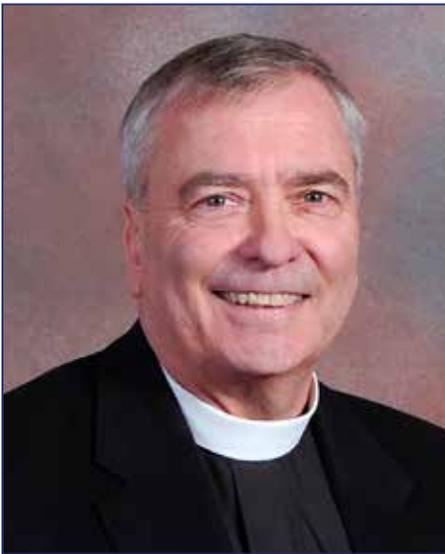
A photograph of a park during cherry blossom season. The upper half of the image is dominated by a large, dense tree of pink cherry blossoms. Below it, there are several smaller, bare trees and a large, vibrant yellow flower bush. In the background, a wooden walkway or bridge is visible, with a few people walking. The foreground is filled with lush green bushes and trees.

The Epistle

April, 2018

A Message from Your Priest in Charge



Dear Friends,

Have you ever noticed the connections between Jesus' last words on the cross and the first thing he says after the resurrection? On the cross Jesus says, "Father, forgive them....I commend (hand over) my spirit to you." The first words Jesus says to his disciples after the resurrection, "Receive the Holy Spirit.... be forgiving."

A life centered on the Spirit of God shows up in forgiveness. The Spiritual journey is all about our relatedness. Forgiveness restores the relationship. If there is an absence of peace in your life the first place you want to look at are the people you haven't forgiven. Jesus also said about forgiveness, "If you retain the sins of any (no forgiveness) they are retained (by me.)"

Now, you and I don't have to forgive. There is a personal benefit from not forgiving. I get to be "right." I cannot be related, but I get to be right!

Here's the question: Would you rather be right or would you rather be related?

From my experience, most people would rather be right. Jesus' forgiveness of his disciples allowed them to accomplish great things after his death.

Holding onto being right is poisonous and it damages our souls!

Peace be with you!

Father Stephen

March Vestry Meeting Highlights:

The regular monthly meeting of the Priest in charge, Wardens and Vestry was held on Tuesday, March 27, 2018. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved. The actions of the Little Lamb, Shepherd's Haven and the Thrift Shoppe Management Groups were ratified. The report of the Treasurer was accepted subject to audit.

- The Income & Expense Report for the period ending February 28, 2018 was distributed.

- Father Stephen will check with the Diocese to see if the money that is set aside in a Rectory account can be used for buildings and grounds expenses.

- The results of the town hall meetings "I like it when..." were distributed including what has been done since the meetings. These results will be made available to the congregation.

- Parishioners have volunteered to update our website and Facebook page.

- The Buildings and Grounds Committee is prioritizing some jobs that need to be completed. Soon we will see some improvements.

- The trees around the property at 420 Ramapo need to be removed. We received a quote to remove 18 evergreen trees for \$4,500.

- Little Lamb Children's Center needs to be acknowledged. Christ Church has benefitted from their financial support. There are ways that Little Lamb could use the support of the Church.

- May 6 will be Teacher Appreciation Sunday.

- All Vestry members were asked to help support the Tricky Tray. There are lots of jobs to help with.

The minutes of the Vestry meeting will be posted on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall as they become available. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 24, 2018.

*Do not fear, for I
am with you.*

*Do not be afraid,
for I am your God;*

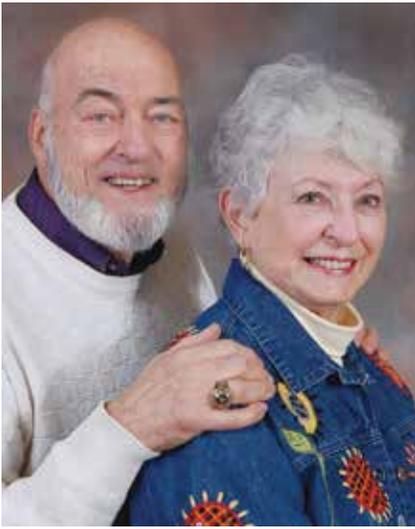
I will strengthen you,

I will help you,

*I will uphold you with
my victorious right hand.*

Isaiah 41:10

Submitted by Deacon Barbara



Sondermeyer Wedding Anniversary

To all Christ Church parishioners, you are invited to attend an open house to help celebrate the 60th wedding anniversary of Pat and Bill Sondermeyer on Saturday, April 28th. It will be held at the Bloomingdale Firemen's Hall on Hamburg Tpk, Bloomingdale from 1-5pm. Please do not bring gifts. Your presence is truly the only gift needed. RSVP to Karen Bogert 973-634-0190. Pat and Bill have been active parishioners at the 9:30 service since 1963.

Financial Clerks Needed

Volunteers are needed to be Financial Clerks, those who count and deposit the Sunday offering. If you are interested, please see Bruce Hetzel, or call him at 973-800-2725.

Spring Into Action To End Hunger-Together We Can!

It's that time of year again when the Christ Church Sunday School children are running our Food Drive. Did you know that the Food Pantry feeds about 500 of our neighbors? About 200 of them are children! We need your help to end hunger. You can begin to bring in non-perishable canned and boxed goods anytime. We've included a guide to help you with your shopping: April 22nd: Rise and Shine...Bring in "breakfast foods." April 29th: Lunchtime! May 6th: Dinner Bell! May 13th: Snack Time! We will also be posting a list of "Most Wanted" items that have been requested by the food pantry. Delivery is scheduled for May 20th, with a rain date of June 3rd. Thank you in advance for your support.

"I was hungry and you gave me something to eat. Whatever you did for one of my brothers or sisters, you did for me."



A Reminder

If you have not already done so, please renew your commitment to our Christ Church ministries by filling out and returning a 2018 Pledge Card. Extra pledge cards are available in the Vestry Room and in the Parish Office. You can put your card in the collection plate on Sunday, or bring it or mail it to the Parish Office, 400 Ramapo Avenue, Pompton Lakes, NJ 07442. Thank you very much for your stewardship of our congregation and of those who are served by our ministries!



Christ Church is on Facebook

Christ Church is now on Facebook. Go to www.facebook.com/christchurchpompton to become a fan.

Treasurer's Note

In an effort to appropriate funds to the correct accounts, any checks intended for the Capital Campaign should be made out to Christ Church noting "Capital Campaign" on the memo line. Thank you for your attention to this detail.



Choir Fund Raiser

Do you have old cellphones, ink cartridges or other small electronic devices such as games, MP3 players and Ipods? Don't toss them in the trash!! Bring them in and leave them in our box in the church office. The choir can recycle these items and receive cash for them! It's a win, win...the choir can buy more great music and you can help the environment at the same time.



Openings for New Clients at Shepherd's Haven

We would like to cordially invite you to come and spend time with us at Shepherd's Haven. We are a nonprofit activity and social center, where there is good food, great conversations and a lot of laughs. Our clients are great at trivia, enjoy painting, bingo, gardening, cooking, and games of skill and so much more. Come and meet some new people, our fabulous volunteers, and excellent staff. We are offering you a free day, with no obligations. We would love to see you and share with you a fun filled day. We are open Monday through Friday until 3:30pm. Call Leigh at 973-835-4747.



Parish Family Birthdays-April

If you have not yet informed the parish office of your birthdate, please call Maureen at 973-835-2207.

- 1 - Jenny Bogert
- 2 - Anthony Longo
- 6 - Joe Blauvelt
- 6 - Terry Kearney
- 9 - Bruce Gottheiner
- 12 - Sean Porter
- 13 - Denise Pugsley
- 15 - Bill Sondermeyer
- 19 - Melanie Liston
- 21 - John Fitzgerald
- 26 - Pennie Waltz
- 26 - Jessica Kida Swanson
- 28 - Danielle Geresi
- 29 - Andy Shaw

Looking ahead to May Birthdays:

- 1 - Matt Hanania
- 1 - Tammy Buginsky
- 2 - Shannon Stewart
- 6 - Joel Finger
- 6 - Kevin Elliott
- 7 - Don Bogert
- 7 - Tim Helm
- 7 - Alexis Braun

- 7 - Nicole Braun
- 9 - Amanda Wolfson
- 13 - Lori Spataro
- 16 - Sophia Novak
- 18 - Kirsten Shepard
- 18 - Grace Thornhill
- 20 - Kathy Shepard
- 22 - Cindy LoBue
- 22 - Trevor Elliott
- 23 - Patricia Kida
- 25 - Chrissy Wolfson
- 27 - Stephanie Conklin
- 29 - Alison Thornhill
- 30 - Jeff Cahill
- 31 - John Miller
- 31 - Florence Loscalzo

Bishop Search

As you may know Bishop Mark Beckwith has announced his retirement. Read about the search for the XI Bishop of Newark at www.dioceseofnewark.org/bishop-search.

Book of Remembrance

You may have noticed the red book on the Prayer Desk on November 2, and when the Lay Reader read the Prayers of the People, names you haven't heard in a while were read along with the names of those in whose memory altar flowers were given, or who were recently deceased. Once a year, on All Saints' Day, or the Sunday after All Saints' Day, names added to the Book of Remembrance over the past 5 years or so are read.

Spring Gala Tricky Tray

The Christ Church Spring Gala Tricky Tray will be held on Friday, May 4, 2018 at 7:00 pm! Please mark your calendars and start to think about what you can donate. We'd love to have themed baskets, or monetary donations. Do you have any Christmas gifts that you don't know what to do with? We'll gladly take them and use them in one of the baskets. Please consider asking your employer for a donation too. We love gift certificates to any business. If you have any specific talent, consider how that could be used ... maybe you needlepoint, crochet, draw or paint, make something for us! Donations are accepted any time between now and the Tricky Tray. We also need lots of volunteers to help with wrapping, set up, baking, clean up etc. The sign up sheets are posted in the Parish Hall.

Entrance tickets are \$10 a person and can be purchased at Coffee Hours or by calling the Parish Office at 973-835-2207. A Prepack of bidding ticket is available if you pay for it in advance, a \$48 dollar value for a cost of only \$35!

Capital Campaign Offering Envelopes

Capital Campaign Offering Envelopes are available for your convenience, and can be found on the table in the Vestry Room or in the Parish Office.



News from the Sunday School

In February, Family Sunday was celebrated on February 25th and the Junior and Cherub choirs were led by Emily Simone, who did a great job! As always, the children performed all of the readings as well as the singing on Family Sunday.

The Sunday School was very pleased that the Wild Game Night, hosted by Bill Calcagno and other great cooks, graciously collected money for our fundraiser for Seeing Eye Dogs/Service Animals. Everyone who attended was extremely generous and that night more than \$1600 was raised for this great charity. Many thanks to all who helped and donated! More events and information on this fundraiser to come soon!

The next week brought two feet of snow and many power outages and difficult times for many of us. Despite the piles of snow and the loss of an hours sleep due to daylight savings time, church was quite full on March 11th. On this day, Girl Scout Sunday was celebrated at Christ Church. Our scouts and many visiting scouts and their families attended the service. It was lovely to welcome so many new families and we were especially pleased when they also joined us at the coffee hour and

everyone had the opportunity to spend some time getting better acquainted.

After a cold and snowy March, we are preparing for the Easter season and the joyous celebrations of Spring with your children.

*Karen Cahill, Louise Hanania
and Debbie Onderlinde*

3rd Annual Beefsteak Dinner

Mark your calendars for the 3rd Annual Beefsteak Dinner! It will be held on Saturday, April 21, from 6:30 pm - 10 pm. Tickets are \$40 person and can be purchased from Karen Cahill at 9:30 coffee hour or call the office at 973-835-2207.



Food for Friends

The second Sunday of each month is the traditional day to receive your contributions of canned or packaged food stuff and for personal hygiene items for distribution through our Food for Friends program. Items may be placed in baskets at the baptismal font or in the Children's Chapel. You may also bring items any time during the month and leave them by the box in the Guild Hall.



Neighborhood Initiative

You are the reason for the Neighborhood Initiative. When life happens, it means a lot to have a neighbor nearby who is connected to your parish community and ready to serve you. Increasingly, Christ Church participants are finding this true. One of the joys of serving each other and our communities is that needs, small or large, brief or over a long-term, can be addressed through the network of neighborhoods created by the Outside In/Inside Out Commission of the Vestry. Neighborhood Leaders cross-reference resources with each other and are building a web of compassion. Here is the current list of Neighborhood Leaders who meet quarterly to discuss and plan how best to serve our 15 neighborhoods. Please let us know if your town is not represented. Feel free to call your Neighborhood Leader just to say hello or thanks for being there!

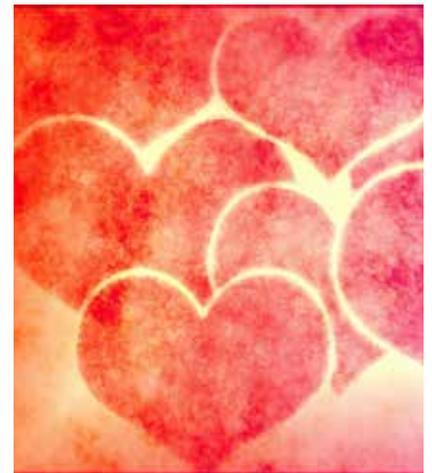
- **Bloomingtondale** - Karen Bogert - 973-634-0190
- **GlenRock/North Haledon/Totowa** – Marianne Taylor - 201-741-8825
- **Haskell/Wanaque** - Joyce McDiarmid - 862-262-0719
- **Oakland/Wyckoff/Franklin Lakes** - Geri Sheehan - 201-337-7395
- **Pompton Lakes, Christ Church area** - Nancy Dalzell - 973-202-7704
- **Pompton Lakes, Colfax** - Matt & Louise Hanania - 973-616-1604
- **Pompton Lakes Hamburg Turnpike North** - Alison Thornhill - 973-886-9728
- **Pompton Lakes, Hamburg Turnpike North** - Mary Ann Salerno-Fitzgerald - 973-835-6553
- **Pompton Plains/Pequanock** - Megan & Kat Menezes - 201-575-9459
- **Ringwood** - Joan Van Splinter - 973-856-4978
- **Ringwood** - Sue Helm - 973-856-2129
- **Riverdale** - Bette Davis - 973-809-1384
- **Wayne** - Packanack Lake, Preakness - Cindy LoBue - 973-694-7813
- **Wayne** - Sheffield - Barbara Hazelwood - 973-696-4966
- **West Milford/Stockholm/Oak Ridge/Hewitt** - Barbara & Karl Schinke - 973-557-5465
- **Foreigners & Travelers** (SW Morris Cty/Somerset County/Princeton and beyond) - Andy Shaw - 973-927-0202

A Heartfelt Thank You

We would like to thank everyone who helped to make Maryann Maass' visitation, Memorial Service and repast beautiful and memorable. Thank you Father. Stephen, Maureen Kilian, Karl Schinke, the string quartet, Janet Furness; the choir, (Karen Bogert, Sue Pikaart, Bette Davis and Debbie Hoeflinger); Florence Loscalzo ; the Altar Guild, Erica Stewart, Joyce McDiarmid, Sue Helm, and to Tim and Max Helm, Cindy and Tony LoBue, Tom and Debbie Ciaburri for their helping hands, and to anyone we may have forgotten, we apologize, and thank you as well.

With love and gratitude,

Carol Egan and Bob Maass



Luxury Vacations in Mexico and the Dominican Republic

Luxurious accommodations await you at fabulous resorts in both Mexico and the Dominican Republic. Prices are extremely affordable. Dates and accommodations are quite flexible. Advance planning is advisable. For pricing, availability, and accommodation details please see or call Cheryl Finger at 973-723-5044.



Personalized Cards

If you are looking for a convenient way to send out cards to friends, family, and/or business relations...look no further!

Order personalized cards with your name or signature printed directly on the card and return address printed directly on the envelope! This is a huge time-saving convenience!

Best of all, these cards are offered at a 20% discount and, in addition, Christ Church receives 7% back on the order...making your order a win-win for everyone.

The entire line of cards are available online for perusal at www.graphicinnovations.carlsoncraft.com. On the website, you will be able to select a stock verse or create your own, select typestyles, and personalize it

further by adding your name.

There are cards available for all budgets – go on, have some fun! Call Cheryl Finger with any questions or if assistance is needed at 973-616-0309.

To preview products online:

www.graphicinnovations.carlsoncraft.com

Our Communal Kitchen

There are many of us who use the kitchen at the church. Those who do should bear in mind the following guidelines:

- Leave the kitchen the way you found it. Everything should be cleaned, hand-dried, and put away. The counters and work surfaces should be clean and free of clutter. It's really nice to come into a clean kitchen.
- If you use cloth towels it would be greatly appreciated if you can bring them home, add them to your own laundry, and return them.
- Make sure the refrigerator doors are completely closed.
- Lock all lockable cabinets before your departure.
- Your help with maintenance is greatly appreciated since there is no particular person in charge of our kitchen; therefore, we all are. Thank you in advance!



The Thrift Shoppe

at 420 *One Step Up*



The Thrift Shoppe would like to invite you to visit our page on Facebook and on Yelp. We are in the process of trying to find new ways of advertising and are hoping to get you to help. If you are on Facebook or yelp, please visit our site and give us a review and Like our page. Please share our page with your Facebook friends. Our volunteers work very hard for an amazing cause and we want everyone to know about us!

The Thrift Shoppe is open Tuesdays from 3:00 pm until 7:00 pm, Thursdays from 4:00 pm until 8:00 pm, and Saturdays from 10:00 am until 3:00 pm. Donations can be left in the shed located in the church parking lot to the right of the permanent storage shed. It is clearly marked with a sign for Thrift Shoppe drop-offs. The Thrift Shoppe is always in need of shopping bags. For more information please call Florence at 973-962-6289 or 925-640-3421.

Florence Loscalzo

Baptism

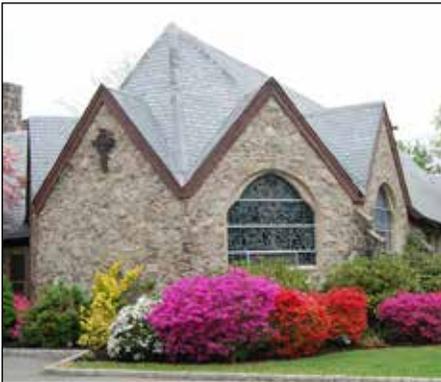
March 31

Brandon Devin Russell

Just a Reminder

We recycle at Christ Church. Plastics, glass, and metal cans should be placed in the large white plastic containers with the red tops, near the dumpster outside the kitchen. Paper and card board should be flattened and stacked neatly in the blue wire cart, also outside the kitchen, next to the dumpster.

Your help with these items is greatly appreciated since there is no particular person in charge of these tasks, and they shouldn't accumulate in the kitchen. Thanks in advance!



*Give God what is right,
not what is left*

Please contact Andy Shaw for a prize if you were able to read this!



Grocery Gift Cards

The painless fundraiser!

When you buy Grocery Gift Cards today, you'll have a good feeling knowing that Christ Church receives a Nickel for every dollar you spend! Grocery gift cards are available from ShopRite and Stop & Shop in \$10, \$25, \$50 and \$100 denominations. All of the cards will carry any unused balance until you use it up. Perhaps you would consider donating a Shop Rite gift card to Shepherd's Haven or to Food for Friends. Cards are available from Joe Blauvelt, Linda Meyer after the coffee hours and Maureen Kilian in the church office during the week.



Cards of Remembrance

Cards of remembrance are for those who, on the death of a friend, desire to send a memorial offering to Christ Church, instead of sending flowers. The cards are available through the Parish Office.

The Episcopal Diocese of Newark Mission Statement

*Equipping congregations...
Empowering people...
Engaging the world...
...with the hope and
justice of Jesus*

The Epistle

*The newsletter
of Christ Church,
Pompton Lakes, New Jersey
973.835.2207
www.christchurchpompton.org*

April 2018

Please submit all copy to Maureen Kilian, Parish Administrator in a typewritten format or e-mail to office@christchurchpompton.org by the 15th of each month.

*The Epistle is designed by
Graphic Innovations
www.graphinn.com*

Visit the parish calendar at the website at www.christchurchpompton.org