

EPISCOPAL MISSION OF WARREN COUNTY



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JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2016

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Episcopal Mission of Warren County Newsletter

Welcome to the first edition of the Episcopal Mission of Warren County's (EMWC) newsletter. This newsletter serves the Episcopal congregations of St. Francis in Youngsville and Trinity in Warren, taking advantage of their commitment to work together as the EMWC. Inside you will find messages from the clergy, announcements of upcoming ministry opportunities, notes of celebration from members and their families, and prayer requests that our community lifts up to God.

Newsletters are just one way that our congregations will stay in touch together. We already share weekly an-

nouncements on Sunday morning, and soon we look forward to sharing our weekly

E-News emailed newsletter with a new format that launches at the end of January. Websites for both congregations will continue to be maintained, although you will find easy linking between the two so that newcomers can easily navigate between them.

While the EMWC expects to maintain the unique character and mission of each congregation, this sharing of communication resources is meant to be much more than just an opportunity for members of one congregation to 'hear about' what that other congregation is doing. By working together we aim to see all of our activities and ministries as opportunities for members of either congregation to engage in the vital life and witness of Jesus Christ. No matter which congregation is hosting an event or sharing a prayer request, hear these announcements and news items as opportunities for you to deepen your faith life. You are a part of Christ's mystical,

worldwide church through your connection to your local congregation, and being intimately involved in two congregations is one way to live into that great communion. Thus this newsletter and all of our communications platforms are opportunities for you to have your life with Christ grow as we share together.

Fitting that this would come in Epiphany, the season where we celebrate how Christ is made known to the world. Here we make a small yet very real commitment to broadening how we see Christ in the world through the ministries of not one but two congregations. Celebrate how we are together in Christ making his peace and grace known to the world.

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ANNUAL MEETING



As a single mission consisting of two congregations, we have a unique conundrum to solve. A single mission only needs one annual meeting, so where do we host it? The leadership has decided that we will rotate hosting our annual meeting each year, and we will begin this pattern by asking our Youngsville congregation to host the 2016 Annual Meeting.

To make this work, **we will NOT BE HOLDING WORSHIP IN WARREN ON JANUARY 17th**. Instead, everyone is in-

vited to Sunday Morning in Youngsville, beginning at 9:30 with Morning Prayer. Following Morning Prayer, we will hold our annual meeting, celebrate Eucharist together, and conclude with a festive brunch. This follows Trinity's pattern of the past several years, and as they can attest it is always a wonderful time.

The Annual meeting is first and foremost a celebration of how Christ is calling us into witness in the world through all of our ministries and a chance for us to prayerfully consider the steps we are taking and are being called to take. No matter how long or in what capacity you are connected to one of our congregations, come join in the morning-long celebration of our life in Christ.



Youth Gathering - January 17th



Lord, make me an instrument of your peace,
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy;

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much
seek to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Youth ages 9-14 (and others close to those ages) are invited to the second Youth Gathering of the program year! Sunday, January 17th at 3:30PM will see us eating, touring the altar space, learning about acolyte duties, playing games, eating (and this time there will be pop!), and

getting to ask Father Matthew any questions you may be thinking about. He's always got an opinion!

Extra Credit for signing up ahead of time! Just call us at the office or send us an email to let us know you're coming.

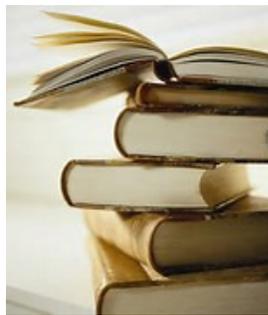
Recent Books read by Father Matthew

Daring Greatly by Brene Brown

Professor Brown challenges her readers to consider the toxic power of shame that distort our own lives and our relationships. The antidote is even more challenging than the implications of shame's power. She identifies that the counter to shame's distortion is not some kind of pure life, but radical vulnerability. By truthfully sharing how we are not perfect in our relationships we will invite increased trust, support, and the dispelling of shame's potent limiting effect upon ourselves.

While not overly Christian, the connections that can be made between her research and our faith abound. As opposed to those who teach a very hard and conservative approach toward life based on extracted biblical allusions, many point to how Jesus taught radical acceptance and love. Radical acceptance can only come through honesty, humility, and compassion, and that is a great description of

Starting on Monday, January 18th we will begin a journey. This will be a journey of our faith, its roots, our understanding of our spiritual foundation and who is our God. It will also be a time of sharing, fellowship and hopefully more than a little laughter.



vulnerability. Perhaps the challenge is in Dr. Brown stretching such vulnerability from our private faith lives into our interactive public lives, but that does not sound so radical considering Christ's teachings. Professor Brown applies her insights to marriages, raising children, congregational ministry, and many other interpersonal settings. A very good read that will nevertheless challenge and inform the reader.

Monday Night Study Revealing our Faith and the Bible

This journey will begin with a four part program titled, "Four points to the Jesus compass." Each week we will explore our Savior's roots in:

- God's chosen people
- The Jewish cultural influences
- The Greek alien threat to their beliefs and
- Jesus living in an occupied world.

Each week will stand on its own, so if you can only join for some of our fun, just add to our adventure when you can.

Come join us 7 PM each Monday night in Warren as we gain a greater understanding of our faith and our journey to God. If you have any questions, contact Gary Landrio or Father Matthew.

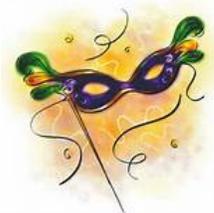


Celebrate

Grow

Share

**Episcopal Mission of Warren County's
Mardi Gras Dinner - Tuesday, February 9th**



**Gathering beginning at 5:30
Dinner starts at 6.
Bead Raffle Drawings at 7PM
St. Francis, Youngsville**

Also, a King Cake contest is open to anyone willing to try their hand at creating this traditional seasonal delicacy. Pick a recipe from the internet and bring your creation. Come enjoy good music and traditional pancakes and sausage to celebrate the last feast before Lent!

February 10



*Holy Eucharist and
Imposition of Ashes*

8 AM – Warren

12 PM – Youngsville

5:30 PM -Warren

LENT

Throughout Lent we will gather after our Wednesday night worship service for program time centering on prayer in our daily life.

Schedule for the Ecumenical Lenten Services in Warren City

We will continue to join with the Lutheran, Roman Catholic, and Presbyterian churches of Warren City this year in observing Lent through Tuesday Evening worship services. Holden Evening Prayer starts at 7PM and will be followed by fellowship time. This year's theme: "I AM." Our discussion during fellowship will be based on one or two questions at the preacher's discretion regarding the evening's message with discussion at each table followed by general discussion with the entire group.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Preacher</u>	
February 16	First Lutheran 109 West Third Avenue	Jeff Ott	John 14:6, " <i>The Way the Truth and the Life</i> "
February 23	St. Joseph 600 PA Avenue West	Jeff Ewing	John 8:12, " <i>Light</i> "
March 1	First Presbyterian 300 Market Street	Matthew Scott	John 15:1, " <i>True Vine</i> "
March 8	Trinity Episcopal 444 PA Avenue W.	Jake Jacobson	John 10:11, " <i>Good Shepherd</i> "
March 15	St. Paul Lutheran 306 Conewango Avenue	Rich Toohey	John 10:9, " <i>Door</i> "



The new Altar Flower sign up calendar is in the entryway for your opportunity to place flowers on altar for 2016. You may place them on the altar in memory of or in honor of someone, or in thanksgiving for an event, etc. You may order the flowers from the florist of your choice and pay for them directly or ask Barb to do it for you and then pay the church.

FYI — No flowers are placed on the altar during Lent. Any questions, call Barb at either office: STF—563-7586,

ACT Ministry

Our Anti Child Trafficking (ACT) ministry officially began with a program on Wednesday December 16 where 14 people listened to the horrific lives of child victims of sex trafficking.

For example:

- Did you know the U.S. Dept of State estimates 200,000 children are trafficked in the U.S. annually?
- Most were previously abused, unloved, neglected. They may have run away for their abusive homes or may have been thrown out. Or, perhaps they are in foster care, are mentally challenged or are victims of a disaster such as Hurricane Katrina.
- Most are trafficked between the ages of 12 and 14 and will only survive approximately 7 years, dying of AIDS, drug overdose, murder or suicide.

But, we can help, in fact, we already have by learning about the tragedy, knitting prayer scarves and donating to the groups who provide homeless shelters and/or street support for homeless children. **Please consider knitting a prayer scarf or donating to the Trinity ACT fund.** If you have any questions, please speak with Diane Brant.



Our food pantry at our Warren location is in need of the following items:

- Complete Boxed Meals, (which are currently on sale at Wal-Mart)
- Peanut Butter & Jelly
- Pasta (we have plenty of sauce), Spaghetti-O's, Ravioli, Mac & Cheese,
- Canned vegetables, soup

Your donations are greatly appreciated by those needing our emergency food pantry. Thank you for sharing the Love of Christ with others.



Our Pet Pantry at our Youngsville location continues serving those who need a little help feeding their four legged friends. It is through fund raisers and generous donations monetary or food itself that we able to offer this ministry. You may donate dog or cat food for make a donation in honor or in memory of a loved in support of the Pet Pantry.

Journey to Cristo Salvado

Christ calls us into relationships with others, those near and those far. We are reminded in our baptismal covenant to respect the dignity of every human being and strive for justice and peace. This is the starting point for relating to other people, even those an ocean away. Our partnership with the people of Cristo Salvador is about forming new relationships with other Christ followers and learning from one another. We offer support to each other, we share stories, and our understanding of God is deepened when we experience faith through another's eyes. This is an invitation to get to know others who, like us, are growing in faith and trying to live as disciples.

In July 2015, ten folks from all across the diocese gathered in the Pittsburgh airport and flew to Santiago in the Dominican Republic. They spent a week assisting the Vacation Bible School held for the community by our partner congregation, Cristo Salvador. In the afternoon, the team worked to repaint the upstairs of the church building, with the assistance of local congregants.

In preparation for the trip, the team gathered monthly, learning about the DR and planning for the VBS. Crafts were

chosen and materials donated by different parishes across our diocese.

As the team worked with Dominican leaders and played with children, stories and laughter were shared, and relationships were built. Our partners in the DR are no longer names on a page: we know their faces and they know ours.



There are many ways to get involved in this partnership, as individuals or as congregations:

- Donate financially to the trip—both to support the team going and to fund construction or other projects
- Choose to sponsor a day of the Vacation Bible School by picking the craft, buying necessary supplies, and giving money for snacks
- Hold a fundraiser to benefit the trip—dinners, car wash, paint and sip, etc.
- Fill out an application to go on our next journey to Cristo Salvador in July 2016
- Sponsor a child at the preschool, which costs \$350/year. Sponsors receive profiles of the child/children they sponsor

The city of Santiago is located in the northern part of the country and is home to 1.2 million people. Cristo Salvador is located on the outskirts of the city, on a hill.

The congregation of Cristo Salvador began as a small house church but eventually grew so large they needed a building. The priest who served in its nascent days is still their priest, Fr. Hipolito Fernandez.

The preschool the parish operates teaches over 80 children, with four teachers and several aides. They serve lunch to the students and try to assist their teacher's in gaining college degrees.

When we go, we stay in a local hotel and take our meals there. We helped with VBS in the morning and construction in the afternoon

Join the us for our 2nd trip to Cristo Salvador in the Dominican Republic. July 22-30.

For more information and the trip application, email vicarmelinda@gmail.com or all the information and the application can be found on the diocesan website under 'upcoming events,' or available in the office. Deadline to apply is February 1.

Deacon's Page

Recently I have been asked quite a few questions about my schooling. It dawned on me that nothing formal has been discussed with members of the congregation about my studies. With this in mind I wanted to take this opportunity to explain what my studies consist of. While I have completed the educational requirements locally for ordination, this past June I was afforded the opportunity to go to seminary to work on a Masters Degree. I was accepted into the Low-Residency Master of Divinity Program at Church Divinity School of the Pacific (CDSP). This is an Episcopal seminary founded in 1893. It moved to Berkeley California in 1927. This seminary has a rich history, and has a reputation of training fine clergy people. Our 26th Presiding Bishop, Katharine Jefferts Schori, is an alumna of CDSP. This seminary is part of the Graduate Theological Union. This is a collection of seminaries from various denominations and religions which are located in close proximity of each other. They share various resources



Church Divinity School of the Pacific

such as libraries and professors so that they may better educate seminarians.

Traditionally seminarians must live in residency at the seminary for the duration of their schooling. The Low-Residency program is the first of its kind for the Episcopal Church. It is designed to give people like me an opportunity to earn a Masters in Divinity while still working in their home congregations. I am required to be physically at CDSP twice a year for two weeks. Every year for the next four years I will travel to Berkeley in January and in June. I will be at CDSP from January 9th until January 23rd. The two weeks are filled with intense study. Classes usually run from 7am to 6pm Monday through Friday. Evening and weekends usually consist of reading text books and writing papers. An entire semester of study is fit into these two weeks. One professor likened the experience to "trying to get a drink of water out of a

fire hose." She wasn't too far off the mark. It is very intense and can be a bit overwhelming. Spring and fall semesters are completed through online course work.

In June my classes consisted of; The Anglican Tradition, Fundamentals of Worship, and Practical Theology. Fall semester classes consisted of; Introduction to Old Testament, and Church History I. This January I will be taking Pastoral Theology I, Organizing for Public Ministry, and Appropriate Boundaries in Ministry. In February spring semester begins and I will be taking; Introduction to Worship, and Study of the Synoptics: The New Testament. I feel very fortunate for my local formation and education. I think it has more than adequately prepared me for this level course work. It seems that what I am studying now is putting a shine to what I studied in local formation.

I consider myself fortunate and blessed to be able to continue my studies as a seminarian at CDSP. However, even that doesn't compare to the pleasure

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and honor of serving Trinity and St. Francis. It is my hope that as the Clergy Associate for Pastoral Ministries for these two churches I can bring what I am learning home and share with everyone. It is my hope that by doing this, together we may further spread the love, peace,

mercy, and hope that is our God with the world around us. As this calendar year comes to an end and a new one begins I can't help but see a bright future ahead. May God's blessing be upon us all.

Peace,

*Tim**

Coffee Hour



Our awesome after service coffee hour is a great time of fellowship. For the last couple of months our many thanks to those who offered their gifts in providing goodies for everyone to enjoy. We give thanks to *Nancy Reynolds & Anne Reynolds, Molly Lawson & Linda Salva, Brigitte & Jeff Chase, Bonnie Dickson & Jan Thompson, Chris Myers, Colette Grady & Laurie Rulander, and Karolyn Stone & Helenanne Meyer* for hosting in Youngsville. If you would like to be added to the schedule, at St. Francis, please see Helenanne Meyer.

Thanks to the following people who hosted coffee hour in Warren: *Addy & Gary Landrino, Diane Brant, Dee Stewart, Terry Brant, Beth Porter and Joanna & Mark Mayer*. Check out the table in the entryway for open Sundays for your opportunity to serve in this fellowship ministry.

Would you like to host a coffee hour, but think you can't bake? Store bought treats are always welcome, but now there's another way to participate. Simply designate a contribution as "coffee hour treats." Someone will do the shopping for you, and you will be the VIRTUAL HOST or HOSTESS! We've had two virtual hosts this year! See Dee Stewart at Trinity, if you have questions.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

January

- 1 - John Robertson
- 2 - Aubrey Schantz
Varine
Barb Willis
- 3 - Mary Lou Watt
- 7 - Tammy Flasher
Jana Johnson Hanks
- 10 - Cassaundra Press
Todd Warner
- 11 - Darlene John
- 12 - Jess Schantz
- 13 - Donna Ball
- 19 - Jim McCollough
Jessie Schantz
Merko
Cara Powers
- 20 - Vivien Boger
- 21 - Ashley Schantz
- 23 - Lenore Glotz
Linda & Brad Salva
- 25 - Pam Curry
Carol Rickerson
Laura Taylor
- 26 - Ashley Horner
Dorothy & Charles
Bennett
- 28 - Brittany Glotz
Bryce Glotz
- 29 - Charles Bennett
Teresa Magnani
- 30 - Chuck Myers
- 31 - Keira Fox

February

- 1 - Rachel Farnsworth
Patrick Schantz
- 2- Pat Hesch
Chris Mesmer
Linda Salva
- 4 - Linda Dyer
- 5 - Colin Kramer
- 7 - Tony Creal
Abigail Whaley
- 8 - Lacy Brant
Judy Gallucci-Grow
Taylor John
Michael Thompson
- 9 - Ian Franklin
Addy Landrio
- 10 - Kevin Rulander
- 13 - Emma Campbell
- 14 - Ed Ball
Beth Glotz
Pauline & Charles
Steinmeyer
- 15 - Sue Dilick
Ellen Scalise
Kurt Smith
- 16 - Cameron Westover
- 17 - Sadie Slick
- 18 - William Clever
Collin Delattre
- 20 - Leslie Baldensperger
Madalynn Campbell
- 22 - James B. Schantz
- 23 - Linda Jensen
- 26 - Cathy Schantz
- 29 - Donald Jackson

March

- 1 - Gavin Horner
- 2 - Donna Brown
Jennifer Scalise
- 4 - Andy Pope
- 5 - Jack Glarner
- 6 - Rob Olson
- 7 - Kendra Myers
- 8 - Justin Eck
- 12 - Susan Wolfe
- 14 - Christine Thomson
- 15 - Bill Renninger
- 17 - Ethan Dyer
- 19 - Brian Magnani
Kennedie Ebersole
- 21 - Jessica Stuart
- 24 - Lester Rulander
Kato Watson
- 25 - Alan Baldensperger
- 26 - Robert Dilks
- 28 - Brigitte Chase
Debbie Horner
Elaine Moriarity
Casey Werner
- 29 - Michelle McLaughin
- 30 - John Willis
- 31 - Betsy & Jerry





Illness/ Surgery/ Other Needs: Roger, Doug, Elaine, John John, Barb Willis, Ryan Sorsenson, Ash & Jean, safe travels for Tim, Bill, Good medical report, Healing, Greyson Farnsworth, Dave, Bill, Jenn, all who are hurting, Sara, Pete, April

Thanksgiving for: Lessons & Carols, Matthew's safe return, all the little happy feet rumbling through our church, Cara's safe trip back, Family & Friends, Mom and her happiness,

Serving in the Armed Services: Curtis Delattre, Parker Hahn, Cody, Toby, & Jeremy Williams, Jackie Shaw, Nathan Lake, Jed in Afghanistan, HT2 Jesse Sternberg in the Persian Gulf, Robert Barrett, Dan Schantz, Jonathon Fox, Andrew Horner, Stephen Miller, Patrick Schantz Abe Vansile, Bill Wencil, Bill Horner, Stephen Miller, Sondra Dew, T.J. Fera, Pete Ochucki, Stephen Battko, Rob Umbaugh, Adam Decker, Corey Traut, Troy Spencer, Pete Scobell, Jason Sweet, Natalie Neidrick Julin, Jolene Nobles, Aaron Heliker, Arick Heliker Matthew Wright, Matthew Lambert, Sean Jenkins, Krista Traut, Matthew Easterly Alaxis Brink Smith, Julie Sveda

The Clergy: Michael Curry, our Presiding Bishop; Sean Rowe, our Bishop; Matthew Scott, our priest, Tim Dyer, our deacon

Prayer for the Diocese

O God, by your grace you have called us in this diocese to a goodly fellowship of faith. Bless our Bishop, Sean, and other clergy, and all our people. Grant that your Word may be truly preached and truly heard, your Sacraments faithfully administered and faithfully received. By your Spirit, fashion our lives according to the example of your Son, and grant that we may show the power of your love to all among whom we live; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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