

St. John's September/October 2011 Good News

Jesus is Lord!

St. John's Church on Morgan Hill • 2720 Morgan Hill Rd. • Easton • PA • 18042
610-258-6018 • <http://stjohnsmorganhill.org>

Please join us Sundays for Worship at 9 a.m., Sunday School at 10:30 a.m.

Dear Friend,

There's excitement in the air! Footballs and soccer balls are flying through the air; the marching bands and cheerleaders are practicing their routines. Very shortly the school buses will be humming down our roads carrying kids to and from school. Students and teachers will be getting to know each other. It's a refreshing change of pace.

This is a very exciting time at St. John's, too. The Sunday School is unveiling a new game plan on Rally Day, September 11th. At least once a month we will have a "big picture" presentation for all the classes and even interested visitors. We are planning a yearlong mission focus on the Heifer Project International. Watch for ways you can contribute to this worthy program.

And, we have a new youth ministry up and running. "Young Life" has been meeting since early August and has lots of plans for this fall – they include hosting a breakfast for the congregation on Rally Day, tubing on the Delaware (September 10th), possibly painting some of the Sunday School rooms, and regular meetings. There's a lot of energy flowing right now, watch for further details!

Our mission team continues to lead us forth. This August Margaret and Becky spearheaded a fantastic shoe/sneaker/ school supply drive for kids in the Easton area. The response was overwhelming! On Saturday, August 20th, a whole host of kids and parents arrived at First Church in Easton. They were treated to a delicious breakfast, thanks to Ray and Sue Ulmer, John Pursell and company. The kids were ecstatic to receive new sneakers and shoes for school. Watch for news about Habitat for Humanity and other great ministries that we support.

All in all, there's a lot of energy flowing around and through the St. John's congregation these days. Come and catch the Spirit! Tap into our music ministry or bible study group or just enjoy the fellowship at coffee hour. I'll be looking for you here on the hill!

Pastor Blake



**Sunday School Rally Day
September 11th
Catch the Excitement!**

A Family of Friends in Christ, Saved by Grace to Serve Others in Love.

Blake Heffner, Pastor; Helen Pearson, Assistant Pastor Emeritus
Richard Rader, Organist; Chele Rader, Director of Music

Sundays in September and October

- Sept. 4th **Labor Day Weekend**
We Begin Our Fall Sermon Series on “David - A Man after God’s Heart” (*see article*)
 “Saul, the People’s Choice to Be King” - Read 1 Samuel 8-10
- Sept. 11th **The Tenth Anniversary of 9-11! And Rally Day!**
Hearty Breakfast, 8-9, hosted by St. John’s Young Life!
9am, Observation of 9-11 Anniversary and the Consecration of Teachers
Barb Duncan’s Book signing during the Fellowship Time!
10:30am, Sunday School Rally
“Shall we gather at the River?” - Baptism & Baptismal Renewal - 2pm (see article)
- Wow, What a Day!**
- Sept. 18th “David, the Lord’s Choice to be King” - Read I Samuel 15-16
Holy Communion
- Sept. 25th **Sacrament of Holy Baptism:** Ryleigh Grace Swenson
“A Minister of Music” - I Samuel 16
- Oct. 2nd **World Communion Sunday**
“Who’s the Real Giant?” - I Samuel 17
- Oct. 9th *“David and Jonathan: True Friends” - I Samuel 18-20*
- Oct. 16th *“A Marked Man: Lessons on Handling Adversity” - I Samuel 18-22*
- Oct. 23rd *“How to Love Your Enemy” - I Samuel 24-27*
- Oct. 30th **Reformation Sunday - The Rite of Confirmation**
“Becoming a Person after God’s Own Heart” - Psalms of Aspiration: 27, 63, 119

“David: A Man after God’s Own Heart” - Our Focus This Fall

Recently, I asked the confirmands to reflect on people whom they regard as heroes, or at least role models. At first, they were puzzled and a little hesitant to name any such people in their lives. Then, going a little deeper, we realized that Jesus calls us all to be “light for this world” – people in whom others can see virtue and goodness. So, we embarked on a quest to learn more about heroes of the faith.

This fall we will focus our attention on one of the most remarkable of biblical heroes, King David, whom the Lord singled out as a “man after his own heart” (I Sam. 13:14; Acts 13:22). David’s life offers a rich watershed of spiritual insight for believers of every generation. In the schedule for Sundays in September and October, I have suggested texts that you may want to read in advance of the Sunday morning sermons. I am praying that we will all be nourished and blessed by our study of this hero of faith and devotion.

Pastor Blake

CHRISTIAN BOOKSIGNINGEVENT

SEPTEMBER 11, 2011

IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

Barbara Duncan will be signing her first published book:

Peace Amidst Transition A Reflective Faith Journey

The theme of this book is that during whatever transitions or changes we face in life,
“The cross of Jesus Christ stands firm, casting a shadow of hope and peace amidst
transition.”

(There are study and discussion questions included for groups)

Cost: \$15.00 per copy (\$10. Author cost/ \$5 donated to “St. John’s Young Life” Youth

Come Support our Young Folks!!

“9/11/2011 A day of Remembrance & Hope”

Interfaith Community Service

2 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 11th, 2011 (Organ Prelude begins at 1:30 p.m.)

at Trinity Episcopal Church

There will be an interfaith Community Service on Sun. Sept. 11th at Trinity Episcopal Church, 234 Spring Garden St., Easton to prayerfully reflect on the events of 9/11 & move into hope for a peaceful future together. This is a service to inspire & heal.

Clergy from different faith traditions will participate. Members of Chorus of the Metropolitan Opera; a Chamber Orchestra & singers from the

Easton Area H.S. Choir will offer special music.

Volunteers & Ushers are needed. To volunteer please call Trinity's office at 610-253-0792. There will also be a special Memorial program published & if you would like to include someone in it, please contact Peg Gerns at 610-657-3657.

Donations to cover the costs of this service are welcome to be sent to Trinity Episcopal Church. Please note that it is for the 9/11 service.

Then later in the day The City of Easton will conduct

“A Tribute for Emergency Services”

at Scott Park at 4 p.m.

Tuesday Evening Bible Study – September 6th

We'll be reconvening our Tuesday Night Bible Study on September 6th in the Sue and Eli Ott Social Hall. We meet at 7 p.m. for about 90 minutes. Everyone is welcome; you don't need any prior knowledge of the Bible. We'll be choosing our new topic on the 6th – so come join us. If you are interested in Bible Study but can't make Tuesday evenings, let Pastor Blake know. Also, every Sunday we have three fine adult Sunday School classes - all focused on learning the truth of God's living Word.

Orientation for New Members – September 25th

We have been so blessed to welcome some new friends and neighbors into our midst over the past few months. Our “orientation for new members” is an informal and informational get-together, meeting several times during the Sunday School hour this fall, to get to know each other better and discuss “*who we are and where we are going*” spiritually. We cordially invite everyone who is interested to participate in this process. This first meeting will be held on Sunday, September 25th at 10:30 - downstairs in the Old Sunday School Room. If you are interested, even if that date isn't good for you, please notify Pastor Blake (610-253-3078).



The purpose of the Music Ministry at St. John's Church is to share the gospel of Jesus Christ through song. To encourage believers in their walk with Christ, to lead the congregation in worship and to provide an avenue through which individuals may share their gift and be an integral part of the worship experience.

At St. John's Church the mainstay of our Music Ministry is our Choir. Our Choir is voluntary, and everyone is welcome and encouraged to participate regardless of experience.

There are countless examples of those who in their attempt to sing, more closely resemble *a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal*. It has nothing to do with ability – it has everything to do with knowing the SONG. Yes, that's correct, you don't need to know how to read music or be a trained singer – you just need the desire to share the gospel of Jesus Christ through song!

For when we know the SONG, we can sing with confidence, we can understand the MESSAGE, we can be moved by the heart of the AUTHOR, and fully appreciate the creativity of the COMPOSER.

When we know the SONG, we can dedicate mind, body and spirit to what the SONG requires of us.

When we know the SONG, we can be more thankful for the opportunity to share the SONG.

When we know the SONG, we can experience the joy of teaching others about the SONG.

Joining the Choir is a wonderful way to be an active part of the St. John's Church Family!

Choir rehearsal is scheduled at 7pm on Friday Nights. Generally, we take the last Friday Night of the month off. Our first rehearsal for Fall/Advent 2011 will be September 9, 2011 at 7pm in the Church Sanctuary.

I can only imagine how excited our current choir members would be to see others join them in this mission. Think about it – Pray about it and if you're looking for ways to get more involved in life at St. John's Church – join us on September 9th, when we once again lift our voice in praise as we sing from our story anchored in Him – remembering that God gave the SONG!

And remember — we sing because we know the SONG!



YOUTH NEWS

Follow the Leaderto Sunday School

Join us for Sunday School Rally Day on Sunday, September 11th at 10:30am in The Sanctuary.

With classes ranging from Nursery to Teens to Adults.....you don't want to miss out!!

We are so excited to kick off this year of Sunday School. Tell your friends, tell your neighbors and come out to see what St. John's on Morgan Hill has planned for this years' Sunday School.

Keep an eye out for news, updates and pictures on our two bulletin boards. (One coming out of the sanctuary and one at the far right of the social hall)

If you have questions about our any of our Sunday School Classes please feel free to contact me. Looking forward to an exciting Sunday School Year!!

Susan Stamet, Director of Sunday School

(570) 856-4016

St. John's Young Life

Our first St. John's Young Life meeting took place on August 2nd. We were blessed to have 18 teenager walk through our doors to find out about the LORD!!! Our meeting began in the Sanctuary with the introduction of three different Christian bands. Casting Crowns, "Until the Whole World Hears"; Chris Tomlin, "Our God"; Kutless, "What Faith Can Do". It was an amazing beginning! We followed with the Story of Adam and Eve (from Genesis) and how sin came in to this world. Then talked about Ephesians and becoming the Christian that God wants us to be, and putting away our old nature. We then had open discussion and "Cares and Prayers", where we shared things that were weighing heavy on their hearts and took prayer requests...and we prayed together.

The second half of the meeting was held over in the Social Hall. We played an "Ice Breaker" game of two truths and a lie.....which was pretty funny! We then continued with our plans for future events, mission work and how to meet our financial goals.

Upcoming Meetings:

Tuesday 9/13 and Tuesday 9/27 @ 7pm

Bring a friend or two!

THANK you ... to all those showed up for our first car wash. We raised \$289.00 to help fund our first fun youth trip, tubing down the Delaware River. We had a great time washing your cars and each other!!

Looking forward to many beautiful things to come. Please share this with your neighbors and friends. St. John's Young Life is open to **ANY** teen from **ANY** church. All for God's glory!
Thank you Jesus for all the kind things you taught us. **Now let's spread the WORD!**

In Christian Love,
Dara, Youth Pastor

Tubing the Delaware – has been rescheduled

Due to the high river and scheduling issues we have rescheduled the tubing trip to **Saturday, September 10th. ALL ARE WELCOME!!**

See Susan for more info.

Kick off to Sunday School Breakfast

St John's young Life will be hosting a breakfast ~proceeds will benefit future events and Mission Projects.

When: Sunday, September 11th

Time: 8am - 9am

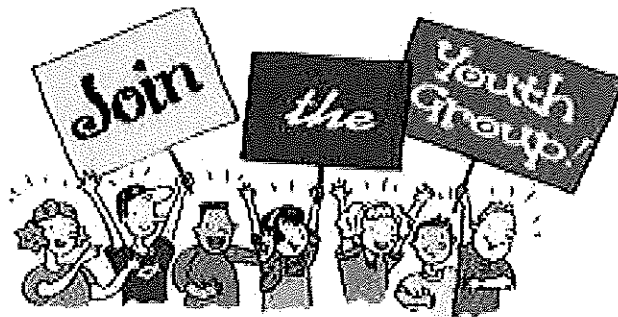
Donations Accepted

Facebook

If you haven't already "like" us on Facebook.

Church – <http://on.fb.me/stjohnsonmorganhill>

Youth Life - <http://on.fb.me/stjohnsyounglife>



Consistory Notes

Brief meeting occurred July 11th

- *Vacation Bible School a success
 - * Pray for and find Superintendent for Sunday School leadership
 - * Jane Lick back as treasurer
 - *Jerry Zoccola acting as president until January
 - *Consistory did not meet month of August, will be holding regular meeting 2nd Monday of September
-

Annual Fall Bazaar and Craft Show at St. John's Church

Looking for an opportunity to find that one-of-a-kind handcrafted gift? Then mark your calendar and plan to stop by St. John's Church on Saturday, October 29, 2011 between 9:00 AM and 3:00 PM for the Annual Fall Bazaar and Craft Show. Items will also be available after worship on Sunday, October 30, 2011.

There are so many ways to share in the fellowship and fun!!

- Join the Bazaar Team and help make items for craft table
- Share ideas for new craft projects
- Sign-up to work at the Bazaar – even if you can only stay a couple of hours, all help is appreciated
- Offer to bake items for the Bake Sale
- Join our Kitchen Crew
 - o Help is needed in the Kitchen the day of the Bazaar
 - o There are opportunities to make food for the Bazaar
- Have a snack or Lunch at the Bazaar.
 - o Homemade food items for a snacks and/or Lunch are available for purchase throughout the day. Why not plan to have lunch at the Bazaar and spend time with your family and friends enjoying some tasty treats and good conversation.

NEW FOR THE 2011 BAZAAR

We are upgrading the raffle for 2011. Lee Tyrone and Vicky Stevens have been working diligently on prize donations and getting the tickets printed. Here are some of the great prizes that have already been donated for this year's raffle –

- o 19" flat screen TV
- o Wildlife Oil Painting on slate by DRUCK

- o Handmade Artisan Bowl
- o \$25.00 Gift Certificate from Country Lawnscape
- o Air Tour Gift Certificate — “Local area air tour for 2 people”. The brochure describes it as a tour centered on local scenic areas of interest. Includes Easton or Nazareth (Approx 10 minutes). It flies out of Braden Airpark on Sullivan Trail in Forks Township. The current value is \$50.00
- o \$50.00 Gift Certificate from Vintage Restaurant
- o Holiday (Fall or Christmas) Floral Arrangement
- o Snowman cookie jar

There will be opportunities to sell the raffle tickets prior to the Bazaar. Watch for the details as they become available. Additional prizes are also welcome.

If you are interested in any of the opportunities to work at or support the Bazaar, please see a member of the Bazaar Committee.

Kathie Haag – Chair

MaryLouise Rader

Robin Rader-Knaap

Dale and Sharon Murray – Kitchen

Lee Tyrone - Raffle/PR

Chele Rader

Nancy Moninghoff

Joni Brobst – Bake Sale

Vicky Stevens – Raffle/PR

Bazaar Team – All Church Members

And don’t forget, there is plenty of opportunity to start your Christmas Shopping early at the bazaar. The Handmade items make great gifts! Hope to see you there!!

Coffee Hour Servers

Openings available for September, October, etc. If you have any questions, contact Phyllis Keppel either after church or call (610) 258-8540.

Volunteer Needed

We are looking for someone to familiarize themselves with where supplies are kept and note when things need to be replenished. Contact Phyllis Keppel.

Anyone who has anything that needs to be included in the newsletter, **please get written copy** of it to either Phyllis Keppel (the church secretary) or Sue Pope **by the 15th of the month**. You also can e-mail your info to Sue at suepope@rcn.com.

Like You

Lord help me to be in Your holy will;
 Tell me what to do today;
 Lead me in Your righteousness;
 Make me more like You, I pray.

Guard me against this corrupting world,
 Its perverted priorities, temptations, too.
 Direct my mind toward Your commands,
 So I can focus my life on You.

Fill my heart with Your light and love,
 So I can assist those I see in need;
 With You as my role model, let me be
 Like You in thought and word and deed.

By Joanna Fuchs