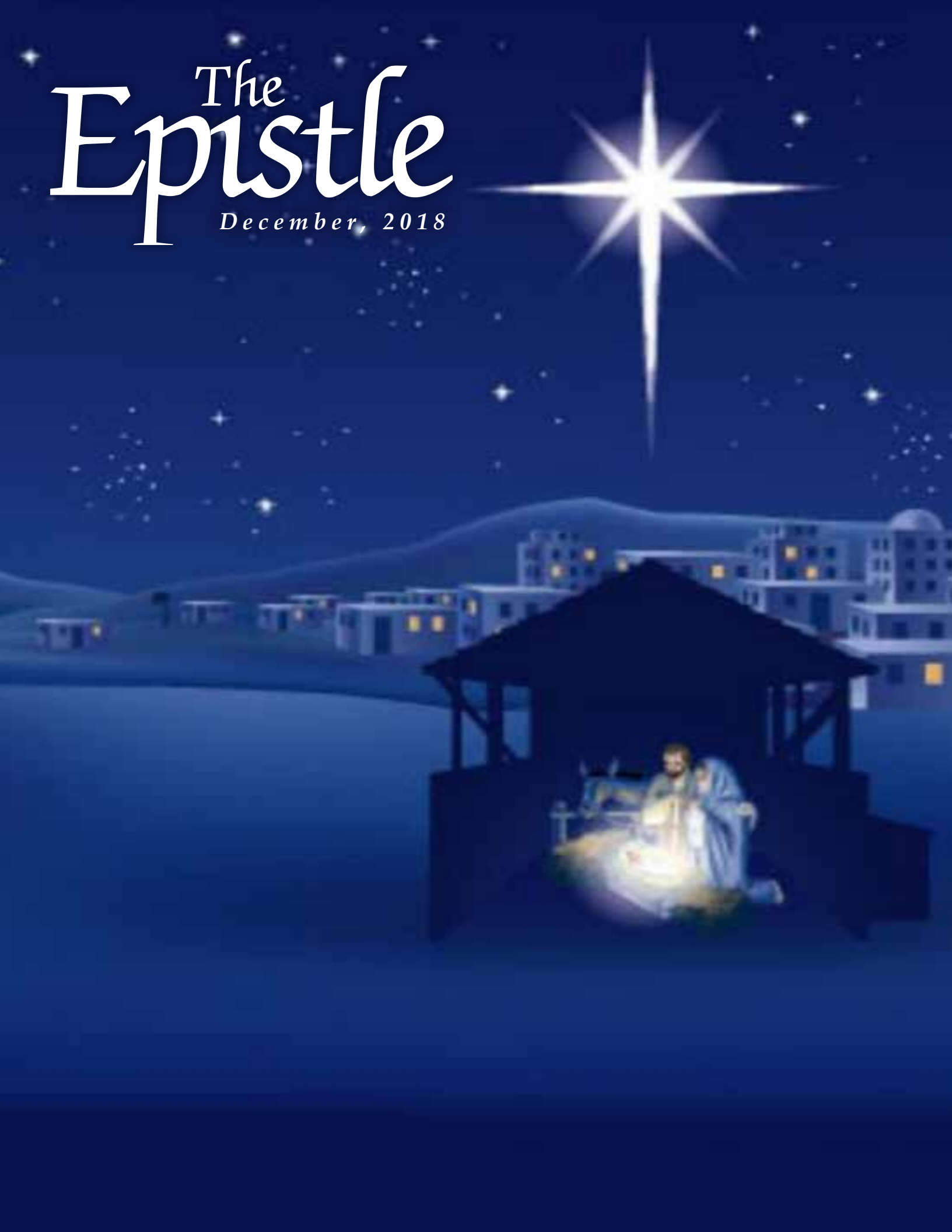
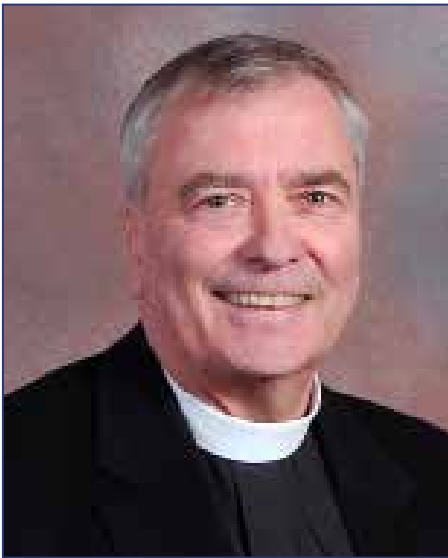


The Epistle

December, 2018



A Message from Your Priest in Charge



Dear Friends,

As we prepare for the joyful birth of Jesus, I'm reminded again of Meister Eckhart.

What good is it to me if this eternal birth of the divine Son takes place unceasingly but does not take place within myself? And, what good is it to me if Mary is full of grace and if I am not also full of grace? What good is it to me for the Creator to give birth to his/her Son if I do not also give birth to him in my time and my culture? This, then, is the fullness of time: When the Son of God is begotten in us.

Meister Eckhart



My invitation: Give birth to Jesus the Christ that you, too, may be God's gift to the world.

The gift that you are is to be unwrapped on Christmas Day, bringing joy to those who receive the gift of you.

Remember, a gift is not meant to be fixed! Stop fixing yourself! Instead, be God's gift to the world as Jesus is God's gift to the world.

When you and I take this on seriously, we can be the representation of why we were put on this earth in the first place.

Joy to the world...

Warmly,

Father Stephen

Advent

*Ever faithful God,
your prophets foretold the
coming of the light.*

*In your name they promised
that the eyes of the blind
would be opened.*

*We confidently await the
coming of your Son, and the
day when he will gather all
people to live in your light,
for ever and ever. Amen*

From a Benedictine Prayer Book

Submitted by Deacon Barbara

November Vestry Meeting Highlights

The regular monthly meeting of the Priest in charge, Wardens and Vestry was held on Tuesday, November 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 October 31, 2018 was distributed.

- There will be a special meeting of the Vestry on Wednesday, December 5, 2018 at 7:30 pm to discuss proposals received on work that needs to be done on the buildings and grounds of Christ Church.

- A Christ Church Open House will be held on January 1, 2019 between 2- 4 pm.

- Slate plaques will be sold as a fundraiser.

- A Comedy Night is scheduled for February 9, 2019.

- The Annual Meeting will be held on January 27, 2019.

- A motion was passed to install new, energy efficient light fixtures in Little Lamb and in the Parish Hall

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 18, 2018.

Annual Christmas Pageant

Please join us on Sunday, December 16 during the 9:30 service for the annual Christ Church Christmas Pageant! If you find your Christmas spirit lacking, this is what you may need to help restore it! See you there.

A New Year's Open House!

As part of the Pompton Lakes Neighborhood, Christ Church is holding A Festive Open House on New Year's Day. Just as everyone in the parish belongs to a designated Neighborhood, the stone church on the corner of Ramapo and Passaic belongs to the Neighborhoods of Pompton Lakes. To give back to our Neighborhoods at the start of 2019, A Festive Open House will be held from 2-4 p.m. on Tuesday, January 1, 2019. Warm punch, lite refreshments, walking tours, and music wafting through these historic and sacred spaces will give our neighbors a break from turkey, football, and defrocking from the holidays to recall the warmth of the season one more time. Help us spread the word. All are welcome!

Craig's List for Christ Church

If you have an item you would like to sell or donate, you can post it on the bulletin board on the wall outside of the kitchen door entering the Guild Hall. It's like a Craig's List for Christ Church! Remember, one man's trash is another man's treasure!

Christmas Services

On Christmas Eve the Cherub and Junior Choirs will sing at the 5:00 pm Family Service. The Adult Choir will sing at the 10:30 pm service. The Christmas Day service is at 10:00 am.

Coat Drive

We are collecting gently used coats for the needy of Passaic County. Please bring them to the Parish Office by December 15.

Purchase a Piece of Christ Church History

Are you searching for a special and unique gift this holiday season? Or perhaps you are interested in owning a piece of history yourself? The slate from the old Church roof (over 150 years old) is being transformed into a piece of art for you to treasure. Pictures of the church or other images are being transferred onto the slate and are available for purchase. Order forms are available on Sundays or in the office during the week. They are \$50.00 and \$35.00 each. Please indicate if you need by Christmas and have the forms turned in by Dec.16th. Please see Alison Thornhill, Bethany Schadel-Kenny or Sue Helm for details. There are some samples available for viewing in the Guild Hall.



Nursery Attendant

We once again have an attendant in the Nursery on Sundays during the 9:30 am service, where you may leave your little ones in capable hands if you so choose.

Parish Survey of Talents and Skills for Service

After several months of planning, the Outside In/Inside Out Commission of the Vestry is pleased to announce the Parish Survey of Talents and Skills for Service. Please click on the link below and follow the directions to complete the survey. Remember to click "Submit" at the end of the survey. If you do not click "Submit" your survey will not be recorded. And your response is important to us, so remember to click "Submit." Thank you! If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeTfeMysU6P3peA1X-Lef2nkVsvTuNePQI44GflpiK98SEhfg/viewform?usp=pp_url

A Reminder...

If you have not already done so, please renew your commitment to our Christ Church ministries by filling out and returning a 2019 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!

Thinking of You

The following Christ Church parishioners usually can't get to Church, but would love to receive a card saying that you are thinking of them:

- Mary Babb, 81 Burnside Place, Haskell, NJ 07420
- Marge Babyak, 5 Hill Court, Pompton Lakes, NJ 07442
- Quinnie Chillson, 506 Riverdale Boulevard, Pompton Lakes, NJ 07442
- Fran Kamer, 44 Lincoln Road, Kinnelon, NJ 07405
- Judy Loeb, Emeritus, 820 Hamburg Turnpike, Room 309, Wayne, NJ 07470
- Pat Sondermeyer, 31 Matthews Terrace, Bloomingdale, NJ 07403

If you know of anyone else that would like to receive a card, please let the Parish Office know, 973-835-2207.

Christ Church T-Shirts for Sale

T-shirts with a Christ Church logo are available to be purchased. Take a look at them in the Guild Hall. It is a nice quality grey t-shirt with a black logo in the corner. Sizes small, medium and large are \$10 each. The extra-large size is \$12 each. There are also a couple of polo style t-shirts that are \$25 each. You can give your payment to Sue Helm or Alison Thornhill, or leave it in the Parish Office labeled for t-shirts.



Sunday School Update

During October, there was a wonderful Halloween party with many festive decorations and fun activities. Of course there were also delicious treats and outstanding costumes! Also in October, you voted! The Parish was invited to name a Seeing Eye Dog and the name chosen was C.C. Can you guess what it stands for? You guessed it; Christ Church!

In November, we began our collection of holiday gifts to be shared with others less fortunate. This year we are responding to a request from the Episcopal Diocese to provide for children whose parents are incarcerated. We collected for children of all ages, from toddlers through high school. The types of gifts requested include art supplies, sports equipment, music, and basic clothing, such as PJs, slippers, hats and gloves. For teenagers, gifts such as gift card to CVS or Target for \$15 or \$20 are greatly appreciated. We thank you as always for your generosity and the opportunity to teach our children the benefits of helping others.

Once again we will have a wreath and centerpiece sale to raise money for our outreach project; helping to feed hungry children in local communities.

Please remember to support us and enjoy the lovely Christmas products at the same time!

*Respectfully submitted by
Karen Cahill for the
Sunday School*



Open Enrollment at Little Lamb Children's Center

Little Lamb Children's Center is now accepting enrollment for all ages, 3 months to Kindergarten. Little Lamb, open all year from 7:00 am to 6:30 pm, provides a safe and caring learning environment for your children. We are a State licensed, air-conditioned facility with an enclosed outdoor play yard. For information, registration forms and rates contact the director at 973-835-2236 or littlelambcc@gmail.com

facebook

Christ Church is on Facebook

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

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.



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 non-profit 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.

Wellness Ministry Begins

On every first and third Sunday monthly, Carole Turner, RN will be available in the Guild Hall at 8:45 a.m. to check blood pressures and help anyone with health-related questions. Carole has been an emergency room nurse, a missionary nurse in Zimbabwe, a school nurse, and summer camp medical professional for the Girl Scouts. A member of the vestry here at Christ Church and on the Outside In/Inside Out Commission, Carole has made healing her mission in life. Recently she told us: "I welcome suggestions from anyone about health-related topics our community wants to hear about or support groups folks would be interested in or feel there is a need for. We have plans to begin a bereavement program this fall, including a support group." If you have ideas or messages for Carole Turner, leave a note in her mailbox outside the church office door or give the idea to Maureen in the office. And as Carole likes to say, "Be Well!"

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.



Parish Family Birthdays-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
- 16 - Christian Longo
- 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



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** - 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

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.



Book of Remembrance

If you would like a loved one's name inscribed in the Book of Remembrance, which 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. 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. A \$5.00 donation to the Altar Guild is requested.

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

Baptisms

November 24

Lailah Kelly Davies
Sofia Rose Macchia

Weddings

November 18

Dhane Jelle Castillo
Daniel George Hamilton

November 23

Shelly Kerr
Roger Walter Storzum

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!

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*

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

The Epistle

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

December 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