

Message from our President



Prayer and Service for the Spread of Christ's Kingdom

Diocese
of
Central
Pennsylvania

Daughters
of
the
King

Assembly
Newsletter



So the rush of Christmas is mostly behind us. We've bought, wrapped and given presents. We have baked cookies, stolen, cinnamon rolls. We have roasted turkeys, baked hams, cooked pasta and fish. We've strung lights, inflated lawn ornaments, dressed trees and decked those halls. But we are Daughters and so I know that even in these busiest of times, we've taken time to pray, and because I am who God made me I have a story to tell you.

Our chapter in State College organizes a Taizé service during both Advent and Lent, with services held on the Wednesday nights in those seasons. This year

was no exception. Some Daughters set up the service with candles and more candles and our worship focal point; some Daughters organize and orchestrate the service, and some clean up after. Taizé is not everyone's favorite form of worship, but we have a faithful group of about 30 people who attend most services and so Daughters continue to offer this contemplative worship service to the parish. In Advent we contemplate an empty manger, in a mostly candlelit church as listen to stories from the Bible and sing Taizé hymns. It is a serene service, with periods of extended silence. In that silence we are aware that we are waiting during the season of Advent. And I have to tell you that I personally love the Taizé experience. I love anything that makes me stop and pay attention, and to be in the presence of the Lord. And I believe that those who attend find comfort and peace and

obviously enjoy the serenity of that worship.

All that was preamble to say that the last week before Christmas found me rushing to and fro, and in my haste that last Wednesday of Advent, coming back from an office outing, I caught the zipper on the lining of my winter coat, so that the only way I could get in and out of it was to literally step out and then step back in. I couldn't zip it up,



but luckily the coat also has snaps so I was still nice and toasty despite a non-functioning zipper. I also could not unzip it. My officemate Lindsey saw my

zipper distress and she too tried to help me get out of this zipper situation, and the 2 of us tugged and pulled and pulled and tugged and that zipper was stuck, stuck, stuck. Since I sew, I have a vast supply of scissors and I envisioned just the scissors I would use to cut that zipper out of/off of the lining. I planned to minimize damage to my coat, but at least reduce the need to keep stepping in and out of my coat. It would have to wait until I got home that evening, but I only needed to step out of it and into it 3 more times – I had a plan. Before I left my office that afternoon, I gave it one more serious try to unzip the coat, but failed, so once again stepped into the coat. I arrived at church that evening before the service, and stopped in front of the altar to say a prayer. It was short prayer to thank God for His presence in my life, and to ask Him to slow me down, so that I

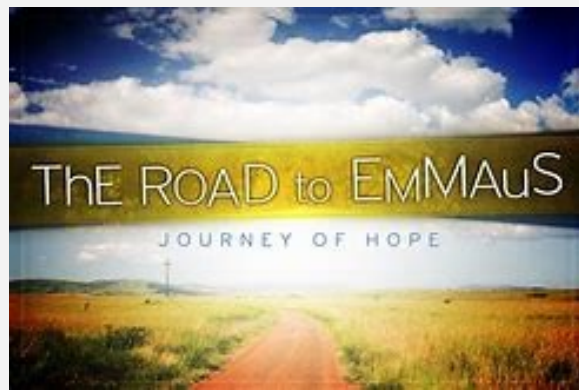


could more fully appreciate the Advent season. And I turned away from the altar, walked to a pew and leaned down to unsnap my winter coat, and it OPENED in my hands – completely – no stuck zipper – no tugging – no pulling – no nothing. It just opened. The zipper was not stuck. Not at all. I turned back to the altar and said another prayer, though it was without words. Odd to have an utterly wordless prayer when there were so many things that I could have said, but I prayed quietly none-the-less. The next day I went into the office and told Lindsey what had happened and her only statement was – “No way!” She could not believe there was any way that zipper would have come unstuck. One week later I am still surprised at the impact of that silly zipper. That zipper has caught the coat lining almost everyday for months. And suddenly the zipper now works fine and the lining no longer seems to be in the way. But is it the zipper that surprises me? No, not really. What surprised and still surprises me is that God finds new and different ways to get his message to me – if only I slow down and listen. What was the message you may wonder? Well, me too. Whatever you may think of this story, whether you believe God had a hand in it or not, every time I put that coat on, and go to zip it, I think of that evening, in front of that empty manger, and I give thanks once again.

Wishing you all a blessed Christmas season.

With love and For His Sake,

Michele



SPRING ASSEMBLY NEWS

Mark Your Calendars

Please plan to join us in York on March 10, 2018.

We will be voting on new officers and bylaws.

“The Road to Emmaus”

is our current working title.

As we solidify plans, more details will be sent.

Harriet Lane Johnston News

The Daughters of the Harriet Lane Johnston Chapter expanded their presence at the All Souls Evensong service on November 5th. Several of us served as ushers, while others guided those who attended the service in lighting candles in remembrance of loved ones and friends. Two of the sisters read the necrology list of names of those parishioners who had died in the past year. This service, such a quiet and reverent offering, provided the sisters with deep personal satisfaction, as well as the knowledge that we were fulfilling our role in the parish as Daughters of the King. As a result of our participation this year, we have been assured of a larger role in the service next year.

One of our sisters, Ross Fairweather, was recognized by WGAL and PCESU at their prestigious 8 Who Care Award Ceremony as one of the winners in the Susquehanna Valley for her volunteering and public service. She was honored for her extraordinary commitment to the children of Carter & MacRae Elementary School. Through her dedication to helping others, Ross organizes residents of her community who volunteer by providing academic tutoring and music mentoring to school students.

We have welcomed back our Chapter Chaplain, Rev. Lauren Schoeck. Lauren has been mastering the role of new mom to Stephen Michael Schoeck. It looks as though it agrees with her, and we are delighted to have her back with us.

In December, we assisted in delivering small wooden trays with the stained glass representation of St. James to the homebound parishioners. The trays were lovingly assembled and packaged by the Women's Gathering group, and then the Daughters took the packages and cards and had delightful visits with those parishioners who no longer can attend church. This opportunity provided us with the ability to take Christmas cheer to many while having precious time in reflection and prayer.

At our last prayer meeting of the year, we ended by assembling goodie baskets for two of our seminarians who are preparing for their General Ordination Exams. In addition to the sweets, we included in our baskets prayer cards from all of the sisters. Nourishment for the body and soul.

We look forward to welcoming three new sisters to our chapter at the induction service on February 11th at 10:30 AM followed by lunch. The study sessions with these women was a true joy – each of their faith journeys has been remarkable, and each will bring her own depth of faith to our Chapter. Trude Hoffman, Debbi Miller, and Wanda Stoltzfus will be our new sisters. Should any of you be able to attend and support our new sisters as they take on our rule, we'd be delighted to have you with us.

As a Chapter, we look forward to a New Year full of continued growth, and understanding of God's love and call to us, through deepening our prayer, service and evangelism.

Submitted by Susan Landin
St. James Episcopal Church
Lancaster, PA



Margaret of Scotland News

Our Chapter is struggling due to our small numbers. Sadly, one of our members (Dorothy Gelhard, died last week. Another one hasn't been seen or heard from in months--I keep trying. Nevertheless, Mary Lou and I keep going, taking care of the votive stand and providing coffee hour every other month. We have hope that our new priest will help us attract some new members. We both wish everyone a Merry Christmas and good health and best wishes in the New Year.

Submitted by Sarah Terhune

Apostles for Christ News

On December 9, our chapter began a Bible study on the Book of Romans. We were delighted to have five additional people join us in the chapel for this educational journey. We plan to meet twice a month through August for this study.

We look forward to working with Sarah Terhune (Margaret of Scotland Chapter) to plan the 2018 Spring Assembly to be held in York on March 10.

Submitted by Alison Vedder



Building a Path to "Walk HIS Way"

Each chapter and each diocesan, provincial, and country assembly are invited to create a "brick" to pave the Way. The deadline for the Diocese of Central PA is March 14, 2018. Then email your verse with the name of your chapter or assembly to photos@doknational.org.

Go to www.doknational.org for more information.

Diocesan Officers

Michele Marini,
President

The Rev. Jeff Packard,
Chaplain

Linda Hoover,
1st Vice President

Carolyn Hinton,
2nd Vice President

Sarah Terhune,
Secretary

Barbara House,
Corresponding Secretary

Alison Vedder,
Treasurer



Prayer and Service for the Spread of Christ's Kingdom

Chapters

The Peacemakers,
Gettysburg

Margaret of Scotland,
Hanover

Daughters of Glory,
Harrisburg

Harriet Lane Johnston,
Lancaster

Dame Julian of Norwich,
State College

Apostles for Christ,
York



June 20-24, 2018

Renaissance at the Arboretum, Austin, Texas

Gracious, loving and Triune God, we praise and glorify Your name!
You are a mighty God, wonderful Counselor, everlasting Father
and the Prince of Peace.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on Triennial 2018. Teach us to walk Your way,
Lord, making disciples of all nations, following in the footsteps of
our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Come Holy Spirit! As we plan and prepare, help us bear Your fruit of love,
joy, peace and patience as we seek to do Your will.

Pour out your knowledge, wisdom and understanding on the preparation
and implementation of Your plan for Austin.

May all Daughters who attend and all who come near feel the power of
Your presence and be filled to overflowing with your Holy Spirit.

May we continue shining the light of Christ as we Walk His Way!
It is in Jesus' precious name that we pray. Amen.