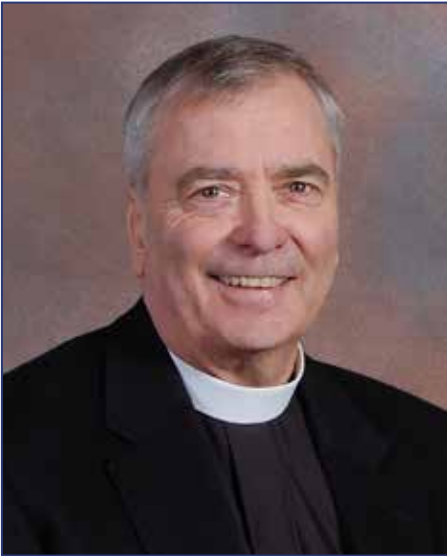


The Epistle

December 2020



A Message from Your Priest in Charge



Dear Friends,

I don't know about you but many mornings I wake up to the conversation in my mind, "enough already!" If you can stand back and notice this conversation it can be very useful for the direction of our lives.

One reaction to "enough already!" is I quit! Nothing's working. My life is a mess, the world is a mess, what's the use?

Another reaction to "enough already!" is Dear God, use me to be your loving presence in a world that is resigned. Please guide me in the direction of "what's next?" instead of "what's wrong?!" Direct your Spirit in me, God, to be proactive, not reactive. Remind me over and over, dear Lord, to honor my neighbor, not to judge them.

The Good News is not a product of our external circumstances. It is a product of being intentional regarding the well-being of others (and myself.)

Here's the invitation into which the Bible offers us again and again. You and I can choose to live in the domain of "enough already" or we can live in the domain of being grounded in the loving Spirit of God.

Again and again we are invited to make the choice. Choose life!

Warmly
Father Stephen

Sunday Service on Facebook Live at 9:30 am

Please join us on Facebook live at 9:30 am. If you haven't already "liked" Christ Church Pompton's Facebook page, you can go to www.facebook.com/christchurchpompton. It's the next best thing to being together in person!

Treasurers Commentary for 10/31/20

- Expenses exceeded income this month by almost ~\$8,800.
- Total Income (Year to date) is below budget by about ~\$5,321.
- Net (Year to date) is about \$-34,143.



*Have you not heard his silent
steps? He comes, comes,
ever comes.*

*Every moment and every age,
every day and every night he
comes, comes, ever comes.*

*Many a song I have sung in
many a mood of mind but
all their notes have always
proclaimed,*

*"He comes, comes,
ever comes."*

*In the fragrant days of sunny
April through the forest path
he comes, comes, ever comes.*

*In the rainy gloom of July
nights on the thundering
chariot of clouds he comes,
comes, ever comes.*

*In sorrow after sorrow it is
his steps that press upon my
heart, and it is the golden
touch of his feet that makes
my joy to shine.*

Rabindranath Tagore

Blessed Advent!

Submitted by Deacon Barbara

A Lovely Poem that reflects the Message of Christ Church

*Can the Creator of all lure
poetry out of a stone?*

*Or cause a stirring of Divine
Love in a human heart?*

*All is possible for the
Creator of all,*

*Who loves to manifest
the impossible*

In endless configurations

Thomas Keating,
"Out of a Stone"

Open Enrollment at Little Lamb Children's Center

Little Lamb Children's Center has reopened and is now accepting enrollment for all ages, 3 months to Kindergarten. We have implemented all of the State guidelines for keeping your children safe and healthy. 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.



The Thrift Shoppe is Now Open

The Thrift Shoppe, located at 420 Ramapo Avenue, has reopened! Put on your masks and come in to shop. The hours of operation are Tuesdays 3:15 - 7:00 pm, Thursdays 4:00 - 8:00 pm, Saturdays 10:00 am - 3:00 pm, Sundays (second and fourth) 11:00 am - noon. Donations can be left in the shed in the church parking lot. For more information please call Florence at 973-962-6289 or 925-640-3421.



Parish Family Birthdays

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

December

- 4 - Tom Falk
- 13 - Michael Falk
- 13 - Cheryl Finger
- 14 - Logan Swanson
- 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

January

- 1 - Marianne Taylor
- 1 - Anthony Simone
- 1 - Hanzah Kanaan
- 2 - Joy Liston
- 3 - Bill Conklin

- 5 - Fatima Kanaan
- 5 - Ossam Kanaan
- 6 - Shirley Van Dunk
- 7 - Esrra Kanaan
- 8 - Wendy Simone
- 11 - Bill Calcagno
- 11 - Jackie Beveridge
- 15 - Paul Steberger
- 23 - Justin Milligan
- 17 - Amanda Shepard
- 20 - Ashley Caffery
- 21 - Nicholas Coleburn
- 23 - Sven Lilienthall
- 23 - Joyce McDiarmid

Please Give Us Your Blank and Birthday Greeting Cards!

Help honor Christ Church birthdays

Do you have a drawerful 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 save your cards for us and drop them off in the Guild Hall. Thank you for your support!



September Vestry Meeting Highlights

The regular monthly meeting of the Priest in charge, Wardens and Vestry was held on Tuesday, November 24, 2020 via Zoom. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved. The Income & Expense Report for the period ending October 31, 2020 was distributed. The report of the Treasurer was accepted subject to audit.

- The actions of the Little Lamb, Shepherd's Haven and Thrift Shoppe management groups were ratified.

- The November Fish & Chips fundraiser made about \$800. We won't be able to have Breakfast with Santa or a Christmas craft sale.!

- On November 8, Father Stephen and Deacon Barbara delivered communion to about 15 homes.

- The Sunday School children can't make cookies this year, but we will try to organize some type of delivery to our Christ Church shut-ins. We are working on the possibility of a virtual Christmas pageant.

- There will be a Blue Christmas service on December 20. It is too soon to know what type of Christmas service we will have. .

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 22, 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-vsSG3VIWQCPJNNxD8upkiY7JIDavDsozUE7KG0nFx2NSo8L-dUKGuGuF396vbVZO8d9V69XDBOQuTKH4BPciYnTg5dP4O6rpX5QvPEWIBhHDN59kLZFffwKfYERpOmkkwp8Xt5Crzq4gI3rKkOg=&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!

Bishop Hughes' Messages

Bishop Hughes posts regular messages, including videos, online at dioceseofnewark.org/bishops-vlog.

Christ Church on Facebook

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



Prayers of Pandemic from the Diocese of Newark

Bishop Hughes has invited members of the diocese to write and share their own prayers during the COVID-19 pandemic. Prayers can be sent to Canon Wright at awright@dioceseofnewark.org for posting. Please include the name and town of your church. The following prayer is taken from the Diocesan website.

Prayers for Ourselves

Help us be your Light and Love in this world

Good and Gracious God, We come to you in a broken and suffering world. Help us to remain hopeful by remembering that we are not alone, that You are always with us, guiding us. Help us to work together, each of us contributing as we can, for the benefit of the common good. May we be carriers of your Light and Love in this world. May the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. And so we pray. Amen.

*Pat McKenzie, Oblate
Community of St. John Baptist*

Advent Noonday Prayer and Litany of Hope

Each Friday in Advent, the Diocese of Newark is invited to join in Noonday Prayer at 12 pm on Zoom. The service includes a "Litany of Hope." Click here to find out more and download the service bulletin. <https://dioceseof-newark.org/event/advent-noonday-prayer-and-litany-hope>



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. It's a win-win. They get recycled and we get some cash for new music. Please leave your items in the Parish Office. Thank you!



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.

Parish Classifieds

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



Christ Church is on Facebook

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

Please pray for those who are homebound or have a long term illness

Sue Contos *Pat Giannone*
Christine Tafuri Lewis *Pat Giannone*
David Wong *Bruce Hetzel*
Kim Hetzel *Bruce Hetzel*
Nora Reynolds *Debbie DeFreese*
Joe Stewart *Erica Stewart*
Bob Manegold *Lorrie Loeffler*
AJ DiGennaro *Carol Egan*
Daniel Bevilacqua, Sr. *Carol Egan*
Tony DiGennaro *Carol Egan*
Mike Egan *Carol Egan*
Philip Prekel *Cathy Prekel*
Suzanne Braun *Liz Kostyn*
Pablo Fallas *Javier Fallas*
Tom Filipi *Andy Shaw*
Timothy Falk *Tom Falk*
Dale Garafalo *Carol Egan*
Dinah Zacs *Zigi Zacs*
Rebecca Hough *Stephen Rozzelle*
Richard Russinko *Valerie Russinko*
Kathleen Caputo *Romilly Liloia*
Bill Brouhle *Cheryl Finger*
Richard Greco *Pat Giannone*
Donna Cook *Pat Giannone*
Cathy Tomcho *Linda Daly*
Charelle Zipay *Linda Daly*
Roxanna Parker *Shirley Van Dunk*
Alice Schmelzer *Carol Egan*
Jim Hester *Carol Egan*
Liz Unger *Natalie McCabe*
Joseph Hynes *Natalie McCabe*
Andrea Lentz *Wilma Ciaburri*
Anya Neugebauer *Cathy Prekel*
Jason Trovy *Barbara Hanenberg*
Mary Babb *Parish Care*
Scott Stoveken *Denise Pugsley*
Mike Abriola *Parish Care*
Rosemary Claeys *Parish Care*

Selma Schwartz *Elizabeth Kostyn*
Shirley Schanbacher *Linda Daly*
Judy Loeb *Parish Care*

Please pray for those serving in the military:

FCA2 Peter Brower *Leigh Brower*
Master Sgt. Robert Preston Mason *Scott Heck*
Chaplin Bill Kapr *Abby Novak*
Captain Ryan Tintera *John Tintera*
Petty Officer 1st Class Jake Smith *Abby Novak*
Lt. Col. Andrew M. Niebel *Karen Bogert*
1SG James Rivera *Carol Egan*
Major Matthew Getty *Florence Loscalzo*
1st Lt. Daniel Wagner *Chris Kenyon*
Richard Chambers *Patti & Jeff Mitchell*

Zoom Sunday School

We are well into our 2020/2021 Sunday School year and we are having a lot of fun! The class runs from 9.30 am to 10. If you do not already have the log-in information, please contact Parish Office. Logging in is very easy and you can do it via phone, computer or tablet. We are happy that modern technology has allowed us to continue this very important service so that the children can stay in touch with their friends while continuing their studies. As always, we thank you for the opportunity to be a part of your child's Christian education and welcome any new students.

A Reminder...

Let's have our stewardship to the parish be a reflection of living with a spirit of gratitude! If you have not already done so, please renew your commitment to our Christ Church ministries by making a generous financial pledge to Christ Church. Please fill out and return a 2021 Pledge Card to 400 Ramapo Avenue, Pompton Lakes, NJ 07442. We are grateful for your stewardship of our congregation and of those who are served by our ministries!

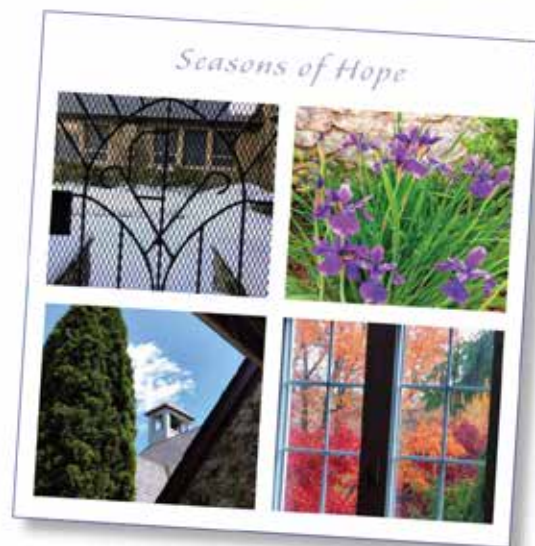
Calling All Pageanteers!

We are in the process of planning our 2020 Christmas Pageant. This year, we will be doing things a little differently. We will be using a streamlined script (a reading from the book of Luke) and will only need Mary, Joseph, one or two narrators, one angel and one or two shepherds. There are no speaking roles except for the narrators, so you won't need to memorize any lines, and the narrators will be reading aloud. We will observe social distancing requirements and not exceed the 10 person limit. The rehearsal and the performance will take place on the same day. Sue Helm will record the pageant so that it can be viewed on the Website/Facebook. While this has been a trying year for all of us, we want to maintain as many of our traditions as we safely can and the Pageant is sure to give all of us a much-needed lift! If you are interested in participating, please call or text Sue Cook at 973-907-4226.

Seasons of Hope Greeting Cards

(6) 5.5" X 6.5" cards, no inscription inside, including matching envelopes

(6) 5.5" X 5.5" cards, no inscription inside, including matching envelopes



Both sets of cards include photos of places in and around Christ Church

A Christ Church Fundraiser

Available now. Perfect as holiday gifts.

Featuring the harmony of nature with our lovely Christ Church property.

Package of 6, Four Seasons cards, blank inside, \$12 per package.

Variety pack of 6 cards, blank inside, \$12 per package.

Place your order by sending an email to the Parish Office at christchurchpomptonoffice@gmail.com or by calling the office at 973-835-2207. Checks can be made out to Christ Church or, to pay on-line, click on the link to go to our donation page, select "other" and specify greeting cards.



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!

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

- **Bloomington/Butler/Kinnelon** - Karen Bogert - 973-634-0190
- **GlenRock/North Haledon/Totowa** - Marianne Taylor - 201-741-8825
- **Haskell/Wanaque** Sue Helm - 973-856-2129
- **Oakland/Wyckoff/Franklin Lakes** - Geri Sheehan - 201-337-7395
- **Pompton Lakes, Christ Church area & Colfax**
- **Pompton Lakes Hamburg Turnpike South** - 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/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*

December 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.

*The Epistle is designed by
Graphic Innovations
www.graphinn.com*

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