



Glad Tidings

"Publish Glad Tidings, Tidings of Peace"

The Monthly Newsletter of
Incarnation Holy Sacrament
Episcopal Church
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**APRIL
2011**

CLERGY & STAFF

The Rev. Alexander (Sandy)
C. Graham, IV, Rector
FrSandy@ihschurch.org

Joanne Sabatino
Organist and Choir Director

Bev Brescia
Parish Secretary

Diane Tapley
Financial Secretary

VESTRY

Cheryl Avery

Susan Bevilacqua

Maria Buonviri

BettyLou Hadley-Laird

Kris Haelle

Stacy Hawley

Bev Rorer

Sheila Spence

Dane Tanner

Ashley Thomas

Bob Verna

Each year our Annual Meeting provides a chance for us to check in with the overall health and direction of our Parish; sort of like an annual physical. Like a physical, there are certain tests, indicators, and symptoms that give clues as to how the body, mind, and spirit of our parish is doing.

In some ways, the numbers speak for themselves. Our Average Sunday Attendance (ASA), one of the most commonly examined indicators, has risen steadily over the last few years. In 2010, our ASA was 72, and we have often had more than 80 in 2011. This is not to say that parishes which have a smaller ASA are *necessarily* in bad health, neither are parishes with a larger ASA *necessarily* in good health. At IHS, however, when combined with other indicators and our overall Spirit, it points to an increasingly positive and healthful outlook.

Financially, though we still have room for improvement, we are in a better place now than we have been in many years. Many thanks go to all of you for your continued generosity and commitment, and we all need to give thanks to the good and hard work of all those involved in our financial ministries.

Our other ministries are also growing and quite active. The Sunday School continues to welcome new members, the Wednesday Wonders continue to do an unimaginable number of things to help the physical plant of our parish church, and I have joked with the Sewing Group that at the current rate, we'll have to put an addition on Nancy's house (perhaps two – one for the growing number of knitters and crocheters, and one for the prodigious amount of completed charity projects). These are only a few of things going on at IHS, not to mention the one-time events and gatherings that have been such a blessing.

We are also looking to the future. How do we continue and extend our welcome? One way is reaching out to increase our accessibility, hospitality, and visibility in our community with the planning of and fund-raising toward a new Narthex (church-speak for vestibule or entry-area). It is hard sometimes to be patient, but as the Development Committee's report will show, diligent and careful work is continuing so that our communal efforts will truly pay off.

A real aspect of our health, however, is hard to enumerate. Just as in our personal health, true vitality is marked by Spirit and Attitude. The community Spirit of IHS is one of our strongest traits. Yes, the numbers speak for themselves – but rather than *threatening* our strong, spirit-filled community, the noticeable growth we've been experiencing is *because* of it. The love shown to one another as well as whoever might next come through those red doors is what really has us on such a good path.

Years ago, I was told that a parish in the Diocese of Pennsylvania was considered at risk if it had below 80 ASA and below \$80,000 pledged annually. This seemed an excellent goal for IHS. Since that time, “80/80” has appeared at the bottom of the agenda for each vestry meeting. We looked at this as a long-term goal. As you will see, we're nearly there. 2010 was fantastic, and 2011 just might be the year we reach the goals we've been reaching toward for over 5 years.

There is a prominent narrative running throughout the Episcopal Church at the moment: a narrative of anxiety and despair. Countless meetings are peppered with those lamenting that “all of our churches our shrinking”, and that “all of our churches are in horrible and diminishing financial shape right now”. Not so. As Bishop Lee mentioned to the vestry at our recent visitation, it is important to speak up for the alternative narrative – that some of us are growing in numbers, financially, and in overall health. And to give thanks.

How do we measure a church's success? In Hospitality – when we, as Saint Benedict suggests, greet others as Christ. In Ministries – when we use the gifts God has given us for his greater glory and for the building up of his church, and when we support others in the use of their gifts. And in the way in which we Communicate the Gospel and the Saving Grace that transforms us and everything around us in the light of Christ.

I thank God that I get to work in this part of the kingdom with folks such as yourselves. Thank you all for a great 2010. Thank you all for what I'm sure will be a fantastic 2011.

(Taken from the 2011 Annual Report)

APRIL CELEBRATIONS

4/03	Stacey Hawley	4/17	Valerie Thompson
4/12	Chloe Staley	4/17	Diane Conran
4/13	Steven Lewis		
4/13	Jamie Mullin		
4/14	Sophie Gutierrez		
4/15	Sheila Spence		
4/17	Amanda Thompson		



4/19 Erik W. Haupt	4/25 Sandy Johnston	4/27 Lauren Depue
4/20 Ethan Samuel Ziminsky	4/26 John Simpson	4/28 Bob Verna, Sr.
4/21 Charles Gibson	4/27 Scarlett Elysa	
4/23 Kevin Dale	Brooks	
4/04 Bob and Milissa Conn		4/15 Susan and John Bevilacqua
4/12 Bob and Jean Thompson		4/25 Margaret and Thomas Chadwick
		4/29 Joyce and Richard Bernasz

Please let the Church office know of any additions, deletions or corrections that need to be made in the above two lists. This is our most recent information, and we depend on you to keep us current.

Incarnation Holy Sacrament Prayer Cycle – You may have noticed in the bulletin and the Prayers of the People certain ministries named in our *prayer cycle*. This is a seven-week cycle, and this month’s ministries are listed below. Please consider these ministries in your prayers, and allow us the privilege of connecting you with one or more of these ministries as the spirit moves you!

April 4th	Altar Guild and Lectors
April 11th	Jr. Girl Scouts and Sewing Group
April 18th	Choir and Sunday School
April 25th	Finance Committee and Ushers

Fellowship Gathering Sign-Up



The sign-up for hosting Fellowship Gathering/Coffee Hour after church is posted on the bulletin board in the back of the church and in the parish hall. Please take the opportunity to sign-up—if you are not able to host one, you may bring in a box of cookies or crackers for the pantry, or a gallon of iced tea or lemonade. Fellowship Gathering is a “coming together” time, and many hands *do* make for lighter work! *Bring an extra mug from home and leave it in the kitchen for use each week – help save our planet by using less trash!*

ested in helping with events that affect the Life of the Parish, please contact the office.

Shrove Tuesday - Pancake Dinner -



all
los and
again on

Praise God from whom blessings flow the Toriel-
their team did it
Shrove Tuesday.

The Pancake Supper was the best ever, very well attended realizing a total of \$534.00 and \$70.00 added that had been donated for the snowed out 2010 event.

Parish Life Committee

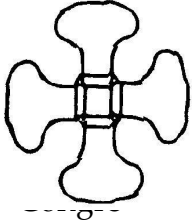
Would you like to help with church dinners, bazaars or other special events that energize our parish through fellowship? If you are inter-

April 3rd	<i>Volunteers Needed</i>
April 10th	<i>Volunteers Needed</i>
April 17th	<i>Vestry</i>
April 24th	<i>Easter Egg Hunt</i>

So if you were a guest or a worker or both -
THANKS SO MUCH!

Lenten Series – Please join us on the next three Wednesday evenings at Holy Comforter for a discussion on the topic “Amazing Grace - Explaining the Sacraments”. We will meet at 6:30 for a light supper followed by the discussion at 7:30.

Stations of the Cross – Join us for the Way



of the Cross- each Friday during
Lent through April 22nd at
pm. This quiet, centering
Liturgy finds the whole
gation processing

from station to station around the church and
lasts about thirty minutes.

Easter Egg Hunt – The annual Easter Egg Hunt will be Sunday the 24th after the morning



service—around 11:30 am
We are asking for your help – we are looking for plastic filled Easter eggs for the children. Just drop them off in the back of the church on a Sunday morn-

ing in April. Then just remind the children to bring their baskets on Easter Sunday.

Any questions please see Donna Roman or Suzanne Depue.

Easter Flowers – Did you miss the form to request flowers for the Altar on Easter Sunday; it was in last month newsletter. You still have time to fill it out and request a specific spring flower – tulips, daffodils, geraniums – the deadline is Monday April 11th. All forms must be submitted no later than Friday April 15th. Additional forms will be available in the church office or in the back of the church the first two Sunday's in April.



Thank you. Altar Guild

HOLY WEEK SERVICE SCHEDULE

Maundy Thursday Service – April 21st 7:30

Good Friday Service – April 22nd – noon

Holy Saturday Service – April 23rd 5:00 pm

Easter Vigil Service – April 23rd 7:30 pm

Easter Sunday, April 24th

10:00am – Holy Eucharist Rite 2, Church

11:30 am – Easter Egg Hunt – front lawn

Glad Tiding Newsletter Articles for the May, 2011 Glad Tidings should be in the church office by Monday, April 18th – Thank You

The Girls Friendly Society would like to thank everyone that helped to make our 2011 Souper Bowl Sunday a huge success. The turn out was wonderful and everyone enjoyed the different soups that were served. We made a donation in February to the local food cub board and are currently collecting food to make another donation very soon. Once again thank you.



We'd like to extend a special "THANK YOU"

to the Girls Friendly Society.

The money they raised from Soup Sunday was donated to the food cupboard. The food they purchased filled the back pew!

Thanks to everyone who made my big 80th birthday so very special. I was completely over



whelmed by the number of cards and other types of wishes. You even let me claim a part of the Bishops lunch! You are truly a wonderful group of friends and I am so proud to be

able to worship with you.

Thank you all from the bottom of my heart.

Bev Rorer

2010 Diocesan Convention Journal is available – if you'd like a copy please contact Bev in the church office – Tuesday-Friday 10AM – 2PM and she'll print you out a copy

College/High School Graduations



Graduation from high school and college will be happening very shortly. Do you have a child who will be graduating from either High School or College? We would like to recognize these students and their accomplishments in the Summer Glad Tidings. Would you please send us an e-mail with a short write-up about them (where they are graduating from, plans for future, etc.) You can also leave it on my desk after church. Thank you, *Bev Brescia*

Picture Directory – In a last effort attempt to get everyone who'd like to have their picture in our directory we have found two churches in the area that are scheduling appointments for their members and are willing to allow anyone from here to have their picture taken. They are:



April 7, 8, & 9th – St. Timothy's
535 Lamppost Lane
Aston

April 29 & 30 – St. Thomas
6361 Lancaster Avenue
Philadelphia

If you'd like to have your family included in our directory – see Dane Tanner or contact Bev in the church office to schedule an appointment. *Remember – you do get a free photo!*

Save the Date! Monday May 23, 2011

The parishes of the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania are going to have another night out with the Philadelphia Phillies!



The Phillies will be playing the Cincinnati Reds on May 23rd at 7:05 PM and it's a Phillies

FINANCIAL STATEMENT – as of 3/21/2011

	<u>Year to Date</u> <u>Income</u>
Envelope	20,341.94
Plate	537.86
Special Events	604.00
Great Beginnings	4,950.00
Investment/Interest	0.00
Easter/Christmas	175.00
Miscellaneous	93.25
Endowment/Principal Used	0.00
Total to Date	26,702.05
Income needed to avoid use of any additional endowment principal	139,215.95
Budget for the year	165,918.00

dollar dog night! Tickets can be purchased for \$28 each at <http://www.phillies.com/episcopal>.

Proceeds from tickets sold will help to support the publication of *Where It All Began*, our quarterly magazine that features parish programs from all across the Diocese. Because demand for tickets is high, order early so that tickets will be available for you, your friends and family.

When you buy the tickets, enter the promotion code **EDOP**. Please place your orders well before April 23rd in order to ensure that your seats are with our ticket block.

Please forward this notice to the members of your parish so that they can reserve their seats early. We look forward to having you join us for this wonderful opportunity for fellowship and to support the Phillies!

Faithfully, Henry

Henry Carnes
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Holiday House at the Jersey Shore - -

Have you given any thought to vacation.... too early; not really. Consider Holiday House - they are located in beautiful Cape May at 644 Hughes Street and have reasonable rates.

Memorial Day thru June – Bed/Breakfast

\$60.00 per night/per person including
breakfast

July/August - \$70.00 per night/per person
including breakfast & dinner for
Floors A and B

\$65.00 per night/per person
including breakfast & dinner – Floor C

September – Bed & Breakfast - \$55.00

per night/per person including breakfast

Call them – reservations 610-715-4433 or e-mail
at gfsholiday@yahoo.com



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