

On the Spiritual Side

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St. Philip's anti-trafficking drive is great success

Together with a handful of other churches and a club for mothers of young children, St. Philip's in New Hope has collected 562 gently used bras to benefit sex-trafficking survivors.

The bras will be sent to Free the Girls, a U.S. nonprofit that helps formerly enslaved women set-up microbusinesses selling second-hand bras. Currently working in Mozambique, Uganda and El Salvador, Free the Girls hopes to expand to other countries by inspiring more "everyday abolitionists" to start drives.

"We weren't sure what kind of response we'd get when we started our first bra drive last year," said

The Rev. Michael R. Ruk, rector of St. Philip's. "We were prepared to be happy with a few dozen bras. Instead, we collected 289. And this year, working with our terrific local partners, we've nearly doubled that."

Joining St. Philip's in the 2015 Free the Girls drive were Mom's Club of Buckingham North and three area Episcopal churches: Holy Trinity of Wrightstown; Trinity Church, Buckingham; and Trinity Church, Solebury.

"We're not just 'raising' bras, we're raising awareness" said Liz Oliver, a St. Philip's parishioner who organized the 2014 and 2015 drives. "Every bra that comes in is

a positive for the program because [the donor] is now aware of the problem of sex trafficking and of the people who are benefiting on solutions."

The problem of human trafficking, much of it tied to the sex trade, is far larger than many people realize. According to the Free the Girls website, an estimated 20 to 37 million people around the world are currently being held against their will, the majority of them women and girls.

While evidence linking the Superbowl to a spike in trafficking is slim, the event has become a high-profile occasion to educate Americans about the trafficking in their midst.

For that reason — and because February is the birthday month of

the "Great Emancipator," Abraham Lincoln — St. Philip's next drive will take place in February 2017.

Free the Girls focuses on the resale bra market for several reasons. There is a strong demand for used clothing in poorer countries, and bras are especially valued. They are easy to store but complicated to make, so they don't compete with locally made goods.

And formerly trafficked women and girls can sell the bras on their own time, allowing them to care for their families or continue studies cut short by their abductions. Most important, bra-selling is a woman-to-woman enterprise, making it safer than many other businesses.

Setting up a microbusiness can be as easy as hanging a half-dozen

bras from an open umbrella in a marketplace. Free the Girls provides participants with their starting inventory at no cost; the women then buy additional inventory at below wholesale prices with a portion of their profits. This helps them learn basic business skills and keeps the program sustainable.

To learn more about Free the Girls, to donate money or to start your own drive, visit freethegirls.org/get-involved/. To donate a bra now through February 2017, contact Liz Oliver at lizfieldingo@yahoo.com.

For more information about St. Philip's or its outreach programs, contact Michael Ruk at 215-862-5782 or michael@stphilip-snewhope.org.

Hanukkah Helper class offered at Temple Judea

For anyone who wants to learn more about Hanukkah in order to feel more comfortable participating in the holiday and explaining the traditions to their children, Big Tent Judaism introduces Hanukkah Helper.

The one-time class is a free, fun and interactive session that will prepare parents who are new to Judaism, to celebrate Hanukkah in a meaningful way with their families.

Hosted by Temple Judea of Bucks County, 38 Rogers Road, Furlong, from 9 to 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 6, the class welcomes parents from communities throughout Bucks and Montgomery counties.

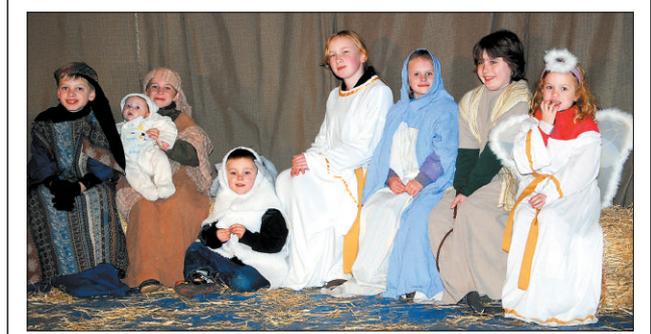
Through hands-on activities and discussion, participants will

explore the origins of the holiday and its universal themes; learn how to light the hanukkah (Hanukkah candelabra) and play the game of dreidel (spinning top); and discover the joys of the holiday's culinary and musical offerings.

Participants will also discover ways to answer their children's questions and gain practical advice for raising Jewish children, regardless of their backgrounds.

Parents are encouraged to bring their children; there will be fun activities planned for them as well. Refreshments will be provided.

To RSVP, or for information, contact Rich Yoffee at 215-206-4726 or ryoffice@bbumail.com. To learn more about Big Tent Judaism, visit bigtentjudaism.org.



Christmas celebrated on Main Street

Children will perform their Living Nativity at Main Street Baptist Church, 57 S. Main St., Doylestown, during its second annual Christmas on Main Street, Nov. 28, with a rain date of Dec. 5. The Living Nativity is from 1 to 4 p.m., and vendors will sell handmade items at the Christmas Bazaar from 11 to 4:30 p.m. There will be a Charity Bake Sale with all proceeds going to Samaritan's Purse, samaritanspurse.org. Free hot cocoa and candy canes will be available for everyone.

Replica of Mission Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe visits St. John's parish

Visitors are invited to St. John the Baptist Parish, 4050 Durham Road, Ottsville, Dec. 4 to 13, to view "an exact 4- by 6-foot digital replica" of the Mission Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe from the Basilica near Mexico City.

The Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe is a Roman Catholic church, basilica and National Shrine of Mexico in the north of Mexico City. It is located near the hill of Tepeyac, where Our Lady of Guadalupe is believed to have appeared to Saint Juan Diego Cuauhtlatzintzin in 1531.

The basilica houses the original

tima (or cloak) of Juan Diego, which holds the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe. One of the most important pilgrimage sites of Catholicism, the basilica is visited by several million people every year, especially around Dec. 12, Our Lady of Guadalupe's Feast Day.

The Miracle of Guadalupe was officially recognized by the Vatican in 1745. In January 1999, then Pope John Paul II looked upon the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe and said, "I ask her to visit as a pilgrim of faith each in every diocese, parish and family

in America."

The Missionary Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe is blessed by the rector of the basilica and has journeyed throughout the United States for the mission of promoting the sanctity of the family, solidarity of the church, the sanctity of life and a civilization of love.

The Rev. Simione Vololova, MSC, pastor of St. John the Baptist Parish, said the parish "will be honoring our Blessed Mother and consecrating our parish anew to her maternal care."

Visit stjohnstotsville.org for a schedule of events.



Concert aids prison, recovery ministry

Nearly 200 people attended a concert by independent Christian music artist Dave Pettigrew Nov. 14, at Woodside Presbyterian Church in Yardley, to help raise awareness and money for the Christian Life Prison & Recovery Ministry. It was a night of worship and fundraising, with the theme "There Is Hope."

St. Philip Orthodox Christmas concert benefits needy

St. Philip Orthodox Christian Church of Souderton hosts a Christmas Benefit Concert, at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6, at 1970 Clearview Road, Souderton.

The concert will feature St. Philip's Choir singing a selection of Hymns of the Nativity of Christ, with settings from a variety of traditional Orthodox styles, including Byzantine, Slavic, Georgian, Serbian and more.

In addition, the church welcomes Trio Amaranth of Philadelphia, presenting several classical selections on violin, cello and piano by Ernest Chausson, Joaquin Turina, and Astor Piazzolla.

There is no charge for admission, but a freewill offering will be accepted to benefit St. Philip's Needy Fund.

For information, contact 215-721-4947 or apostphilip@gmail.com.

Newtown Presbyterian hosts chili luncheon, cookie sale

Newtown Presbyterian Church, 25 N. Chancellor St., Newtown, hosts a Holiday Chili Luncheon and Cookie Sale from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5.

Tickets are available at the door for \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under 12. Those ages 3 and under are admitted for free. Take-out orders are available.

The meal consists of meat or vegetarian chili, cornbread, salad, dessert and a beverage. In addition, Presbyterian Women will sponsor their annual Cookie Sale. This year, there will also be wreaths and special gifts available for purchase.

Chili Luncheon ticket sale proceeds benefit the maintenance and beautification of the Historic Presbyterian Church on Sycamore Street, which was built in 1769. The church is used during the summer for Sunday worship and for special occasions.

The Cookie Sale raises money to fund Presbyterian Women benevolences that range from local mission causes to regional and international organizations that support at-risk women and children.

For information, call the church office at 215-968-3861.

Live Nativity set for Jerusalem Lutheran

Family, friends and neighbors are all welcome to see the sights and sounds of the season in a free dramatic presentation of The Nativity with live animals, from 3 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6, at Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church, 733 Ridge Road, Sellersville.

For information, call 215-257-9423 or visit jelchurch.com.

Archdiocese offers talk in Archbishop's Lecture Series

Professor Michael Hanby, of the Pontifical John Paul II Insti-

HAPPENINGS

tute for Studies on Marriage and the Family, will speak from 7 to 9 p.m. Monday, Dec. 7, at Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary, Vianney Hall Auditorium, 100 E. Wynnewood Road, Wynnewood.

His talk on "The Truth Will Set You Free: Liberal Order and the Future of Christian Freedom," is part of the Archbishop's Lecture Series, hosted by The Archdiocese of Philadelphia and its Office for the New Evangelization.

For information, or to R.S.V.P., contact Meghan Cokerley, director of the Office for the New Evangelization or visit phillyevang.org/lectures.

Concert at Trinity Trenton features international carols

"Carols for the King," from around the world, a free concert featuring Deborah Ford, soprano and choir director; Evelyn R. Larter, piano and arranger; Lydia Calhoun, clarinet; and a mixed voice choir, takes place at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 4, at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, 801 W. Slate St., Trenton, N.J.

Admission is free; however, a freewill offering will be accepted.

St. Martin of Tours offers free lunch and fellowship

The St. Martin of Tours' Parish Café, 1 Riverstone Circle, New Hope, serves a free, hearty lunch for community friends and neighbors from 11:30 a.m. to 1

p.m. Saturday Nov. 28.

All are invited to join in for food and fellowship, sponsored by The Men of St. Martins.

Old Rocks holds live Nativity Pageant

The annual Outdoor Live Nativity Pageant will be held at Old Rocks Church, Mt. Airy-Harbourton Road, West Amwell Township, N.J., at 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6.

The pageant is presented by

area children with live animals and the manger located in the authentic old horse shed attached to the small stone church built in 1842.

Special music is also part of the pageant.

Following the program, there will be refreshments and a time of fellowship, with hot chocolate and cookies served in the Fellowship Hall.

The church is located approximately ½ mile south of South Hunterdon Regional High School.

Worship Directory

Christian Science Services
First Church of Christ, Scientist
 29 N. Church St., Doylestown, PA 18901

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