of summer enfolds us, to launch what we will incorporate into a four-season fundraising schedule with two NEW offerings: A \$10k Fiscal Fitness “Extra Give” Challenge and a Community Yard Sale. Here, we will provide the details for each and should you have ANY questions, please do not hesitate to contact me! I want to personally thank everyone, in advance, for your never-failing generosity of spirit in supporting the mission and ministry of St. Edward's. This is truly a special place with a legacy worthy of preserving and it is because of your support we can accomplish anything we set our hearts and minds to!

\$10k Fiscal Fitness Challenge:

Dates of Fundraiser, Sunday, May 4 - Sunday, June 29

What is it for? To raise \$10,000 for the professional care of our building, campus grounds, and increased summer utility costs.

How do I participate? Whenever you visit St. Edward's you can donate via cash, check, credit or debit card that can be swiped on our iPad kiosk. You can also participate by giving from home via our Diocesan Giving Portal, or our PayPal Por-

tal (or mailing a check). Make certain you label your donation “\$10k Challenge” so we allocate the funds properly.

Why is it Nine Weeks? We want to “win the race” and know to do so we must pace ourselves. This is a mini-marathon, not a sprint. So, join in the fun, give weekly, challenge yourself and help us reach our \$10k goal!

June 7th Community Yard Sale:

Dates of Fundraiser: Intake of items: May 27th – June 5th, Volunteers needed for June 5, 6, 7

What is it for? To raise \$2,500++ to add to our building, grounds, and summer utility fund for professional stewardship of our campus.

How do I participate? By donating yard sale items, in good and safe condition, to our event. We have all been to neighborhood yard sales and we know what is acceptable (in goods and condition) for a successful sale, so as you are going through your home to declutter and downsize, please keep that in mind. From books to clothes, art to appliances, furniture to tools, sports equipment to music. . . everyone has “stuff” they do not need any longer. Here is the chance to let it go! Ahhhh. . . you will feel so much better!

We will also be looking for volunteers for set-up, serving at the sale, and breakdown with a sign-up sheet *in the narthex beginning May 11th*.





**Hosted by
Blair Lord**

Happy Easter season! The transition from Lent to Easter has been marked in part by a transition

from season 3 to season 4 of *The Chosen*, featuring the closing episode of the previous season, "Sustenance." As the title suggests, food features in a major way—namely the feeding of 5000 (just counting the men) listeners who gather in the wilderness to hear Jesus teach. But the episode takes some creative license by initiating the multitudinous meal with a confrontation among different ethnic and religious groups from the Decapolis, the region adjacent to Judea and Galilee in Jesus's time. Disruption caused by Andrew and Philip's preaching drives the people to a desperate place, and Jesus comes to meet them. Likewise, the personal crisis Simon faces drives him to desperation and anger—and Jesus is there to meet him, too, on the Sea of Galilee.

Like Simon, we can wrestle with desperation and abandonment when God doesn't seem to respond to our prayers. Even during Lent when we are willing to make sacrifices, there is a cry for sustenance and satisfaction. Physical deprivation makes us more aware of the spiritual deprivation that Lent beckons us to recognize. In this episode, Simon only pays attention to how Jesus failed to protect him and his wife from the loss of their child. He thinks "faith is not my problem" until he steps out on the sea, starts to walk, then takes his eyes off Jesus and becomes overwhelmed by the storm. Only when he calls out to the Lord to save him does he find what he's needed.

Having come through Lent to the resurrection on Easter, I find Jesus's words (from the show) ring even more clearly: "I let people go hungry. But I feed them."

Thank you to everyone who joined us to watch, discuss, and eat quiche together!

For May, we're adding a new element to Lunch with The Chosen experience: we will consider reflections provided by The Chosen's study guide for season 4 to continue deepening our conversations with the show, Scripture, and one another. We look forward to meeting on **May 4th** to begin the new season with "Promises." The season opens with a long-awaited

but difficult part of the Gospel story: *the death of John the Baptist*. My hope is that our thoughts and experiences paired with insights from the show's creators, rooted in their faith and study of Scripture, will enrich our time together.

Looking further ahead, we will watch one more episode before our summer break on **June 1st**. The second episode of season 4 is titled "Confessions," which will address an important relationship among the disciples and a surprising development for Simon (soon to be called Peter).

If you would like to catch up on seasons 1, 2, or 3, you can access The Chosen for free at thechosen.tv. You can download The Chosen App to your Amazon FireTV, Apple TV, or Roku, and on your phone from the Apple Store or Google Play Store. Additionally, the show is available for streaming on Amazon Prime.

Let me know if you have any questions. Thank you!

Pictures by Mary Snyder



A recent viewing



Usually, it is bring your own lunch but there was food provided for a special Holy Week session



Blair Lord and Joyce Kamm



**Saint Luke Episcopal
209 South Market St.
Mount Joy, PA.
The first Saturday of
every month @ 5pm.**

Interested in experiencing meditative worship

with candlelight, chanting with live musicians (harp, piano, guitar), scripture interspersed with short periods of silence? Join us as Br. David Rutledge, Br. A. J. Robins or The Rev. Martha Harris lead worship.

Upcoming musicians:

May 3 - Bill Wright, piano

June 7 - Davie Krak, harp



Saint James Lancaster

Saturday, May 10 | 5:00 PM

Usually presented on the second Saturday of the month, these masses offer something new and surprising to inspire and challenge you in your faith journey. A broad array of live music features favorite artists from the past, contemporary artists and contemplative themes while being integrated into traditional Episcopal liturgy.



340 Locust Street

Columbia, PA 17512

717-684-8496

Usually the third Saturday of each month. This 5PM Mass often has a musical theme with guest musicians. The church has a lovely pipe organ and Rev. Martha Harris is the Priest. Hank Morrow is Deacon



HEMPFIELD AREA FOOD PANTRY

Food Pantry Needs:

Canned tuna
Canned tomato paste
Canned cream of celery soup
Canned cream chicken soup
Canned cream of mushroom soup
Cereal
Peanut butter

The mission of the Hempfield Area Food Pantry is to show the underserved the gracious love of God by feeding the body, mind and soul of it's clients with dignity!

The pantry is open Mondays and Wednesdays from 10 am to 1 pm



| | |
|------------------|----------------------------------|
| LGH Blood Drive | May 2025 2 to 4pm 4 to 6pm |
| Back Pack Drive | June-July |
| Turkey Drive | Nov 1-23 |
| Jesse Tree | Nov/Dec. |
| ALERT Sock Drive | Nov/Dec. |

Collection of food for the Hempfield Food Pantry in the narthex is ongoing.

Community Aid News

Community Aid has expanded the payouts to partner organizations for donated items!!! Below is a list of items you can bring to Community Aid, mentioning they are for St. Edward's Episcopal Church (**Our Partner Number is 40036**). We will receive credit for quarterly payouts that assist our Faith-in-Action ministry. Community Aid has always accepted these items, but in the past, they did not give credit to partner organizations for electronics, toys, and household goods.

| | |
|-------------|-----------------|
| Clothing | Electronics |
| Shoes | Toys |
| Accessories | Household goods |

Rahim Family Collection

Monthly needs are: Paper towels, tissues, toilet paper, shampoo, toothpaste, body wash, hand soap, laundry detergent, laundry softener, dish soap, dishwasher tablets, kitchen garbage bags, hand sanitizer.

A sign-up list is in the narthex



Annual Blood Drive May 22, 2-7 p.m.

By Meredith Aul

It Feels Good to
be a Hero



One Volunteer Needed - 4-6 time slot

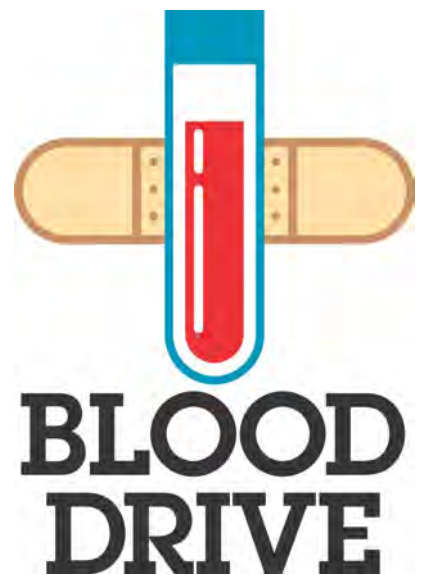
This year our annual blood drive will be held jointly with our neighbors at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. It will take place in our parish hall on Thursday, May 22, 2-7 p.m. Volunteers for the two hour shifts, 2-4 is filled. I need one volunteer for the 4-6 time slot. If you are available, please contact me by phone or text at 717-575-2119.

You must be age 16-79 to donate. Age 16 will need a signed parental consent.

LGH will give donors a new reusable tote bag (choice of black or blue) and 2 Lancaster Stormer ticket vouchers.



You can register using this QR Code, online at LGHealth.org/giveblood and enter mobile code 468611 or contact the Blood Donor



Soles4Souls

Thank you to everyone who donated shoes for Soles4Souls. With your help, we beat last year's record with 669 pairs of shoes. A special Thank You to the following people:

Sharon Gromis - who brought many boxes to pack shoes

Beth Lynch, Tony Bianco, and Irene Achey, who helped pack up the shoes

Beth Lynch, Kevin, and Ellen Milligan, who helped load up the 46 boxes

Beth Lynch and Scott Smith, who helped deliver the shoes to Saint John's

Once again, thank you to all in our community who came together to help our world community.

A huge thank you came from St. John's Church.



The total count was 2482 pairs of shoes, the largest number since Saint John's started this program.



Beth Lynch



Kevin Milligan and Beth Lynch preparing to load the truck



Off we go! Thank you everyone!!!



Wanted... Books For Prisoners

We are now working directly with the prison and they prefer to receive books shipped directly to them in batches versus individual books as in the past.

Therefore, we are requesting monetary donations directed specifically for Books for Prisoners.

The prison is in need of 100 books, which include *The Shack* in Spanish, *Mere Christianity* by C. S. Lewis, as well as true stories from ex-prisoners. We are not expected to supply all 100 books but let's do the best we can to enliven the lives and minds of the incarcerated.

Every time we reach \$100 in donations, a batch will be shipped to the prison. If you have any questions, please see Joyce Kamm.



Joey (nephew of parishioner)
Saskita (niece of parishioner)



When Life Breaks You

When life breaks you, it is because you are ready to be put back together differently.

Every piece of you that feels shattered is a piece that will find a new place, a new purpose, a new meaning.

Trust that the cracks are where the light gets in. And sometimes, in our brokenness, we find our greatest wholeness.

We find the courage to rebuild, to reimagine, to redefine what it means to be strong.

You are not broken; you are breaking through. -Unknown

Remembering Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Statue of Bonhoeffer



Holy Defiance

Bringing benediction of peace, blessing with one hand and a fist with the other. Our example: Be someone who is bringing benediction, bringing peace, bringing blessing but also able to stand against oppression. There is a holy defiance that is needed when people are being oppressed.



The Christian church commemorated Dietrich Bonhoeffer — pastor, theologian, anti-Nazi spy — on April 9, the anniversary of his 1945 martyrdom. Among his much-loved writings are nuggets of wisdom such as these:

“Judging others makes us blind, whereas love is illuminating. By judging others we blind ourselves to our own evil and to the grace which others are just as entitled to as we are.” (*The Cost of Discipleship*)

“In normal life we hardly realize how much more we receive than we give, and life cannot be rich without such gratitude. It is so easy to overestimate the importance of our own achievements compared with what we owe to the help of others.” (*Letters and Papers from Prison*)

“The table fellowship of Christians implies obligation. It is our daily bread that we eat, not my own. We share our bread. Thus we are firmly bound to one another not only in the Spirit but in our whole physical being. The one bread that is given to our fellowship links us together in a firm covenant.” (*Life Together*)



Every work I speak takes the Life of Another

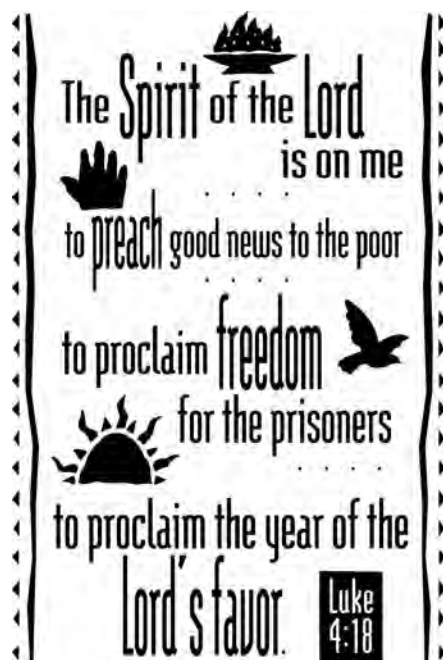
Our Life is our experience in time

Human nature demands we listen to spoken words

Therefore, when I speak, I demand that another give up a portion of their life, that they surrender their own train of thought, their own focus of attention in their own adventure, and their contemplation with the Divine, to listen to ME.

Therefore may I judge well—when, what, and how much I speak. And may I be a merciful judge. Are my words Kind? Necessary? Useful? Brief?

May I share my Life adventure alongside yours in Beautiful Quietude.



Potluck Supper with the Rahims

Pictures by Meredith Aul and Mary Gibson



The Rahim boys with dad



Seth & Beth Hake, Malalay, Muska and Haseeb Rahim



Beth Hake, Anfai Rahim



Randy Westgate, Dick and Gail Irons, Muska Rahim



Bruce Lynch, Randy Westgate in vests gifted to them by the Rahims



Lots of delicious food



Muska Rahim, Leslie Arnold



Food and conversation

Samaritan Center Event

By Eileen Campbell ,



Warm greetings to you from all of us at the Samaritan Center! We are excited to share that our *Sparkles of Hope Gala* is right around the corner. As a valued member of Samaritan's Partnership in Ministry program, we'd be so grateful if St. Edward's might consider helping us spread the word!

The Gala — happening Thursday, May 29, 2025, at the Inn at Leola Village — is one of the biggest ways we gather support for Samaritan's mission to make mental health services available and accessible for everyone in Lancaster County. It's a special night to celebrate our amazing donors and look ahead with hope at what's possible! We'd love for your congregation to know about it, and would be so grateful if you'd consider including it in your community news — whether that's a bulletin blurb, a newsletter mention, or a quick post on social media.

Registration opens Monday, April 21, 2025

Sparkles of Hope

An evening of fantastic food & drink, trivia, raffle items, and FUN – all supporting the mission of the Samaritan Center!

Buy event or raffle tickets Online at:
<http://weblink.donorperfect.com/2025SparklesofHopeGala>

Thank you for supporting the Samaritan Center's 2025 Sparkles of Hope Gala!

Event Sponsors

Joyland Roofing – Decor Sponsor
Kitchen Kettle Village – Entertainment Sponsor
EGStoltzfus – Printing Sponsor
Fulton Bank – Entertainment Sponsor
Mental Health of America – Trivia Sponsor
Mid Penn Bank – Trivia Sponsor
Dr. Eleanor Isaacson & Samaritan Center Board of Directors – Friend Sponsors

Gala Committee

Jeannie Bartlett, Eileen Campbell, Stephanie Good, Eleanor Isaacson, Kevin Rowley, Debbie Stover

<http://weblink.donorperfect.com/2025SparklesofHopeGala>

Samaritan Center Invites You To The...

Sparkles of Hope 2025 Gala

May 29, 2025

Support our mission to make mental health services available and accessible for all

Event page:

<http://weblink.donorperfect.com/2025SparklesofHopeGala>



Altar Guild

Pictures by Mary Snyder and Mac Miller



Lori Miller stripping palms for Palm Sunday



Palm Sunday



Good Friday



Lent and Maundy Thursday



Lori Miller placing the crown of thorns



Easter Sunday



The Choir Was So Much a Part of Holy Week

Pictures by Mary Snyder and Mac Miller



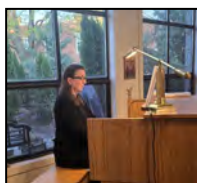
Easter Sunday



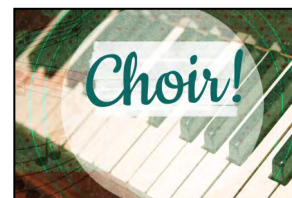
Good Friday



Maundy Thursday



Karen Waddill



Vince Czepukaitis, Blair Lord



Barbara Czepukaitis, Beth Hake, Robin Weber



Sharon Hubbard



Palm Sunday Seth Hake



Buddy Yeager, Peter Weber

Palm Sunday

Pictures by Mary Snyder



Blessing the Palms



Blessing of the Palms Liturgy



Jaime Alton and Fr. Rick



Processional



Eucharist



Jay Miller



Art Hagan



Cindy DiStefano



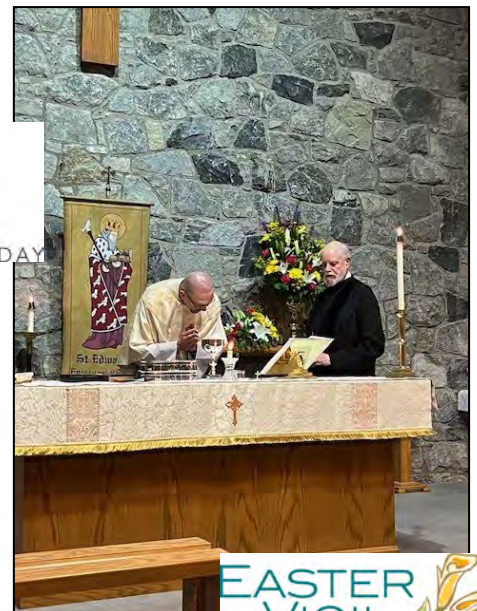
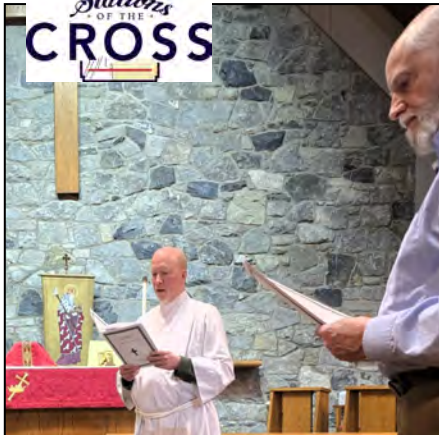
Buddy and Liz Yeager

Holy Week

Pictures by Mary Snyder, Mary Gibson, Jay Miller and Mac Miller



Fr. Rick provided the music
Hank Morrow Deacon and
Martha Harris Priest at St. Paul's
Columbia chapel



Buddy Yeager

Easter Sunday

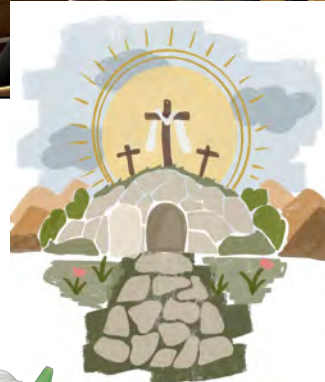
Pictures by Mary Snyder



Jeanne Mosebach



Jay Miller



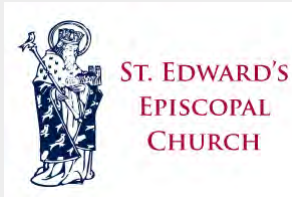
Buddy Yeager, Peter Weber



Egg hunt



Fr. Rick, Vanessa Helsel



2453 Harrisburg Pike

Lancaster, PA 17601

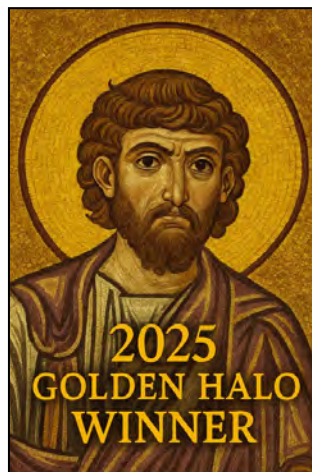
Phone 717-898-6276

Email: stedsoffice@comcast.net

www.sainteds.org

LENT MADNESS

Congratulations to Zechariah!



Easter greetings from Forward Movement and congratulations to this year's Golden Halo Winner, Saint Zechariah! We hope you had fun learning about how ordinary people, through the grace of God, accomplish extraordinary things.

LOOK FOR US ON THE WEB!
www.sainteds.org

Staff

The Rev. Dr. Rick Bauer,
Rector

Michelle Bentley, Parish
Administrative Assistant

Karen E. Waddill,
Director of Worship Music

Parish Office Hours

Tuesday-Friday:
11AM – 4:00PM

Vestry (year term ends)

✦ Mike Freshwater (2027)
Vestry Clerk

✦ Mary Gibson (2028)

✦ Ethel Lawrence (2027)

✦ Blair Lord (2026)
Vestry Clerk

✦ Jay Miller (2026)
Senior Warden

✦ Bob Mosebach (2026)

✦ Donna Ray (2028)

✦ Dan Sanders (2028)

✦ Kathy Spencer (2027)

Worship Services

Sunday Services

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I (said)

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II

Wednesday

12 Noon: Contemplative Eucharist,
Meditation, and Healing Prayer

[HTTPS://SAINTEDS.ORG/](https://sainteds.org/)

