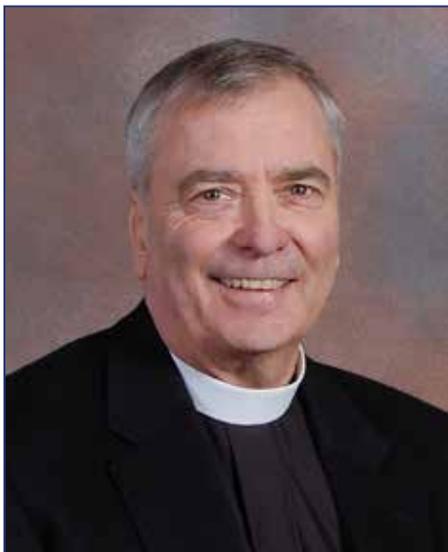
A vibrant field of yellow daffodils in full bloom, stretching towards a horizon under a clear blue sky with wispy white clouds. The flowers are the central focus, with some in sharp focus in the foreground and others blurred in the background, creating a sense of depth. The overall mood is bright and cheerful.

The Epistle

April, 2020

A Message from Your Priest in Charge



Dear Friends,

“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” And then shortly afterwards, “Into your hands I commit my spirit.”

Fitting last words for the crises at the present moment, yes? Frequently, one hears the question, “Where are you, God?”

God is in the same sphere as while Jesus was on the cross. Not the puppeteer upstairs that rescues us from disaster. Nor is God the cosmic gumball machine where you and I put in our quarter and expect miraculous results.

God made the world, and everyone in it, placed us on the playground we call earth and gave us the rules, all within the context of love. God’s promise is to love us unconditionally, not to intervene when there is any type of disaster. And by the way, the disasters, by and large, are the result of human beings. Yes, miracles occur, keep praying. And God’s promise is not to spare us from tragedies.

Our job is to trust God and to live in a relationship of love

and gratitude. Jesus trusted God, lived a life of service and thanksgiving and the world has forever been alive!

Warmly

Father Stephen

A message From Deacon Barbara

In the story in Matthew where Jesus feeds many people, they are all filled - women and children, everyone is filled. Jesus instructs the disciples to pick up the smallest piece and bring to him.

Jesus wastes nothing. In God’s kingdom, everything counts. God sometimes uses the parts of our lives that we feel are dysfunctional or painful.

Disease, grief, death, loss, sorrow, sin. May we take heart that the Lord will bless and use even the broken parts of our lives - and our hearts.

Deacon Barbara

All Services Cancelled

By mandate of the Bishop, all church services will be cancelled, effective immediately. In hopes of reducing the spread of the COVID-19 virus, there will be no church service until further notice.

Connecting During “Social Distancing”

According to our Bishop, the earliest we might resume regular services will be in the beginning of May. Because we care so much about each and every

one of you, we want to be absolutely certain that we are all safe. We will be together in our hearts and minds until we are able to be together again in Church.

In the meantime, we will continue to have Morning Prayer on Facebook Live, Sunday mornings at 9:30 am. Go to www.facebook.com/christchurchpompton. Please join Fr. Stephen on Sunday, during this time when it is so important to keep connected. We love you and we miss you!

A Story From Linda Daly

My daughter is a director at Cigna. At the end of every Friday, she writes and sends out something thankful and inspirational to her team. The inspiration below is from this past Friday and I wanted to share it with all of you.

Lessons of war

I was very close to my grandfather, my Pa. He taught me to ride a bike, tie my shoes, and ice skate. He was a gentleman. Handsome and honorable, he always smelled like freshly pressed shirts and Old Spice. He was a decorated World War II veteran, flying 67 missions to bomb the Nazi oil fields in Romania and other industrial targets. He was a ball-turret gunner and hung in a glass bubble on the bottom of the plane. He was stationed in Southern Italy and shared a tent with his five fellow airmen, his crew. His war stories fascinated me. I remember his vivid description of the early morning sky... an endless expanse of clouds and

Continued on the next page

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blue broken apart suddenly and violently by the descent of the Luftwaffe. But there was one story he didn't tell me as a child, one he would tell me years later. It was the story of the day he did not go up. On that day, there was confusion; his crew went up without him. They never returned. That night, he was alone in the tent with five empty cots. It was too much. The Army sent him to a convent in Sicily for "R&R". He returned two weeks later, joined another crew and continued to bomb the oil fields. He earned two Presidential Citations, three Battle Stars & the Air Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters. When he came home, he started a family and became a police officer, spending most of his 30 years with the department as Detective Lieutenant in charge of the Juvenile Bureau where his focus was always helping errant kids straighten their lives out. Before he passed away, he gave me the wooden Rosary beads the nuns had given him at the convent more than 75 years ago. The other night, I held the Rosary for a while and thought about Pa, his sacrifices, and the suffering and sacrifices of so many during the War. Now, as we face a different enemy, when so much is uncertain, and the biggest battles still lie ahead, I took strength from his memory and his story. I hope you do, too.



Parish Family Birthdays-

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

April

- 1 - Jenny Bogert
- 2 - Anthony Longo
- 4 - Quinton Z Smith
- 6 - Joe Blauvelt
- 6 - Terry Kearney
- 9 - Bruce Gottheiner
- 12 - Sean Porter
- 13 - Denise Pugsley
- 19 - Melanie Liston
- 20 - Kathy Klauser
- 24 - Lois Mahonchak
- 26 - Pennie Waltz
- 26 - Jessica Kida Swanson
- 27 - Sue Godar
- 28 - Danielle Geresi
- 29 - Andy Shaw

May

- 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
- 16 - Sophia Novak
- 18 - Kirsten Shepard
- 18 - Grace Thornhill
- 20 - Kathy Shepard
- 22 - Trevor Elliott
- 23 - Patricia Kida
- 27 - Stephanie Conklin
- 29 - Alison Thornhill
- 30 - Jeff Cahill
- 31 - John Miller
- 31 - Florence Loscalzo

Please Give Us Your Blank and Birthday Greeting Cards!

Help honor Christ Church birthdays

Do you have a drawer-full of birthday or blank cards that you've received from a charitable organization that was seeking your support? Cards you didn't ask for--but didn't want to throw away? Or maybe you overbought cards at some point? We want them, please! The Birthday Card Gang has started sending birthday greetings to parishioners for whom the church knows a birthdate (month and day only - no year necessary). We'd like to do this as a low-cost project, so please save your cards for us until we see each other at Church again. Thank you for your support!

March Vestry Meeting Highlights

The regular monthly meeting of the Priest in charge, Wardens and Vestry was held on Tuesday, March 24, 2020 via conference call. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved. The actions of the Little Lamb and Shepherd's Haven Management Groups were ratified. The report of the Treasurer was accepted subject to audit.

- The Income & Expense Report for the period ending February 29, 2020 was distributed

- Our fundraisers in the month of March have been cancelled due to the COVID-19 virus. The Spring Gala Tricky Tray will be postponed until May 1.

- Because of COVID-19, all Church services have been cancelled. Therefore, our pledges are likely to be down in March.

- Nina Nicholson from the Diocese will be asked for help in getting a link to our donation page onto Facebook..

- The Inspire Commission will consider ways to be creative with services on Sundays, Holy Week and Easter.

- Little Lamb Children's Center remains open to support the parents that still need to go to work. Shepherd's Haven and the Thrift Shoppe have closed.

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 28, 2020..

A Message from Your Wardens

A message – this one from Jesus himself: "Where your treasure is, there is your heart also."

During this time when we can't be together, your treasure is a necessity for the well-being of Christ Church. Please consider mailing your pledge or taking the required steps to donate on-line. Your pledges and donations are a vital part of the welfare of our Church. Your pledge can be mailed to the Church at 400 Ramapo Avenue, Pompton Lakes, NJ 07442. To make a donation on-line, click on this link to go to our donation page. https://www.eservicepayments.com/cgi-bin/Vanco_ver3.vps?appver3=wWsk-24ZWJSTZKsGd1RMKlg0BD-vsSG3VIWOCPIJNNxD8upkiY7JlDavDsozUE7KG0nFx2NSo8L-dUKGuGuF396vbVZO8d9V69XDBOQuTKH4BPciYnTg5dP4O6rpX5QvPEWIBhHDN59kLZFffwKfYERpQmkkwp8Xt5Crzq4gI3rKkOg=&ver=3

While we all are being inconvenienced in major ways, the love of God, the life of Jesus and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit will guide and sustain us!

Special Good Friday Observance

Check your email this Friday, April 10, Good Friday, for a special Good Friday observance of the Stations of the Cross.

Treasurers Commentary for 2/29/20

- Expenses exceeded income this month by almost ~\$8,900.
- Total Income (Year to date) is above budget by about ~\$5,600.
- Total Expenses are over budget (Year to date) by about ~\$10,000.
- Net (Year to date) is about -\$16,840



Bishop Hughes' Messages

Bishop Hughes posts regular messages, including videos, online at dioceseofnewark.org/bishops-vlog. See her message this week, "A different experience of Holy Week - but still holy."



On Line Church Services and Meditations

In this time of social distancing, we are all feeling a bit isolated and disconnected. To bring us some comfort, there are a variety of on line services and meditations available. Janet Furness has kindly put together a list to choose from:

- You can sign up for daily meditations during Lent at dioceseofnewark.org/meditations
- There are several parishes in the Diocese that, like Christ Church, are doing on line services. You can find a list at <https://dioceseofnewark.org/content/where-can-i-find-worship-online>
- Washington National Cathedral does morning and evening prayer daily and a service at 11:15 am Sundays. You can find it on youtube. [youtube.com/channel/UClf3eF-DScY5hn4YbTOEdcg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UClf3eF-DScY5hn4YbTOEdcg)
- The Companions of Mary the Apostle have a Friday Night Bible Study using Zoom. The study begins at 7:00pm, but the meeting will be open at 6:45 pm for those who need technical explanations. Join the Zoom meeting at <https://zoom.us/j/486695035> Meeting ID: 486 695 035. If you have questions before then, you can reach them at companionsma@gmail.com.

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.

Choir Fund Raiser

We still want your electronics! The choir is still collecting electronics to recycle. We need old phones, Ipads, Ipods, hand-held games and of course used printer cartridges. The phones bring the most return but please remember to *wipe them clean* before you turn them in to us. We don't want your personal information to be vulnerable. Just bring in the old stuff and drop it in our box in the office. It's a win-win. They get recycled and we get some cash for new music.



Used Book Collection

Looking for a place to donate your well-read and loved books? Please consider our new book bin in the parking lot on Ramapo Avenue. We accept books with ISBN numbers. That is the 13 digit number following the letters ISBN on the book near the bar code. No magazines or encyclopedias please. The books are resold and redistributed. They are only recycled if they are in very poor condition. This is a fundraiser for Christ Church, as we will receive some money for the books collected. Thank you for your support!

Electronic Giving Now Available to Christ Church!

Electronic Giving is a convenient, consistent way to help Christ Church year-round. Consider making a contribution or scheduling a recurring electronic contribution today! It's easy! You will no longer need to write out checks and prepare envelopes every week. Even when travel, illness or other circumstances prevent you from attending services, your electronic contributions will continue to be received. Get started today! Visit the Christ Church website at www.christchurchpompton.org and look for the DONATE button on the lower right side. If you have questions, see Bruce Hetzel or call the Parish Office at 973-835-2207.

Luxury Vacations in the Dominican Republic

Luxurious accommodations await you at a fabulous resort in 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,

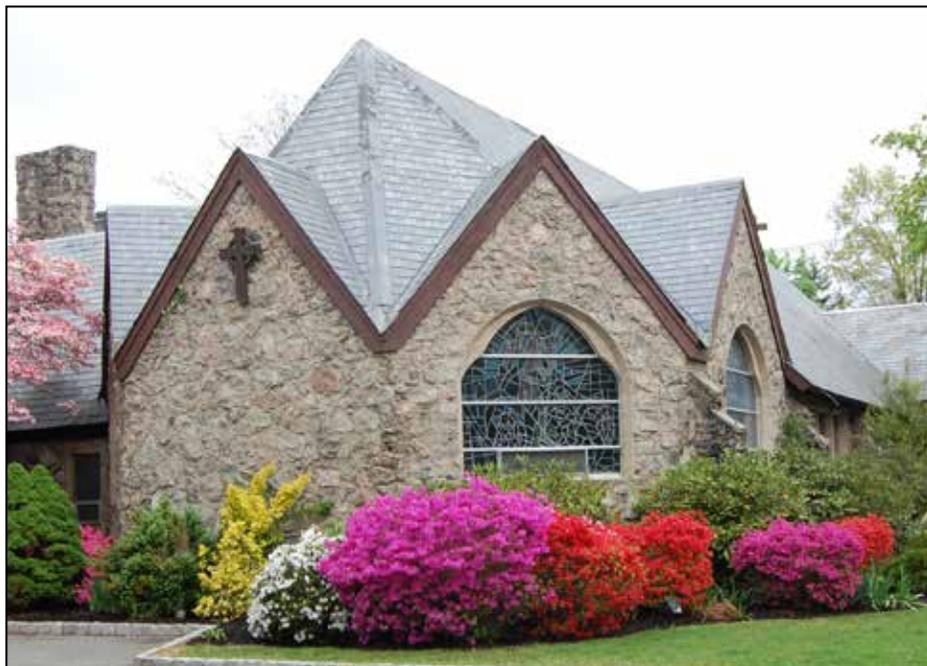
add them to your own laundry, and return them.

- 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!

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!





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!

- **Bloomington/Butler/Kinnelon** - Karen Bogert - 973-634-0190

- **GlenRock/North Haledon/Totowa** – Marianne Taylor - 201-741-8825
- **Haskell/Wanaque**
- **Oakland/Wyckoff/Franklin Lakes** - Geri Sheehan - 201-337-7395
- **Pompton Lakes, Christ Church area & Colfax** - Matt & Louise Hanania - 973-616-1604
- **Pompton Lakes Hamburg Turnpike South** - Alison Thornhill - 973-886-9728
- **Pompton Lakes, Hamburg Turnpike North** - Mary Ann Salerno-Fitzgerald - 973-835-6553
- **Pompton Plains/Pequan-nock** - Megan & Kat Menezes - 201-575-9459
- **Ringwood/Wanaque** - Joan Van Splinter - 973-856-4978
- **Ringwood/Haskell** - Sue Helm - 973-856-2129
- **Riverdale** - Bette Davis - 973-809-1384
- **Wayne** - Packanack Lake, Preakness - Janet Furness - 585-734-0374
- **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

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 2020

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