



OUTLOOK

January/February 2012 Newsletter

St. Asaph's Church is called to be a progressive Christian community

We will welcome everyone to God's table.

We will stand with those in need and advocate for the poor, the sick, the friendless and the marginalized.

We will make children central to our life as a community

We will celebrate the presence of God with joyful, engaging and inviting worship.



The God Gap?

A review of [Religion for Atheists](#) in the *Financial Times* states that religion is important in that it provides guidance and comfort through life's more difficult issues such as overcoming selfishness, connecting with nature, facing illness and ultimately of course death. The author, Alain de Botton, is among a growing number of authors taking on the place of religion in our society or perhaps seeing to its demise. A decline of the Church in the West, particularly in Europe, along with the decline of mainline churches here in the U.S. may one day, make the necessity of such arguments moot.

Religion, our Christian faith, does provide us as humans opportunities to mark the passages of life: birth and baptism, adulthood and confirmation, marriage/blessing and the need to continue human life, rituals for forgiveness, times to gather around a meal, the hearing of words that remind us to look beyond ourselves, the calling of us into community, providing rites for the times which come at the end of our lives.

The faith I know and practice, for me, has never really meant to have humans and our nature at its heart but rather the activities and presence of God. Yes, please, may our religion and faith be our companion through this

life, but let our faith even more remind us that we are not alone in this human family. There is something divine around us, with us, in us, under us. As a people of faith, we proclaim, confess, acknowledge, that this God has been specifically revealed to us in Jesus.

This season of Lent, we will gather each Wednesday evening around a pot of soup, bread and salad and center our conversation around Thomas Cahill's [Desire of the Everlasting Hills](#). Cahill... *shows us Jesus from his birth to his execution through the eyes of those who knew him and in the context of his time—a time when the Jews were struggling to maintain their beliefs under overlords who imposed their worldview on their subjects. Here is Jesus the loving friend, itinerate preacher, and quiet revolutionary, whose words and actions inspired his followers to journey throughout the Roman world and speak the truth he instilled—in the face of the greatest defeat: Jesus' crucifixion as a common criminal. Daring, provocative, and stunningly original, Cahill's interpretation will both delight and surprise.* I hope we will add how we have come to see Jesus through our own eyes.

I hope *and pray* that our community gathered here in the faith at the Church of Saint Asaph might be about the closing of the God Gap, or at the very least continuing the conversation that God is very much alive and in our midst. I am so very happy to include all of you in this journey.

Peace to you all,

Barry+

Annual Parish Meeting

A Note from the Rector's Warden: Annual Meeting
January 29, 2012

Dear Friends,

The **annual meeting of the parish is Sunday, January 29, 2012** after the 10:00 a.m. service. (A light luncheon will be available.) This a terrific occasion to learn more about the activities of the community and how the people of the parish serve the surrounding communities--and one another in times of need and in times of celebration. Please come and hear brief reports from the committee chairs, the presentation of the 2012 budget, a look at both where the parish has been in the past year and prospects for the future. This is an opportunity also to meet the parish members standing for election to the vestry for three-year terms. (**Elections will be Sunday, Feb. 11, 2012.**) The vestry is the leadership group of the parish, working closely with the rector to guide the parish, to sustain the vision of our community and to recognize challenges and to help the parish plan ahead.

I want to thank Father Barry and the 2011 vestry for their dedication, wisdom and commitment to strengthening our community. I especially want to recognize those members finishing up their terms this month: **Mary Chris Lindsay, Bob Powell; Teresa Wallace; and Lori Wernersbach. Teresa, as Accounting Warden**, has also worked tirelessly on our finances, organizing our accounts, paying our bills on time and working on our budget planning process. Thank you all for your service. I, too, am cycling off the vestry. It has been my distinct privilege to serve with this vestry and as Rector's Warden. I am especially pleased that we were able to formalize Father Barry's presence among us this past year as Rector of St. Asaphs from his role as priest-in-charge, and we can look forward to his spiritual and pastoral leadership well into the future. Moreover, the 2012 vestry will reconstitute itself with new elected members and wardens, and this talented group is well-prepared to lead and to extend the work and development of our community.

St. Asaphs is a wonderful, generous, growing community with a lot of forward momentum. We are truly blessed.
Chris Dennis

Pastoral Care Retreat

By Mary Chris Lindsay

On **Saturday, February 11th**, the Pastoral Care Team will have a retreat/training day. We will begin with breakfast at 8:30am and conclude with a Eucharist by 1:30pm. There will be prayer, quiet time, talks, discussions and practice sessions. The main areas of concentration will be listening skills and prayer. **Anyone who is interested in joining the team, or just exploring that possibility, is welcome to come to the retreat.**

Peggy Ann Russell will be a guest presenter for the day. Peggy has an MS in Pastoral Care and Counseling from Neumann University, with concentrations in both pastoral counseling and spiritual direction. She has worked with the chaplain department of the VA hospital in Coatesville. Peggy brings a deep spirituality and rich experience to our time together.

For more information, or if you plan to join us for the retreat, please contact Mary Chris Lindsay at 610-789-1099 or mclsilence@msn.com.

Youth Formation

By Steve Sheeran

Souper Bowl

It's that time again! The Superbowl is approaching and so is the SOUPER BOWL. The youth of Saint Asaph's are participating in the 2012 Souperbowl of Caring to help fight hunger. The Souperbowl is a nationwide charitable event that takes place in the weeks prior to the Superbowl each year. Cans of soup are collected for local charities, and on Souperbowl Sunday, February 5th, the donations of soup are blessed and distributed.

On January 17-February 5th, the youth of Saint Asaph's will be collecting cans of soup (or monetary donations for cans of soup) to be distributed to Northlight, ElderNet, and Episcopal Relief and Development. Donations for the Souperbowl can be dropped off in the church office during the week, or in our Souperbowl display, which will be going up this Sunday. Our goal is to collect 250 cans.

Rice & Tea Coffee Hour

On February 26th the youth formation will host a Rice & Tea coffee hour to benefit Share Food Philadelphia, Inc.

Children's Formation

By Julia Miller



We had a great Advent and Christmas season and the New Year is upon us! Thank you SO much to all who participated in our Advent and Christmas activities! They were amazing this year! So far it has been a busy New Year, and there's more to come, In keeping with the focus of the Spark curriculum, I have been creating lesson plans which link the principles of the Gospel text to something the kids can see and do, or a real life example to which they can relate. So far in January, we

have done a “sticky water” science experiment about surface pressure and used it to explain the meaning of baptism, we celebrated MLK Day by examining the role of youth in the Civil Rights movement and making our own abstract people art. We also went on a “find-the-fish scavenger hunt to illustrate the meaning “fishers of people.” So far, the kids are having a great time!

At the moment, all the youth are participating in the Souperbowl of Caring to donate cans of soups to local charities on Superbowl Sunday! See the newsletter and the table outside the sanctuary for details. Lent is coming up in February, and I am looking at the possibility of a contemplative theme for our Lenten Sundays. We are also looking at dates for the kids to continue participating in our regular Sunday liturgies. It is also my hope to have an environmental stewardship focus on March 4th! Stay tuned for more details in your e-message.

Lastly, I am finishing up the St. Asaph Cradle Roll. If you would like your child to be included and haven't let me know, please do—ASAP.

Blessings,

Julia

Stewardship

Live Abundantly! Give Abundantly!
2012 Pledge Drive
By Mary Allen

Thanks to all of you who have paid off your 2011 pledges. There was a good surge at the end of the year which helped to pay some bills!

Now is when we start paying our 2012 pledges; so, I want to remind you that paying regularly (by the week or by the month) is a great help to the treasurer. We need to be able to anticipate the receipt of funds throughout the year. We find it is easiest to pay at the beginning of each month; that way we can easily keep up to date with our payments. Some parishioners arrange for their bank to send in the payment automatically.

If you asked for envelopes, please check on top of the piano; if they are not there, please call Lynda in the Parish Office 610-664-0966 and specify whether you want monthly (12 envelopes) or weekly (52). **Remember that you only need to use envelopes if you are paying with cash.**

Pledges for 2012 keep coming in! We now have **78** pledging units (some are families), promising a total of **\$205,887.00**. This is quite wonderful, a real compliment to Barry. Thank you all for your faithful generosity. Here are names of those who have pledged to date:

Allen, Roger & Mary	Harte, Barry & Mark McCormick
Alvare, Jeannine	Hauser, Gwen
Bacher, Jeff	Haye-Carr, Sandra
Banson, Renee	Hiers, June B.
Barrett, Janet & John	Harker, Roy
Brennan, Laura & Bill	Hjelm, Norman
Carton, Jane	Hodge, Pat & Camille Torres
Caudill, Dave & Penny Pether	Hubbard, Kathy & Smith Ragsdale
Cassar, Erin & Dan	Harshbarger, Mary Ann
Chawaga, Steve & Laurie Novo	King, Saeeda
Chou, John & Teresa Wallace	Kollin, Mabel
Clayton, William R.	Kourbeh, Ibrahim & Lisa
Cronin, Bob & Emily	Kurtz, Katherine
Dass Poonamali, Aruna & Daniel	Lindsay, Mary Chris & Steve
Dawkins, Andrea	Linfoot, Carol
Dempster, Audrey	Love, Jay & Sue
Dennis, Chris	Love, Karen
Desnoyers, Neil & Andi Gray	Milner, George & Marlene
Doris, Peter	Moodie, Jeff & Kay
Flegal, Wendy	Moore, John C.
Frank, Joan	Morris, Trish & Sue Thompson
Garvan, Nicole	Murphey, Allene
Graves, Adelle	Nelsen, Chuck & Linda
Graves, Stevie & George	Pearne, Sally
Roberts, Joan	Peterson, Marisa & Tim
Shea, Erika & Frank	Porrata-Doria, Christie & Rafael
Sheeran, Pam, Steve	Post, Diana & Lily Milroy
Shively, Keith	Powell, Virginia, Bob
Shore, Stephanie	Quinn, Frances
Silbaugh, Liz & John	Ramsey, Carolyn
Stelzenmuller, Bernie & Connie	Renneisen, Kay & Wayne
Sterthous, Linda	Rideout, Barbara & Ken
Stewart, Kristen	Roberts, Anna
Stineman, Margaret	Williams, Geraldine
Teelucksingh, Zabeth	Williamson, Shelley Owen

Timbers, Lois Woolson, Chris & Robert
 Mullen
Wernersbach, Lori Wolcott, Renee

Gratefully,

The Stewardship Committee
Mary Allen, Sandra Haye Carr, Diana Post, Marisa
and Tim Peterson

Behold what you are; become what you see.
(St. Augustine)

Outreach

Martin Luther King Day of Service **By Joanne Behm and Janet Barrett**

St. Asaph's members carpoled and caravanned enthusiastically on a sunny-and-cold January 16th to serve students at the St. James School and their West Allegheny neighborhood at the new school's 2nd annual service/work-day. Joined by Penn Charter high-school students, community members, and other St. James School boosters, our contingent swelled the volunteer ranks to nearly 100 strong. The morning festivities began with a prayer service in the historic Church of St. James the Less, located across Clearfield Street from the School's building and grounds. The words of Dr. King were played, and guests were encouraged to reflect upon his messages and the events that made up the Civil Rights Movement.

Volunteers were organized into work-parties, and got straight to work: neighborhood trash pickup, historic church cemetery cleanup, cleaning inside the church, school library book cataloguing and shelving, and painting the community house interior. St. Asaph's crews were ably represented by **Emily Cronin, Zabeth and Emma Teelucksingh, Janet and Becky Barrett, Bill Clayton , Barry Harte and Kate Harte-McCormick, Patrick Cumberland, Steve Sheeran, and Joanne Behm, Erika Shae, Mary Allen, Margaret Hunting**

Volunteers stopped work to eat a hearty lunch together, prepared by community members, in the School's sunny dining room: mac-n-cheese, soup, and hot cider. Afterwards, we continued in our work-groups and stopped at 1:30 for the School's "DEAR" program --- DROP EVERYTHING AND READ! -- in which volunteers are paired with St. James students for a reading-aloud-for-pleasure session.

Sincere thanks to all who attended and worked hard on this day!

NOTE: St. James School is actively recruiting tutors to work with their students one-on-one. Do consider giving of your talents in this worthwhile, on-going volunteer opportunity. A training and orientation program is being planned -- stay tuned for details! Contact Janet Barrett jb2rs2ts@comcast.net to add your name to those who are interested in learning more and/or attending.



Students & Friends



Bob Powell



Erika Shae



Emily Cronin



Zabeth Teelucksingh



Janet Barret and Zabeth



Lunch



Prayer

Christmas Party and Caroling at St. James By Zabeth Teelucksingh



On a chilly night in December, an eager group from St Asaph's set out for St James' School in the West Allegheny section of Philadelphia to take part in caroling and fellowship. Having met children and staff from the school in the main hall, we set off in the neighboring areas to sing at various homes. Our first stop was a brightly lit terraced house where we all sang "The First Noel" with gusto.



We continued on our merry way, stopping at every 3 or 4th house to sing a carol or two: *Silent Night, O Come All Ye Faithful, It Came Upon a Midnight Clear...* In many places, entire families came out with cameras to take photographs of this time old custom, being repeated in 2011 Some were even filming us! We met new

people, got to know some better and eventually ended up back at St James's.



There the children gathered in a circle with adult members of the school and St. Asaph's parishioners. Each child was thankful for something – Mum, Dad, their families, the school, the whole wide world; touching utterances from future young minds. After prayers, food was served and gifts were given out. These had been provided by our church and a generous anonymous donation. In addition, handmade ornaments created by Julia Miller, and Becky and Janet Barrett, were handed out to all the children in attendance. A good time was had by all and the spirit of Christmas was very much in evidence that night.

Wednesday Readers for Just Children

Contact **Laura Brennan** if you are interested in joining the roster of a group of our members who read to the children at this Head Start Program on Wednesdays. Lbbrennan@comcast.net

Music and Arts

By Roy Harker, Director



Saint Asaph's Gallery, located at 27 Conshohocken Road in Bala Cynwyd, will present an exhibit by local artist

Sibylle-Maria Pfaffenbichler, in an exhibit entitled "Can you hear the music, can feel the joy? : Mixed-media paintings and Drawings, **February 3rd through February 26th. The Opening Reception will be Friday, February 3, from 6 – 8:00 pm.** The Church and Gallery, located behind the Bala Cynwyd Shopping Center on City Avenue are fully accessible. Regular Gallery hours are M-F 9:00am to 3:00pm or by appointment.



Sibylle-Maria Pfaffenbichler writes the following about her life and works'

Can you hear the music, can you feel the joy? My quest is to captivate the exuberance and vitality of the American dance like Boogie-Woogie, the Lindy Hop and Rock n' Roll. Also the creators of the highly inspiring jazz music play a big role in my portfolio. American dance has been my main theme for the past 10 years.

I work in all media, one of my favorite tools is the charcoaled willow stick.

I was born and raised in Steyr, Austria, and came to the US as teenager. My art training started back in Austria as a kid with evening courses in Continuing Education, later on "Drawing" at the Art Students League in New York City, followed by a BFA from the Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT)/State U. of New York, and advanced art studies at Long Island University, Southampton, NY. My work was exhibited in solo and group shows in museums, galleries and unconventional places in New York City, the Hamptons of Long Island and Vienna, Austria. For the past 3 years Philadelphia is my home.

Please visit my website at: www.mozartandjazz.com <http://www.mozartandjazz.com/>

For more details, contact Roy Harker, Director of Music and the Arts for the Church of Saint Asaph, at arts@saintasaphs.org <mailto:arts@saintasaphs.org> .

St. Asaph's Church is a progressive and inclusive Christian community. We offer the message of Christianity to those who sometimes find organized religion ineffectual, irrelevant or repressive. We see our faith as an agent of justice and peace. We are a community that embraces search, not certainty. We believe faith is a process not a destination.

Property

By Steve Sheeran

December 3rd Work Day



Mary and Wendy joyful in the contained leaf pile.

Thanks to **Mary Allen, John Chou, Bill Clayton, Christie Huddleston, Barry Harte, Kevin Harte-McCormick, Sally Pearne, Bob Powell, Steve Sheeran, Connie Stelzenmuller and Teresa Wallace** for coming out and helping with grounds clean-up and composting. This work day and the one in November helped save about \$3800.00 in landscaping cost and will provide free mulch for the Philabundance garden. The next work day will be Saturday March 10th from 9am until 1pm.

Mold Remediation Work

ServPro has started demolition and mold remediation work in the basement of the church and parish hall. This work should be completed in three or four weeks.

Congregation



Say hello to **Keith Shively**. If you haven't met him personally, do. He is very engaging. Here is his story:

"Right now I am 74 years old for about 8 more months. I was born at home in a village named Hartleton, in Union County, PA. Hartleton now balances its budget by being a speed trap and zapping those "foreigners" on their way to State College/Penn State. I did briefly attend a one room school house. Our family lived in the West End of Union County until I was in the 4th grade... Then we moved to Mifflinburg, about ten miles east, and that is where the 4 children grew up.

Both parents were one of 12 children and both first generation off the farm. I remember my summers on the Sampsell family farm. My mother sent me up there for two or three weeks at a time and I loved my Aunt Laura, Aunt Olive and Cousin Kathyleen. My grandfather Sampsell played the fiddle – as they called it - and could speak Pennsylvania Dutch.

I remember one day riding with my Uncle Ned in some type of wagon and he kept saying, "Come on, gal." I thought how does he know that horse is a gal? It was many years later that I learned gal was a Pennsylvania Dutch word for horse.

I also remember asking Uncle Fred how he could tell if a kitten was a boy or a girl and I remember he blushed and he never did tell me.

My surname, Shively, is an Anglicized version of Scheibli or various other spellings. It was a prevalent name in the Schwaben area of Germany. My father's people came from Oberdorf, Switzerland in 1736, entering through the Port of Philadelphia, and from there migrated to the interior of Pennsylvania. I do have Indian fighters and Revolutionary soldiers lurking in the background. I recently worked with some cousins to raise money to preserve a colonial cemetery. The preferred given names for generations were Christian and Jacob for boys. I don't know how they came up with Keith. Probably a movie actor in the 30's.

My Grandfather Shively was a livestock dealer who traveled west and brought horses east in the early years of the 20th century. He would auction them off to farmers. Eventually, he expanded into other livestock, raising and wholesaling the meat and eventually raising, slaughtering and retailing meat and poultry. At one point in time Clarence sold his business to his sons Clark and Fred. My uncles provided Saturday employment to many nephews, nieces and grandchildren. Just about every kid in the family got to work in that butcher shop grinding beef and slicing Lebanon bologna. Still am not terribly fond of Lebanon bologna.

Sometime after high school my sister invited me to come to Philadelphia to live with her and Ben, her husband. June was just enough older than I to look out for and look after her younger, goofy gay brother. I loved her dearly and miss her terribly.

I got a job working for INA as a clerk and it was a really fun job. Nice people but only years later did I realize that there were no blacks or Jews working at INA. Thank goodness we have moved on.

After INA I returned to Union County and attended a small college, Bucknell, where several of my cousins matriculated. One year was enough and it was a total failure and let me know how out of step I was with the majority. Some good memories and some lasting friendships germinated during that year at Bucknell.

When I returned to Philadelphia after that year or so back in the corn belt I worked for an oil company located in the GSB building. Three years slipped by and a friend told me to do something about making more money. I went to night school to learn Stenotype, the language of court reporters. You can ask Carolyn Ramsey about that. After achieving a level of competence I free lanced for about 3 years doing fender-bender depositions.

One day my mentor came into the office and said, "Are you registered?" "No." "Go register Republican. I have a job for you." And so the next quarter century was spent as a patronage employee working in the City of Philadelphia criminal court rooms. What an education! What a trip! For years I worked in Police station courtrooms with the last of a breed, the non-lawyer magistrate judges. One night after a long, grueling day in West Kensington I dreamed in Spanish. And I am not fluent in Spanish.

25 years was enough and at age 55, with some medical problems hounding me, I retired. Now, what I have that my colleagues who worked until 62 or 65 do not have are the 7 or 10 years for myself. I spent those years going to drawing, sculpture and painting courses at PAFA and it was great. The distance between City Hall and PAFA is not several city blocks but more like light years.

I have to tell you all that my religious journey was not easy. I was confirmed as a Lutheran when I was 14 or 15. I truly do not remember. I do remember thinking, even back then, that this guy Pastor Fisher, is heavy on faith and doesn't like to be questioned. A question would evoke a some-what condescending answer accompanied with a look of annoyance. I still do question but ask myself the questions and think about them.

And given the time frame, mid-20th century, people like Keith were not always welcome. If one saw "Doubt" do remember the mother saying something to the effect of "If God made him like that and put him here, he put him here for a reason." I do believe that God has a plan for all of us.

As for my personal partnership: I met Tom Williams on an evening about 45 years ago by pure chance at the former Pine Bar, a neighborhood watering hole at 23rd

and Pine Streets. Something is right about this relationship if we are 45 years together. Not always hitting high C but always overcoming differences. Tom is a graduate of Penn State Hotel & Restaurant Administration School but only worked a few years in that industry. He spent his career at the DOD, from which he retired. Tom comes from a family that was Protestant and Catholic and there were never any problems about it.

Since moving into The Trianon across Con-State Road from St. Asaph I have been looking at you with some envy or longing. Some years ago we attempted a meeting with a former rector that ended in a non-meeting affront to us and I backpedaled for a number of years.

At this time in my life I need the community, the culture, the familiarity. I come up a bit short on Christian theology but I do have the Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church, which I bought for \$1 at a St. Asaph jumble about six or seven years ago. It comes in handy from time to time. People tend to forget a lot over 40 or 50 years.

When I moved to The Trianon about 11 years ago it was a difficult move. We wanted to go to Center City but at that time the wait for a 2 bedroom, 2 bath co-op apartment was almost five years. No, no, no! We had to move on. Our 1935 stone house needed a new roof and new air-conditioning and fewer steps. We found The Trianon.

I keep busy. I like to cook. I paint with oils and acrylics. I do a large part of The Trianon Times, our house newsletter. When I had a house with a garden I gardened. Come spring I hope to put in a bed of flowers along Con-State Road in the church yard. I'm a theatre buff. We have perhaps five subscriptions. As a young man I did several roles in little theatre. I soon came to realize that I had neither the discipline nor the talent to be an actor. I'm on several building committees. I don't have enough time."

A Reflection By Linda Sterthous

Late last year, a group of people from St. Asaph's, St. Mary's (Ardmore) and St. Martins (Radnor) met together for six weeks to talk about the concepts in the provocative book [Saving Jesus from the Church](#). The book, written by Congregational minister Robin Meyer, posits that we Christians spend so much of our energy quibbling over matters of doctrine, that we lose sight of the essential messages that Jesus was trying to convey. Meyer's book attempts to return focus to Jesus' words and messages. Several members of our congregations reacted negatively to the cover art on the book, a decidedly controversial



portrait of Jesus with a piece of duct tape across his mouth. [In truth, it's a silly piece of art..... as if there was duct tape in 1st century Palestine!] But, as our mothers often taught us as kids, "you can't judge a book by its cover..." Indeed the book itself was not nearly as controversial as its cover art! Meyer's main messages re-focused on the themes of faith in action, forgiveness, compassion, justice, and relationship with our fellow human beings. The discussions were lively and inspiring, as each week, participants showed up with well-thumbed and underlined copies of the books. Many in the group felt that they learned as much from their fellow discussants and their observations about Christianity as they did from reading the book itself. At the conclusion of six weeks of intense discussion, many of us were reluctant to end. So we ended with a prayer and a pledge to read another thought-provoking book in the near future. Stay tuned.

Poetry Corner

By Virginia Powell

Cold Complainer

Yes, it's cold
and
the wind blows against your cheek.
And your teeth begin to chatter.
And when your teeth begin to chatter,
it makes a clatter.
And when people hear a clatter,
it makes them ask,
"what's the matter?"
And when they ask you
what's the matter,
it doesn't
make you gladder
it makes you madder.
And when you're madder,
oh, good heavens,
what could it possibly matter?
It's cold.
Live with it!

Climate Reality Project

By Sally Pearne

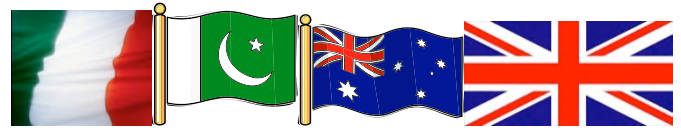
(from the Prayers of the People, January 14, 2012) "All your works are wonderful and marvelously made, and you desire abundant life for all your creatures. Knit together all that is broken, and restore the balance of life on earth. Hear us, O God."

On Saturday morning, March 3, 10:00, St. Asaph's will host a speaker from the Climate Reality Project, a group founded by Al Gore, and dedicated to disseminating information pertaining to what is and is not true regarding global climate changes. Our speaker is Richard Whiteford, a Pennsylvania resident, who has

authored over 500 articles and given some 250 presentations on this topic. He has appeared as a keynote speaker for the United Nations, and the Climate Summit in Copenhagen, as well as the Free Library of Philadelphia, and local churches and synagogues.

While this program is still a work in progress, the current planning for the event is as follows: Richard Whiteford's presentation will be given at the Bala Theater and will include a 40-minute power-point presentation, followed by 20 minutes (or as long as needed) for Q & A. His topics will include real (but comprehensible) science of climate change, implications for citizens in our immediate area (i.e. why should we care?), and practical steps we can take as individuals. All in the audience are then invited to St. Asaph's, where pizza and beverage will be provided, meet-and-greet Richard Whiteford can occur, and small group discussions focusing upon what listeners feel they can commit to doing to assist damage control. Mr. Whiteford has offered to stay as long as he is needed to facilitate understanding of this topic; it is "guesstimated" that the program will conclude around 12:30. Please join us for what should be an interesting, stimulating and informative morning!

Dinners to Raise Money for St. Asaph's



International Dinner Series Update & Cooks By Zabeth Teelucksingh

The 2012 season is proving to be an animated one for the International Dinner Series--we will be going around sign-up sheet will be posted in the church hallway at least 3 weeks before each event. Dinners cost \$35 per person and include a three-course meal with wine. All proceeds go directly to St. Asaph's. To date we have raised over \$1,000 with three dinners. Please let me know if you would like to try your hand at cooking a Global Meal and raising a few dollars for our wonderful Global Church Family. Contact zabetht@gmail.com or call 561-843-1050.

Pakistani Dinner	February 4 th
Australian Dinner	February 4 th (postponed from December 2011)
Irish Dinner	March 10 th
Indian Dinner	March 24 th
Vegetarian Gourmet Dinner	March 31 st

Spanish Cinco de Mayo Dinner	May 5 th
Thai Dinner	Date to be confirmed
UN Buffet in the Parish Hall	\$20 per person. Date to be announced

Book Club



Bob and Roger

The December book club meeting is always festive and fun--we get a larger crowd, eat wonderful food and are entertained with a "spirited" program. Back by popular demand was a reading of an original adaptation of *The Christmas Story* by **Bob Cronin with Roger Allen** providing a lighter side to the telling of the story.

We are pleased that **Barry Harte** will lead our next book discussion in the parish parlor on Monday, February 13 at 7:30. Here is his review of "The Swerve How the World Became Modern" by Stephen Greenblatt. (Hardcover 320 pages.)

Stephen Greenblatt's *The Swerve*, which won this year's (2011) National Book Award for nonfiction, unearths the riveting story of an Italian book hunter named Poggio Bracciolini, who, one fateful day in 1417, stumbled across what was then the only known surviving copy of the Roman poet Lucretius's *On the Nature of Things*. It was a discovery, Greenblatt says, that would kick-start the Renaissance and usher in all manner of thought that we consider "modern." Pretty huge claims, but Greenblatt is both scholar and storyteller enough to support them. Among other radical notions, Lucretius claimed that all matter is composed of atoms and that human beings simply return to this cosmic atomic dance when we die. *The Swerve* makes readers appreciate the fragility of cultural inheritance and the need to safeguard books — especially the good ones — from the ubiquitous dust of neglect and casual indifference.

Loaves and Fishes

For the feast of the three Kings (Epiphany), **Karen Love** persuaded the Kosher baker at Acme to bake a small baby Jesus figure into a cake for coffee hour. Horrified, the baker first said "no" and then remembered he had a separate oven and a separate room where he could produce the cake without breaking any religious laws. Ecumenism any way we can get it. Here is a photo of the cake and a picture of Liam who found the baby Jesus in his piece.



Liam with his prize

Tuesday, February 21 Mardi Gras Pancake Supper

Monday, April 30 Philadelphia Antique Show

Saturday, May 19 Island Fling

Flower Guild/Altar Guild

Thanks to **Stevie Graves** for hosting what has become our annual guild gathering in recognition of the remarkable teamwork necessary to prepare the St. A's sanctuary during the Christmas season.





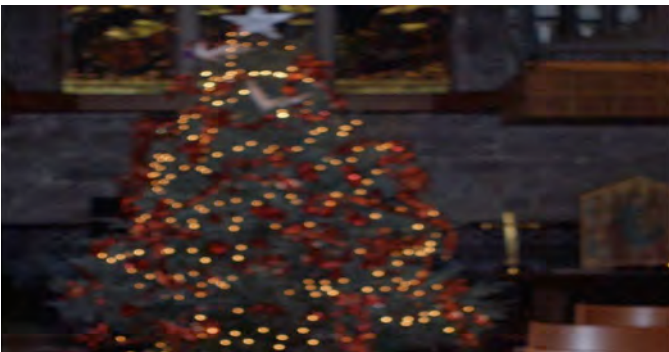
“The peace of God that passes all understanding”

Christmas at St. Asaph’s

It takes so much participation in the way of donations and effort from our members to make our worship and our rituals meaningful. We thank you very much for contribution that you may have made during the Advent/Christmas season.



Mary Chris greening



Our beautiful tree



Toys for St. James



Audrey and Jane



The east altar



Marlene making plaques



The Christmas Pageant



PRAYERS

Those for whom our prayers have been asked: We pray for Jeannine Alvare, Alice Barrett, John Barrett, Josh Delclos, Barbara Barrett & Victor Delclos, Jamie Dent, Bill Duffey, The Achuff Family, Sarah Hargis, Alice Longdin, Emerald Randolph, Kayte Reeves, Edward Samarco, Bessie Smith, Theresa Townley, Kathy Whalen, Doretta Walker, and Robbie Walters.

Those who have recently died in the parish: Joyce Finkbiner, Chris Wood (Steve Sheeran), and Peter Menard, (Rafael Porrata-Doria).

St. Asaph's Church is a house of prayer for all people and a community that works to be progressive in belief and inclusive in practice.

Sunday Schedule

8 am, Contemplative Communion
9 am, Spiritual Formation for all ages
10 am, Parish Eucharist

Holy Days as announced

Summer Schedule

9:15 am

Parish Staff

The Rev. Barry J. Harte, Rector
Roy Harker, Director of Music & Arts
Steve Sheeran, Youth Formation
Julia Miller, Children's Formation
Lynda Staton, Parish Administrator

Pastoral Care Team: Rev'd Barry J. Harte, Mary Chris Lindsay, Leader; Janet Barrett, Associate

Parish Vestry

Teresa Wallace, Accounting Warden
Chris Dennis, Rector's Warden
Mary Allen, Laura Brennan, Sandra Haye-Carr, Mary Chris Lindsay, Bob Powell, Smith Ragsdale, John Silbaugh, Linda Sterthous, Kristen Stewart, Lori Wemersbach

Parish Office

Hours: Mon-Fri, 9a-3p
Phone: 610-664-0966
Fax: 610-664-3760

Diocese of Pennsylvania

The Rt. Rev'd Charles E. Bennison, Jr, *Bishop*
The Rt. Rev'd Rodney R. Michel, *Assisting Bishop*
The Rt. Rev'd Allen Bartlett, *Assisting Bishop*
The Rt. Rev'd Ed Lee, *Assisting Bishop*

Contact **Connie Stelzenmuller**, stelzen@verizon.net, newsletter editor, to submit articles or to request changes.

TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL -- PLEASE HANDLE PROMPTLY

OUTLOOK

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On the web at
www.saintasaphs.org

Check and return to church office
If you no longer wish to be on our mailing list.