

On the Spiritual Side

jarthur@buckscountyherald.com

Students bring joy to monthly gatherings

PeaceMeal, the monthly dinner and fellowship welcoming all who are impacted by HIV/AIDS, thanks student volunteers who contributed "a spark of joy" to the Sunday gatherings.

Young singer-songwriter Lily Mae Oppenheim touched many with her songs, and attendees and volunteers also enjoyed performances from New Hope-Solebury High School jazz musicians Matt Wenz, Dalton Corr and Andrew Connor. Wenz and Corr also performed with fellow student-musician James Russin.

Also performing was the GleePAC, the musical troupe of DPAC, the Downtown Performing Arts Center of Lambertville, N.J. Student volunteers Leah Hunt,



GleePAC performers Ashley O'Connor, left, Taylor Rae Carter, Germaine Terry, Gwen Etzel, Alec Cenci and Abby Klapper gather at a PeaceMeal event.



Jazz musicians Andrew Connor, left, Dalton Corr and Matt Wenz perform at a PeaceMeal dinner.

Olivia Harrison and Michaela Godshall provided smiles, company, baking and dishwashing.

PeaceMeal is held at Trinity Episcopal Church, 6587 Upper York Road, Solebury, from September

through May. It is held at Trinity Buckingham Episcopal Church, 2631 Durham Road, Buckingham during July and August.

It is supported year-round by both churches and by St. Philip's Church in New Hope.



Leah Hunt and Olivia Harrison assist Santa at a PeaceMeal gathering in December.

Caroline Oakes: Mind and Spirit

A day lived and a day prayed can be the same

Immediately upon arriving at Holy Cross Monastery for a weekend "vacation" several years ago, I could see that the men of this community are very busy 21st century Episcopal monks.

Their primary call is to offer their grace-filled overnight hospitality to as many as 5,000 guests a year, an active ministry in itself.

As well, each monk is active in his own personal ministry — as a teacher, a psychotherapist, a social activist, or running the monastery's fully stocked bookstore.

And yet, in the midst of their

busy lives, the beautiful bells of the monastery ring out five times a day, much like in the well-known Muslim tradition, to call the monks and monastery guests to gather together in communal prayer and meditation.

At first, I wondered how the monks could get anything done. I found I was even a bit resentful of the constant interruptions of the calls to prayer.

But on my next visit to the monastery, I began falling into the rhythm of the monks' daily prayer and transcendent "plainsong"

chanting of the psalms. I imagined the monks actually preferred the restful and contemplative prayer times to the busyness of their daily responsibilities.

Finally, on my third or fourth visit to the monastery over several years, a shift happened. In living the monk's movement from prayer, back to work, to prayer, then back to work, I could see that the constant return to prayer informed the rest of even my own day. In my time outside of communal prayer, I felt more aware, more open, more "prayed."

I understood then that the day lived and the day prayed could be the same thing.

One evening, as the last prayer service of the day was ending, the image of an aerial view of the world suddenly came to me.

I realized that, as monasteries and convents in this time zone ended their time of prayer before retiring for the evening, other gatherings of the religious of all traditions in the next time zone would be then taking up their call to prayer for that hour.

And so it goes, one time zone to

the other, through the night and through the next day, on and on — the world being wrapped-round in a prayerful awareness of the Divine, always.

Might we also be called to join in?

Caroline Oakes, a Bucks County resident, has a master's degree in Ascetical Theology and is writing a book on the prayer practice of Jesus, mindfulness meditation and the human spirit. Follow her on Twitter @carolineoakes.

oakes.caroline@gmail.com

St. John the Baptist Parish celebrates 100th anniversary

The centennial celebration of service to St. John the Baptist Parish by the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart culminates with a 2.5-mile procession and special

liturgies, including a closing Mass on June 23 celebrated by the Most Rev. Timothy C. Senior, auxiliary bishop of Philadelphia.

The Missionaries of the Sacred

Heart — MSC — have sent priests, sisters and brothers to serve St. John the Baptist Parish, 4050 Durham Road, Ottsville, since 1912. At the time, the parish was

distant, small and rural, making it difficult to administer by the diocese.

A century later, the parish remains among the northern outposts of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia — and the MSC continues to serve.

The centennial celebration closes with a nine-day novena of prayer, which began with an open-air Mass at Old St. John the Baptist on June 15. For each of the subsequent six evenings at 7 p.m., prayers in the old church are being led by parishioners from the nearly 100-square-mile parish.

On Saturday, June 22, the cele-

bration moves from the historical roots of the parish on Haycock Run to the current worship site on Route 412. The Blessed Sacrament will be carried in the procession from the old church to the new church, beginning at 3 p.m. and ending with Mass at 5 p.m. Fr. Raymond Diesbourg, MSC, USA provincial superior, will be the principal celebrant.

The ninth and final day of the novena prayer concludes with Mass celebrated by Bishop Senior at noon, followed by a banquet in the school gymnasium. A 36-page history of the MSC in the parish will be distributed at the banquet.

Interfaith group hosts peacemakers mission

The Interfaith Community for Middle East Peace is hosting an Interfaith Peacemakers Mission to Israel/Palestine in December in partnership with MEJDI Tours.

The nonprofit organization is reaching out to clergy and lay leaders across the Delaware Valley to assemble the broadest possible coalition of Muslim, Christian, Jewish and other clergy and lay leaders.

The group is being assembled to

travel together to the Holy Land and listen with hearts open to Israeli and Palestinian politicians, peacemakers, religious leaders and victims of the conflict as the group visits Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Hebron, S'derot and Ramallah on a unique Dual Narrative Tour.

ICMEP believes it can bring stories of faith, hope and peace home to help build a new constituency for Middle East Peace.

The Interfaith Mission begins on Monday, Dec. 2, and returns on Thursday, Dec. 12.

For information, contact Larry Snider, president of ICMEP at 609-481-5804 or ld.snider@yahoo.com. Visit mejdi.net/current-tours/the-interfaith-community-for-middle-east-peace/. The site includes a link to the itinerary, registration information, the history of ICMEP and a video.

HAPPENINGS

Student to be honored at service

Bobby Klein will be honored for graduating from Gratz Hebrew High School during Shabbat Services at 7:30 p.m. Friday, June 21 at the Bensalem Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 2040 Street Road, Warrington.

He will attend Harrisburg University in the fall.

Celebrate Shabbat at Lake Galena

Temple Judea of Bucks County will celebrate Shabbat at Lake Galena in Peace Valley Park at Pavilion 5 in Doylestown on June 21. There will be a picnic dinner starting at 6:15 p.m. followed by a musical Shabbat service at 6:45 p.m. R.S.V.P. for the dinner at 215-348-5022.

New Hope church hosts outdoor service

St. Philip's Episcopal Church, 10 Chapel Road, New Hope, celebrates the birth of St. John the Baptist at 7 p.m. Monday, June 24,

with an informal outdoor Mass. All are welcome to attend; snack and drinks will be served.

For information, visit stphilip-snewhope.org or call 215-862-5782.

Jamison church sets teen mission trips

St. Cyril of Jerusalem Youth Ministry for High School in Jamison takes a "Mission Trip to Trenton, N.J.," June 23 to 29. The trip is open to youth entering 10th grade in 2013 through graduating seniors.

A Youth Ministry "Mission Trip to Appalachia" from July 28 to Aug. 3 is open to youth entering grade 11 in 2013 through graduating seniors. Visit saintcyril.com or call 215-896-6649 for information.

Frenchtown church celebrates America

Frenchtown United Methodist Church, 16 Third St., Frenchtown, N.J., hosts a Musical Celebration of America on Sunday, June 30. Visitors are invited for a light lunch at 1 p.m., followed by a con-

cert of patriotic music featuring Frenchtown UMC Pianist Linda Scheurle and The Patriot Brass Ensemble.

There is no admission charge; however, a freewill offering will be taken.

All proceeds benefit the Patriot Brass Ensemble, a nonprofit professional musical group serving local service men and women and area veterans.

Call 908-996-3117 or 908-996-4501 for information.

Revere church honors veterans

Palisades Community Bible Church invites the community, veterans and friends to attend a Road Warriors Motorcycle Parade, beginning at 10:45 a.m. Sunday, June 30 at the Ottsville Fire Co. firehouse. The parade will proceed along Route 611 and end at the church, 8730 Easton Road, Revere, where tribute will be paid to veterans of all ages at approximately 11 a.m. Veterans who would like to participate in the event may call the church office at 610-847-2637 for details.

Worship Directory

SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

United, June 23, 2013

The Rev. Dr. Tyson Frey, Sr., Pastor

9:30 am Worship

Faith@5 Engaging Contemporary Worship

Saturdays at 5 pm

186 E. Court St., Doylestown • www.DoylestownSalemUCC.org

215.348.9860

GOD'S LOVE EXPERIENCED AND EXPRESSED

KEHILAT HANAHAR

"The Little Shul by the River" with a big heart

Rabbi Diana Miller, Spiritual Leader

Rabbi Michelle Greenfield, Shul School Director

Weekly Fri. Shabbat Services • Shul School Pre-K-10th grades

Adult Programs

85 W. Mechanic St. • New Hope, PA 18938

www.kehilathanahar.org 215-862-1912

Visitors Welcome



To advertise here,
contact Felicia
at 215-794-1097



St. John the Evangelist Anglican Church
1150 Bristol Road
Churchville, PA
(Jesus Focus Ministry)
215-396-1970

8:00 a.m. Holy Communion
9:30 a.m. Holy Communion
(With Morning Prayer 2nd & 4th Sunday)
Sunday School 10:30 a.m.
The Rev. Mark E. Rudolph, Rector
www.toknowchrist.org