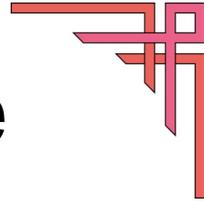


The Eagle



February, 2019

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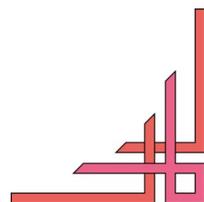
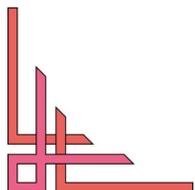
ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

a reconciling in Christ congregation

330 Ferry Street
Easton, PA 18042

The Reverend Susan D. Ruggles, Pastor
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I visited Sante Fe, New Mexico and toured the Loretto Chapel. It is a site where there was a school and campus with ten buildings and only the chapel remains but with a rich history. Built in 1873, it was almost complete when there was a problem. A

choir loft twenty feet above the floor had no access provided when the builder died.

Many would think to put in a ladder but it was girls who used the campus and a ladder would prove difficult wearing dresses. The nuns requested a staircase but no one in the area knew how to build one in the space and with the height of the loft. So, the nuns prayed.

Today, the spiral staircase inside the chapel is referred to as “miraculous”. Having an engineer husband with me when I visited, he agreed it is a very unusual and an astounding structure. The staircase makes two complete 360 degree turns. That is strange for a spiral staircase. Another feature is that it rests solely on its base. Usually a spiral staircase would have a center support. All those facts run parallel to the nuns historical written report of an old, gray-haired man who arrived leading a donkey and bringing simple carpenter’s tools who offered to build the needed staircase. The legend has it that he built the staircase in the locked chapel and then disappeared without receiving payment or leaving any records for securing the lumber.

Visiting this beautiful chapel started me thinking about what is a miracle and would anyone recognize it when it happened? Some of you could answer in the affirmative and others have waited for a miracle that did not happen. Miracles are listed in the Old and New Testament. For example, the Ten Plagues (Exodus) and Balaam the talking donkey (Numbers) in the Old Testament. Jesus walked on water and raised Lazarus from the dead (Mark and John). These miracles were signs of God’s power and of Jesus divinity. So why have a miracle?

Miracles are no doubt faith strengthening. Luther stressed the inner miracle is always of faith in the **Word of God**. Faith in the Word of God is knowing that even when we are looking for a

miracle and don't see one, God is real, Jesus is the Savior we need in our life and love with grace is given to us. Miracles continue to be a mystery most of the time. Faith does not rest on signs and wonders and things we cannot understand but faith is based on what God has promised to us and realized in Jesus Christ.

The Loretto Chapel with its spiral staircase was very interesting to see and to wonder about. Faith is knowing with or without the staircase, Jesus just...is. Tell me about your miracles sometime!

In peace, Pastor Sue

SNOW?

If it snows on a Sunday, the Worship at St. John's will not be cancelled. If you can walk, join us. If you do not feel safe driving, please stay home and join us with your prayers knowing we are still worshipping and praising God together.



Birthdays and Anniversaries for February



2/1 Frank Kutch	George and Gloria Macher
2/3 Larry Transue	2/12
2/7 Phyllis Schurz	
2/8 Jonas Orange	David and Carol Faulkner
2/9 Katie Hunsicker	2/18
2/9 Patsy Woodson	
2/11 Helene Sirotnak	James and Shirley Kressler
2/14 Ja'Mari Mack	2/24
2/14 Logan Weber	
2/16 Charles Lewis	
2/17 MariAn Olson	
2/18 Tara Fogle	
2/28 Doris Fisher	

HAPPY 2019 as Trinity Episcopal Church celebrates 200 years downtown Easton!

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS for February-10:30 AM

February Altar Guild: Barbara Horinko / Sylvia Orem
February Fellowship Hour: Fine Arts Committee

Feb. 3 Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

Acolyte: Tara Fogle
Ushers: Lois Anne Calloway / Charles Hanson
Worship Assistant: Christopher Orem
Reader: Victory Unks
Communion Assistants: Roger Ruggles / James Heck
Gallery Attendants: Pam and Joe LaDuca

Feb. 10 Fifth Sunday of Epiphany

Acolyte: Eva Seiple
Ushers: Wayne Docker / Phyllis Schurz
Worship Assistant: Vicar Danielle Bosdell
Reader: Ian Heck
Communion Assistants: Jacob Ruggles / Joyce Petty
Gallery Attendants: Linda Kalapay / Steve Remel

Feb. 17 Sixth Sunday of Epiphany

Acolyte: Abby Cressman
Ushers: Bob Black / Victor Unks
Worship Assistant: Joyce Petty
Reader: Monica Weiss-Nolen
Communion Assistants: Barbara Horinko / Vicar Danielle Bosdell
Gallery Attendants: MariAn & Curtis Olson

Feb. 24 Seventh Sunday of Epiphany

Acolyte: Aaron Howey
Ushers: Patsy Woodson / Loretta Heck
Worship Assistant: Tom Neel
Reader: Vicar Danielle Bosdell
Communion Assistants: Robert Smith / Victor Unks
Gallery Attendants: Ilse von Lang

Altar Flower sponsors are needed for the following dates:
February 10th and February 17th. Contact the church office today if interested. Cost is still only \$30.

Liturgical colors and Gospel readings

The glory of God is often revealed when and where it is least expected.

Feb. 3 Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

Color: Green

Luke 4 : 21– 30

Feb. 10 Fifth Sunday of Epiphany

Color: Green

Luke 5 : 1-11

Feb. 17 Sixth Sunday of Epiphany

Color: Green

Luke 6 : 17-26

Feb. 24 ourth Sunday of Epiphany

Color: Green

Luke 6 : 27-38

March 3 Transfiguration Sunday!

Color: White

Luke 9:28-36

Last Sunday before Lent



Transfiguration Sunday is marked by Lutherans as the last Sunday after the Epiphany. (Epiphany can be as long as nine Sundays, including Transfiguration). The length of Epiphany depends on when Lent starts. When Lent starts depends on the date of Easter. (Easter is the first Sunday after the first full moon that occurs on or after the March date when the sun shines directly on the equator and the length of night/day are equal or the equinox). Transfiguration is what we call a major feast. Jesus took three of the disciples up on a mountain where two prophets (Moses and Elijah) appeared and Jesus' face and clothes became dazzling bright. We look at the festival as a time when Jesus was revealed to a few His divinity. This gives more evidence to those around of who Jesus is. Moses usually reminded people of the law that Gpd gave with the ten Commandments. Jesus provided a solution to the problem of sin. Elijah reminds us that Jesus fulfilled the words of the prophets.

- ⇒ **Please** join us at this year's annual
- ⇒ **"Souper Bowl of Caring"**
- ⇒ **February 3rd at noon.**
- ⇒ Enjoy delicious soups, fresh bread. The symbolic meal of soup and bread demonstrates that together, we can fill the empty bowls of our neighbors in need.
- ⇒ Your donations benefit the **Safe Harbor Homeless Shelter** and the **United Lutheran Seminary Food Bank.**
- ⇒ Look for the youth with the soup pots in the narthex after church on February 3rd, stay for lunch and/or take some soup home with you.



Membership Committee . . .

Will host a "Soul Food Luncheon"
February 24 after church.
Southern dishes will be featured.
A sign up sheet for side dishes and
desserts will be
posted in the narthex in February.

The Galley at St. John's

Art for your Appreciation and Purchase

RUINS ENTWINED:

by **ALYSSHA EVE CSÜK** and **JAIME KAROL**

This current exhibit of photography of Bethlehem Steel rust and watercolors of the Steel Stacks and south Bethlehem will close on Sunday, February 24.

In harmony with this exhibit, **Pastors Jim Henderschedt and Herb Gifford will appear on Sunday, February 10 at 1:30 pm as "Two Old Ruins"** doing "heaps of stuff – some fun, some serious – along with a few bits and pieces." Together they teamed up in 2011 on a project they called Word Limit 55 writing sermons, meditations, and other stuff in no more, no less than 55 words. Jim is an accomplished artist and storyteller. Herb has collected jokes and quotations for some 70 years. He also writes nonsense books based on his concept of "faction" – a little bit of fact and a whole lot of fiction. Their presentation will be loosely planned to combine their work and the reaction of the audience – a live interactive experience.

Herb & Jim will be introduced by their good friend **Ed Romond**, a distinguished poet and writer who has appeared in the gallery many times, always to the delight of the audience.

ST. JOHN'S CASAVANT FRERES PIPE ORGAN STORY

In early 1972 the Vestry (now known as the Church Council) formed an Organ Committee of Richard Kressler, chair, Jane Blaylock, Patricia Bradt, Frank Stulz and Carl Veit to evaluate options for the organ at St. John's. First step of the Committee was to review studies of seven different organ builders and their recommendations concerning rebuilding versus replacing the

Organ dating back to the 1880s. The organ had been patched and enlarged over the decades and had become nearly unplayable. In May 1972 the Committee recommended to the Vestry the organ "should not be rebuilt, but that it should be replaced".

From May 1972 through early 1973, the Committee explored the types of organ's available. The exploration involved nine Organ manufacturing companies and included both pipe organ and electric organ options. The study even included a private jet flight to White Plains, NY by the Allen Organ Company to hear an electric organ presentation. After much congregational discussion and conversation, it was decided to pursue a pipe organ. Casavant Freres, St. Hyacinthe, Quebec, Canada was selected through their presentation and by their reputation. In December 1973 the Congregation approved the Organ Committee's recommendation to accept Casavant Freres proposal for a new organ at a cost of \$72,000. (In 2008 the organ was valued at \$490,000.)

Early in 1973 a capital campaign was started with home visits creating the Christian Advancement Program (CAP) Fund. The focus of this campaign was to raise money for the organ, for needed renovations, and reduce the congregations current debt. It was partial money raised by the CAP Fund that paid for the new organ.

During the Spring of 1974 drawings of the new organ were received and shared with the Congregation. A member of the Congregation, in a letter to the Vestry, raised structural concern

(Story continued on the next page)



about cantilevering the ruckpositiv from the balcony. All questions and issue were resolved and the organ was built over late Summer and early Fall of 1974.

All Saint's Sunday, November 3 1974 was the Service of Dedication for the new organ, followed by a Recital of Dedication with L. Eugene Roan, Organist. A Dedication Recital Series

followed through November and January including a evening of music for Strings, Harpsichord, and Organ, four Advent Friday noontime Organ recitals, and a Choral Concert of Schubert's Mass in G.

St. John's has a long proud musical history. The organ has been a major piece of that history, along with Directors of Music, Choir Directors, choir members and talented musicians. Thanks be to God for these shared talents.

(Material for this article was gleaned from St. John's Archives and an interview with Pat Bradt, written by Steven Moyer.)

There is a picture of the Casavant Freres Pipe Organ built in 1974 in the narthex. It has 3 manuals and 4 divisions of 1,890 free-standing pipes. The projection cantilevered from the balcony is called a ruckpositiv.

Calling all youth! We are planning to go to a Phantoms Hockey Game on February 17.



Contact Vicar Danielle to arrange for your tickets. RSVP by Wednesday Feb. 10.

St. John's Office

Hours: 9-2 (M-F)

Melissa Dean—Administrative Assistant

Office Phone: 610-258-6119

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For Newsletter info: stjohnseastonnewsletter@gmail.com

Outreach Committee asks for your help...please bring the following highlighted items for February:

For ProJeCt of Easton

St. John's the "Rice" Church – any type of rice.

Other items needed:

Instant Potatoes Hamburger Helper Condiments Low sodium soups and stews

Jelly and Preserves Canned vegetables Lunchbox sized item

Personal Care Items (Soap, Shampoo/conditioner/deodorant, Feminine hygiene products)

For SAFE HARBOR:

Sugar, pancake mix/syrup, ice tea mix, paper cups (8oz. hot and cold), paper napkins, heavy-duty paper plates (10 to 12 inch), paper towels, plastic silverware, air freshener sprays, laundry detergent, boxes of tissues, plastic grocery bags, backpacks and duffle bags (used, in good condition), Men's T-shirts (size L, XL, 2XL, 3XL), white copy paper.

BACK PACK BUDDIES PROGRAM – We continue to collect ravioli or canned pastas (individual size or large cans) and individual servings of macaroni & cheese with pop up lids, throughout the school year.

MEALS ON WHEELS of Northampton County: Meals on Wheels have clients in need of: lap robes, scarfs, gloves, stamps, woolen hats, stationary, socks and toiletries, such as lotions and other items.

We continue to collect donations of NEW packaged socks and underwear for adults and children. These donations will be given to Safe Harbor Easton and to Family Connections.

Thank you for your support of these programs.