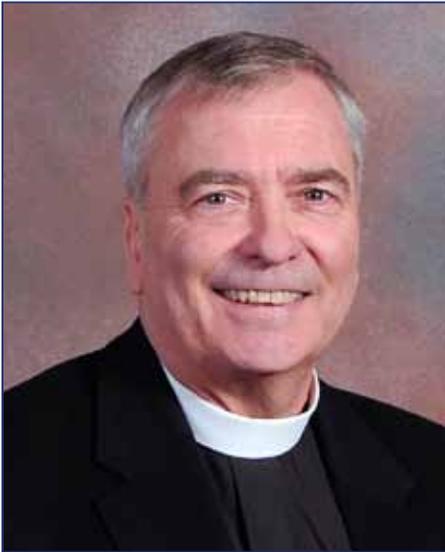


*The*  
**Epistle**  
*March 2017*



## A Message from Your Priest in Charge



Dear Friends,

Those of you who attended the Ash Wednesday services will remember that part of the Opening Prayer which says, in part, that we “acknowledge our wretchedness.” What’s wretched is the prayer itself!

You and I are not wretched! We have done wretched things, to be sure, and we are not wretched. Please keep your past distinct from who you are in God’s eyes “beloved.”

Yes, we ask and receive forgiveness for the wretchedness of our past. It is all those shameful and unbecoming acts of selfishness residing in our past. God forgives that. When we trust “you are my beloved” and we trust that God forgives our sins, then we are forced to serve others. If I hold myself as being “wretched” then the rest of my life is focused on becoming “unwretched.” This is just as selfish because the focus is on myself. When Jesus said “You find meaning in your life by giving it away” he was addressing the relationship you and I have with ourselves.

Trust the God who forgives.  
Trust the God who declares  
“You are my beloved.” Then,  
only then, we will experience  
the kingdom of heaven! God  
bless you!

Warmly,  
*Father Stephen*

## Vestry Meeting Highlights

The regular monthly meeting of the Priest in charge, Wardens and Vestry was held on Tuesday, February 28, 2017. The minutes of the previous two meetings were approved. The actions of the Little Lamb Management Group, the Shepherd’s Haven Management Group and the Thrift Shoppe Management Group were ratified. The report of the Treasurer was accepted subject to audit.

- The Income & Expense Report for the period ending January 31, 2017 was distributed.
- The Finance Committee reported that more money will be transferred from the Capital Campaign account back to the Fidelity account to repay what was borrowed.
- We received a second estimate on the repair and replacement of the air conditioners. It came in about the same as the first estimate, so we will go with the first estimate.
- We received an estimate for the repair of the roof over the Parish Hall. We may be able to apply for a Diocesan grant to fund some of the expense. We will need to get a second estimate.

- There was discussion about the Spring Gala Tricky Tray. It is getting late to organize it, but we can’t cancel it because we depend on the proceeds to be included in the budget. There are several people who help, but we need someone to chair it.
- The Neighborhood Initiative Questionnaires were sent out. We are starting to receive the returns in the mail.
- Rudy and Barbara Sellitti are organizing a lecture series. The first one will be on Race and the Justice System, on March 31 at 7:00 pm in the Parish Hall.
- Sue Helm was nominated to be the Clerk of the Vestry. It was so ordered.

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, March 21, 2017.



Ring all the bells  
that still can ring

Forget your perfect offering  
There is a crack in everything  
That’s how the light gets in.

*From “anthem” by  
Leonard Cohen*

*Submitted by  
Deacon Barbara*



## Sunday School News

Our first Family Sunday of 2017 was on January 29th and the Cherub and Junior choirs sang during the service. As well, we had some Youth guests from the Church of the Good Shepherd in Ringwood join us and they also sang. It was a wonderful way to celebrate the Sabbath.

The Sunday School fundraising for the Special Olympics has begun! On Sunday, January 22nd, a representative from the Special Olympics, Joanne Monaco, came to Christ Church and lead a discussion during the 9:30 coffee hour about the many wonderful activities that the Special Olympics supports. We also discussed with Joanne how we can help the causes that they champion. It was extremely interesting and enriching to learn about how much this program does to help children and adults throughout the state.

On Sunday, February 12th, the Sunday School children had a Valentine's party after the 9:30 service, hosted by Sue Cook. The party had crafts and games and of course treats supplied by the teachers and superintendents. Despite the snow and ice that Mother Nature bestowed on us that morning, some folks braved the weather and there was a nice group of children in church that morning and at the party afterwards.

Also on February 12th, the Sunday School had their first fund-raiser for the Special Olympics which was the sale of home-made chocolate roses, just in time for Valentine's Day! Thank you to the many parishioners who purchased them! Look for more fun ways to support the Special Olympics in the upcoming months.

*Karen Cahill, Louise Hanania and Debbie Onderlinde*



## Cemetery 101, An Educational Seminar

This educational seminar will be led by Betty Lynn Schweitzer, Esquire, and Karen Post who are Family Service Counselors for a Non-Profit, Non-Sectarian Cemetery.

Pre-planning your cemetery and funeral needs allows your loved ones time to reflect upon the memories of your life rather than the emotional and daunting details of planning the services for your death. Relieving your loved ones of this task is a final, beautiful gift of love and compassion. We will have a fifteen-minute informational session on March 12, 2017, during the coffee hours after the 8:00 am and 9:30 am services.

## Soup Off!

It's time to think about The Soup Off! It will take place on Sunday, March 19 at 5:00pm. Join us for an evening of delicious soups and cast your vote for soup-maker of the year. Enjoy soup, salad, bread, soft drinks, coffee, tea, dessert. Advanced ticket price is \$10 for adults and \$5.00 for children. If you purchase tickets at the door it is \$15 for adults and \$8 for children. Please visit the sign-up sheets in the Parish Hall. Sign up to compete for "Soup Maker of the Year" or sign up to make a donation or help with set up and clean up. Tickets can be purchased at Coffee Hour or by calling the Parish Office at 973-835-2207.



## Pledge Card Reminder

This is a reminder to return your 2017 Pledge Cards. You can mail them, put them in the offering plate, or bring them to the Parish Office.



## Mothering Sunday – March 26

Christ Church will be celebrating Mothering Sunday at both services on Sunday, March 26, 2017. Mothering Sunday, the Fourth Sunday of Lent, has been observed since medieval times. In that era, children were taken from their families by the age of seven and sent to work as indentured servants of the lords of the land. Once a year, on the fourth Sunday of Lent, these children were sent home to visit their mothers, and allowed to bake and take with them Simnel bread as a gift.

Over the years the Anglican Church has carried on this observance as the first Mother's Day Celebration. You are invited to join us as we celebrate this joyous occasion. If you would like to bake your own Simnel bread, the recipe follows. Please bring it to church on March 26 and place it on the "birthday bank" table to be blessed. Eat the cake yourself, or share it with your Mom or loved ones.



### Simnel Bread

Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Have at room temperature 1 cup of butter and five eggs. Butter and flour one large loaf pan or two small

ones. Cream until light and fluffy 1 cup butter (sweet is best) and 1 2/3 cups sugar; beat in, one at a time, five eggs.

When creamy, slowly add 2 cups flour. Fold in 1/2 cup of raisins or 1/2 cup of sultanas (white raisins) or 1/2 cup of currants or 1/4 cup of candied peel of citron. (Dredge fruit in 1/4 cup of flour.) Spoon mixture into buttered and floured loaf pan(s) and bake 45 minutes to an hour or until inserted toothpick comes out clean. Cool 15 minutes before removing from pan. Wrap in aluminum foil and then in plastic wrap. Do not eat for 24 hours. You may ice it if you wish with a butter cream icing or poured fondant.

*Paula Wootton*

## Volunteer at Shepherd's Haven

Do you have an interest or passion you would like to share? Please consider sharing your time and knowledge at Shepherd's Haven. We are looking for individuals to enhance our seniors' lives. You don't need to sign your life away, just a half hour. And it's great for your Karma.

We are always looking for Volunteers at Shepherd's Haven. Currently looking for help in the kitchen the third Thursday of each month. Please contact Leigh at 973-835-4747.



## The Thrift Shoppe

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!



## 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!

## 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-March

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

- 3 - Catherine Shaw
- 3 - Deborah Onderlinde
- 6 - Lehman Mann
- 7 - Max Helm
- 7 - Zigi Zacs
- 8 - Karen Porter
- 8 - Kyle Conklin
- 13 - Brianna Lilienthal
- 13 - Val Rusinko
- 16 - Layne Swansen
- 18 - Patti Mitchell
- 18 - Maryann Maass
- 19 - Bette Davis
- 19 - Melanie Liston
- 20 - Rebecca Lilienthal
- 21 - Jimmy Novak
- 21 - Gregory Schmidt
- 22 - Sue Helm
- 22 - Dave Kida
- 24 - Dan Hoeflinger
- 27 - John T. Tintera
- 28 - Romilly Liloia
- 28 - Nora Reynolds

## 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](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 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 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



## Christ Church is on Facebook

Christ Church is now on Facebook. Go to [www.facebook.com/christchurchpomp-ton](http://www.facebook.com/christchurchpomp-ton) to become a fan.



# SOUP OFF!



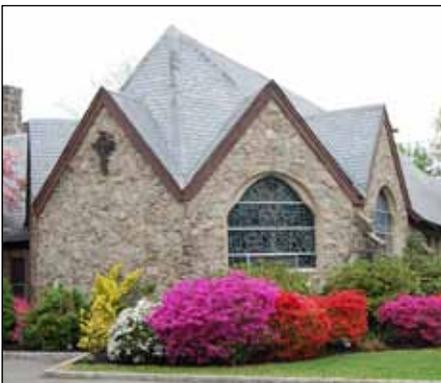
**Sunday, March 19 at 5:00 pm. Get your tickets now!**

## 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 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)*

*March 2017*

*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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