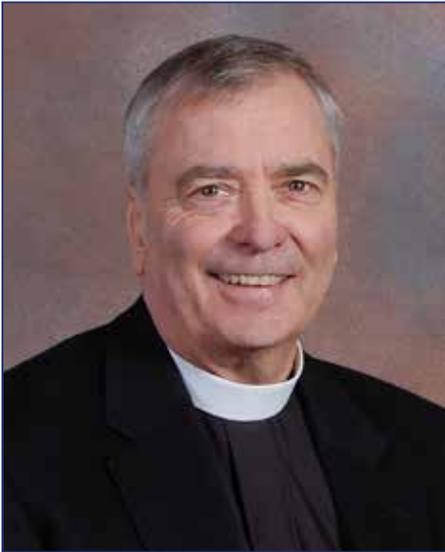


The Epistle

January, 2020



A Message from Your Priest in Charge



Dear Friends,

The journey to Bethlehem presented us with something that may be viewed as a kind of paradox. We celebrated an event in the past by living into the future.

Most of us purchased presents for our loved ones in preparation for Christmas. Buying Christmas gifts was all about the future I'm living into (Christmas Day.) The excitement, anticipation and joy when buying the present was about an event in the future. And it's the most exciting time of the year!

You and I tend to define ourselves by our past, for the most part on failures and inadequacies with the inevitable guilt and shame. We drag the past into the present and live as the Prayer Book says "heavy laden."

The exercise during Easter was to invent our future by using two words that express my soul when I'm at my best. For me it is to be loving and generous. This is to reinvent our-

selves as a new creation based in the future, living into, not the past I'm coming from.

Consider how exciting it is when you've planned a vacation. The future I'm living into (vacation) creates the joy and excitement right now!

Reinvent yourself using two words that are an expression of you at your best. It creates a future to live into.

I can either be the lifeless guilt of my past or I can be eager to live into the future I've created for myself.

As the good book says, I can choose what brings life to me or I can choose what destroys my well-being. As we begin the new year, there's not a better time to choose life!

Warmly

Father Stephen

December Vestry Meeting Highlights

The regular monthly meeting of the Priest in charge, Wardens and Vestry was held on Saturday, December 21, 2019. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved. The actions of the Little Lamb, Shepherd's Haven and Thrift Shoppe Management Groups were ratified. The report of the Treasurer was accepted subject to audit.

--The Income & Expense Report for the period ending November 30, 2019 was distributed.

-The Nominating Committee, consisting of Karen Cahill, Louise Hanania, Karen Bogert and Matt Hanania, reported that the nominees for Vestry are Sue Helm, Lewis Marshall, Alison Thornhill, Zigi Zacs and Sue Cook.

-A motion was passed to keep our annual pledge to the Diocese the same as last year, at 11% of our Normal Operating Income.

-A motion was passed to hold the Christ Church Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 29, 2020 immediately following the 9:30 am worship service.

-A motion was passed, according to the regulations of the Diocese, that the appropriate portion of Fr Stephen's compensation package be designated as housing allowance.

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, January 28, 2020.

A Perfect New Year's Day

I spent a perfect New Year's Day with the Hanania family in Paterson. Once again, Louise, Matthew, Samantha and I searched cold streets, colder still the shores of the Passaic River and dark alleys for homeless men and women. Once again, we gave out all the supplies we had on hand and could have given out more. Blankets, socks, hand warmers, hand made scarves (many made by Linda Daly), warm gloves and hats, countless bottles of water and good-for-you bars. All accepted gratefully, thankfully by about 50 men and women we reached. We hope to go again in the cold weather. I truly can't think of a better way to begin the new year. Please let us know if you'd like to contribute anything at all.

Annual Meeting Notice

The Annual Meeting of the Parish of Christ Church, Pompton Lakes, New Jersey, will be held following the 9:30 am worship service on Sunday, January 26, 2020, for the purpose of electing one Warden, three members of the Vestry for three-year terms, one member of the Vestry for a one-year term, and delegates to the Annual Convention of the Diocese of Newark; to hear reports, adopt the 2020 parish budget, and to consider any other business which properly may come before this meeting.

Karen Bogert, Karen Cahill, Louise Hanania and Matt Hanania are on the Nominating Committee. The Nominees are Sue Helm, Lewis Marshall, Alison Thornhill, Zigi Zacs and Sue Cook. If you would like to make a nomination, please see the instructions in the following excerpt from our By-Laws. "Article 2.9 Nominations by Petition. Any six (6) qualified voting members may nominate another qualified voting member for any office to be elected by providing a signed petition to the Clerk of the Vestry (Sue Helm) seven days prior to the Annual Meeting. If the Clerk receives such nominations, she shall present to the Priest in Charge, the name/s of the nominee/s. After verification of eligibility of the candidates, the chairperson shall immediately post a notice of nominee/s on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall and email it to every household in the parish. No nominations shall be made from the floor."



Soup Off!

The cold weather is here so that means it's time to start thinking about the annual Soup Off! It will take place on Sunday, February 9, 2020 at 5:00 pm. Please consider being a soup making participant and join past Soup Off winners in our Hall of Fame! Sign-up sheets are posted in the Parish Hall; please volunteer to help! Tickets are available at Coffee Hour or by calling the Parish Office at 973-835-2207.

The Wild Game Pot Luck Supper

On Sunday, March 15, at 5:30 pm, a pot luck supper will be held in the Parish Hall. Bill Calcagno will be providing the featured foods with a wild game theme. Please bring a side dish or dessert. A sign up sheet is posted in the Parish Hall so that you can indicate what you are bringing and how many will attend.

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!

Christ Church: A New Creation!

Experience the joy and inspiration of sharing your treasure as part of Christ Church: A New Creation! If you haven't already done so, please make your generous financial pledge to Christ Church by returning your 2020 pledge card. You can put your card in the offering basket or bring it or mail it to the Parish Office, 400 Ramapo Avenue, Pompton Lakes, NJ 07442. Thank you very much for your care of our congregation and of those who are served by our ministries!

Treasurers Commentary for 11/30/19

- Income exceeded expenses this month by almost ~\$6,300.
- Total Income (Year to date) is below budget by about ~\$2,800.
- Total Expenses are under budget (Year to date) by about \$4,800.
- Net (Year to date) is about \$-64,000



Sunday School Update

In October, the children enjoyed a fabulous Halloween party, hosted by Sue Cook. The children (and a few adults) came in costume to celebrate the holiday. They enjoyed Halloween crafts, games and some treats too. As always, it was a party filled with fun and fellowship.

The Sunday School celebrated a joyous and heartwarming holiday season. During December, we were able to share our holiday spirit with members of the community. Certainly this was a wonderful way to embrace the true meaning of Christmas. The holiday gift collection for Eva's village was a huge success, as always. We posted names of children who would appreciate Christmas gifts, and every name was immediately taken by a kind parishioner. Some also brought extra gifts, to be distributed as needed. We collected so many gifts they almost did not fit in the picture! See for yourself...



Special thanks to the Hanania family for delivering the approximately 100 gifts to Eva's village. On December 15, we had our annual Christmas Pageant followed by our annual holiday cookie bake. The children decorated trays and trays of cookies and the adults baked several hundred cookies. These were delivered to individuals and families in Pompton Lakes and surrounding towns for a little extra Christmas cheer. As in the past few years, a local Girl Scout troop handmade ornaments (cork angels this year) and donated them to our Sunday School and we attached these to the cookies for an extra festive gift. What a wonderful tradition! Thank you to those adults who helped deliver the cookies. We hope everyone had a fantastic holiday season!

*Superintendents: Karen Cahill,
Louise Hanania and
Debbie Onderlinde.*

The Work of Christmas

When the star in the sky is gone,

*When the Kings and the Princes
are home,*

*When the shepherds are back
with their flocks,*

The work of Christmas begins.

To find the lost.

To heal the broken.

To feed the hungry.

To release the prisoner.

To teach the nations.

To bring Christ to all.

To make music in the heart.

By Howard Thurman

Submitted by Deacon Barbara

facebook

Christ Church is on Facebook

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

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.

Spring Gala Tricky Tray

The Christ Church Spring Gala Tricky Tray will be held on Friday, March 20, 2020 at 7:00 pm! Please mark your calendars and start to think about what you can donate. We'd love to have themed baskets, or monetary donations. Do you have any Christmas gifts that you don't know what to do with? We'll gladly take them and use them in one of the baskets. Please consider asking your employer for a donation too. We love gift certificates to any business. If you have any specific talent, consider how that could be used ... maybe you needlepoint, crochet, draw or paint, make something for us! Donations are accepted any time between now and the Tricky Tray.

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.



Parish Family Birthdays-

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

January

- 1 - Marianne Taylor
- 1 - Anthony Simone
- 1 - Fran Kamer
- 1 - Hanzah Kanaan
- 2 - Joy Liston
- 3 - Bill Conklin
- 4 - Linda Daly
- 5 - Fatima Kanaan
- 5 - Ossam Kanaan
- 6 - Shirley Van Dunk
- 7 - Esrra Kanaan
- 8 - Wendy Simone
- 11 - Bill Calcagno
- 11 - Jackie Beveridge
- 12 - Carol Earl
- 15 - Paul Steberger
- 23 - Justin Milligan
- 17 - Amanda Shepard
- 20 - Ashley Caffery
- 21 - Nicholas Coleburn
- 23 - Sven Lilienthall
- 23 - Joyce McDiarmid

February

- 8 - Cayla Coleburn
- 10 - Kayla Longo
- 13 - Emily Hoeflinger
- 13 - Lip Siang Eng
- 16 - Samantha Hanania
- 18 - Pat Sondermeyer
- 22 - Kristen Finger
- 27 - Bruce Hetzel
- 28 - Matthew Buginsky
- 29 - Brian Buginsky

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.

Bishop Hughes' Messages

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



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/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 -
- **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

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

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.





Breakfast With Santa

Breakfast with Santa was held on December 7th, 2019. The event started off with a fantastic pancake and sausage breakfast. After eating, the children were able to shop at our Santa shack. There were volunteers from Pompton High School on hand to help the children shop and to wrap their purchases. As well, this year there was a craft sale for the adults with many beautiful crafts available for purchase. After shopping, the children enjoyed a visit from Santa and each child had the opportunity to sit on Santa's lap for a special chat. Thanks to the Breakfast with Santa team for all their hard work!

*Debbie Onderlinde &
Karen Cahill*

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.

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 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 3:15 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

SOUP OFF!



Sunday, February 10 at 5:00 pm. Get your tickets now!

Tenth Annual Wild Game Pot Luck Dinner

Sunday, March 15 at 5:30 pm

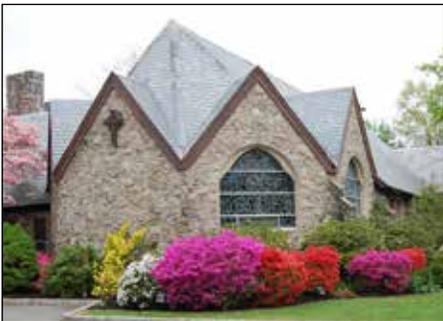


Christ Church T-Shirts for Sale

T-shirts with a Christ Church logo are available for purchase. Shirts are grey 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 shirts that are \$25 each. Contact Alison Thornhill for more information. (agard11287@aol.com)

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!



*Give God what is right,
not what is left*

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



Prepaid Grocery Cards

A free donation

When you buy a prepaid card for ShopRite or Stop & Shop, Christ Church receives a donation of 5% of its value. Yet you still receive the whole face value of the card – you're donating for free! Like any prepaid card from a specific company, there are no additional fees and you don't have to use the entire card at one time. Don't shop at these grocery stores yourself? Since everyone has to eat, the cards make good gifts – including to Shepherd's Haven or Food for Friends. \$25 and \$50 cards are available from Pat O'Connor during the 8:00 coffee hour and Sue Pikaart at 9:30 coffee hour. Please purchase with a check or exact change. Thank you!

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*

January 2019

*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