



OUTLOOK

June 2011 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.



Why Christian? is the title of a short book by John Douglas Hall. Hall is an author with whom some of you are familiar, having studied his book on the theology of the cross. I am just starting this more recent book and invite you all to join me if you want one more summer read- only 182 pages this time! (Not the nearly 600 of the Warmth of Other Suns- but that one should certainly be on your reading list.)

The title of Hall's latest caught my attention. I have been pondering the recent study of the demise of the Western Church by a team of sociologists out of Europe. I pray that the demise they suggest is a bit premature; however, it does give me pause. Another study, more local to Philadelphia ties the economic health of a neighborhood to the local community of faith and the impact the closing of a local parish has on that place. The underlying issue for me is always not so much about the institution and its survival, as much as it is about the question and place of faith.

The Church is first and foremost a place where people of faith gather. As people of faith we continually are to question why it is we claim this faith- and are claimed by this faith. We ask as Christians how we are to be about the practice of this faith. We ask what our faith means for

the greater community around us, yes, even the economic well being of the place and places where our faith is practiced. The ancient covenant God makes with Abraham and Sarah (and with Hagar?) calls us all into this faith, this relationship where, yes there are descendants (support and future), a place to grow and prosper (land), AND all for a purpose- to be a blessing to others.

It is a relationship, not a building or location where we begin this thing which is faith and it is in relationship with one another we ask the fundamental questions as to why we are indeed Christian, here and now. I know, these questions are not new, they are older than any of us, they are ancient ones. The questions, I believe, are fundamental to who we are as humans.

Over the course of the summer, I hope to highlight some of the questions that Hall puts forward. I hope that you will join me in the asking and share with me your thoughts, your answers as well. Why Christian? For now, I would answer simply, because God has called me to be so. Now what? is never far behind.

Thank you to you all for your faithfulness to all the questions of this faith of ours and for your willingness to take that journey here at the Church of Saint Asaph.

Peace,

Barry+

Liturgy



This worship/discussion service will begin again in the fall with Blue LeMay.

“We will make children central to our life as a community.”

Children’s Formation



Julia Miller

Hello Saint Asaph's Family,

It's summer! This is my favorite time of the year. School is over and vacations begin! Unfortunately though, it also means that Formation is ending for the year. Our last class is June 12th, which is Pentecost, and weather permitting, we will be outside. One of my favorite things about the end of school was Field Day, so I am working on a Pentecost Field Day for the kids, with games that relate to the Holy Spirit. So far, we have a balloon game, three legged races, and a Trust Walk through the gave yard. We will start the service outside with a procession that the kids will participate in, and will be resurrecting our phoenix bird to join in! There will be an email soon with more details, so check your inboxes. We will also be honoring teachers, parents, and helpers that day, so please come so that we can recognize and thank you for your help!

Since this is our last newsletter for the season, I also want to take a moment to thank everyone for such a wonderful first year here at Saint Asaph's! We have great families in this congregation, and it has been my

privilege all year to serve your children, and watch them grow in faith. This community has made my work a pleasure. Thank you for letting me be a part of all you do here. If this year was this good, next year's Formation will be epic!

Blessings,
Julia Miller

Youth Formation

By Steve Sheeran



Left to right—Margaret and Mary

The Confirmation service for **Mary Chawaga and Margaret Nelsen** will be at the **Cathedral on Thursday June 2nd at 7pm**. All are welcome to attend the service and show their support for Mary and Margaret. Please encourage, support and pray for them as they prepare to affirm their faith and commit to their Baptismal responsibilities.

City Camp 2011 at St. James the Less

City Camp is a week long urban camping adventure for youth entering 7th grade through high school seniors. (Adult volunteers are also welcomed). It combines the opportunities of a Christian camp with the life changing experience of urban mission work. Young people camp on the property of St. James the Less, while they assist a day camp program, clean up vacant lots, tackle construction projects and much more. City Camp is an opportunity to create a community with common meals, prayer and service.

There are four sessions: June 26 – July 1; July 1-July 8; July 9 – July 15; and July 16-July 22. (As of early May the third session: July 9-July15 is full). The cost is \$300 per person which includes meals, project supplies, evening activities, t-shirts, etc. The camp is sponsored by the Office of Youth Ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania. Contact Steve Sheeran for more information.

Strategic Planning Committee

By Steve Chawaga



The parish's 3-year strategic plan has been finished and accepted by the Vestry. You can review the full copy on the church website. The plan's projects are based on the parish conversations that were held last fall, and are grouped around four ministries: **worshipping, welcoming, reaching out, and developing**. Here are some highlights:

In the area of **worshipping**, we will expand and develop the Edge service and integrate children more fully into our worship.

We will **reach out** to other faith communities and particularly to an inner city parish, strengthen our ties with St. James school and Bala House, and expand our food ministry to year-round activities.

We will **welcome** musicians and artists in new ways, and form a Community Contact Committee to survey people and community groups in our area to find out what needs we can help to meet. We will also find new ways to bring people on to our campus and improve access to parish buildings.

Finally, we will seek to raise money by **developing** our rental space, applying for grants, asking to be included in parishioners' wills, and conducting a capital campaign.

We need assistance from everyone in the parish in order to accomplish these ambitious goals. Plan to stay after church on **June 5** to hear about the plan and to sign up to participate in one or more of the new activities. **A picnic lunch will be provided. If you can't be in church on the 5th, send an e-mail to Lynda in the church office (office@saintasaphs.org) and let us know what project you want to be a part of.**

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

Outreach



“LET’S ALL MEET FOR A PICNIC IN THE PARK “ Appleford Estate By Jane Carton

On Sunday, May 1, ElderNet sponsored a fundraiser to benefit the Ada Mutch Food Pantry, which has become a valuable and much used source of nonperishable food goods for a growing number of Lower Merion and Narberth residents.



The centerpiece of the event was the “Presentation of Community Awards”, which included The Church of St. Asaph being recognized for a “Special Good Neighbor Award”. **Father Barry** graciously accepted the award on behalf of our many generous parishioners who faithfully donate food goods each week to be brought to the pantry located on the campus of the Ludington Library.

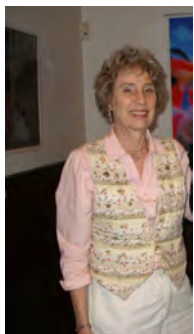


John Chou, Teresa Wallace, Pam and Steve Sheeran, Allene Murphey and Ginny and Bob Powell were in attendance, along with **Jane Carton**, who serves on the board of ElderNet and was chair of the silent auction. Following the awards, The Orpheus Club provided lively entertainment and a good time was had by all for a most worthy cause. Incidentally, Steve bid on and won a lovely pearl necklace for Pam.



Reflections on the Walk

By Sally Pearne



First, my heart-felt thank you to so many of you who supported the second **St. Asaph's Walk for Hope** on May 21. Your support came in many forms--organizing strategies, gifts and distribution of bottled water and snacks, floral arrangements, kitchen help, poster placing in Narberth and Bala, banner hanging, walking, donating, technical support, greeting and registration, and, most important,

general encouragement from all of you..

A person with a very short resume in events planning, I was, as last year, anxious as the day of the Walk

approached, but was met with assistance and support from you at every turn. Perhaps the ultimate in support was provided, literally, from Above – when I was out walking the evening before the Walk, trying to memorize my introductory remarks for **Dr. Sataloff**, and discovered a rainbow arching over my neighborhood – which I took as divine assurance that everything would be just fine; then, again from Above, the next morning dawned glorious in sunshine and blue skies for the first time in 8 days!

On the day of the Walk, everything went according to plan – can you believe that?! Everybody came out for their helping roles, the balloons arrived on time, the township authorities did not arrest us for taking a route they had said we could not take, drivers honked in support, the rhododendrons were still out, Kathy Hubbard's little dog joined us. This year we were accompanied on the walk by **Melissa Bollman Jenkins**, a representative of breastcancer.org, who later gave a brief but moving perspective of the help provided to women across the world through this website. Dr. Sataloff spoke again about the incredible advances in diagnosis, treatment, and survival – Hope, if you will – in the fight against breast cancer. The speakers were inspirational and well-received by a small but enthusiastic audience – and – get this: **despite only a very few more participants than last year, we raised three times the money as last year!** (And reimbursements needed from the church will be a fraction of last year.)

Few of us can say our lives have not been touched by breast cancer. One of every eight women will develop it sometime in her life, and most of us know more than eight women. Let me close with a quotation from the thank you note sent by **Dr. Marisa Weiss**, founder and director of breastcancer.org: "Thank you for raising precious funds for breastcancer.org. We are so grateful for your championship and commitment. It means so much to the millions of people who depend on us."



Our speakers on the left **Melissa Jenkins** from breastcancer.org and on the right **Dr. Dahlia Sataloff**.



Our youth



The walk destination



Our seniors Doris and Anna



Our walkers



Our riders

Garden News By Katherine Kurtz

This is our fourth year and, wow, have we grown! In addition to our original Philabundance plot, there are now nine community/parishioner plots and all of them will donate some or all of their produce to our food banks. Among our new gardeners are the Sunday School Youth Group, Sandra Haye who will be planting some Jamaican crops, and the Teelucksingh's, a new St Asaph's family. Emma, 11, was active in community gardening in Florida and was eager to start a garden here. Her father, Ken will be keeping an eye on her plot while she is away for part of the summer.

Philabundance will start picking up our harvests on Saturdays in mid July for distribution to fresh food sites in Philadelphia. We will also be harvesting on Tuesdays and taking produce to Donna Torresi, MSN, a neighbor and director of Family Practice and Counseling Network, serving families in Germantown, North and Southwest Philadelphia. Check out their website (www.fpcn.us) and you will see why we are happy to have our vegetables go to these clinics.

We expect to harvest loads of beans, tomatoes, potatoes, sweet potatoes, and okra this year and welcome any extra produce you may want to drop off on Tuesdays or Saturday mornings. If you'd like to help harvest or weed or water, please sign up in the parish hall or contact Katherine Kurtz (kknj11@yahoo.com).

Organized Dinners

Kathy Hubbard is organizing dinners for parishioner who need a few meals because of health or personal reasons. She currently needs meals for a family. Please see or email Kathy if you can help, or would like to be on call for meals throughout the year.

Food Cupboard Donations

We continue to collect for both ElderNet and Northlight. Judging from the award given to the church by ElderNet, a big thanks goes to our parishioners for supporting one of the more needy pantries.

Regarding food cupboard donations, (for ElderNet, North Light, etc.), some suggested items that we are currently in need of are cereal, rice, canned fruit, canned fish/meat, peanut butter and jellies.

Music and Arts

Roy Harker, director



Alvin Gilens
Creatures real and imagined
on exhibit May 26 through June 24, 2011



The St. Asaph Gallery is open Monday through Friday until 3 pm. Call 610-664-0966 for more information.

Sadly, the choir sang their last service for the season on Sunday, May 22. We expect them back in the fall. We give them a huge thanks for all they do as a group and as individuals. As you know from past newsletters, Roy celebrated his 25th year of service with St. Asaph as our director of music. What you may not know is the years of service our individual members have given to St. Asaph.



From Left to right—**Bob Ranando, 24 yrs; Roy Harker 25 yrs; Joan Roberts, approximately 25 yrs; Sherrie Rosenblum, 21 years; Shellie Camp 11 yrs; Ed Lawler, 20 yrs; Roger Allen, 10 yrs; Bill Clayton, 2yrs; Pat Wood, 25 yrs; Spencer Dawkins, 1 yr; Sally Pearne, 20 yrs.**



I missed getting **Patrick DiGiacomo** in the group photo, but here he is with the most seniority of all—he was signing at St. Asaph's when he was about 28 years old.

We also give thanks for those voices that join the choir as their schedule allows or as needed during holidays—**Rachel Camp, Jacqui Schambaugh, Doris Weimar, Kyle Collier, Chuck Nelsen, Jeff Bacher.** Forgive me if I missed anyone.

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.

St. Asaph/Bala House Earth Day

Earth Day Saturday April 30th
By Steve Sheeran



Thanks to **Mary Allen, Stevie Graves, Bob Powell and Steve Sheeran** for pruning back the Rhodendron and some of the Azaleas. **Julia Miller** cooked about 150 hot dogs for St. A's and Bala House. Flowers and shrubs were planted, new wood chips were put on the playground and path from the kitchen to the playground.



Bob Powell



Stevie Graves

Property

Friends' Central Service Days
By Steve Sheeran



Nine students and their teacher from Friends' Central worked on the campus grounds on May 5th and 6th as part of the students' community service requirement. They move topsoil to the youth garden, turned over the ground for the cutting garden and pulled all the bind weed and ivy from the roots of the azaleas in the graveyard, mulched the azaleas and cleared all the leaves and other debris in the graveyard along the outside of the church and the parish house. They also work with the Bala House's kindergarten class. Thanks to **Rachel Brotman, Mary Chawaga, Regena Clay, Jonathan Kornblatt, Gabrielle Owens, Janelle Purnell, Imani Roberson, Aaron Ross and Raaj Singh** and their teacher, Liza Ewen, for all their hard work.

Work Day Saturday May 14th
By Steve Sheeran

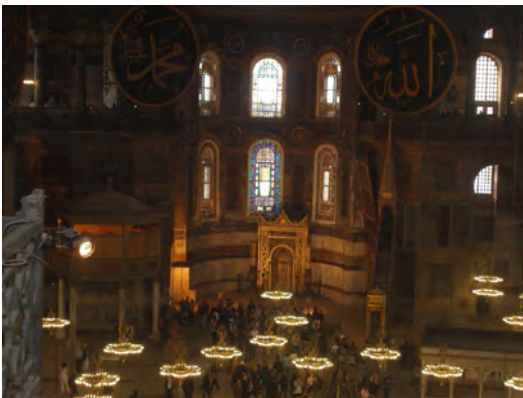
Thanks to **Mary Allen, Wendy Flegal, Katherine Kurtz, Bob Powell, Joan Roberts Steve Sheeran, Teresa Wallace and Doris Weimar**. The area between the Tower doors and the Bride's door, the area around the Celtic cross, the water fountain and the Garth were weeded and many trees in the graveyard were dead wooded.



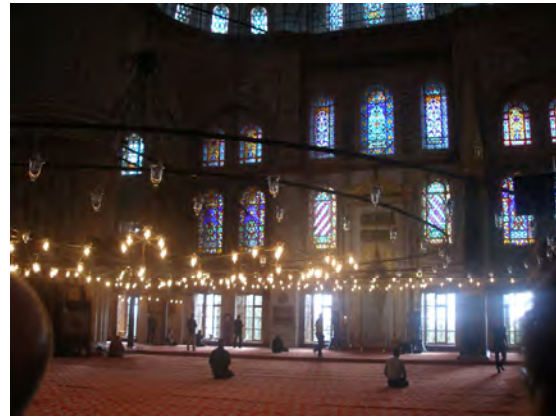
Mary Allen

Congregation

Connie and Bernie Stelzenmuller and Carolyn Ramsey have returned from a two-week trip to Turkey. They traveled with a Temple University sponsored tour. As you may guess, Turkey is rich in the affects of many civilizations leaving their cultural landmarks. One of the important sites is the Hagia Sofia in Istanbul which originally served as the cathedral of Constantinople from 360 to 1453. It was a mosque from 1453 until 1931. It is now a museum. Pictured here are the three of us inside this amazing building.



Another important beautiful site to Islam and the world is the Blue Mosque. This mosque is open to Muslims for worship.



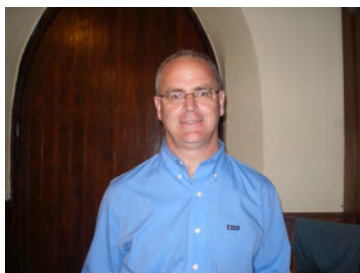
The carpet throughout the Blue Mosque.

Pat Hodges and Camille Torres at the blessing of their union at St. Asaph's.



Alexias Morgan, the maid of honor, with her husband **Steve** and daughter **Kyla**.





READY, SET, JUMP: A Look at the Ordination Process after Postulancy
By **Tim Gavin**

The ordination process has been compared to a lion jumping through a series of hoops, with each hoop becoming smaller and smaller. I have just passed through one of the smaller hoops, which is called candidacy. Once a seminarian is accepted as a candidate he or she becomes eligible to jump through the next hoop, which is the General Ordination Exam. The Exam consists of 7 sections with each section covering a specific area of theology: scripture, church

history, liturgy and music, pastoral care, ethics, and systematic theology. The candidate is required to answer one essay question for each section with limited or no resources. If the candidate passes all 7 sections of the exam, then he or she will be ordained. If a candidate fails a section, he or she may be required to demonstrate (with further academic work) mastery of the area. After the candidate has satisfied the requirement of the General Ordination Exam, he or she receives ordination to the transitional diaconate. All Anglican priests must serve as a transitional deacon for at least 6 months. Once the deacon serves in that capacity, he or she receives holy orders. Normally, ordination for the diaconate is held in June following the General Ordination Exam with the ordination to the priesthood following in December. If all goes well for the next year, I will be ordained in December of 2012 to the priesthood. I still need to jump through a few more hoops.

A Heavy Thought on the Lighter Side
By **Virginia Powell**

Superficiality could be the causality of not enough frugality, which leads to, too much stuff. Because superficiality seems to be our nationality's speciality, it's become our normality. We tend to live this life with vitality on the level of constancy with all kinds of rationality and that will only promote a feeling of "desperality" due to a lack of spirituality. Yet, one could have the morality without the superficiality when choosing frugality. There's nothing at all about the legality of frugality that makes it a difficult reality; rather, it's the formality and probably the banality of frugality. Also, it requires so much "versatility" and directionality to have enough originality to make frugality a normality. It's just loaded with way too much practicality and absolutely no sensuality. Therefore, frugality, with all its morality, will probably not be a reality in the finality of things. So, I'm afraid that in reality, superficiality will hold its place of regality and remain the normality. Unless, of course, we change our functionality.

Mary Allen's Key Lime Pie Recipe

For those of you who have been clamoring for Mary's recipe, here it is:

Prepare single deep dish pie crust (I use Pet Ritz; others prefer graham cracker crust).

Mix together:

- 2 cans condensed milk
- Juice and pulp of 4-5 limes (squeeze real ones - it makes all the difference!)
- 2 egg yolks

Pour mixture into pie shell, cover with plastic wrap and freeze at least 6 hours. Serve with whipped cream.

Book Review

Last Book Club for the Season
Monday, June 13 at 7:30



Left to right—Bill Eerdmans, Joe Lowry, Roger Allen, Bruce Lawrence, Shawkat Toorawa and Norman Hjelm.

The above photo was taken at the book launching of *Islam: A Short Guide to the Faith* edited by **Roger Allen and Shawkat Toorawa**.

The book club will discuss *Islam: A Short Guide to the Faith* book during our last book club meeting on **June 13** and then again at our first book club meeting after we return in the fall in September. Mary Allen is selling the book for \$15 each. Norman Hjelm wrote a really comprehensive article on this book and its authors and editors in the May newsletter.

Roger suggests that we start our reading further on in the book with “Interactions” for discussion at our Monday, June 13 discussion. The rest of the book should be read during the summer and in the fall Roger will be on hand to help summarize the writings and lead as discussion.

Loaves and Fishes

Island Fling
Saturday, June 11, 2011



It's that time of year again when members and friends of St. Asaph come together for good Caribbean food and steel band music.

Mark your calendars for this annual fun fest for **Saturday, June 11, 2011 at 5:00 p.m.** for the **Samuel Dempster 7th Annual Island Fling** on the St. Asaph campus. **ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT ST. ASAPH'S.**

Sandra Haye, Audrey Dempster and Karen Love are the coordinators. This event is free, but for those who can, we are suggesting a donation of \$40.00 per person or \$70.00 for two. Sponsors are always welcome!



Sandra and Audrey

The late **Sam Dempster** was Audrey's uncle and St. Asaph's beloved sexton for close to 15 years. Sam was one of eleven children born on the island of Trinidad. Sam came to the US and began cooking for the FROG Restaurant, which was part of the Philadelphia Restaurant Renaissance, before he came to St. Asaph's.



Sam lived in the apartment attached to the rectory where he continued to cook for our church events. Sam brought Audrey and introduced many of his other relatives to our church. Over the years you have probably met Sam and Audrey's family and friends at many of these events.

As an aside, Sandra, Audrey and their family and friends are extremely charitable. Annually they and other volunteers are part of **Team Jamaica Bickle, Inc.** that host the Jamaican Team at the Penn Relays which is a huge undertaking each year. Year round they are either fund raising, canvassing for food donations or finding homes for the team while they compete. During the

Penn Relays, they set up a tent where they feed the Jamaican Team throughout the day. I say this because Sandra and Audrey are the most giving and loving folks I know. I will also mention that they do a big Easter dinner for the families at the Ronald MacDonald House.



See you on the 11th at 5PM. Karen Love is on hand to take your reservation following the church worship service. You can also call Lynda our parish administrator at 610-664-0966.

St. Asaph's Diversity An Editorial by Mary Allen

An important facet of the mission of St. Asaph's parishioners is "to stand with the marginalized." During the month of May we have hosted two events in particular which show our commitment to this purpose.

On May 2nd, St. Asaph's was the venue for a book launch, the official release of *Islam: A Short Introduction to the Faith*, a collection of essays edited by **Roger Allen** together with a former student, **Shawkat Tawoora**, now an accomplished professor in his own right at Cornell University. **Bruce Lawrence**, Professor of Islam at Duke University gave the keynote speech to an audience of about 100 in our sanctuary. **Audrey Dempster** catered the reception which followed, while Roger and Shawkat were available to sign the books. As a follow-up, the Book Club has decided to use this book for discussion both in June and in September. For the June meeting we will focus on the last section of essays, "Interactions," and in September Roger will come and attempt to tie it all together for us.

Dealing with another aspect of the Middle East, St. Asaph's is hosting a course called "Steadfast Hope," a series of 8 Wednesday evenings in which teachers from Christian Jewish Allies seek to spread knowledge about the history of the Palestinians and the developments since the establishment of the state of Israel. Since Western media tend to be biased towards the Israeli side, the focus here is on providing a balance by

concentrating on the Palestinian point of view. Each evening is led by a Jew and a Christian together. The series at St. Asaph's will end on June 15th, but there will be other opportunities to participate at other venues in the fall.

Another aspect of our diversity was highlighted on May 15th, when **Pat Torres and Camille Hodge** were joined by more than 100 relatives, friends, and well-wishers as they exchanged vows at the Blessing of their Union. Camille looked lovely in a long white gown and veil, her hair in ringlets, and a bouquet of white roses, and Pat complemented her elegantly in a white suit with a deep rose colored waistcoat. **Alexais Morgan** of St. Asaph's was the matron of honor, also in deep rose. It was a wonderful occasion, overflowing with the joyous support of both their families and their church. Please look for them on Sundays to wish them well as they face the inevitable struggles that will arise, given American society today. A lifetime commitment is difficult enough even with public support, so it is all the more important that they know they can count on us!

Many thanks to Bala House who will provide assorted snacks for coffee hour after Pentecost Service on June 12..



Look familiar? **June 19** will be the first of our outdoor worship services. **There will be only one service at 9:15** throughout the summer on the Labyrinth. This is a casual service so dress comfortably. Our hospitality doesn't stop, but we do switch to lemonade and iced tea. Teresa Wallace would appreciate help providing food for our summer services.

PRAYERS

Those for whom our prayers have been asked: We pray for Bob Cronin, Jamie Dent, The Achuff Family, Margaret Hunting, Alice Longdin, Stephen Novak, Emerald Randolph, Kayte Reeves, Joan Schroeter, Bessie Smith, Doretta Walker, and Robbie Walters

Those who have recently died in the parish: Elizabeth Muir Behm (Joanne Behm), and Virginia Thomas.

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
- 5 pm, Emerging worship (2nd and 4th Sundays)

Holy Days as announced

Summer Schedule

9:15 am

Parish Staff

Roy Harker, Director of Music & Arts
Steve Sheeran, Youth Formation
Julia Miller, Children's Formation
Lynda Staton, Parish Administrator
Tim Gavin, Seminary Intern

Pastoral Care Team: Rev'd Barry Harte, Lynda Sterhous, MaryChris Lindsay, Tim Gavin

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 Wernersbach

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

CHURCH OF SAINT ASAPH
27 Conshohocken State Rd
Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004

On the web at
www.saintasaphs.org

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