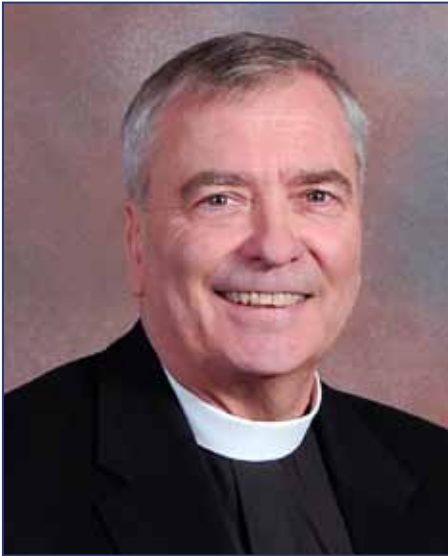


# The Epistle

December 2015



## A Message from Your Priest in Charge



Dear Friends,

The recent tragedy in San Bernadino is just another reminder that the world is chaotic and unpredictable. Kind of like my daily work schedule! I'm sure for you as well, there's the sentiment "Please God, I can't handle one more thing."

I wonder if it was like that for Joseph. Can't be sure as he doesn't get much press. But can you imagine in the busyness of your life, your plans are interrupted by the voice of God "Do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife." This wasn't his plan up 'til then. Talk about unpredictable and out of control. Joseph had had other plans, to dismiss Mary quietly.

What I love about Joseph is that there was no fault finding; there was no castigating; there was no justification. There was no "Why me?" In the midst of circumstances beyond his control Joseph trusted God. Instead of wishing his life to be another way Joseph, in effect, said "God bless this mess." He accepted his life situation and trusted God.

The next time your life is chaotic, out of control, unpredictable, remember Joseph.

Trust God! And say: Bless this mess!! Amen.

Warmly,

*Father Stephen*

## Vestry Meeting Highlights

The regular monthly meeting of the Priest in charge, Wardens and Vestry was held on Tuesday, November 17, 2015. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved and the report of the Treasurer was accepted subject to audit. The actions of the Little Lamb Management Group, the actions of the Shepherd's Haven Management Group and the actions of the Thrift Shoppe Management Group were ratified.

- The meeting began with a review of the "Going Local" interview questions, with the purpose of summarizing the answers. Members of the "Going Local" team participated in this part of the meeting.
- Linda and Dawn will work on a program for Healing Ministers.
- Please remind everyone to return their 2016 Pledge cards
- In reference to the Christian Science building, we can't proceed unless we have the approval of the Diocesan Standing Committee. It was agreed that we provide the Standing Committee with the information they need.
- We will hold a Beefsteak Dinner on December 12.

- A motion was passed to transfer 5% of Capital Campaign receipts, in the amount of \$12,700, to a "Building Contingency Fund" and that other remaining funds be remitted toward the Fidelity account first.

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, December 15, 2015.

## Giving Tree at Shepherd's Haven

Give a unique gift for the holidays or for that matter any time during the year. Shepherd's Haven has established a "Giving Tree." Purchase a leaf for the tree and we will engrave the name of the recipient on it. We will send a letter to the person you named advising of your gift. The minimum costs is \$250 and is tax deductible. The Giving Tree is a 30"x20" plaque placed permanently indoors, opposite the front entrance. The leaf is gold colored and is 4 3/4" x 2 1/8". Contact Leigh Brower at 973-835-4747 for more information, to see the tree or to purchase a leaf.

## Christmas Services

On Christmas Eve the Cherub and Junior Choirs will sing at 5:00pm. At 10:00 pm there will be Carols, and the service will begin at 10:30 pm with the Adult Choir. Christmas Day service is at 10:00am.



## Huntington's Disease Fundraiser

Dan Giannone is organizing a fundraising event at Christ Church on January 16, 2016 from 6-10 pm benefiting the NJ Chapter of Huntington's Disease of America in honor of his cousin Jason Walsh and in memory of Myles Walsh.

Huntington's Disease, or HD, is a fatal hereditary degenerative brain disorder for which there is no cure. HD slowly diminishes the affected individual's ability to walk, talk and reason and eventually the person with HD becomes totally dependent upon others for his or her care. Because HD is a hereditary disease, each child of a HD positive parent has a 50/50 chance of inheriting the disease. Since the discovery of the gene that causes HD, scientific research has advanced and much has been added to understanding HD and its effects upon different individuals. Proceeds from this event will enable HDSA's mission to continue to invest in both clinical and basic HD research, continue improving the lives of individuals and families affected by HD with support and services and continue to educate professionals and the public. There will be a silent auction for various mediums of art by local artists, a cocktail hour and music throughout the evening performed by The Dan Giannone Quintet. To close the evening, dessert, coffee and tea will be served. Tickets are \$35.00 per person, which will be available to purchase soon at the church after the 9:30 service or contact Pat Giannone at 973-694-2961. Tickets can also be purchased through the HDSA NJ Chap-

ter website HDSA NJ Chapter [www.hdsanj.org](http://www.hdsanj.org). Information can also be found at [Dangian-nonemusic.weebly.com](http://Dangian-nonemusic.weebly.com). Please contact Dan Giannone at [dan.giannone@gmail.com](mailto:dan.giannone@gmail.com) or Pat Giannone at [pat.giannone@gmail.com](mailto:pat.giannone@gmail.com) if you are interested in volunteering for this event or can donate food/beverages for the cocktail hour or dessert. We are also looking for donations of gifts cards and merchandise that can be used to create raffle baskets.

## Breakfast With Santa!



Santa is coming to Christ Church on Saturday, December 12th! There will be two seatings, 9:00 am and 10:30 am. Ticket prices are: \$7 per person, (\$1.00 for infants under 2 years of age.) Ticket price includes a pancake breakfast, a picture with Santa, 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 dona-

tions 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](mailto:nealndeb@aol.com) or call the Parish Office at 973-835-2207.

## Chair Based Yoga/Exercise

Join us on Mondays at 3:00 pm in the Church for Chair Based Yoga/Exercise. The classes will meet on Mondays from December 7 until January 25, 2016. The fee is \$5.00. Susan Lieberman is a Certified Yoga Instructor, insured and registered with The Yoga Alliance.

## Please Help the Homeless

We are all very blessed and at this time of year we are asking that you think of those less fortunate. While out shopping for the holidays please pick up a package of warm socks, a winter hat or scarf, a pair of warm gloves or mittens. The men of St. Paul's have very little and I am asking for your help to keep them warm this winter. Let's see if we can top last year's donations (66 packages of socks, 40 hats, 25 pairs of gloves, 10 scarves, 9 New/Gently Worn Coats). With your help we can all make the men's Christmas a little brighter. There are collection boxes outside of Father Stephen's office and in the front vestibule. Thanking you in advance for your generous donations. Any questions, please call Jack Daltzell 973-831-7479.



## Sunday School News

**H**appy Holiday Season! Just in time for the Sunday School's first fundraising activity for cystic fibrosis - a Wreath and Centerpiece Sale for the holidays! The sale started on November 8th and the children were encouraged to try to sell to family and friends for this good cause. The children (and adults) had three weeks to sell their wreaths and centerpieces because the orders were due Thanksgiving weekend. The orders are expected to arrive along with Santa on the morning of Breakfast with Santa (December 12th), making for a busy but fun day! We will keep you posted as to final tallies and sales.

Other holiday events include our Annual Christmas Gift Collection. The Sunday School ran a Christmas Gift Collection for the Children at Oasis. This is a haven for Women and Children in Paterson, NJ. We collected lots of donated items for those less fortunate to help brighten their holiday season this year. It is amazing how wonderful this feels and it is a great way to help our children understand the spirit of the season. We will also be baking and distributing cookies for the shut-ins and others who might enjoy some home baked and lovingly decorated cookies

from our Sunday School children. We all look forward to that December Sunday when the Church kitchen smells so delicious all morning!

Lastly, we will be having our first ever 'Going Local' Holiday Caroling event! We will take the children and as many adults as we can gather and wander through the streets of Pompton singing carols. We will arrange for certain households to welcome us and open their doors to listen. This date is still to be determined but please try to join us once the date is announced.

The Sunday School had a group class on November 15th and all the children were taught together. The theme was Thanksgiving. First, all the children worshipped together in Children's Chap, and then they all sang with Rachel and the Cherub Choir. Next they learned a little about Cystic Fibrosis and our fundraiser, and then they heard a story about the first Thanksgiving. Finally, they ended the class with a craft. It was a great way for the children to interact with each other and also learn important lessons about why we are thankful at this time of year.

As always, we are thankful for your wonderful children and we enjoy watching them grow and blossom.

Your Sunday School  
Co-Superintendents

*Karen Cahill, Louise Hanania  
and Debbie Onderlinde*

## Soup on Sunday

**T**he *Soup on Sunday* program continues this Fall with an expanded outreach. The proceeds from soup will be donated to Father Stephen's granddaughter who has cystic fibrosis.

To order, simply use the soup selection list that is available in the Parish Hall. When 12 pints of a particular soup have been ordered, that particular soup will be made during the week and have it ready for pick up on the next Sunday.

For those who don't always plan in advance, we will more than likely have some specials available from time to time and an inventory available from the freezer. Feel free to take what you like from the freezer and pay Maureen in the Parish Office, or Joel at the 8:00 coffee hour.

Look for the sign-up sheet in the parish hall if you would like to order soups and to support this special cause!

*Joel Finger*



## 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.

## 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.

## 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!



## Parish Family Birthdays- November

Happy Birthday to all of you in our parish family having birthdays in the month of December. If you have not yet informed the parish office of your birthdate, please call Maureen at 973-835-2207.

- 1 - Donna Birch
- 1 - Cindy McNamara
- 4 - Tom Falk
- 13 - Michael Falk
- 13 - Cheryl Finger
- 14 - Logan Swanson
- 14 - Blake Wolfson
- 17 - Brian Liston
- 18 - Herb Gaiss
- 20 - Emily Shepard
- 22 - Gary Geresi
- 23 - Barbara Kida
- 24 - Kathleen Valle
- 24 - Elizabeth Kostyn
- 27 - Dave Miller
- 28 - Maria Elliott
- 28 - Matthew Cahill
- 28 - Barbara Hazelwood

## Vacation Rental

Condo, hotel, or villa accommodations available for rent. Flexible Time and locations across the globe! These are our personal Time shares that we currently cannot use. I offer a NO obligation availability search, so please allow me to find you a great resort, at a location of your choice, at a cost that fits your budget.

*Cheryl Finger*  
*cheryl@graphinn.com*  
973-616-0451



## 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](http://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](http://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 11 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 to 7:00 pm, Thursdays from 4:00 to 8:00 pm, and Saturdays from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. Donations can be left in the alcove just inside the kitchen door where the soda machine used to be. If there is anyone who has experience with Craig's List, the Thrift Shoppe would like some help posting some big items for sale. 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*

## Yarn & Fabric Are Needed

The lovely senior woman who makes knitted and crocheted items such as slippers, scarves, booties, hats, baby blankets, etc. for charity events has expanded her outreach to making "coughing pillow teddy bears" for hospital patients who have had heart surgery. If you have any leftover yarn and fabric that she might be able to use, please consider donating it. Donations can be left in the Church office marked for Erica Stewart. Thank you to all who have donated and continue to donate - she greatly appreciates your donations!

## Shop with Script

It's not too early to start to think about your Christmas shopping. Think gift cards from *Shop with Script* for your Christmas gift cards!

### Sample List of Participating Merchants

<u>Department Stores</u>	<u>Specialty Stores</u>	<u>Restaurants</u>	<u>Drug/Beauty</u>
Aeropostale	Amazon.com	Applebee's	Bath & Body Works
JC Penney	Barnes & Noble	Burger King	CVS
Macy's	Bed Bath & Beyond	Chili's	Rite Aid
Marshalls	Home Depot	Dunkin Donuts	Walgreens
Sears	iTunes	Panera Bread	
TJ Maxx	Lowes	Starbucks	
	Staples	Subway	

Shop and make money for Christ Church!

Christ Church receives a percentage of every dollar you spend buying gift cards!

A complete merchant listing of all stores and supermarkets can be found in the Church Office.

Contact Linda Meyer for more information. Phone: 973-809-3338,  
e-mail: [linda\\_a\\_meyer@yahoo.com](mailto:linda_a_meyer@yahoo.com)

*Please make checks out to Christ Church.*



## Baptisms

*November 14*

Savannah Elizabeth Kelly  
Brayden Daryl Kelly

*November 29*

Emma Elizabeth DeVries

## 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.

## 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.

*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 A&P, 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](http://www.christchurchpompton.org)*

*December 2015*

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

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*Visit the parish calendar at the website at [www.christchurchpompton.org](http://www.christchurchpompton.org)*