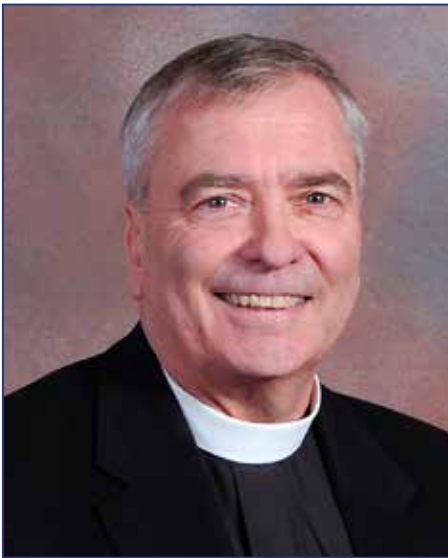


The Epistle

March, 2018



A Message from Your Priest in Charge



Dear Friends,

My picture of Palm Sunday is forever etched in my mind, Jesus deliberately riding into Jerusalem on a donkey, a symbol of humility and surrender. He was confronted by the best in military combat – chariots, armed soldiers, those in authority – a symbol of control and superiority.

One side of the street was shouting “hosanna.” This was his cheering gallery. Those who had met Jesus personally, been touched and healed. These were you derelicts, your “less than’s,” your untouchables, those ostracized and ridiculed for a number of reasons, religious reasons. These were a large number of persons inspired by the wisdom of Jesus. These were the people whose dignity was created by the presence and message of Jesus. These were the people with whom Jesus spent most of his time and energy.

Then there was the other side of the street. They were shouting “crucify the man,” at the

top of their lungs. “This man has continually subverted our authority, transgressed our rules and regulations, hung out with despicable people. He’s a despicable person himself. Crucify Him!!”

Same person, this Jesus of Nazareth. Two different opinions about the man.

Before he died, Jesus confronted the entire audience, “I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.” He was inviting us to make a decision.

Which side of the street will you be on?

Warmly,
Father Stephen

February Vestry Meeting Highlights:

The regular monthly meeting of the Priest in charge, Wardens and Vestry was held on Tuesday, February 27, 2018. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved. The actions of the Little Lamb 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, 2018 was distributed.

- Father Stephen welcomed the new Vestry members, Debbie DeFreese, Scott Heck, Carole Turner.

- Scott Heck is now the Vestry person in charge of buildings and grounds. Scott will check the integrity of the buildings and check to see if there are any code violations or safety issues.

- A Vestry retreat will be organized.

- Rudy was a delegate to the 2018 Diocesan Convention and distributed a summary of the Convention to the Vestry.

- More people are needed to organize Coffee Hours, especially after the 8:00 am service.

- We will look into getting a handicap parking sign for Sundays only. We will also find out about a pedestrian crosswalk across Ramapo Avenue.

- A motion was passed to accept the 2017 Parochial Report as prepared and submit it to the Diocese.

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 27, 2018.

Healing Ministry Training April 7th

The Reverend Dr. Ronnie Stout-Kopp will lead us into the ministry of healing on Saturday morning, April 7th from 9:15 to 11:30. We will gather in the Guild Hall. People were attracted to Jesus through his healing ministry, which set him apart from other religious leaders of his day. We are called to follow in his steps, and it may be the call to a healing ministry is to become part of your journey. Come learn and discern. Coffee will be served.



Palm Sunday 9:30 Service

On Palm Sunday, March 25, we will start the 9:30 service by gathering in the Parish Hall for the blessing of the palms. Weather permitting we will then process on the sidewalk to the front door of the church. If the weather is bad we will process in through the Guild Hall. For those who would not want to process in, we will have blessed palms in the church with the ushers and greeters. As in past years, so that the main body of the Palm Sunday service is joyful, the Passion Gospel will not be read in the middle of the service, rather it will be read at the end (after the final blessing). The choir will process out in silence at the end of the reading followed by the congregation. There will be no coffee after the 9:30 service. We do this so we all can “get into the spirit” of Holy Week, though everyone is encouraged to attend Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services.

Good Friday Stations of the Cross 7:30 pm

On Good Friday we will be reading “Mary’s Way of the Cross” by Richard Furey. This version of the stations of the cross is amazing. In these stations we see through Mary’s eyes what Jesus was going through on the way of Calvary. It shows the full humanity and divinity of Jesus as well as the conflict within Mary as she sees the inevitable happen to her son. It is impossible to read this without being moved.



Easter Eggstravaganza

The Eggstravaganza will take place on Saturday, March 31, at 9:00 am. A pancake breakfast will be served followed by an Easter egg hunt with treat filled eggs. Bring your eggs and dye them, and have a photo taken with the Easter Bunny! Tickets are \$7.00 per person. Please see Debbie Onderlinde for tickets or call her at 973-962-6359. Tickets can also be purchased through the Parish Office.

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.

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.

A Reminder

If you have not already done so, please renew your commitment to our Christ Church ministries by filling out and returning a 2018 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!

Holy Week and Easter Services

Thursday, March 29, Maundy Thursday, service at 7:30 pm.

Friday, March 30, Good Friday, service at 12:00 pm and Mary’s Stations of the Cross at 7:30 pm.

Saturday, March 31, The Great Vigil of Easter, service at 7:30 pm.

Easter Sunday, April 1,
8:00 am Holy Communion,
9:30 am Festival Holy Communion & Music, with hypoallergenic incense

11:00 am Family Celebration of Holy Communion & Music



Spring Gala Tricky Tray

The Christ Church Spring Gala Tricky Tray will be held on Friday, May 4, 2018 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. We also need lots of volunteers to help with wrapping, set up, baking, clean up etc. The sign up sheets are posted in the Parish Hall.



3rd Annual Beefsteak Dinner

Mark your calendars for the 3rd Annual Beefsteak Dinner! It will be held on Saturday, April 21, from 6:30 pm - 10 pm. Watch the Sunday bulletin for more details. For tickets, see Karen Cahill at 9:30 coffee hour or call the office at 973-835-2207.



News from the Sunday School

Our first Family Sunday of the year was celebrated on January 28th. Both the Junior and Cherub choirs sang joyously, the children performed the readings, and, of course, there were bubbles. In February, we continued to raise money for our 2017-2018 Outreach Fundraiser, Service Animals and Seeing Eye Dogs. On February 4th and 11th, the Sunday School had a fund-raiser just in time for Valentine's Day! This was the sale of beautiful homemade chocolate roses! Once again, this was supported by our generous parishioners, who purchased many of these lovely roses. On Sunday, February 11th, the Sunday School children had their first ever Mardi Gras party. This was hosted by Sue Cook after the 9:30 service. The party had beautiful decorations in greens and purples with lots of beads, pancakes and some fishes (oyster crackers), moon cakes and crafts and treats. The children especially enjoyed the make-your-own masks in multi-colors that they decorated with jewels and stickers. Many of the children also attended the traditional Shrove Tuesday Pancake dinner the evening prior to Ash Wednesday. We hope you enjoyed your celebrations in February and we look forward to the Spring thaw.

*Karen Cahill, Louise Hanania
and Debbie Onderlinde*

Soup Off!

The Soup Off was a great success. We had ten great soups to sample!! Lots of salad, bread and butter, and of course wonderful desserts and FUN! The winners this year were: First place: Joe Bridge - Butternut Squash; Second place: Don Bogert - Chesseburger Soup; Third Place: Samantha Hanania - Vegetarian White Bean Spinach. Congratulations to all! Everyone is looking forward to next year's contest!



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.



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.



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 nonprofit 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-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
- 8 - 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

Looking ahead to April Birthdays:

- 1 - Jenny Bogert
- 2 - Anthony Longo
- 6 - Joe Blauvelt
- 6 - Terry Kearney
- 9 - Bruce Gottheiner
- 12 - Sean Porter
- 13 - Denise Pugsley
- 15 - Bill Sondermeyer
- 19 - Melanie Liston
- 21 - John Fitzgerald
- 26 - Pennie Waltz
- 26 - Jessica Kida Swanson
- 28 - Danielle Geresi
- 29 - Andy Shaw

Bishop Search

As you may know Bishop Mark Beckwith has announced his retirement. Read about the search for the XI Bishop of Newark at www.dioceseofnewark.org/bishop-search.

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.

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*

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 cardboard 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!



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.



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*

March 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