



Musings from the priest's back porch...July-August 2025

During the summer of COVID—remember that? —I saw a picture of a sidewalk with marigolds growing in the cracks. A pre-school located near this sidewalk had the children plant seeds in the cracks. The beautiful flowers brightened the area and got me thinking. The cracks weren't particularly unsightly, but the sidewalk was bland, and abutting the sidewalk was the concrete wall of the school. The flowers broke the monotony of the tan-grey on tan-grey. I considered that the one who encouraged this was pretty clever! With fewer people wandering the streets during COVID, the flowers bloomed well and were not disturbed by the feet of passers-by.

I had scheduled the replacement of a portion of my cement sidewalk where a downspout spews its rain and melted snow and ice. A crack developed, and I had been diligent in clearing the soil and flame-killing the weeds. But not this year. I recognized that the little green leaves sprouting upward looked a lot like those on Wave-petunias. I left them alone. And now, in that nasty crack, there are numerous colorful little petunias, some portulacas flowers, and a few soon-to-be-yanked weeds! The beauty of those wayward plants makes me smile every time I go down the adjacent steps.

The cracks that appear in our lives often call us to patch them over. We then spend an extraordinary amount of time trying to clean them up and to fill them in. And we want to perfect our environment, our lives, our journeys. But sometimes, those very cracks are there as a reminder that life is never perfect, that fissures and gullies will appear when we least expect them or when we least desire them, and frequently, when we are not ready to deal with the loss of those smooth, easy, nice, firm, landscaped paths.

As we will soon experience warmer, more humid days, and sadly, longer nights, ordinary time greets the faithful with the times Jesus spent with regular, every-day folks. Though somewhat odd that we celebrate Ascension Thursday and Pentecost then roll into Ordinary Time, this stretch gives us time to see the cracks in our lives, and consider where God might be using those faults, those imperfections, and those disruptions to bring us to change our thinking, alter our visions, and consider different futures in faith, in service and in love.

May the God of All Creation bring you beauty and grace, so that you may be kind and loving to yourself, as you consider where God might be using your imperfections to beautify God's world.

Your brother in Christ.....

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kurt" followed by a small cross symbol.

Fr. Kurt



JULY BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 – Joseph Scheuren | 22 – Mackenzie Androshick |
| 4 – Abbey Javid | 23 – Susan Noble |
| 13 – Lauren Snyder | Joshua Scheuren |
| 14 – Abrahm Scanlan | 27 – Stephen Hynoski |
| 15 – Laura Goodman Jenkins | Hannah Lippincott |
| 20 – Holly Frantz | 28 – Diane Waldner Lippincott |

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 – Anthony Javid | 18 – Lois Hewes |
| 7 – Joshua Lauver | 21 – Roland Price, Jr. |
| 9 – Joseph Coddington | Earl Donatti |
| 15 – Benjamin Hynoski | 24 – Jack Dudash |
| 16 – Amanda Marie Jacobs | |

If your birthday is listed incorrectly or it is not included on the birthday list, please notify the church office. Thank you.



NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS are needed for our Food Cupboards. If you are unable to donate food items, you can also give a monetary donation. Please write your check to North Parish and designate Food Cupboards. Thank you.



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Amanda, Amelia, Bob, Bridget, Denny, Dolores, Emily, John, Patricia, Ben S., Betty P., Rev. Margaret & David P. Rachael Coyle, Megan Engelbrecht, Delores Frantz, Donna Frantz, Phil Frantz, Gerard Frantz, Jennifer Frantz, Rebecca Higgins, Linda Hood, Harley Hynoski, Bobby Jones, McKenzie Kline, Fr. Kurt Kovalovich, Bill Kuhn, Joshua Lauver, Landry Lauver, Stephen M., Mary Makely, Jeff Maurer, Shirley Moyer, Catherine Mozdy, Justin Mummaw, Gertrude Newman, Bill Noble, Diane & Jim Reed, Joe Scheuren, Marg Scheuren, Kim Russell Seibert, Rev. Dolores (Evans) Smith, Christopher Stevens, David Strunk, Spencer Swiss, Bob Tiley, and Eddie Ulceski

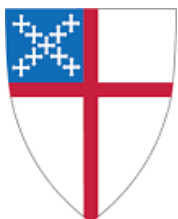
PRAYER LIST POLICY: We are updating our prayer list beginning July 1st. If you would like your name to remain on the prayer list or need to add someone, please notify the office before then. We ask that you call the church office at 570-429-7107 or email us at nparish@ptd.net. Please leave your name, phone number and the name of the person for the prayer list. Thank you.



BAPTISMS: We welcomed into the Episcopal Church through Holy Baptism on May 4, 2025, at St. John's, Mabel Jane Walter, daughter of Daniel Lee Walter and Samantha Marie Walter. May God bless Mabel Jane Walter and her family now and forever.

We welcomed into the Episcopal Church through Holy Baptism at Holy Apostles on May 18, 2025, Rielly Paige Deeter, daughter of Jon and Dakotha Deeter. May God bless Rielly Paige Deeter and her family now and forever.

We welcomed into the Episcopal Church through Holy Baptism at Holy Apostles on June 8, 2025, Myles Tyler Vaz, son of Timothy Tyler Vaz and Samantha Anne Haddad. May God bless Myles Tyler Vaz and his family now and forever.



HOLY APOSTLES SATURDAY SERVICES

July 5, 2025 – 5:00 p.m.

Evening Prayer

Worship Leader – Bonnie Baker

August 2, 2025 – 5:00 p.m.

Holy Eucharist

Celebrant – The Rev. Dr. Kurt K. Kovalovich

JULY MEMORIALS



WINE & WAFERS: In memory of Jim Lecher by the Lecher Family.

In memory of Ethel Lane by Linda Gerlott.

BULLETINS: In memory of Betty Noble by the Hynoski Family.

SANCTUARY CANDLES: In memory of Edith Hoffman by the Ulceski and Strunk Families.

In memory of Jim Lecher by the Lecher Family.

AUGUST MEMORIALS



WINE & WAFERS: In memory of Marlin “Sparky” Miller by Linda Gerlott.

In memory of Treasure King by Jane Shaqfeh.

BULLETINS: In memory of Donna L. Frantz by Phil and Donna Frantz.

In memory of Treasure King by Jane Shaqfeh.

SANCTUARY CANDLES: In memory of Cole Joshua Lauver by the Hynoski Family.

In memory of Treasure King by Jane Shaqfeh.

2025 MEMORIALS AVAILABLE:

Bulletins – November - \$10

Please call the church office for more information – 570-429-7107

SUNDAY BREAKFAST – Holy Apostles

July 6, 2025 & August 3, 2025

9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.



The menu includes scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, home-fries, toast, juice, coffee, tea, etc.

The cost is \$12.00 payable at the door

The breakfasts are fundraisers for North Parish’s general fund.

Our profit from May - \$867.73

Our profit from June - \$917.29

Thank you !



NORTH PARISH PEACH FESTIVAL

Thursday, August 21, 2025



**St. John's Episcopal Church
Ashland, PA**

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Come enjoy ice cream with fresh peaches, baked goods and a beverage.

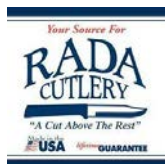
Eat in or take outs available.

**Please see Bonnie Hynoski,
Bonnie Baker or call the church office - 570-429-7107 for tickets.**

**Volunteers are needed to set up, bake treats, to sell tickets and to clean up.
If you cannot make a baked good, a monetary donation would be greatly appreciated to
offset the cost of the peaches.**

**If you can help set up and peel peaches, please arrive at the church on the day of the
festival by 9:00 a.m. Baked goods can be dropped off at that time. If you can help that
evening, please arrive by 4:30 p.m. Money raised from the Peach Festival will go to
North Parish's general account.**

ONLINE RADA CUTLERY SALE



**North Parish is selling Rada Cutlery online to benefit our General Fund. Please type in
this link in your web address to place an order:
<https://radafundraising.com/?rfsn=5315822.c6637d>. When you are directed to the
website, please click yes to support North Parish. Then place your order like any other
online purchase. This will be an ongoing sale. For those of you who are not
comfortable ordering online, please see Bonnie Baker or Bonnie Hynoski for a printed
catalog. Please feel free to share this with your family and friends.**



**All articles for the September/October Newsletter should be submitted to our Parish
Secretary, Shannon, no later than Monday, August 11th.**

April & May Finances

North Parish Receipts			North Parish Disbursements		
General Account			General Account		
25-Apr	\$	5,123.21	25-Apr	\$	5,677.21
Year to Date	\$	18,953.09	Year to Date Exp.	\$	28,305.16
Transfer in from M&I for ExpensesCurrent	\$	-			
Transfer M&I Year to Date for expenses	\$	1,000.00			
Transfer in from DIT Trust FundCurrent	\$	-			
Transfer DIT Trust Fund Year to date	\$	5,000.00			
Transfer in from Memorial Acct.Current	\$	-			
Tranfer Memorial Acct year to date	\$	-			
M&I Account			M&I Account		
25-Apr	\$	15.10	25-Apr	\$	-
Year to date	\$	1,080.94	Year to date	\$	1,000.00
Memorial Account			Memorial Account		
25-Apr	\$	0.09	25-Apr	\$	-
Year to date	\$	20.35	Year to date	\$	-
Balances					
General Account	\$	585.95			
M&I Account	\$	5,995.46			
Total funds available	\$	6,581.41			
Memorial Account	\$	5,288.15			
Temp. Restricted Fund					

North Parish Receipts			North Parish Disbursements		
General Account			General Account		
25-May	\$	3,534.25	25-May	\$	6,035.18
Year to Date	\$	22,487.34	Year to Date Exp.	\$	34,340.34
Transfer in from M&I for ExpensesCurrent	\$	1,000.00			
Transfer M&I Year to Date for expenses	\$	2,000.00			
Transfer in from DIT Trust FundCurrent	\$	5,000.00			
Transfer DIT Trust Fund Year to date	\$	10,000.00			
Transfer in from Memorial Acct.Current	\$	-			
Tranfer Memorial Acct year to date	\$	-			
M&I Account			M&I Account		
25-May	\$	30.09	25-May	\$	1,000.00 (to gen. acct)
Year to date	\$	1,111.03	Year to date	\$	2,000.00
Memorial Account			Memorial Account		
25-May	\$	0.09	25-May	\$	-
Year to date	\$	20.44	Year to date	\$	-
Balances					
General Account	\$	4,085.02			
M&I Account	\$	5,025.55			
Total funds available	\$	9,110.57			
Memorial Account	\$	5,288.24			
Temp. Restricted Fund					

News from Marion C. Price

SUMMER PICNIC



The annual MPTF Summer Picnic will be held on Thursday July 17, 2025 at Sweet Arrow Lake Picnic Pavillion. The picnic will begin at 5:30 PM with the meal being served at 6:00 PM. I hope that many of you will be available to join us for food and fellowship. Please contact Cathy Clouser in the office, 570-621-3220 with any questions, directions and also to RSVP. Please RSVP by Sunday July 13, 2025. Please let me know if you are in need of a ride or if you are willing to provide a ride for someone in need. I will do my best to coordinate in order to get everyone there. The address for Sweet Arrow Lake is 108 Clubhouse Road Pine Grove, PA 17963. From Pottsville: Take Rt. 61 South to 183 South. Turn Right onto Rt. 443(Deturksville Road) west towards Pine Grove. Travel approximately 8 miles and turn Right onto Shoreline Drive. Follow Shoreline Drive a third of a mile and stay left onto Clubhouse Road.

WALK with a DOC



Walking is one of the best things you can do for your physical and mental health. People of all ages, fitness levels, and backgrounds are welcome to attend these free ongoing events. After a brief discussion from a healthcare provider, participants will spend the rest of the time enjoying a healthy walk at their own pace. You are encouraged to ask questions and socialize with others in a fun relaxing setting. The event is being held at Martz Hall (upper level) 1541 Laurel Blvd., Pottsville on the third Saturday of every month from 10-11 AM. The schedule for the rest of 2025 is as follows: July 19, August 16, September 20, October 18, November 15, and December 20. This program is offered by the Walter and Irene Baran Schuylkill Family Medicine Residency Program in cooperation with LVPG Family Medicine – Schuylkill Medical Plaza.

Tips for summer meal planning



Summertime is synonymous with BBQing and light refreshing meals. Preferably one that takes little time to make and doesn't heat up the kitchen. This may include fresh healthy salads and cooking on the grill.

Prep in advance by chopping vegetables, marinating meat and prepping sauces ahead of time to streamline cooking.

Keep cooking simple by choosing quick and easy recipes that allow more time spent outdoors doing what you enjoy.

Use seasonal produce by taking advantage of fresh fruits and vegetables. Support local farmers and enjoy fresh, tasty food grown close to home.

Stay hydrated by not forgetting to drink on those busy family days. Refreshing beverages like lemonade or fruit infused water can help you keep drinking throughout those hot days.



NORTH PARISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH SERVICES

JULY 2025

July 5 Saturday	Evening Prayer	5:00 p.m.	Holy Apostles	Bonnie Baker
July 6	Morning Prayer	9:00 a.m.	St. John's	Bonnie Hynoski
July 13	Holy Eucharist Holy Eucharist	9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	St. John's Holy Apostles	The Rev. Timothy Albright The Rev. Timothy Albright
July 20	Holy Eucharist Holy Eucharist	9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	St. John's Holy Apostles	The Rev. Dr. Kurt Kovalovich The Rev. Dr. Kurt Kovalovich
July 27	Morning Prayer Morning Prayer	9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	St. John's Holy Apostles	Susan Noble Bonnie Baker

AUGUST 2025

August 2 Saturday	Holy Eucharist	5:00 p.m.	Holy Apostles	The Rev. Dr. Kurt Kovalovich
August 3	Holy Eucharist	9:00 a.m.	St. John's	The Rev. Dr. Kurt Kovalovich
August 10	Morning Prayer Morning Prayer	9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	St. John's Holy Apostles	Bonnie Hynoski Susan Noble
August 17	Holy Eucharist Holy Eucharist	9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	St. John's Holy Apostles	The Rev. Dr. Kurt Kovalovich The Rev. Dr. Kurt Kovalovich
August 24	Morning Prayer Morning Prayer	9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	St. John's Holy Apostles	Bonnie Baker Susan Noble
August 31	Morning Prayer Morning Prayer	9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	St. John's Holy Apostles	Bonnie Hynoski Bonnie Baker

July 5 & 6	The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost	Green
July 13	The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost	Green
July 20	The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost	Green
July 27	The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost	Green
August 2 & 3	The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost	Green
August 10	The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost	Green
August 17	The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost	Green
August 24	The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost	Green
August 31	The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost	Green