



OUTLOOK

October 2010 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.



And how many times should I forgive Lord....?

A thirteen year old and a seventeen year old both took their lives in these last days. Both it appears were victims of forms of bullying. The thirteen year old was struggling with issues of sexual orientation along

with everything that comes with being thirteen. Four classmates were routinely mentioned as having bullied him. The other young man was the victim of a horrible prank where he was filmed by his roommate while engaged with another man in the privacy of his own room and the encounter was posted on line. Should those who bullied their peers into taking their own lives be forgiven?

I have openly wondered about the current Eagle's quarterback and his place on the team. I know that he is working with animals and publicly speaking out against their abuse. I know that there are those who remind people like me that there are differences of culture and advantage at hand. I also know that the new quarterback is incredibly talented and loves to play football. Do I forgive?

Our Diocese continues to struggle with the return of our Bishop. The House of Bishops has asked for Bishop Bennison's resignation. The circumstances of the trial and the Bishop's carefully worded responses have not for me been reconciled. Do they need to be? Do we forgive?

This is real life, isn't it? We would be foolish not to remember past sins. Forgiving is always qualified, isn't it? Someone wrongs us in some heinous way and somehow we find it in the depths of our souls to be willing to share the same space with them, but we do so cordially and in a most guarded fashion. I do not think it would take much discussion for us to agree that there is really little if any forgiving going on at all. Maybe the closest we come to true forgiving is with children, yours or others. We allow a certain amount of hope that the young offender might indeed have a true change of heart.

Forgiving for many of us is not so much about our action as it is about the actions of the offender. Oh, I can forgive, but let me see some change in the perpetrator of the sin. Let me see some remorse. Let me see some true repentance. Of course, we now tread even more dangerously close to that more egregious sin of judging others when we have to look first at ourselves in the mirror. Is it not fair of us to expect some sort of repentance on the part of the offender after we have offered our forgiving? I certainly look for some evidence of a change of heart from my children before pronouncing that a punishment has been lifted. At least show some gratitude after all.

Jesus' answer to the above question came in the context of life in the spiritual realm, didn't it? See Luke, chapter 17 if you need a reminder as to the answer given. As a people of faith, the only way we can even have this conversation is because we have a God who does indeed forgive us our sins and then even forgets them. Dear God, give me the strength to forgive also the sins of those who sin against us.

Shalom, Barry+

Liturgy

ST. FRANCIS Celebrations with Blessing of the Animals at 5 pm
The 8 am and 10am services are animal free.

Morning Procession, Sunday, October 3 at 10 am
At this liturgy all children are invited in our procession honoring all of God's creatures. See Julia on Sunday morning to be sure to get your animal hat and any additional details. Children of all ages are always welcome at our worship service.

Evening liturgy at 5PM on Sunday, October 3 St. Asaph's invites you and your pets to a short Blessing of the Animals liturgy. We will celebrate with an outdoor liturgy. In case of rain, the service will be held in the church. All pets should be caged or leashed and curbed. All are invited to come and share in this celebration of God's creation.

Conversations on the Edge



Innovative Worship.
Spirituality
Popular Culture
Multimedia

St. Asaph's Church
27 Conshohocken Square
Rata, Cyreny, PA 19001
<http://www.saintasaphs.org>

Conversations on the Edge of Faith
Every 2nd and 4th Sunday at 5:00



What do **Leandro Bassano**; **Hendrick ter Brugghen**; **Jean-Luc Marion**, the theologian and the English folk singer **June Tabor** have in common? The answer is Lazarus.

Using a projector and her ipod, **V. Blue Lemay** sparked a lively hour discussion on Lazarus and the rich man. Come on the 2nd and 4th Sundays at 5 in the sanctuary at St. A's and you won't be disappointed. There is always a light supper.

Blue told me that after submitting a proposal and in competition with other junior faculty, she was awarded the Research Summer Grant of \$3,000 to write an article concerning the intersection between Jean-Luc Marion's postmodern theology and George Herbert's poetry.

(Blue is in the English Department at Eastern University in St. David's.)



Lazarus and the Rich Man by Leandro Bassano (c. 1590-95)



The rich man and poor Lazarus by Hendrick ter Brugghen, 1625



June Tabor

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Altar of Remembrance



Sunday, November 7 is

All Saints Sunday. Service will begin in the graveyard, weather permitting, and end inside the church; however, service will begin in the parish hall if we have inclement weather.

At the end of service you will have the opportunity to honor loved ones who have died by placing your memento—photos, souvenirs or other memorabilia on the altar on the east wall.

A rose will be given to you to place next to your memento in recognition and celebration of a life. At the end of the service, you may either remove your memento or let it repose until you feel ready later in the week.

We will also perform the sacrament of baptism at this service.

Pastoral Care



No

appointments needed for healing prayers that are offered weekly during communion by members of the Pastoral Care Team. Feel comfortable in bringing your prayer needs during this healing time at the baptismal font. Members of the PCT include: **Janet Barrett, Joanne Behm, Jane Carton, Bill Clayton, Tim Gavin, Andi Gray, Mary Chris Lindsay, Steve Lindsay, Karen Love, Marlene Milner, Sally Pearne, Linda Sterthous, and Johnathan Zellars.**

You can also contact Linda Sterthous, PCT team leader, Mary Chris Lindsay, Associate Team Leader, Lynda Staton in the Church office, or any member of the PCT should you need a member of the PCT to sit with you during the week.

Children's Formation



Julia Miller

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

The above statement is part of the Church of St. Asaph mission statement. So important is this to our church that we brought in Julia Miller to take over as director of Children's Formation.

Julia introduced herself in the last newsletter, but I think her background is worth repeating.

Julia joined the staff at St. Asaph's as the Director of Faith Formation for Children in August. She received her Masters of Divinity degree from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia in 2010 and has been working with children using faith-based curriculum for many years. At St. Asaph's, **she will be working with kids in kindergarten through the time they transition into the Rite 13 program.**

She will continue to use the Godly Play curriculum and will be expanding it with an age-appropriate focus on real-life application of faith principles, witness/service, and social justice. Julia says all of it will be FUN!!!!

On Sunday, 8:45-9:00 Feast Time and Opening Prayer
9:00-9:20 Sacred Story 9:20-9:45 Story Response
Activities (including Discipleship Huddle for 4th-5th graders) 9:45-10:00 Closing Prayer/Say
Goodbye/Reunite with Parents

Sunday, October 3 at the 10am service is the Feast of St. Francis. Instead of a Godly Play lesson, we will be spending the class time making noise makers and picking out hats that look like different animals.

At the beginning of the 10am service, the children will process into church wearing their animal hats. They will be allowed to keep their animal hats on during worship and use their noisemakers during the Gospel Acclamation! **Come join us and make some noise in church!**

A note to parents: One of the goals for Faith Formation is that the children learn to be part of the community and participate in worship. We are doing some simple activities with the congregation in these first three weeks to help make them comfortable with participation. After this Sunday, the children will not have a special part of the service every week, but will participate often as part of the Formation class. Please encourage your child to join us, and stay to support them as they contribute to the worship at St. Asaph's.

Saturday October 23 is our Haunted House for Haiti Relief from 6:00-9:00pm. From 6:00-7:00pm, younger kids can go through the Haunted House with the lights on. **If your child is not ready to experience the Haunted House, there will be several other fun things for them to do. A flyer will be coming soon.**

We are collecting old magazines (I will be cutting out appropriate pictures for collages) and old t-shirts for paint smocks. SO if you have those, bring them to the Formation Room or my office.

If you would like to be a Teacher or a Helper, please see the email about signing up!

A Note from Julia about Feast Time: The shape of the Godly Play Formation is meant to mirror the basic liturgy of the church. Our day starts with a communal Feast Time in which a light, healthy snack will be served to the children. All snacks, whenever possible will be organic and/or locally grown. Your child may choose or chose not to eat, and either is fine. What's important is that they share in the experience of gathering at the table together. We will also have Opening Prayer at the Feast Table.

Important: If you have not done so, please see me to fill out a Basic Information Sheet for your child. This includes any information about food allergies. If you would like to be a Teacher or a Helper, please see me on Sunday or send an email (link below) about signing up! See you on Sunday, [Julia Miller](#).



Godly Play



Children singing an opening verse on their first Sunday back.

Youth Formation By Steve Sheeran



Christian

Formation is important to families. Comfortable chairs and a classroom away from the maddening crowd is important to this young group. A win-win combination.

Haunted House for Haiti Saturday October 23rd

Mark your calendars for **Saturday October 23** when St. Asaph's Rite-13 and J2A youth groups will host a Haunted House at the Church. The Haunted House will begin at the **lychgate** leading into the graveyard and continue into the parish house. The Haunted House will start at **6pm with lights on for younger children and then lights off around 7pm until 10pm**. Snacks and refreshments will be provided. There is **no admission charge** but we are asking for **free will donations**. All

proceeds collected will be sent to **Hospital Albert Schweitzer in Haiti**. (Our youth will give an update on Hospital Albert Schweitzer during announcements on the Sunday following the Haunted House event.)

Thank you to all who made treats for the bake sale for the Haunted House and many thanks to all who purchased the treats. **\$164.25** was raised.

The "**Journey to Adulthood**" Program is used for our youth in 6th through 10th grades. The guiding principle of the program is that adulthood is earned not given. The two components of "Journey to Adulthood" St. Asaph's uses are Rite-13 and J2A.

Adult Formation

Adults are on a 5-week cycle, meeting between the 8 and 10 am services. A discussion of the gospel for the Sunday is discussed in one room, while Barry leads a group in another room using the book *Saving Jesus From Those Who are Right: Rethinking What it Means to be a Christian* by Carter Heyward.

Stewardship

By Mary Allen

"A Flood of Thanksgiving from God"

II Corinthians 9, 11-13

We, the congregation, are the stewards of St. Asaph's. Because we are all recipients of love, encouragement, and nurture through the parish, it is our responsibility to pay for the expenses of the parish: salaries, utilities, insurance, property, education, programs. We charge no dues, assess no taxes. We depend on the generosity of OURSELVES.

For several years, our pledges have not been sufficient to eliminate the budget deficit, although we are making good progress by watching expenses carefully. To make up for the shortfall, we have been forced to sell stocks in unfavorable conditions, and we are determined to wean ourselves from that practice; indeed, we have no choice, for soon we will have no investments left to sell! In 2010 we have liquidated **\$90,000.00**. As good stewards, we must either cut programs/salaries or bring in more money.

The 2011 Stewardship Campaign will be October 10-31. Please come to church each week to hear our presentations, read the materials you will receive carefully, search your hearts. Be as generous as possible when you fill out your pledge card for 2011 and return it on October 31st.

If you wish to discuss pledging, the committee is here for you:

Mary Allen (chair) <marydallen@gmail.com> or 215-473-0665

Kristen Stewart <k10stewart@comcast.net>

Sandra Hays <spchaye@aol.com>

Anne Speyer <annespeyer@comcast.net>

Rafael Porrata-Doria <porrata@aya.yale.edu>

Strategic Planning Committee



By Steve Chawaga, chair

Parish conversations with the Strategic Planning Committee are well underway. The Committee is hosting conversations at church on Sundays in October starting either at 9 a.m. or immediately after the 10 a.m. service. Evening conversations will also be scheduled if there is sufficient interest.

If you have not signed up for a conversation yet, please return your sign-up form or contact the church office. If you need a sign-up form or more information, please see Steve Chawaga during a coffee hour or contact him at chawaga@earthlink.net.

Using a format known as "Appreciative Inquiry," the Strategic Planning Committee is using the conversations to find out when members of the parish have felt the most spiritually fulfilled at St. Asaph's, how we best express God's love and mercy to others, and what parishioners wish for our future. The Committee will review this information for themes that can be used to formulate a plan to guide us in the coming years. Your input is vitally important to the success of this effort. Thanks to all who have participated so far and please join in if you have not done so yet.

Property

By Bob Powell

Fall Work Days

There will be two scheduled Saturday work days this fall: **October 9 and November 13**. The work days are from **9am until 1pm**. Even if you can only come an hour you are saving the church \$35. Snacks and beverages will be provided. There will be sign-up sheets in the Parish Hall.

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

Outreach



Janet Barrett, chair

As this newsletter is being sent out, the Outreach team is meeting for their first fall meeting.

Please watch the weekly email for more information on the Outreach Calendar. We would like to start collecting donations now for our Thanksgiving folks. We will ask you again to be generous as we fill the market bags for needy families at the **Northlight Community Center** and at **Just Children**. We are not asking for any one person to buy the list. Do what you can.

Food List for the market bags

4 cans of corn
4 cans of green beans
2 cans of yams
1 box of stuffing mix
1 can of cranberry sauce,
3 onions *
5 lbs. potatoes,
1 bunch of celery*
1 package dinner rolls*
1 pie*

We are also accepting cash donations to buy turkeys—an important part of the Thanksgiving meal.

We will ask our youth group to help fill the bags for Thanksgiving as they did last year.

Our youth is participating in the suburban **Crop Walk** for hunger. The Outreach team is organizing to join our youth on **Sunday, October 17**. This is a short walk leaving from Suburban Square in Ardmore. Look for more details.

Philabundance Garden

By Katherine Kurtz

It sounds as if there may not be enough people with free autumn time and energy to do an end-of-the-harvest pot luck, so we are thinking that on **October 24 after ten o'clock service and coffee hour**, we could just finish pulling up plants, moving the compost bin, and maybe harvesting sweet potatoes.

We'll continue harvesting mid-week for our Family Clinic partners until the beans, tomatoes, okra, and squash finally give up.

Wendy is going to plant Daikon radishes which **Linda Sterthous and Wendy** have discovered. These radishes act as a cover crop and grow 18 inches deep; thereby breaking up the soil and fertilizing it over the winter. If our renting gardeners, level off their beds, Wendy will plant Daikon radishes in those gardens also.

One of the best things about the garden project for me has been that people have felt free to pitch in when they could with no guilt when they couldn't. Let us know if you can or cannot help on the 24th -- and let's look forward to spring.

Best to all,
Katherine Kurtz 610-664-0716

(Editor's Note: According to a *Philadelphia Inquirer* September 29 article, Philadelphia County has a poverty rate of 25%--the largest among the country's 10 largest cities. The number of children in poverty under age 18 is one in three.)

Christmas Party Gifts

We continue to collect gifts for children **3 to 6 years old** for the annual **Just Children Christmas Party** on December 11.

Readers for Just Children Head Start

We would like to expand our list of people willing to spend a joyful thirty minutes reading to Kids at the Just Children early childhood school in our neighborhood.

Please speak to **Anne Speyer** after church on Sunday for more information.

Music and Arts



Roy Harker, director of Music and Arts

We were glad to have the quartet back for the full choir on Sunday, September 26. Although they are pictured around the organ, their usual posture is sitting and singing among the congregation. Welcome back



The Gallery at St. Asaph's has prepared for another year of fine offerings with international and local artists offering a wide variety of topics and media.



Starting off our art series in **October** is **Rajie Cook**, a Palestinian-born artist living in the Philadelphia area with international ties to the art world. His exhibit here runs concurrently with the Middle Easter Study Group sessions and

seminars being held at St. Asaph's during the month.

Mr. Cook has presidential awards and years of experience with the Task Force for the Middle East, a group sponsored by the Presbyterian Church, USA, traveling on many fact-finding trips to Israel, Jordan, the West Bank, and Gaza. **The opening reception, and Mr. Cook's lecture, is scheduled for Friday, October 1, 2010, at 6:00pm.**

Congregation



Bob Ranando was giving **Roy** a surprise birthday cake when later **Linda Sterthous** confessed that she shared the same birthday as Roy. Happy birthday to the both of you.

Barry performed a needlepoint kneeler dedication ceremony this Sunday. The long kneeler, stitched by **Dale D'Angelo**, was dedicated to **Ingalill Hjelm, Brooke Roberts, Howard Roberts and Dylan Hosletter**. The smaller kneeler, stitched by **Gwen Hauser and Jane Carton**, was dedicated to **Lee and Gladys Jacoby**.

The kneeler project has been ongoing for many years under the guidance of **Karen Love**. St. Asaph's appreciates the art form and the dedication of the snitchers, even though kneeling has become less

popular among congregants. The longer kneeler will be placed in the meditation space and the smaller kneeler under the chairs for those who wish to kneel.





We appreciate seeing these young families with their children in church. We're glad this transept in the church accommodates the books, crayons, strollers, etc. for the youngsters while parents can still feel part of the service. We do provide child care, but we like to give parent and child a choice.



I could not resist taking this photo of Mary Allen holding sweet little **Kathryn Carli Moore**, daughter of Tresh and Jack Moore. Kathryn was born on August 25.



This is the comfortable informal style that you can participate in when you come to conversation and lunch on the second Wednesday of the month with Barry. Bring your sandwich and your topic.

Tim Chawaga is the oldest son of **Steve Chawaga and Laurie Novo**. He graduated from NYU with a major in drama and this summer produced a play that was performed as part of the Philadelphia Fringe Festival. He has written another play, Sleepless City. That is the fall production of the drama club at the **Friends Central School on City Avenue in Wynnewood**. Performances will be **Friday and Saturday nights, October 29 and 30, at 7:30 p.m. Admission is free.**



Celebration of Roy's 25-Year Ministry at St. Asaph's:
By Mary Allen

On October 31st we will have a special coffee hour after the 10 am liturgy to honor **Roy Harker's 25** years with us. Many of you will want to help to make it a festive occasion. Contributions of help and money will be welcomed by **Laura Brennan,**

Kathy Hubbard, and Mary Allen. We are your point people, so please come to us with your suggestions and offerings. Thank you very much!!

So, What Did You Do This Summer?



Marlene Milner never seems to stop smiling even though she worked nonstop this summer on the first Buck Hill-Skytop Music Festival in the Poconos. She and her husband George also

housed some of the performers in their home in the Poconos. The festival ran for a week and included performances of opera, chamber music and jazz. In addition, a performance of "Porgie and Bess" was presented at the Mount Pocono East High School.



Kristen and Patrick Stewart just got back from a week-long trip to Montana. Here's what they had to say.

We spent the first half of the week at a beautiful horse ranch in Whitefish, Montana, where we learned to ride western style.



But the highlight of the trip was Glacier National Park, where we hoped to glimpse a glacier or two before they shrink any further. The easiest hike from our hotel was 12 miles, to Grinnell Glacier. It was a gorgeous walk, filled with bighorn sheep and the occasional mountain goat. And while the glacier was indeed

beautiful as we approached it, there was a bit of disappointment when we finally arrived. Our reaction: Is that it? You expect a glacier to be overwhelmingly huge, even if it is obviously shrinking. When we returned to the hotel, we looked at pictures of the glacier as visitors saw it decades ago. It was indeed an impressive sight. Full of that "wow" factor we'd been seeking. It was also a lesson to us on earth's changing climate.



Barbara Rideout and her husband **Ken** helped move their daughter to Nashville, Tennessee where **Meredith** is entering Meharry Medical College. They also were there for her

"White Coat" ceremony. Congratulations!



Carolyn Ramsey said that she had a wonderful summer, but the week with her granddaughter **Nancy** and **Connie's** granddaughter **Nora** was the best.



Connie Stelzenmuller and **Carolyn** coordinated their granddaughters' visits so they could have a pal for a week. (We mean Nora and Nancy, of

course.) The girls are nearly the same age. Nancy came up from DC and Nora from Atlanta. We now know where the best water ice is in our area. We're hoping Nora and Nancy will continue their friendship in other summers.



Pam Sheeran's hectic summer schedule continues into the fall. Pam's mom is not doing well and Pam's car has been on autopilot nearly every weekend to

Virginia—not an easy schedule when you work during the week. Keep Pam and her mom in your thoughts, especially that Pam stays safe on her long drives.



Joan Frank is grandmother to **7-year-old Marco**, her daughter **Margaret's** son. Joan and Marco hang out together once a week

after school. Unfortunately, on one of those days Joan was pulled down by the family dog while holding the leash and she broke her upper arm. After having her arm in a sling for six weeks and with the help of physical therapy, she now has good use of her arm.

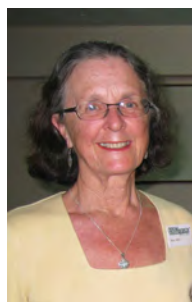
After this ordeal, Joan was able to fly to her beloved New Hampshire vacation home, which she does most summers, and spend the month of August there. Don't know what to say about those frisky grand dogs.

Fresh Speech Theater

By Anne Speyer

Fresh Speech Theatre begins its third "season" at St. Asaph's Church with a new original liturgical drama during the **ten o'clock service on October 24**. The play will be based on the gospel story for that day.

Diocesan Middle East Study Group



Palestine Awareness Month
By Mary Allen

I am proud to be a member of a congregation of people who are generally eager to help the disenfranchised and disadvantaged. Sometimes this help takes the form of learning

about those who live far away and in circumstances very different from those we experience daily.

Here at St. Asaph's we have had the opportunity for many years to attend the meetings of The Middle East Study Group of the Diocese of Pennsylvania, which was founded by Bishop Bartlett after his return from a trip to the Holy Land some twenty years ago. From its inception, MESHG has met at St. Asaph's, and I have gradually become more involved as time passed, eventually becoming the secretary for the group last fall. Peter Doris, also of St. Asaph's, is now the convener of our meetings, which are scheduled 6-8 times a year. MESHG welcomes all who are interested in learning more about the Palestinian situation.

Because of our growing interest in the plight of the Palestinians, Carolyn Ramsey and I visited the Holy Land last March and were deeply moved by the obvious disadvantages suffered by Palestinians under Israeli occupation. Many of the Palestinians we met are Christians, some are Muslims, but all emphasized to us their hopes for a lasting peace with Israel. They felt that the opportunity for establishing a Palestinian State was renewed with the support of President Obama.

As the peace talks continue, it is impossible for me to predict success with any confidence, unfortunately. The term of President Mahmoud Abbas, elected in 2005, ended in January, 2010, and in fact he never established a legitimate coalition government after the election of a

majority of Hamas members of parliament in the West Bank as well as in Gaza in 2006. He has worked in close alliance with American and Israeli governments to suppress members of Hamas in the West Bank, alienating many of his compatriots. I share the fear of many Palestinians that Netanyahu's moratorium is being used as an opportunity once again to "change the facts on the ground."

By continuing to build the settlements which had already been declared before the moratorium, and by acting as if the annexation of East Jerusalem were internationally acceptable and thus pursuing housing demolitions and Jewish-Israeli take-overs. Israel has not paused in strengthening their claims to land which belongs to Palestinians by international law. As I write this (on Sept. 27, 2010), Israel has abruptly started up the delayed settlement construction in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

Because US tax dollars finance the Israel Defense Forces to the tune of \$3,000,000,000. (Yes, billions.), it is important for all of us to know how that aid is used.

MESG and St. Asaph's have hosted two series of lectures and films in the past, and I have set up another series of events here at St. Asaph's, by which I hope to show some experiences of the Palestinians. We hope everyone will come to as many events as possible. All the programs are FREE; however, we are asking for donations to cover expenses. Most important is to have a good audience. The schedule is available in Sunday leaflets and here:

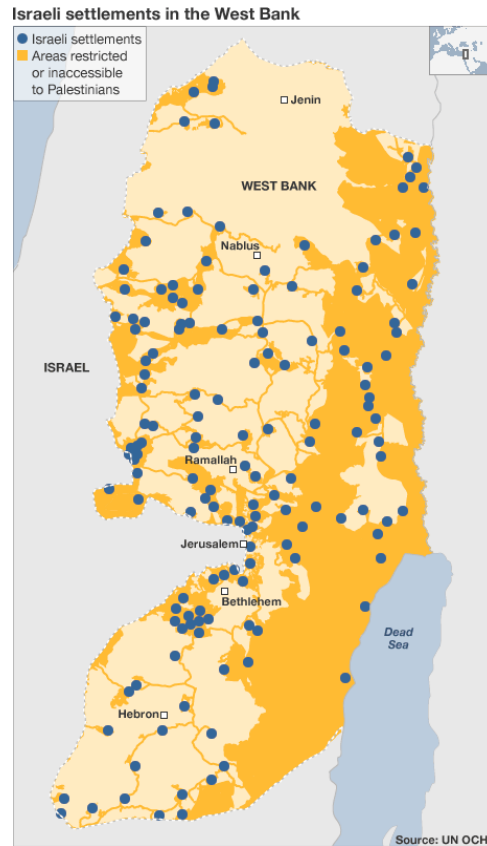
Oct. 6, 7 pm in the sanctuary: *My Name Is Rachel Corrie*. Live performance of words from the journals and emails of a young American who died in 2003 supporting the rights of the people of Gaza.

Oct. 13, 7:30 in the Movie Room: *Salt of This Sea*. Written and directed by Annemarie Jacir, this film tells the story of a Palestinian American who returns to her ancestral lands and experiences the daily humiliations suffered by non-Jews in Israel/Palestine. 109 mins.

Oct. 16, 3 pm in the Parish Hall, Mark Braverman, author of *Fatal Embrace*. Mark is a Jewish scholar committed to equal rights for Palestinians.

Oct. 20, 7:30 in the Movie Room, DVD of Norman Finkelstein, prolific Jewish writer and speaker, former professor of Political Science specializing in the Israel/Palestine conflict.

Nov. 11, at 7:30 in the Parish Hall, the Sa'adeh Family. A Palestinian family from the West Bank, sponsored by Tree of Life Education Fund, tell about their work with the Bereaved Parents Circle, finding common ground with Israeli parents who have also lost children in the conflict between Israel and Palestine.



Loaves & Fishes

Remember, Loaves & Fishes is the group who brings us the annual Island Fling. During the year they offer other opportunities for our congregants to get together. Here is the start of their calendar for 2010-2011:

Sunday, October 3	Pot Luck Lunch following 10 am service
Saturday, Nov. 20	WelshTea – Noon to 4 pm. Also Teddy Bear Tea
Saturday, December 11	Mendelssohn Club – 2 pm "A Festival of Carols"
Thursday, December 16	Greening of the Church Pot Luck Supper 6 pm
Thursday, February 3	Spaghetti Dinner 6 pm
Tuesday, March 8	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper 6 pm

Book Review

Please join us on **Monday, October 11 at 7:30** in St. Asaph's parlor for what should be a great discussion on the following book:

The Elegance of the Hedgehog

By Muriel Barbery.

Translated by **Alison Anderson**.

Review from *TimeOut New York*



The two main characters in Muriel Barbery's novel have a tendency to ponder lofty issues: "What is the nature of human consciousness? What do we know of the world?" muses 54-year-old Madame Michel. And then they address them. At length. ("Let's start with the first question...") Barbery likes aphorisms, too: "Grammar is a way to attain beauty," states Paloma Josse, 12. Yet the book, a huge best-seller in Barbery's native France, almost never comes across like a lecture in disguise (unlike Jostein Gaarder's philosophically minded *Sophie's World*, for instance), because the connective tissue between the various pearls of wisdom feels genuinely novelistic.

Madame Michel is the concierge in the posh Parisian building where Paloma lives. The older woman, a "proletarian autodidact," takes great pains to disguise her sharp intellect and refined tastes from the people she serves, but Paloma, a misanthropic prodigy planning to kill herself when she turns 13, is too mired in self-absorption to realize a kindred soul actually lives a few floors below her. For most of the book they cross each other but don't see each other; it takes the arrival of a new tenant, Kakuro Ozu, to open everybody's eyes, minds and hearts (the author isn't above a certain sentimentality).

The aforementioned two queries, tossed off in an early chapter about phenomenology (yeah, it's that kind of novel), actually lead up to one of Barbery's essential concerns: What is our purpose in life? It takes her many digressions to reach a conclusion, but by the end of the book you realize that the process is part of the point: It's not so much beauty that provides a reason for living, but the constant search for it.

Parish Needs

John Chou is looking for more counters. Two are needed each Sunday following the 10 am service. Speak to him about details

Sally Pearne is looking for more drivers to help transport those parishioners in need of a ride on Sunday.

Teresa Wallace is looking for more people to pair up for coffee hour responsibilities on Sunday.

Janet Barrett is looking for several families to deliver to one our food pantries in Manayunk.

And now for a little humor:

A Well Known Monk

A wandering monk walked barefoot everywhere he went, to the point that the soles of his feet eventually became quite thick and leathery. And because he ate very little, he gradually became very frail. Still he was always in prayer and said to have had holy visions. Several days often passed between opportunities to brush his teeth, so he usually had bad breath.

Therefore, throughout the region, he came to be known as:
the *super-calloused fragile mystic plagued with halitosis*.

(Barry has been watching too many reruns of *Mary Poppins* starring Julie Andrews and Dick Van Dyke.)

Welcome Guests:

St. Asaph's is a place that expects guests: people of all faiths, race, nationalities and walks of life; urban and suburban; rich and poor, gay and straight; families and singles; young, old, and in-between. We view hospitality as an important part of our ministry, and we hope you will feel welcomed here.

PRAYERS

Those for whom our prayers have been asked:

We pray for Jamie Dent, Alice Longdin, The Achuff Family, Everett William Frank, Dennis Hargis and his family, Patricia Harker, Stephen Novak, Anthony Outlaw and his family, Kayte Reeves, Annabelle Shore, Joan Schroeter, Glenn Stroud, Doretta Walker, Robbie Walters, and LCpl William Kurtz Zuzzio.

Those who have recently died in the parish: John Mather, (Steve Lindsay), John Gymburch (Barbara Rideout), Sue Waybright, (Stevie Graves), Beth Kohler, (Steve Lindsay), Roger Dooley, (Renee Banson).

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
Lynda Staton, Parish Administrator
Tim Gavin, Seminary Intern

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

Parish Vestry

Teresa Wallace, Accounting Warden
Chris Dennis, Rector's Warden
Mary Allen, Joanne Behm, Laura Brennan, Nicky Garvan, Sandra Haye-Carr, Mary Chris Lindsay, Bob Powell, Smith Ragsdale, 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

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On the web at

www.saintasaphs.org

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