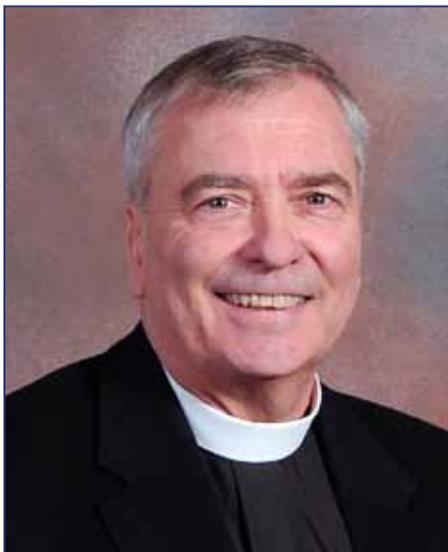


The Epistle

February, 2018



A Message from Your Priest in Charge



Dear Friends,

Every once in a while I come across something in the Prayer Book that offends me. It happens every time I read the collect for Ash Wednesday. (BCP Page 217)

“Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness;” You and I are not wretched!

Please keep distinct the sins of your past, our past, from who we are as human beings. We are beloved children of God! I have done wretched things in my life, to be sure, but I am not a wretched person.

When I focus on being wretched, the rest of my life is focused on becoming unwretched, like getting as much love as I can.

When I keep distinct the sins of my past from beloved child of God, I’m forgiven and freed to generate love of the other. It is to come from beloved child of God, rather than trying to get there. Maybe that was the intent of the prayer, but it doesn’t occur for me that way.

Please hold yourself as “beloved child of God.” It is fundamental to a healthy spiritual journey.

*Warmly,
Father Stephen*

Thank you, Lord

Thank you Lord, for giving me the chance to share this message with others and also, for giving me so many wonderful people to share this with.

If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof over your head and a place to sleep, you are richer than 75% of this world.

If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish some place, you are among the top 8% of the world’s wealthy.

If you woke up this morning with more health than illness, you are more blessed than the million who will not survive this week.

If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation, you are ahead of 500 million people in the world.

If you can attend a church meeting without fear of harassment, arrest, torture or death, you are more blessed than three billion people in the world.

If your parents are still alive and still married, you are very rare.

If you hold up your head with a smile on your face and are truly thankful, you are blessed because the majority can, but most do not.

If you can hold someone’s hand, hug them or even touch them on the shoulder, you are blessed because you can offer healing touch.

If you can read this message, you just received a double blessing in that someone was thinking of you, and furthermore, you are more blessed than over two billion people in the world who cannot read at all. Have a good day, count your blessings, and pass this along to remind everyone else how blessed we are!

Author Unknown

from St. James Church,
Tigard, Oregon

submitted by Deacon Barbara

Interim Music Director

We welcome Mr. David Christensen who has agreed to serve as Interim Music Director. Dave has worshiped here at Christ Church and been a choir member. He has also served as organist and choir director in several Episcopal churches over the years. We are grateful that Dave is available to provide stability for music in our services during this transition. The Ad Hoc Interviewing committee continues its work reviewing resumes of applicants for the Music Director position. You are welcome to invite qualified people to apply. If you have any questions about the position, please speak to Father Stephen or Janet Furness.



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Our Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper will take place on February 13 in the Parish Hall. Supper will be served between 6:00 and 7:00 pm. There is no charge for this event. So that we know how many to cook for, please be sure to add your name to the sign-up sheet posted in the Parish Hall.



Christ Church is on Facebook

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

Ash Wednesday –

February 14, 2018

The penitential/preparatory season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14. Traditional services – including the Imposition of Ashes – will be held at 10:00 am and 7:30 pm. Both services are celebrations of Holy Communion. At the 7:30 pm service hypoallergenic incense will be used and the choir will sing.



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.

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.

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!

The Wild Game Pot Luck Supper

On Sunday, March 4, at 5:30 pm, a pot luck supper will be held in the Parish Hall. Bill Calcagno will be providing the featured foods with a wild game theme. Please bring a side dish or dessert. A sign up sheet is posted in the Parish Hall so that you can indicate what you are bringing and how many will attend.



January Vestry Meeting Highlights

The regular monthly meeting of the Priest in charge, Wardens and Vestry was held on Tuesday, January 23, 2018. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved. The actions of the Shepherd's Haven Management Group and the Thrift Shoppe Management Group were ratified. The report of the Treasurer was accepted subject to audit.

- The Income & Expense Report for the period ending December 31, 2017 was distributed.

- Andy Shaw has agreed to be the Vestry representative to the Finance Committee.

- The Vestry will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month.

- Dave Christensen will be the Interim Music Director beginning February 1.

- Janet Gottheiner, Lehman Mann, and Linda Meyer are stepping down from Vestry. Father Stephen thanked them for their accomplishments and their years of dedication. The nominees to the Vestry are Sue Helm, Debbie DeFreese, Scott Heck and Carole Turner.

- The fall auction fundraiser will not be held this year. We need to come up with another fundraiser.

- A motion was passed to accept the 2018 Budget as prepared by the Finance Committee.

- A motion was passed to renovate the Parish Hall including painting and new window treatments and other items as outlined in Option B of the Renovation Cost Summary. The money would come from the savings/investment account.

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, February 28, 2018.

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.



Soup Off!

The Soup Off, where parishioners compete for the coveted title of "Soupmaker of the Year," is happening on Sunday, February 11 at 5pm. Sample a variety of soups and cast your ballot for the best one! Included in the price, in addition to soup, is salad, bread, dessert and beverages. Advanced tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. Tickets will be available during the coffee hours or by calling the Parish Office (973-835-2207). Please visit the sign-up sheets in the Parish Hall since donations and help are needed. We have lots of soup makers signed up! Join in on the fun and the fellowship. Let's make this year's Soup Off better than ever!! See Karen Bogert, Linda Meyer or Matt Hanania if you have any questions or want to buy tickets.

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.

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.



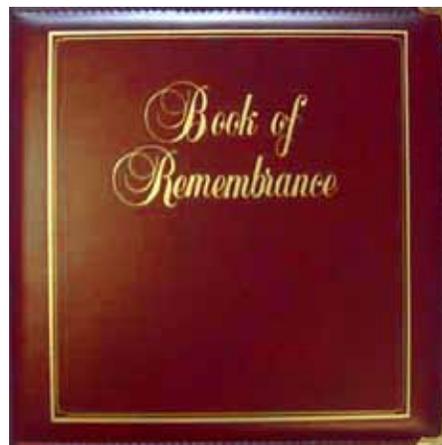
Openings for New Clients at Shepherd's Haven

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.

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.

If you would like a loved one's name inscribed in the Book of Remembrance, which normally resides in the case on the wall to the right of the Baptismal Font, please see Erica Stewart or any one of the Altar Guild members. The person's name, as you would like it to appear (for example, with or without a middle initial or name, etc.), and their birth and death year, will be inscribed in the book and read aloud next year during the Prayers of the People on All Saints' Day. A \$5.00 donation to the Altar Guild is requested.



Parish Family Birthdays-February

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

8 - Cayla Coleburn

10- Kayla Longo

11 - Emily Wolfson

13 - Emily Hoeflinger

13 - Lip Siang Eng

16 - Samantha Hanania

18 - Pat Sondermeyer

22 - Kristen Finger

27 - Bruce Hetzel

28 - Matthew Buginsky

29 - Brian Buginsky

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.

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*

Ninth Annual Wild Game Pot Luck Dinner

Sunday, March 4 at 5:30 pm



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*



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*

February 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