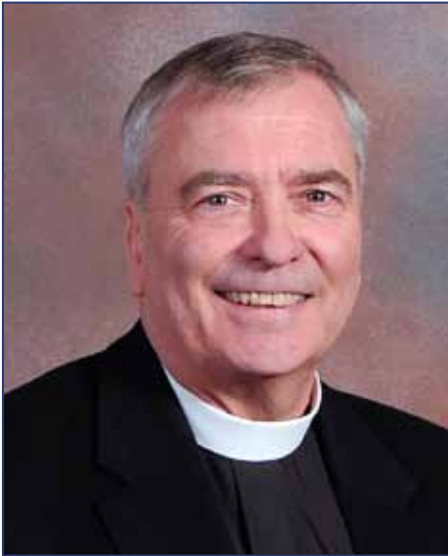




The
Epistle
November, 2017

A Message from Your Priest in Charge



Dear Friends,

For over a thousand years, All Saints Day, November 1, has been celebrated within the Christian Church. These are people, known and unknown, who have made a difference in our world being guided by the Spirit of God – the Holy Spirit.

This begs the question, "Are you guided by the Spirit of God?" We're either owned by the world (get as much as you can) or we're owned by the Spirit of God (give as much as you can.) Jesus once remarked "you find meaning in your life by giving it away."

Are you one of God's Saints? "No, not me" is the usual response. "If you knew me, really knew me, you would know that my past is filled with huge infractions. No, not me, I would be ashamed and embarrassed to confess my track record."

Have you ever read The Confessions of St. Augustine? One of the premier Saints in the Church has a track record, too! He is considered a saint, not

because of the absence of nasty, but because of the focus on making a difference in God's world, contributing to the well-being of the other.

Saying "No, I'm not" in response to the question "are you one of God's Saints," is a clever way of not being responsible (able to respond) for the presence of God's Spirit in the world. "No" is focused on our past. "Yes" maintains the premise given at our baptism and confirmation to respect the dignity of every human being. You are one of God's Saints when you say so. Yes, we are owned by God, have relapses, and are still owned by God nonetheless.

Keep your focus in front of you! It allows for God's Spirit to show up in the world and it keeps me from focusing on "nasty" and "awful."

No one who puts his head to the plow and looks back, is fit for the kingdom, Jesus reminds us.

So, are you one of God's Saints? If you say so. Amen.

*Warmly,
Father Stephen*

October Vestry Meeting Highlights

The regular monthly meeting of the Priest in charge, Wardens and Vestry was held on Tuesday, October 17, 2017. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved. The actions of the Thrift Shoppe, Shepherd's Haven, and Little Lamb Management Groups were ratified. The report of the Treasurer was accepted subject to audit.

- The Income & Expense Report for the period ending September 30, 2017 was distributed.

- There will be a Paint & Sip Party on Wednesday, November 15 at 7pm. This is not a fundraiser, just for fun and fellowship. Sign up in the Parish Hall..

- Father Stephen met the refugee family. He was welcomed into their home. It was a very good meeting. The parents have five children and live in a horrible neighborhood. Fr. Stephen will get specific information about their needs and ways we can help them..

- A motion was passed to hire landscapers to work on the grounds around the Church and the property at 420 Ramapo Avenue. They will spend two weeks pulling out weeds and trimming back bushes. They also will remove bushes and add new plantings. Costs will not be more than \$14,551. An additional landscaper will be hired to maintain the grounds (not including the lawn) from May to October at a cost of \$1,100 per month.

- A motion was passed to purchase an additional wall plaque for the Memorial Garden to hold the name plates. The total cost, delivered and installed is \$11,596.00.

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, November 21, 2017.

*He who cannot forgive
Breaks the bridge
over which
He himself must walk.*

George Herbert

submitted by Deacon Barbara

Who Is My Neighbor?

When the disciples asked Jesus to define “neighbor”, He replied with the parable about the Good Samaritan. What He said then is just as relevant to us now. While Christ’s lesson was appropriate for the society in which He and His disciples lived, mainly Judea and its hostility towards Samaria, the message does not change. Who is our neighbor? Is it the person next door or is it someone who may not live close by but needs us to share the Kingdom of Heaven with him (her)? When the Good Samaritan saw that person in need, he did not hesitate; he just did what God’s love streaming through his heart and soul inspired him to do. Participation with the Neighborhood Initiative has taught me that a neighbor is anyone in need, whether that person is a member of Christ Church or not, whether that person is next door or miles away and will never meet those responsible for sharing God’s gifts. Helping those in need has been an ongoing activity with the members of Christ Church and we have done it often and well in different and creative ways. The Neighborhood Initiative links Church members in the many “neighborhoods” that comprise Christ Church. It also goes beyond the geography of our Church Members to others who are in need. The backpack project - where refugees living in Passaic County received much needed school supplies - expressed the love and caring that Christ Church has for a group of people who, some-

how, have fallen through the cracks. Adopting a Syrian family will do the same and I whole heartedly welcome this as we - the Christian Community of Christ Church - continue to walk in the footsteps of - the Good Samaritan.

MaryAnn Salerno-Fitzgerald

Welcome to the Senior Corner

Hi, it’s Joyce McDiarmid and my plan is to pass on information to our senior members and their caregivers regarding programs that you might not be aware of that could help in your everyday life.

The 2015 NJ Homestead Rebate filing deadline is November 30, 2015. You may be eligible if:

- You were a New Jersey resident; and
- You owned and occupied a home in New Jersey that was your principal residence on October 1, 2015; and
- Property Taxes for 2015 were paid on that home;

Also

- Your 2015 New Jersey Gross Income cannot be more than \$150,000 for homeowners 65 or older or blind or disabled on December 31, 2015; or
- \$75,000 for homeowners under 65 and not blind or disabled on December 31, 2015.

People who qualified in the past received a rebate average of \$500.

If you don’t have an application call 1-888-238-1233. Be patient, that number is often busy.



Thanksgiving 2017

Thanksgiving is fast approaching. Christ Church will celebrate this holiday on the Sunday before Thanksgiving Day (November 19). Again we will decorate the Altar with real fruit, vegetables, breads and cakes which makes this a unique celebration. The decorating will be done on the Saturday before Thanksgiving, November 18. This year, the Altar Guild is asking for small monetary donations to purchase the food items instead of asking for various items we may be left with that could go to waste. The fresh fruits and vegetables we purchase will be distributed to those in need. Cakes will be brought to the shut-ins that are visited. Please place any monetary donations in the box marked for the Altar Guild on the Vestry Room table any Sunday between now and November 12. In addition, we ask that each person bring in non-perishable food items, stews, hash, soups and canned vegetables, cereal, pasta, etc., to either the 8:00 am or 9:30 am service on November 12. Baskets will be placed near the Baptismal font. This food will be delivered to needy families. Thank you for your generosity.



Life Line Screening Comes to Christ Church

Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings will be here at Christ Church on Wednesday, November 22, 2017. Ultrasound screenings to identify risk factors for cardiovascular disease include: Carotid Artery (plaque buildup-a leading cause of stroke), Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (an enlargement or weak area in the main blood vessel that carries blood from the heart to the rest of the body), Peripheral Arterial Disease (hardening of the arteries in the legs), a Heart Rhythm Screening (an EKG to detect Atrial Fibrillation-irregular heartbeat) and an Osteoporosis Risk Assessment for men and women. Being proactive about your health by knowing your risks helps you and your doctor address problems early. Register online today at www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle and receive your "Community Circle" discount and your Preferred Appointment!



Breakfast With Santa!

Santa is coming to Christ Church on Saturday, December 9th! This year there will only be one seating at 9:00 am. Tickets are \$7 per person for all ages. Ticket price includes a pancake breakfast and a gift for each child. We will have a special Santa Shack (No Adults Allowed!) where the children can buy inexpensive gifts for their family and friends. We are looking for donations for the Santa Shack. We need small inexpensive gifts that would be good for siblings, parents, grandparents, etc. We are also accepting cash donations so that we can purchase some items. The children very much look forward to buying these gifts and the looks on their faces when they are finished making their purchases are priceless. For tickets contact Debbie Onderlinde at 973-271-6562 or nealndeb@aol.com or call the Parish Office at 973-835-2207.

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.

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!



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.





News from the Sunday School

The Sunday School sponsored car wash on Sunday, October 1st was a huge success! We thank everyone who had their car washed that Sunday, because we know that many Parishioners did just that. And those that soaped and scrubbed and rinsed and dried had a great time while raising money for a fantastic cause. We raised more than \$500 and that amount was matched by the Thrift Shoppe so we were able to provide more than \$1000 for Hurricane Relief with help from within our own church community. How nice for the children to have their outreach efforts grow and how wonderful to support those who need help right now.



The children celebrate Halloween with a Halloween party following the 9:30 service on Sunday, October 29th and are even invited to bring a friend to church and the Halloween party. The Hall will get decorated for 'A Ghostly Gathering', which is the Eve before, so the party is guaranteed to be a scary and festive event for all.

News about Thanksgiving and holiday events will be coming soon. As always, we will have a holiday gift drive and a cookie bake, so please watch for details on these events. Thank you for your help with these events.

Karen Cahill, Louise Hanania and Debbie Onderlinde

Paint & Sip Party!

Please come and join in on the fun with a Paint and Sip party! This is not a fundraiser, just a night out to have fun and relax. We will be instructed to paint one glass with the same design. The second glass we can let our imagination run wild and create our own unique/beautiful wine glass or you can paint the same design. The 2.5 hour Party will be on Wednesday, November 15 at 7:00 pm in the Guild Hall. The price is \$31 per person and includes the Instructor, 2 wine glasses, and step-by-step instructions. You can bring some food to share with the group. BYOB. For more information please contact Karen Bogert at 973-283-1084. Please make checks payable to Christ Church.

Hat, Gloves, Scarf Drive

We have posted a list of the families that we are donating the winter items to in the Parish Hall. Please purchase hat/glove/scarf sets and then a new toy for the children listed. Please sign up in the Parish Hall. Items must be delivered to Church by November 12. Thank you for your generosity.



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.

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.

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.



Parish Family Birthdays- November

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

November

- 1 - Jim Birch
- 7 - Sue Cook
- 10 - Mary Ann Salerno-Fitzgerald
- 11 - Chloe Bogert
- 11 - Amanda Onderlinde
- 14 - Zachary Stewart
- 15 - Carol Egan
- 18 - Tom Filipi
- 19 - Barbara Hanenberg
- 20 - Megan Milligan
- 20 - Randy Schmidt
- 25 - Gary Stewart
- 25 - Janet Furness
- 29 - Janet Gottheiner
- 30 - Shamiera Milligan



Parish Classifieds

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

Help Wanted

Women's Way Fitness Center is looking for a responsible person to open and close 2 weekends per month. Saturdays, 8am – 3pm; Sundays, 8am – 2 pm. \$10 per hour. Includes free gym membership. Call Rachel at 973-305-1003

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 is now open on the second and fourth Sunday of each month from 11:00 am until 12:00 noon. We are also 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

Christ Church is on Facebook

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

Pledge Card Reminder

This is a reminder to return your 2018 Pledge Cards. You can mail them, put them in the offering plate, or bring them to the Parish Office.

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 cardboard 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*

November 2017

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.

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