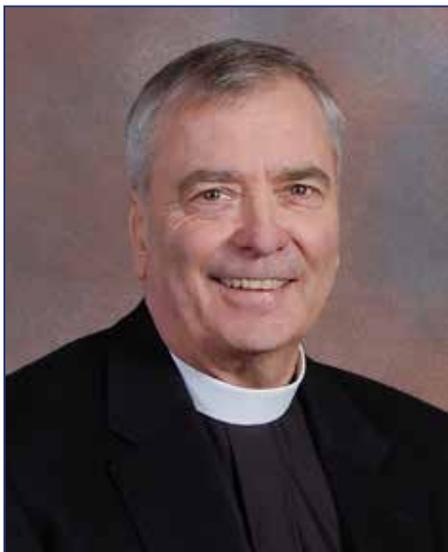


The Epistle

March, 2020



A Message from Your Priest in Charge



Dear Friends,

In case you haven't noticed the context of every sermon on Sunday mornings is being God's gift in the world. It makes the message much easier to produce when the context is already there. The Gospels, thereby, become the instructions for me to show up as God's gift in the world.

I came across a 1994 speech from Nelson Mandela that provided empowering instructions for you and me to take on!

Warmly

Father Stephen

Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness, that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, "Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented and fabulous?" Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God. Your playing small doesn't serve the world. There's nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure

around you. We were born to make manifest the glory that is within us. It's not just in some of us, it's in everyone. And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others.

Dear Christ Church Family, "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times." A reminder from Charles Dickens.

I heard a report from South Jersey that there were actually armed guards at Costco's stationed in front of paper goods. People were fighting over toilet paper! I heard another report of a 10 year old boy who was distributing, free of charge, hand sanitizer to the elderly.

You and I do not have a choice about the worldwide epidemic that is occurring. We do have a choice how to respond to it! We can be reaction and fight for toilet paper or we can be proactive showing up as random acts of kindness. How? By letting the person behind us in the grocery store, with two items to purchase, go in front of us. By calling our elderly neighbors before we go to the grocery store asking if they need anything. By making dinner for someone who is lonely and delivering it at a convenient time.

The question "why" at this time is a pertinent question for those in the medical field. The question "why" tends to be poisonous in the spiritual journey. The question you and I need to keep in front of us is now that we have this crises, how can I "show up" as God's gift in the world?

Loving God, who invites us to give thanks in all things, preserve us from faithless fears

and worldly anxieties, guide us to be your loving gifts to the world, as Jesus Christ, your son and our Lord, was and is to us. Amen

Warmly

Father Stephen

All Services Cancelled

By mandate of the Bishop, all church services will be cancelled, effective immediately. In hopes of reducing the spread of the COVID-19 virus, there will be no church services for the remainder of March. We hope to be able to resume services on Sunday, April 5, Palm Sunday. Here is a link to the Bishop's public letter from the Diocesan website: <https://dioceseofnewark.org/content/bishop-hughes-eastern-congregations-refrain-public-worship-other-gatherings-through-march-29>.

Spring Gala Tricky Tray

The Christ Church Spring Gala Tricky Tray which was scheduled to be held on Friday, March 20, 2020 at 7:00 pm, has been postponed to Friday, May 1, 2020 at 7:00 pm. If you have purchased tickets already, they will be honored at the May 1 event. If you are not able to attend on May 1, you may request a refund by calling the Parish Office at 973-835-2207. Tickets are still available for the May 1 event. The \$15 entry ticket includes one sheet of bidding tickets. A PrePack is available, a \$48 value for only \$35. It includes 6 regular sheets, 10 grand tickets, 4 special tickets. Call the Parish Office at 973-835-2207 to purchase your tickets and prepacks.

February Vestry Meeting Highlights

The regular monthly meeting of the Priest in charge, Wardens and Vestry was held on Tuesday, February 25, 2020. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved. The actions of the 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 January 31, 2020 was distributed.

- Approximately \$23,000 will need to come from the Fidelity investment account to cover the negative balances in the TD Funds account.

- An estimate for the replacement of the stove and refrigerator comes to \$6,400. There will be an additional expense to remove the existing refrigerators. The kitchen floor will be replaced and a new microwave will be installed

- The estimate to fix the sink hole in the parking lot comes to \$3,725.

- A motion was passed to complete the improvements in the kitchen including a new floor, stove, refrigerator & microwave.

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 24, 2020.



Lenten Fellowship

We are sorry to announce that we must postpone our suppertime Lenten book study of "Liturgy of the Ordinary" until it is once again a healthy option for us all to meet together. If we can discover a way to meet online, we will reschedule as soon as possible.

Connecting During "Social Distancing"

This coming Sunday, March 22, Fr. Stephen will do a Facebook live Morning Prayer service at 9:30 am. If you haven't already "liked" Christ Church Pompton's page, you can search for "Christ Church Pompton" and then "like" the page to see the service. The service will be able to be viewed on Facebook later as well, but tuning in live is a great way to stay in touch. We will continue this type of Prayer Service each Sunday at 9:30 am until we are able to be together again. Please join Fr. Stephen in this time when it is so important to keep connected.

A Message from Your Wardens

A reminder – this one from Jesus himself: "Where your treasure is, there is your heart also."

At this particular juncture, 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 just

go to our website, www.christchurchpompton.org and click on the donate button. It's easy!

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!

To our Christ Church Family

Once again, we thank ALL of you for the numerous prayers, hugs, cards, donations of food, donations to our choir, and your attendance at Pat Sondermeyer's memorial service. We can't express how comforting it is to know you are there for us and our family. It has been a crazy and overwhelming 8 months. We are taking things one day at a time. We pray for God's guidance. We thank you sincerely and send love to you all from the bottoms of our hearts.

Karen, Don, Chloe, Jenny Bogert and the Sondermeyer family.

*Do not fear,
for I am with you,
do not be afraid,
for I am your God;
I will strengthen you,
I will help you,
I will uphold you with my
victorious right hand.*

Isaiah 41:10

Submitted by Deacon Barbara



Sunday School Update

In January, we began our Annual Sunday School outreach collection. Each year we raise money to support a different organization that we believe is instrumental in helping others. The organization is chosen by those involved with the Sunday School, after discussions about possible options. This year, we are happy to announce that the recipient of our Fundraising efforts will be Christ Church! Our funds will be used to help with the planned kitchen renovation project. This will benefit our parishioners, as well as numerous members of the community, since many local groups and individuals use our kitchen for their own events. As well, we have outreach programs that utilize the kitchen, such as Pasta Dinner and many holiday events. Our first Fundraiser was our second annual Hoagie Sale, which occurred during Super Bowl weekend. We again received quite a few orders and our hoagie makers did not disappoint! Thanks to all who purchased sandwiches, as this was a great start to our Outreach program. Another fun event was the annual Valentine's Day party. This was held on Sunday, February 9th, following the 9:30 service. This was hosted by Sue Cook and was filled with many Valentine's goodies, games, crafts and prizes. Al-

ways a fantastic time! We look forward to the start of Spring and our many activities that accompany this. If you have any questions or concerns about the Sunday School, please contact a Sunday School Superintendent Karen Cahill, Louise Hanania and Debbie Onderlinde.

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

Sunday School Easter Candy Sale

Christ Church's Sunday School is holding their annual Easter Candy Sale. The candy is the SAME price as last year! We are once again buying our crosses, bunnies and foiled eggs from Laurie's Homemade Candy, 600 Berdan Avenue, Wayne. Please contact Karen Simone at wenkar@optonline.net to place your order. Deadline to place your order is Friday, March 27. All candies will be available for pick up at Christ Church on Palm Sunday. All proceeds from the candy sale will go towards the Sunday School fundraiser. This year's recipient will be Christ Church Kitchen Remodel. Thank you for your support!

Treasurers Commentary for 1/31/20

- Income exceeded expenses this month by almost ~\$8,000.
- Total Income (Year to date) is below budget by about ~\$600.
- Total Expenses are under budget (Year to date) by about \$600.
- Net (Year to date) is about \$-8,000

*God is our refuge
and strength,
a very present help in trouble.*

*Therefore we will not fear,
though the earth
should change,*

Though the mountain shake

In the heart of the sea.

Psalm 46:1,2

Submitted by Deacon Barbara

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.



Bishop Hughes' Messages

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

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.

March

- 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
- 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 - Nora Reynolds

April

- 1 - Jenny Bogert
- 2 - Anthony Longo
- 4 - Quinton Z Smith
- 6 - Joe Blauvelt
- 6 - Terry Kearney
- 9 - Bruce Gottheiner
- 12 - Sean Porter
- 13 - Denise Pugsley
- 19 - Melanie Liston
- 20 - Kathy Klauser
- 24 - Lois Mahonchak
- 26 - Pennie Waltz
- 26 - Jessica Kida Swanson
- 27 - Sue Godar
- 28 - Danielle Geresi
- 29 - Andy Shaw

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.

Easter Memorials

Christ Church is a beautiful church and is especially lovely at Easter. We invite all members and friends of the Church to share in making beautiful the sanctuary for the joyful celebration of Easter. You may want to offer your gift in memory of loved ones who have departed this life and you may also want to offer your gift in thanksgiving for some special blessing. If so, you may mail your requests, with a check, to Christ Church, 400 Ramapo Avenue, Pompton lakes, NJ 07442. Those of you who are on the permanent list may mail your checks to the Church as well. The cost of Memorial/Thanksgivings is \$5.00 for each person named and must be received by March 29. If you have a permanent Easter gift, it will repeat unless I hear from you.

*Cheryl Finger
Flower Chairperson*

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!

Live wisely

Use every chance you have for doing good. Ephesians 5:15-17

And that is exactly what this year's Confirmation class did. Because 2020 is a Leap Year, it gave us an extra day. Max Helm and Dylan Thornhill spent that extra day "doing good." With the help of Deacon Barbara, the Simone Family and the Hanania Family, and the generous support of the entire church, they handed out much needed supplies to the homeless in Paterson. Blankets, hand warmers, handmade scarves and hats, gloves, granola bars, and slim jims were among the items handed out. But what we all got in return was much more valuable. The appreciation expressed by these men and women surpassed anything we gave them. Thank you to all who helped this year's Confirmation class in its mission to "bring the church outside."

Please Give Us Your Blank and Birthday Greeting Cards!

**Help honor
Christ Church birthdays**

Do you have a drawer-full 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 please bring in your unwanted birthday or blank cards and put them in the mesh box in the Guildhall. (The box is identifiable by its large sign with a flamingo on it!) We'd also love to have additional members of our gang, so if brightening others' birthdays via cards is something that might interest you please drop a note with your contact information into that same box. (No obligation – we will contact you with details so you can decide if you want to join us.) Thank you for your support!





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/Wanaque** - Joan Van Splinter - 973-856-4978
- **Ringwood/Haskell** - 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.



Parish Classifieds

Luxury Vacations in the Dominican Republic

Luxurious accommodations await you at a fabulous resort in 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

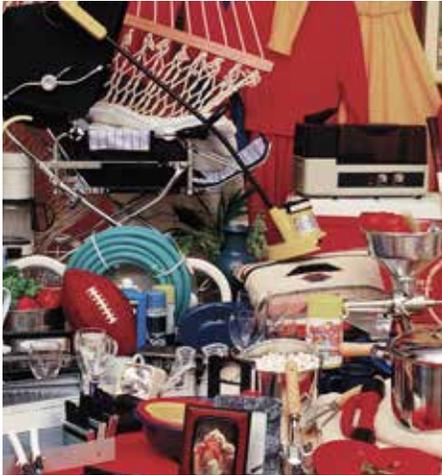
at 420 One Step Up



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 3:15 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



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*

March 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.

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