



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

"THE LITTLE STONE CHURCH"

MARCH / APRIL 2018

NEWSLETTER

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MESSAGE
FROM OUR
PRIEST:

*"APRIL, COME
SHE WILL"*

"April is the cruelest month, breeding lilacs out of the dead land, mixing memory and desire, stirring dull roots with spring rain." T.S. Eliott.

T.S. Eliott was an American from St. Louis who settled in London, England in the 1920's and made it his home. He is best known for his Plays, such as, 'Murder in the Cathedral.' The 'April...' quote above comes from one of his most famous poems, 'The Wasteland.' Eliott is using a metaphor, saying that every now and then we are forced back to 'real feelings,' memory, loss, and even love brings with it pain. There is no escaping that reality.

Cleverly, Eliott compares our lives to winter, which can numb our senses "under the forgetful snow." But come the spring and April rains, even the warmer weather, flowers and green cannot disguise all the pain, suffering, and loss life has thrown at us.

A fellow student at College quoted this verse to me back in 1978. At the time, I was young and optimistic, with the world at my feet! Nothing could touch me ... not pain, not loss, and certainly not the world! Little did I know I should have listened more closely, but -- and it's a big 'but' -- I didn't know that girls are smarter than men. Then!

So, here we are 40 short years later and April is again knocking on the door of our lives and another spring. If you haven't suffered loss, hurt, disappointment and deep deep pain by now, check your pulse! The older we get, the more the years pile on, the longer we have lived. April is a wake-up call that reminds us that as much as we love new life, even flowers and spring, none of us escape the hard realities of life and even death.

Once, I thought that death was the ultimate loss, but not anymore. There are greater losses. The loss of love, friendship, children, and betrayal dig a hole deeper than any we could ever find in a mere cemetery. It is at those times that we cry out as Peter, the Big Fisherman, cried out when he tried to walk on the water: "Lord save me least I perish!"

By the time you are able to read this newsletter, we will already be three

whole weeks into the Season of Lent. Lent leads us toward Holy Week and the trial, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is where we get our strength.

In Paul's letters, he tells us that "nothing can separate him from the love of God. What can separate us from the love of God? Can death, can poverty, sickness, hunger, or any misery persuade us that God does not love us? No, I tell you. Nothing can separate us from the love God has for each of us through Jesus Christ." 2 Timothy 4: 16-17

Lent and Holy week, like April, come around each year and tell us where the source of our strength lies. What can take us through the worst of times and the greatest loss? It is the knowledge that we, each of us, have chosen to follow Jesus who showed us a way through suffering! No!

He showed us how to defeat and conquer suffering and even death. How? He invites us to unite our lives, our suffering, our pain with his. In doing so, we become 'the Mystical Body of Christ.' When that happens we become other Christs, and we become Children of God. We fall under the umbrella of God's love, and he will deny us nothing.

Paul says it over and over: "I have put on Christ; nothing can touch me. With Christ, nothing else matters – not shipwrecks, imprisonment, beatings, floggings, even death. Nothing matters. Christ has already won the crown for me. All I need do is finish the race, stay the course."

Lent invites us to cast off the cares and worries of this world and spend time with Christ. We focus a little

more on prayer; we strive a little less to be self-indulgent; we think more of our Gospel calling. I call it 'going into the desert.' Lent is a true desert experience. Just as Jesus went into the desert before his ministry to pray, fast, and talk to his father, so we need our alone time with Christ. So, what do we say to him? How about:

"What on earth were you thinking about choosing me to follow you? Look at my faults. This is not Pierce Brosnan or George Clooney you are asking! No. This is more like Danny DeVito or Kevin James! If you expect me to do some good and be like you, you just gotta give me some help! Not expecting miracles or healings, but a little wisdom would help. And just for once, keep me from messing up!"

Do you ever have the thought that God owes you a break? Do you ever think: "I had the pain, suffered enough sickness, seen too much death, lost so many friends! ENOUGH!"

Lord, please, how about some GLORY! PRAISE! PEACE! SWEET REWARD! Do you ever want to pray: "Your kingdom come!" And I don't mean ten billion years from now! I mean NOW! Your kingdom come now!

Now and then, I believe it is good to get mad at God. He has made promises. We need him to come through. OK, I will settle for all the grace to go to the one who needs it most. The orphan, the hungry, the poor, the wounded. But at least let us see it! Raise us up Lord! Show us your mighty arm! Lend a hand because we need you! That's our prayer: "I raise up my eyes to the hills, from where comes my help and salvation!"

That should be our prayer ... for me, for you, for our church, our parish, even our country: "COME LORD JESUS!" A prayer for lent: "Come Lord Jesus!"

Come Lord Jesus be in my heart. Give strength to my legs. Anoint my head with oil. Give me your wisdom and grace. Put your Gospel words on my lips. Cloak me in righteousness. Be my strength. Caste down my enemies. Lift me on eagles' wings. That your kingdom come. Your Spirit live in and through me today, now, and forever.

"April, come she will. When streams are ripe and swelled with rain"
P.Simon.

Happy Lent. Let us journey together toward another April, sure of what is ahead of us: the bright light of God's love, Easter, and Resurrection.

'April, come she will.'

Easter Blessings!

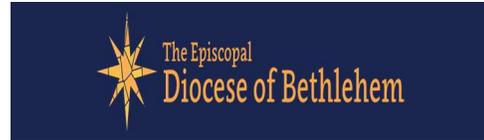
Fr. Bill



CHOIR FUN - WOW!!

Where is the time going? Winter is waning and Spring is just around the corner.

We have already begun practicing for Lent and Easter on Fridays at 3:30pm. And as always, we welcome all new choir members ... so come on out, lend and share your voice, and join our FUN!
-- Dawn Pentecost



Our prayerful search for the IX Bishop of Bethlehem

Nichols & Woodliff-Stanley are Nominees for IX Bishop of Bethlehem

-- The Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem today released the names of two priests who will stand for election for the ninth bishop of the diocese.

They are the Rev. Canon Kevin D. Nichols, 56, chief operating officer and canon for mission resources in the Diocese of New Hampshire, and the Rev. Canon Ruth Woodliff-Stanley, 55, canon to the ordinary in the Diocese of Colorado. The search committee had chosen three nominees, but one withdrew shortly before the slate was presented to the Standing Committee, which oversees the election.

Public gatherings known as 'walkabouts' will be held around the diocese, April 17-20, to give local Episcopalians an opportunity to meet the nominees. The walkabouts in our area will be Thursday, April 19th at St. Paul's in Montrose and on Friday, April 20th at St. Stephen's in Wilks-barre. Tentative times are 7:00pm-9:00pm. The election will be held at the Cathedral of the Nativity on April 28th.

"We're very excited to have such highly-qualified nominees," said the Rev. J. Douglas Moyer, rector of Christ Episcopal Church in Stroudsburg, who chairs the Standing Committee. "Kevin and Ruth are people of deep faith and spirituality, and we have been moved by how both integrate their faith with their everyday lives. They also have experience working at the highest levels of their dioceses and extensive networks

they can call upon thanks to their service to the wider Episcopal Church.”

Learn more about the nominees at the search committee’s website, www.bishopsearchdiobeth.org.

The diocese includes almost 12,000 members in 58 congregations in northeastern Pennsylvania. It has been led for the last four years by the Rt. Rev. Sean Rowe, who is also the bishop of the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania. Rowe served as bishop provisional during a period of reorganization and renewal as the diocese determined its future.

Be Attentive to What God is Saying
A draft on a guided journey to authenticity / integrity

Bill Lewellis (bill.lewellis@gmail.com) & Bruce Baker (papabruce8@comcast.net)

God acts in our lives ... in varied, strange, unpredictable ways.

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God’s glory and the exact imprint of God’s very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. [Hebrews 1: 1-3]

The ultimate question in discernment of spirits is “What is God saying or not saying?”

One of the best guides for theological reflection, including the more specific type of theological reflection we call “discernment” and the type of theology we do as Christian Ethics or Moral Theology, is the late Jesuit scholar Bernard Lonergan.

He specialized in questions of method (hunting down the truth) and, as a

Jesuit, he was trained in discernment of spirits, that is, hunting down the movement of God. Lonergan’s method was expressed in four imperatives:

- (1) Be attentive; i.e., be an attentive subject.
- (2) Be intelligent; i.e., be an intelligently inquiring subject.
- (3) Be reasonable; i.e., be a rationally reflective and reasonable subject.
- (4) Be responsible; i.e., be a responsibly deliberating, decisive and acting subject.

This method seeks transformation in God; so, we might add:

- (5) Be in Love, transformed.

(1) **Be attentive** to what is there to be seen, heard, touched, perceived, imagined. To pray is to be attentive to the divine depth of the everyday and commonplace.

If we are inattentive, we will be clueless. Our oversights will eventually need to be corrected. If we do not practice the discipline of attentiveness to Emmanuel (God with us), to Christ alive, the spiritual life will become dysfunctional precisely at this beginning stage.

(2) **Be intelligent.** See the patterns, the forms. Inquire into the meaning of your experience, your attentiveness. It is not enough to be attentive – to take in the details of what goes on around us – if we are not intelligent, if we are not curious about the patterns of meaning that give coherence and order to what we perceive. Have we missed any crucial information that might challenge us to adjust our understanding? How else might our experience be understood? This is the grasping of intelligible structure that Lonergan calls “insight,” the “aha” moment, the turning on of the light, eureka.

In a spiritual context, it plays out this way. Having taken in the world around us, confident that God is present in all

things, intelligent Christians seek to discern the patterns, to know what God is up to. Playfulness is altogether in order here, for sometimes the most outrageous hypothesis is the correct one. When seeking insight, we should be expansive, wide-ranging, imaginative, and perhaps even a little silly.

To discern the patterns, we utilize the lenses of the biblical and theological tradition, to align our own experience to the larger story of divine revelation. Guided by the patterns of creation, exodus, prophecy, vocation, sin and grace, incarnation, death and resurrection, we seek analogies and correspondence to our own story.

For example, as Moses was to Pharaoh, so I am to an oppressive employer. As Yahweh treated the Israelites during their exile, so God is treating me during my depression. (Or, perhaps as Barbara Crafton has written, "At first, I didn't realize I was depressed. I thought I was just religious.") As Jesus commissioned his disciples to preach, so I feel a commission to proclaim God's word. Picasso once said that the key to his artistic genius was the capacity to see visual analogies.

The intelligent Christian discerner must have the capacity to see these analogies (similarities in difference) between the biblical and the experienced, and that is why the religious seeker must be trained through a long immersion in the universe of God's word and sacraments. Immersion in this universe is accomplished through icons, books, cathedrals, poems, songs, liturgy, and people.

(3) Be reasonable. This third step involves the hard edge and decisiveness of judgment. Having surveyed perhaps an entire series of bright ideas that have come from our understanding of that to which we have been attentive, we must

now, as reasonable persons, decide which is the right idea.

Though when seeking insight (at the second level), we tried to be expansive, wide-ranging, imaginative, and perhaps even a little silly ... when seeking to make a judgment, we need to acknowledge that there may be only one truly right answer. Many hypotheses may be interesting, but only one of them is adequate in light of the evidence.

Many of us may be wonderfully attentive and insightful, but lacking this third crucial intellectual quality of discrimination, never making up our minds. Discerning Christians have to move through this third phase.

Having seen God in all that surrounds us, having applied a whole series of biblical grids, seeking to relate our story to the great story, we must now decide precisely what God is saying and how God is luring us. We must make a judgment. Whatever the judgment, it will be painful because of the multiplicity of scenarios that have emerged. This judgment touches not simply on what we do but on who we are and are to be.

Like scientists, we can employ a process of elimination, setting aside various inadequate patterns. When determining what God wants us to do, we can certainly eliminate a pattern of life that is at odds with the basic pattern of Jesus' life. Whatever path we take, whatever decision we make, must be *Christoform*.

One of the best guides is Chapter 5 of Paul's letter to the Galatians. A tree is known by its fruits. Paul makes this specific. Fruits of the Holy Spirit are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control [Gal. 5:22-23].

The Spirit's presence in our lives can be read in soul-expanding qualities. The

path/decision for us is the one that awakens in us these attributes. As those around us spy our sins, so do our colleagues and companions clearly see our virtues and charisms. We do well to listen to others as we discern our path and make decisions. John Henry Newman insists that the *sensus fidelium* ought to be consulted even in matters of doctrine.

Another aid in discernment, of course, is prayer. It is altogether possible that God is providing an answer to prayer in the ordinary events, conversations and people around us.

(4) Be responsible. The final step. Having judged what I consider to be true, based on my experience and reflection on my experience, I now face the question, “What am I going to do about it?” Being responsible includes acting on the reasonable judgments we have made, accepting their full implications, adjusting our lives in the light of the truth we have discovered, no matter how uncomfortable those adjustments may be.

It is possible to make a correct judgment, but not act on it. We must have the courage of our Christian convictions and embody the truth we have accepted. If necessary, change.

(5) Be in Love transformed. Be in God. A person does not have to be religious to achieve authenticity, though one needs to be authentic to be truly religious. We do not have to be “right,” but we do need to be open to conversion. If necessary, change.

Guide us, gracious God. May we be attentive to our experience, to the voices and hearts of those around us; insightful in our interpretation of what we have been attentive to; reasonable in our judgments; responsible in our decisions; and always open to inner conversion, to

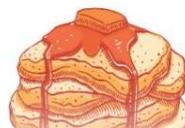
transformation in your truth and your love.

Finally ... Not. Our hope is that these imperatives may be a deeply spiritual roadmap. Take them into your head and your heart, adapting them to the rhythm of your own consciousness in ways that you may find yourself in Love – intellectually, morally and religiously transformed – discovering again and again, increased authenticity and integrity in your faith and your life, discerning ever more clearly God’s call to be.

Be attentive. Be intelligent. Be reasonable. Be responsible. Be in Love transformed. Do this over and over and over towards deeper conversion in truth and love. Be. Be. Be.

Be one on whom nothing is lost. Especially grace. Be not among those who hardly notice. Be attentive. Be in Love.

SHROVE TUESDAY
PANCAKE SUPPER



SHROVE TUESDAY -

Piles of mounded pancakes, egg dishes, potato casseroles, sausage & bacon, soup, and home-baked goodies filled the Fellowship tables for our annual Shrove Tuesday supper on February 13th.

And perhaps the best part of the event is that we happily served nearly 60 friends and families!! With a bit of festive *Mardi Gras* accenting the occasion as shown in the photos below, members of our sister churches, neighbors, and others shared fellowship with one another, as we all prepared for the Lenten season.

A heart-felt thanks to all who came along.



SIMPLE FORMULA FOR LIVING

Live beneath your means.
 Return everything you borrow.
 Stop blaming other people.
 Admit it when you make a mistake.
 Give clothes not worn to charity.
 Do something nice and try not to get caught.
 Listen more; talk less.
 Every day, take a 30-min. walk.
 Strive for excellence, not perfection.
 Be on time. Don't make excuses.
 Don't argue. Get organized.
 Be kind to unkind people.
 Let someone cut ahead of you in line.
 Take time to be alone.
 Cultivate good manners.
 Be humble.
 Realize and accept that life isn't fair.
 Know when to keep your mouth shut.
 Go an entire day without criticizing anyone.
 Learn from the past. Plan for the future.
 Live in the present.
 Don't sweat the small stuff.
 It's all about the small stuff.

- Amen



**FOR A MORE
 THOUGHTFUL
 LENTEN SEASON**

On Ash Wednesday evening, Fr. Bill's sermon was, as always, very thought provoking – then again, he always does give us something definitive and positive to think about, to ponder, and to take away with us until the next week.

But on this particular evening, he, of course, spoke about Lent. And interspersed among the timely Biblical readings and references, he also shared something he had come across on line a few days earlier ... and then he gave everyone a hand-out of what he discussed. In case you missed the service or need an extra copy, following is what Fr. Bill referenced. It is indeed good for thought for all the seasons of our lives.



**NEWS
 from
 the
 PEWS**

In preparation for Easter, various special events and activities lead up to this holiest of days. One in particular is the *Chrism Mass*.

Called by the Bishop and attended by all clergy, this special mass will be held on Thursday, March 22nd, 11:00am, at the Cathedral Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem. All are welcome to attend; and again this year, members from Christ Church can gather to carpool. We will leave from Forest City about 9:00am, and a sign-up sheet will be posted in the

Narthex for those interested in sharing the ride.

Chrism is a holy oil made from olive oil and balsam (likened to a perfume). It is deeply symbolic and is used in sacraments such as baptism, ordination, and healing for the sick, and when priests and deacons renew their priestly vows. Chrism is distributed to all parishes and the old oils are properly disposed.

In preparation for our new Bishop and the announced two walkabouts scheduled in our area, watch the weekly bulletins for the timing updates and carpool sign-up plans. All are welcomed to attend these events.

Congregants may submit questions for the candidates in advance to bishoptransitiondiobeth@gmail.com. And you can read more about the individual Bishop candidates in upcoming weeks through the Diocesan newsletters and the website, www.bishopsearchdiobeth.org.

Later in the year, there will be a Diocesan Convention in Bethlehem to elect the new Bishop. Bob Schreiber is our delegate and he will gladly take any input our congregants have, especially after the walkabouts.

Local Food Pantry – Our outreach ministry continues with the collection of canned vegetables and toiletries. Donations may be placed in the blue bucket in the vestibule at church. Each month (or when filled), our collection bucket will be taken to the Salvation Army food pantry, which has put out the call for canned vegetables and toiletries, items that are in short supply.

The pantry at the Salvation Army serves residents of Susquehanna County in zip code area 18421 and other surrounding Susquehanna County zip codes. Their pantry experienced a large increase in patrons after our mobile pantry closed. So a larger space was needed.

Recently, the Salvation Army and Ascension Parish have agreed to use the dining hall in the former Sacred Heart Church building for the operation of the food pantry. Food distribution is held on the last Wednesday of each month. Volunteers are welcome but should first contact Trudy Butcher at 570-785-4357.

Donate Your Used Eyeglasses – All types of used eyeglasses and sunglasses, prescription and non-prescription, for children and adults are recyclable, including exceptionally strong or weak prescriptions and reading glasses.

Lions Clubs International volunteers collect old eyeglasses, reading glasses and sunglasses. They clean and repair the used eyewear, which is then distributed to people who can't afford to buy their own. They accept both prescription and non-prescription eyewear, in both adults' and children's sizes.

Donating eyeglasses is easy. All you must do is to take your old eyeglasses to the Walmart Vision Center store in Dickson City or mail them to: New Jersey Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center, PO Box 7263, West Trenton, NJ 08628.

Mar./Apr. Calendar Dates –

Mar. 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th – Lenten Pizza Making.

Mar. 3rd – Spaghetti dinner.

Mar. 3rd – Trinity Church flea market, 10:00am-2:00pm.

Mar. 8th – Trinity Church Easter egg candy sale order day (\$8 per 8 oz. egg).

Mar. 11th – Spring Forward. Daylight Savings Time. Set clocks forward.

Mar. 15th – Trinity Church Chicken & Biscuit Dinner; take-out only, Noon-6:00pm.

Mar. 17th – Free Community Luncheon

Mar. 18th – Vestry meeting.

Mar. 18th (Snow date, Mar. 20th) – *Lenten Concert*, 3:00pm, Catholic Choral Society; Historical Society Museum, FC.

Mar. 22nd - Chrism Mass, Cathedral Church of the Nativity; check bulletins to sign-up for carpool plans.

Mar. 25th – Trinity Easter egg order pick-up, 12:30-1:30pm.

Mar. 29th – Maundy Thursday at Christ Church; Light Super, 5:00pm, Service, 6:00pm.

Mar. 30th - Good Friday at St. James St. Georges (time TBD).

Mar. 31st – Easter Vigil at Trinity Church, 6:00 pm.

Apr. 1st – Easter Day!

Apr. 15th - Vestry Meeting.

Apr. 19th – Walkabout at St. Paul’s, Montrose; check bulletins for sign-up and carpooling.

April 20th – Walkabout at St. Stephen’s, Wilks-Barre; check bulletins for sign-up and carpooling.

Apr. 28th - Free Community Meal.

Apr. 28th - Special Diocesan Convention – Bishop Election

Winter Weather Calling Tree – A calling tree will be implemented this winter to let people know at the earliest regarding the decision to cancel service due to winter weather.



The Stone Soup Kitchen at Christ Church

THE BEST EVER!! Our Free Community Lunches are still going strong, and our church is blessed with a congregation of caring, giving people. I love it when I arrive at church early the

morning of our monthly luncheon and all the ingredients for that day’s event are there in the kitchen for the cooks to prepare yet another delicious meal for our friends in the Community.

Our January luncheon was simply homemade chili, Italian bread and home-baked desserts. So many of those who came to ‘break bread with us’ said it was the best chili they had ever tasted (see Dawn’s yummy recipe below). Many folks had second helpings, and some even had thirds.

We are also happy to advise that Weis Market (Carbondale) is now continually donating their day-old/unsold bakery items. Whatever they offer to us is picked up on the day of our monthly luncheon, and our dine-in fiends are invited to take home whatever they’d like.

If you haven’t yet joined the fun, come on along next month. Our monthly Community Lunch Saturdays ... these are definitely Great days, Every month!

- Susie Schreiber



HERE’S WHAT’S COOKIN’ IN OUR CHURCH KITCHEN

The following dish, prepared for a recent Community Lunch, was heartily enjoyed by all, with folks coming back for seconds and thirds! Give it a try at home and enjoy the sharing from Dawn Howell. Thanks!

DAWN’S CHILI

Ingredients

- 2 # hamburger meat
- 1 med. onion, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, chopped
- 1 red pepper, chopped
- 1 yellow pepper, chopped
- 1 tbs. cumin
- 1 28-oz. can crushed tomatoes
- 1 can mild Rotel tomatoes
- 1 can kidney beans
- 1 can Hormel chili with beans (or any brand)

Oil for sautéing
Salt & pepper to taste

Directions

Sauté onion, garlic, and peppers until softened. Add salt and pepper to taste, cumin, tomatoes, and beans. Heat on low temp. until meat/beans thoroughly cooked.



CHURCH VESTRY

Monthly Vestry meetings are generally held on the third Sunday after mass and coffee hour in the church Undercroft. All are welcome to attend.

Current Vestry Members & Contacts:

- Armand De La Bruere (term ends 1/31/20)
- Ruth Niblick (term ends 1/31/21)
- Bob Schreiber (term ends 1/31/19)
- Susie Schreiber (term ends 1/31/19)
- David Seaman (term ends 1/31/21)
- Juliann Doyle, Vestry Secretary
- Jack DeMark, Sr. Warden, Ex Officio
- Rick Kulasinsky, Jr. Warden, Ex Officio



STAY IN TOUCH with the Christ Church office. Via the parish phone, 570-785-3425 (please leave a message, the line is regularly checked). Or by email: www.christchurchparishforestcity@gmail.com.

We also have two web sites: www.christchurchforestcity.com is the official church web site.

The second is: www.christchurchforestcity.shutterfly.com. This site contains photos of some of our recent activities. You can also sign up to become a member and receive email notices of events that are on the web site calendar.

Mail should be directed to Christ Church, PO Box 118, Forest City, PA 18421. For church emergencies or situations requiring immediate attention, please call Sr. Warden, Jack DeMark, at 570-540-5936 or 570-785-5792.



MARCH

- 4 Katelyn Dovin
- 7 John Emmett
- 11 Kathleen Sherman
- 16 Ronald Kulasinsky
- 18 Joseph Gliha
- 19 James Jones
- 25 Bryce Armstrong
- 30 Pamela Ferrari

APRIL

- 1 Jenna Dovin
- 4 Ryan Atcavage
Joan Marcel
- 6 Albert Taylor
- 7 Claudia Davis
Karen Woodward
- 8 David Jones
- 12 Robert Doyle
Florence Planishek
- 18 Margaret Armstrong
- 28 John Walters

BIRTHDAY PRAYER: *O God, our times are in your hands. Look with favor, we pray, on your servants listed on our birthday list as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives. And so, teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*



MARCH

- 21 Darrell & Marie Seaman

ARIL

- 11 Barbara & Paul Mihelc
- 12 Robert & Susan Schreiber
- 13 Donna & Brian Gasper

MARRIAGE ANNIVERSARY PRAYER:

Grant, O God, in your compassion, that the couples on our anniversary list, having taken each other in marriage, may live out the covenant they have made, may they grow in forgiveness, loyalty and love; and come at last to the eternal joys which you have promised through Jesus Christ our Lord; and may the blessing of God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with them, this day and forever. Amen



**CHURCH
CHUCKLES**

An elderly woman had just returned to her home from an evening of church services, when she was startled by an intruder. She caught the man in the act of robbing her home of its valuables and yelled: "Stop! Acts 2:38!" (Repent and be Baptized, in the name of Jesus Christ, so that your sins may be forgiven.)

The burglar stopped in his tracks. The woman calmly called the police and explained what she had done.

As the officer cuffed the man to take him in, he asked the burglar: "Why did you just stand there? All the old lady did was yell a scripture to you."

"Scripture?" replied the burglar. "She said she had an Ax and Two 38s!"

From amlithist at <https://www.chronicle.com>

A funeral service is being held in a church for a woman who has just passed away. At the end of the service, the pallbearers carrying the casket accidentally bump into a wall jarring the casket. They hear a faint moan. They open the casket and find that the woman is actually alive. She lives for 10 more years and then dies. A ceremony is again held at the same church and at the end the pallbearers are again carrying the casket out. As they are walking, the husband calls out, "Watch out for the wall!"

From <http://www.swapmeetdave.com>



**SPRING CLEANING ...
CHURCH CLASSIFIEDS**

The following are all church items that have been generously stored for many years in our Sr. Warden's garage. While this parish newsletter does not routinely include classified listings, these items should find another home. Anyone interested in helping to clear Jack's garage, please contact him directly; 570- 785-5792 or email jdemark@nep.net. Prices noted or make an offer.

Storm Windows – 6; 48"W x 61"H; like new; \$25 ea.

ChalkBoards – 5; 96"W x 62"-78" H (variable height legs)

Exterior Metal Doors w/ Window – 2; 30" W x 80" H; no frame.

Banquet Tables (mid-weight) – 8; 30"W x 96"L x 30"H (four are serviceable).

Banquet Tables (heavy weight) – 4; 30"W x 96L x 30"H.

CLOSING THOUGHT ...

"A man becomes the soul he sings."

 *Said to be a favorite Irish proverb of actor Pat O'Brien, famous for playing priests*



The Next Parish News will be for May/June 2018; article submissions are due by April 20th. Please email your newsletter sharings and photos to Karen Toolan, kbtwrite@nep.net; or post them to 993 State Route 2029, Clifford Twp. PA 18470.

As always, if anyone from Christ Church would like to become one of our fun-loving, news-gathering, and photo-snapping fellow Church Mice, please contact the church office. More mice and more photos are always welcomed!

Until the next issue, Easter Blessings and Happy Spring!

The Roving Church Mice.

