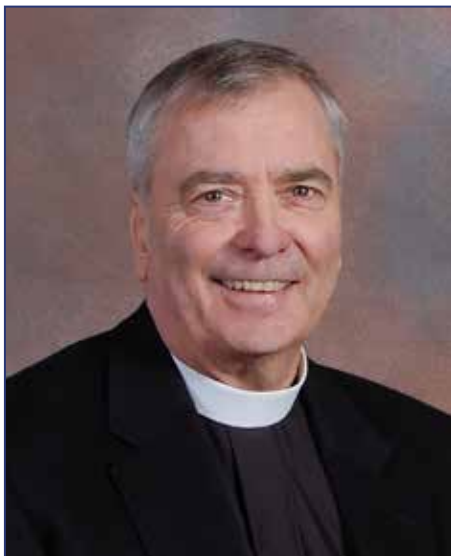


The Epistle

May, 2020



A Message from Your Priest in Charge



Dear Friends,

It seems like we're living in the meantime; the time in between now and what the Church will be and look like a year from now. I really don't know.

Actually, we have always lived in the meantime. It begins with today. We're put on this earth for a limited time. It is the meantime.

One of the ingredients of our present meantime is uncertainty. Will Church ever be the same again? It's uncertain. The tendency is to be more comfortable when things are certain, but I want to suggest that it can be much more powerful when we live in the arena of uncertainty.

Uncertainty within the Church context has allowed us to create a new way of worshipping. The attendance of our weekly Facebook service is 10 times more than the usual attendance on Sunday mornings. The daily meditations have been received enthusiastically.

cally. They are like short homilies. Who would have thought of that?

I've always wanted to officiate a funeral before a person dies. This happened with David Christensen, our Music Director. Five children shared a favorite memory of him via the phone. He died enveloped in love. It doesn't make sense to me that we say the most wonderful memories of people at their funeral!

Living in the uncertainty of now is really an invitation to redesign our lives like never before. I have met more neighbors in the past month than I have in the previous 10 years.

Uncertainty – it can be a miserable time of being uncomfortable, or it can be a delightful time of being creative. We get to choose the arena in which we live.

Warmly

Father Stephen

Treasurers Commentary for 3/31/20

- Expenses exceeded income this month by almost ~\$9,100.
- Total Income (Year to date) is below budget by about~\$350.
- Total Expenses are over budget (Year to date) by about ~600.
- Net (Year to date) is about \$-25,917.



Today, treat everyone you meet as if they were going to be dead by midnight. Extend to them all the care, kindness and understanding you can muster, and do it with no thought of reward of any kind.

Your life will never be the same.

Og Mandino

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

John 10:10

Submitted by Deacon Barbara

Connecting During "Social Distancing"

Because we care so much about each and every one of you, we want to be absolutely certain that we are all safe. We will be together in our hearts and minds until we are able to be together again in Church.

In the meantime, we will continue to have Morning Prayer on Facebook Live, Sunday mornings at 9:30 am. Go to www.facebook.com/christchurchprompton. Please join Fr. Stephen on Sunday, during this time when it is so important to keep connected. We love you and we miss you!

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 service until further notice.

Summer Gala Tricky Tray

The Christ Church Summer Gala Tricky Tray will be held on Friday, August 28, 2020 at 7:00 pm! Please mark your calendars and start to think about what you can donate. We'd love to have donations of themed baskets, or monetary donations. If you purchased tickets for the Spring event which was cancelled, we will still honor your tickets. If you are available to be part of the tricky tray team, we could sure use you help. Please call the Parish Office at 973-835-2207. Entrance tickets are \$15 a person and can be reserved by replying to this email. A Prepack of bidding tickets is available if you pay for it in advance, a \$48 dollar value for a cost of only \$35!



Parish Family Birthdays-

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

May

- 1 - Matt Hanania
- 1 - Tammy Buginsky
- 2 - Shannon Stewart
- 6 - Joel Finger
- 6 - Kevin Elliott
- 7 - Don Bogert
- 7 - Tim Helm
- 7 - Alexis Braun
- 7 - Nicole Braun
- 16 - Sophia Novak
- 18 - Kirsten Shepard
- 18 - Grace Thornhill
- 20 - Kathy Shepard
- 22 - Trevor Elliott
- 23 - Patricia Kida
- 27 - Stephanie Conklin
- 29 - Alison Thornhill
- 30 - Jeff Cahill
- 31 - John Miller
- 31 - Florence Loscalzo

June

- 1 - Randy Garb
- 5 - Ashley Tintera Garb
- 5 - Andrew Conklin

- 6 - Kim Pugsley
- 8 - Dylan Thornhill
- 9 - Kevin Gottheiner
- 11 - Hailey Conklin
- 13 - Kurt Wagner
- 14 - Nathan Hanania
- 14 - Caitlin Liston
- 15 - Dawn Milligan
- 16 - Stephen Rozzelle
- 17 - Karen Cahill
- 18 - Krista Lilienthal
- 20 - Priscilla Elliott
- 23 - Jessica Schmidt
- 23 - Olivia Elliott
- 24 - Keith Porter

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 save your cards for us until we see each other at Church again. Thank you for your support!

April Vestry Meeting Highlights

The regular monthly meeting of the Priest in charge, Wardens and Vestry was held on Tuesday, March 24, 2020 via conference call. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

- The Income & Expense Report for the period ending March 31, 2020 was distributed.

- Little Lamb Children's Center closed on April 1. Shepherd's Haven and the Thrift Shoppe remain closed.

- The Church will apply for a Payroll Protection Program loan through the Small Business Association of the government. There are terms under which the loan may be forgiven.

- We have applied for a \$10,000 loan through the Diocese which is for general operation expenses.

- The altar project is on hold.

- We will go ahead with the Fish & Chips fundraiser on 5/8. It will be take-out only. The Tricky Tray will be postponed until 8/28. The Beefsteak Dinner will be postponed until 10/17. We will plan a Church Fair, including outside vendors, for 11/7.

- We are mourning the loss of our Music Director, David Christensen. We won't be able to have a funeral at this time. His family is planning something in St. Croix. We will make an announcement when Fr. Stephen is able to conduct a funeral for Dave. At some point, we will have a search for a new organist.

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, May 26, 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-dUKGuGuF396vbVZO8d9V69XDBQQuTKH4BPciYnTg5dP4O6rpX5QvPEWIBhHDN59kLZ FffwKfYERpOmkkwp8Xt5Crzq4gI3rKkOg=&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.



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.

Dear God, Thank you for the many blessings that you have bestowed upon us. I am praying to you now asking for your peace and grace during this difficult time amidst the COVID 19 pandemic. We are all sheltered in place and worry about our families, friends, and all people in the entire world as we are faced with so many challenges right now. Take care and provide strength to those fighting this disease and those taking care of them and all the essential workers who are unable to shelter in place and risk their health and lives for us. We are faced with deaths we cannot understand and a way of living that is new and very strange. Provide us with your strength and your understanding to get through this time and come out more resilient in ourselves and stronger in our faith. Amen

Anonymous

On Line Church Services and Meditations

In this time of social distancing, we are all feeling a bit isolated and disconnected. To bring us some comfort, there are a variety of on line services and meditations available. Janet Furness has kindly put together a list to choose from:

- There are several parishes in the Diocese that, like Christ Church, are doing on line services. You can find a list at <https://dioceseofnewark.org/content/where-can-i-find-worship-online>
- Washington National Cathedral does morning and evening prayer daily and a service at 11:15 am Sundays. You can find it on youtube. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UClf3eF-DSy5hn4YbTOEdcg>
- The Companions of Mary the Apostle have a Friday Night Bible Study using Zoom. The study begins at 7:00pm, but the meeting will be open at 6:45 pm for those who need technical explanations. Join the Zoom meeting at <https://zoom.us/j/486695035> Meeting ID: 486 695 035. If you have questions before then, you can reach them at companionsma@gmail.com.

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 save your items for us until the Church is open again. 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





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**
Sue Helm - 973-856-2129
- **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/Pequan-nock** - 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*

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