

# CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*"THE LITTLE STONE CHURCH"*

**JANUARY / FEBRUARY, 2020**

**NEWSLETTER**

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**MESSAGE**  
**FROM OUR**  
**PRIEST:**

**"Here I Stand ...  
Why I'm an  
Episcopalian  
Today"**



People ask me all the time why I am Episcopalian and no longer Roman Catholic. They ask the question with a certain curiosity, as to what it was that forced me out of the Catholic Church and what attracted me to the Episcopal Church. The answer is both simple and complex. First, I told myself and others that for many years I always considered myself a 'Christian' before anything else. Second, the Roman Catholic Church to which I belonged lived in the teaching and spirit of Vatican II. That began to change around 1978.

The movement toward the priesthood of all believers, the role of the laity, the priest as the servant of God's people, all began to revert to a more traditional interpretation of 'church' that existed in Pre- Vatican II days. My theology, mission, and ministry had not changed. Consequently, I followed the Christian interpretation of the Gospel that came closest to my beliefs and what I had been taught. I found that in the Episcopal Church and firmly believe that the Episcopal Church is where the Roman

Catholic Church was going, before the counter to Vatican II began.

From the outset, I discovered that Episcopalians strongly recognized the wisdom and insights of the Sixteen Documents of Vatican II as important for their own ministry and way of following the Gospel. To that extent, the model of the church described in the documents as "The Pilgrim People of God" is very much to the fore in Episcopal thinking.

But, let's try to clarify. Episcopalians are a North American denomination that, until 1776, was the Anglican Church in the Americas. After the Revolution, they could not continue to be Anglican and adopted the name 'Episcopal,' meaning a 'church of bishops.' However, today Episcopalians regard themselves as Catholic, not Roman Catholic, but Catholic in the sense of universal.

There is a lot in the Western Roman Catholic Church with which they identify. They share the same liturgy, believe in Seven Sacraments, uphold the Apostles, the Nicene and Chalcedonian Creeds, and share the same Christian Doctrine and tradition. Where they diverge is over the question of authority and teachings on morality. Episcopalians firmly believe that we are 'created as moral agents,' and the responsibility for choosing good or bad, right or wrong, sin or grace, must lie

with the individual. Church teachings on morality can and must guide, teach, encourage, and light the way to the moral life; but no one can live that life for you. The Episcopal Church is an inclusive church and attempts to embrace and welcome everybody. For Episcopalians, everything begins with Baptism. Baptism calls us to follow Christ and uphold His teachings. The words of Jesus are just lines on a page until they are heard, believed, lived, and proclaimed!

That is the ministry and mission of all believers and all the baptized and are not the exclusive right of the clergy. Nor will the church block anyone from a call to devote their life to the service of that Gospel and the People of God. Subsequently, the priesthood is open to women and ministry to anyone who cares to work toward that end. Nor will the same church deny love, sexuality, or marriage to those who choose the priesthood. Hence, the Episcopal Church is a church of married clergy, just like the Eastern Orthodox tradition. And it comes with obligations and certain responsibilities.

The priest is appointed and works for the parish. He is paid by the parish, responds to the needs of the parish and also represents the bishop and the wider community of the diocese. In turn, the parish looks after its priest in a covenant that is analogous to a marriage. The Vestry (Parish Council) cares for the administration, finances, and maintenance of the parish, leaving the priest to care for the pastoral, spiritual, and sacramental needs.

The Episcopal Church is not a 'numbers' church. The idea is not to 'rule the world.' Consequently, the mission of the church has much more to do with the amelioration of the human condition. In its history, the church has always been actively involved in social and moral

issues of the day. To that end, it has a bias toward the poor, the needy, and the marginalized. It has been accused of 'meddling in politics' and of supporting unpopular causes, such as Civil Rights during the Sixties, Women's equality in the Seventies, and Gay Rights in the recent past. For all of these, it is simply un-apologetic, viewing itself as being at the cutting edge of change.

Do not have the perception that the Episcopal Church is free of conflict, disagreement, or division. Like many other institutions, it is made up of people with flaws. Divisions are many, caused by geographical location, education and wealth or lack of it. Equally, it has clergy who are pro-Roman and those who stick to a rather strict interpretation of the Book of Common Prayer. Perhaps, the hardest struggle revolves around career clergy who gravitate toward the rich, with little interest in pastoral work or the spiritual needs of the community. It exists.

Despite this, the church would like to think of itself as 'the continuing saving ministry of Jesus Christ on this earth,' bringing comfort, healing and the word of God into peoples' lives. The church's calendar reflects this effort as it continues its pilgrim journey, modeling itself on the cycle of Christ's life and ministry. In many ways, the church is not best reflected by the Sunday Eucharistic gathering as much as by how its members take that gift of grace out into their week, their community, and how they share it with others. Then it is indeed the embodiment of Christ and can call itself 'the Body of Christ.' There is a certain praxis to this theology that lies at the core of the Episcopal Church, and indeed the Gospel itself. That is the reason I am today, an Episcopalian Christian.

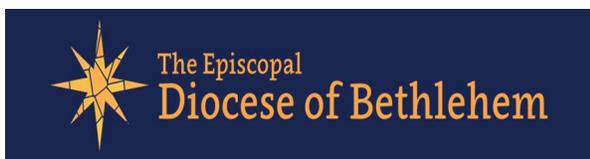
*HAPPY NEW YEAR – 2020, Fr. Bill*



**OUR CHOIR** – Due to the often-inclement weather experienced during January-March, choir practice is going on a winter hiatus. If

the weather is half-way decent in March, we will resume rehearsals then. For now, stay warm and stay tuned to the bulletin announcements as to when choir practice will begin again.

And as always, we continue to invite others who would like to lift their voice in song and/or those who play a musical instrument to come along to join our small but vibrant group. I guarantee that you will have FUN ... after all, church music is very uplifting! – Dawn Pentecost



**BISHOP NICHOL'S HOLIDAY MESSAGE**

Visit <https://diobeth.org> to listen to Bishop Nichols' Christmas blessings, which share a prayerful message that you can carry forth into the New Year – 2020.



**EXPANDED MINISTERIES** –

Do you need or want another prayerful shoulder to listen to a concern? Do you want to pray for someone ... or perhaps need some special prayers for yourself? Would you like to share and learn more about the Bible through its readings? Maybe you would like to learn how to play the guitar?

Working together to benefit both Christ and Trinity Churches, Fr. Bill will continue his expanded his ministerial

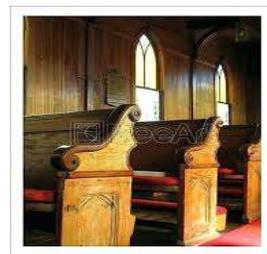
schedule in the New Year as noted below. Stop by and join him for conversation and music! (With access to a quiet office at Trinity Church, private consultations will be held there.)

**January**

- 4 – Christ, Saturday
- 8 – Trinity, Wednesday (shared)
- 11 – Trinity, Saturday
- 15 – Trinity, Wednesday (shared)
- 18 - Christ Saturday
- 22 - Trinity, Wednesday (shared)
- 25 – Trinity, Saturday
- 29 – Trinity, Wednesday (shared)

**February**

- 1 – Christ, Saturday
- 5 – Trinity, Wednesday (shared)
- 8 – Trinity, Saturday
- 12 – Trinity, Wednesday (shared)
- 15 – Christ, Saturday
- 19 – Trinity, Wednesday (shared)
- 22 – Trinity, Saturday
- 26 – Trinity, Wednesday (shared)
- 29 – Christ, Saturday



**NEWS from the PEWS**

**Rethinking our Ministry** – Let's say it ... Christ Church is most

definitely a *caregiving church!*

With our free meals, coat giveaways, meeting space facilities, and numerous and various fund-raising events, we are continuously standing at the door welcoming people into our church community. Surely, this is what Jesus calls us to do, isn't it?

Maybe it is not.

Jesus sent his disciples into unknown territory to meet people where they were. They were sent out with no possessions

to be *strangers* and to find people who would welcome them. What a concept!

As they travelled and shared their stories, the disciples had to get to know all those whom they met, by eating with them and sharing their common humanity. Shouldn't we be like those disciples?

Perhaps we – each of us within Christ Church -- can become the *strangers* who look for other friendly, peaceful people with whom to share our humanity and to be witness to God's love in the world. Inviting our neighbors to our doors may not be enough. We have neighbors right here within our own communities whom we have not met! And, we do need to meet them.

Charitable organizations need volunteers. People with shared talents may need leaders and organizers. In those activities and at those times, our faith is in the Holy Spirit to show up to provide us courage, understanding, and hope. Let's give it a try. – Jack DeMark

Here are a few ice breakers we can each use when meeting new people.

At Christ Episcopal Church:

- We celebrate our unity in Christ while honoring our differences, always putting the work of love before uniformity of opinion.
- We recognize that there is grace after divorce and do not deny the sacraments to those who have been divorced.
- Holy Communion may be received by all baptized Christians, not only members of the Episcopal Church.
- Lay people exercise a vital role in the governance and ministry of our Church.
- We love our neighbors as ourselves and respect the dignity of every person.

- We welcome men and women, married or celibate, to be ordained as bishops, priests and deacons.
- We have Father Bill!

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**A Note re Terminology** – “Eucharistic Visitors” are lay persons licensed by the bishop “to take the Consecrated Elements in a timely manner following a Celebration of Holy Eucharist to members of the congregation who, by reason of illness or infirmity, are unable to be present at the Celebration.”

Until a 2003 revision of the Canons of the Episcopal Church, they were known as “Lay Eucharistic Ministers.”

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**Windows** with screens are looking for a good home. The storms were carefully removed during the renovation of our Undercroft and are in excellent condition, as they were installed inside the building. The outside measurements of each window: 48”W x 61”H. Please contact Jack (570) 785-5792 if you are interested in these windows.

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### **Notes for your Calendar:**

#### **January**

- 6 – The Epiphany
- 15 – Eucharistic Visits, 1:00pm
- 19 – Vestry meeting, 12:30pm
- 26 – Christ Church Annual Meeting (immediately following Mass)

#### **February**

- 16 – Vestry meeting, 12:30pm
- 25 – Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, 5:00pm
- 26 – Ash Wednesday
- 28 – Lenten pizza-making, 9:00am

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**New CC Sweatshirts** – Our cheerful and warm new Christ Church sweatshirts were recently delivered. If you haven't yet picked up (or paid for) your order, please contact Jack or Karen.

And if you would like to place a new or another order – or if you'd like another

warm-weather polo shirt or  tote - that can be easily done too. Prices are very reasonable; payment is requested upon placing your order.

All items are beautifully embroidered with the Episcopal flag logo, which colorfully identifies the wearer as being from our friendly stone church on the hill in Forest City. Wearers are literally life-sized advertising boards – so let's all wear our new shirts proudly and help us to invite and welcome new members to Christ Church! Thank you!



### The Stone Soup Kitchen at Christ Church

As all have been informed, there will be no free community luncheon in January/February/March 2020 due to questionable winter weather conditions. During these three months, we can possibly experience quite an amount of snow and ice, and we are concerned about the safety of those who prepare the meal and those who come to share the fellowship.

We will resume our Free Community Luncheons beginning April 25<sup>th</sup>, the fourth Saturday the month.

Have a safe winter and be ready in April to join us in buying ingredients, helping in the kitchen and sharing the great camaraderie, or just coming to enjoy the fellowship and delicious food.

As always, Thank You All from the bottom of my heart for sharing our special ministry. You all are the pulse of Christ Church as you continue to do God's work. -Susie Schreiber

Santa paid a visit during our December/Christmas community luncheon:



### HERE'S WHAT'S COOKIN' in OUR CHURCH KITCHENS

Perhaps nothing satisfies a cold-weather appetite better than a steaming bowl of hearty soup. This issue's tasty treat offered by a Church Mouse is **Butternut Squash Soup with Apples and Curry**, a temptingly good soup to make on a snowy day at home – let the aromas waft through your kitchen, and Enjoy!

Also shared is **Marlyn's** yummy **Snowball Chippers**. These will make an especially

sweet treat for Valentine's Day. They're easy and so coconutty good!

And a friendly reminder ... all congregants and church friends are asked to please share some of your favorite recipes for future issues of our newsletter. Just drop them in the offering plate or contact a friendly Church Mouse. Thanks!

### **BUTTERNUT SQUASH SOUP** **with APPLES and CURRY**

Preheat oven to 400 F. deg. and ready a large sided sheet pan to roast the squash and apples. Makes 10-12 servings.

½ c. butter w/ some olive oil to prevent burning  
8 c. butternut squash, cubed (peel if fresh or use frozen)  
4 apples, sliced & diced  
2 tsp. curry (more if you really like curry)  
2 tsp. basil  
½ tsp. sage  
1 tsp. cinnamon  
2 lg. onions, diced  
2-3 stalks celery, diced  
3-4 garlic cloves, diced  
1 c. dry white wine, or use white cooking wine  
12 c. chicken and/or vegetable broth  
salt & pepper to taste  
Option for a creamier soup: Add 1½ c. half & half OR 8 oz. sour cream or plain yogurt

Rub the diced squash and apples with about 2 tsp. olive oil and place on the sheet pan in the oven. Roast until the squash and apples are tender, about 40 mins.

Over medium heat and when your soup pot is warmed, melt the butter (with a bit of olive oil to prevent burning). Add the onion, garlic, celery, and seasonings and cook together until tender, about 20-30 mins. Add the roasted squash and apples with the stock and wine; bring to a light boil. Lower the heat to medium/low and cook for about an hour, stirring regularly to ensure nothing sticks to the bottom of the soup pot.

Using a soup ladle, transfer small batches of the soup to a blender and blend until smooth (be sure to cover the blender top with a towel to prevent soup from spurting out!). Add the optional cream or yogurt as you blend soup.

Serve as an appetizer or entrée with a sandwich or light fare. When remaining soup is cool, transfer to a

covered container; refrigerate up to three days; freezes well.

### **SNOWBALL CHIPPERS**

Preheat oven to 325F. deg. Line two large cookie sheets with parchment paper and lightly coat each with cooking spray. Set aside two additional cookie sheets with waxed paper.

½ c. all-purpose flour  
14 tsp. baking powder  
¾ c. sugar  
1/3 c. sour cream  
2 tbsp. melted butter (or margarine)  
1 lg. egg white – lightly beaten  
½ tsp. vanilla  
4 c. shredded coconut  
½ c. mini-chocolate chips  
4 oz. melted semi-sweet chocolate, melted

Sift flour and baking powder in a bowl. Beat sugar, sour cream, butter, and egg white in a large mixer bowl, at low speed. Gradually add flour mixture until well blended. Beat in vanilla and coconut; stir in chips.

Shape dough into ¾" balls. Place balls 1" apart on cookie sheets. Bake one pan at a time for 18-22 mins. – just until coconut begins to brown lightly. Cool on wire racks.

Dip bottoms of cooled cookies in melted semi-sweet chocolate. Place dipped side down on prepared sheets and refrigerate 30 mins., until set.



### **SENIORS' DRIVING** **IMPROVEMENT COURSES**

Driving is a skill that can and should be continually improved. AAA's Road-wise Driver™ is a course that can be taken online or in a classroom to help senior drivers keep driving knowledge fresh and get the most out of your vehicle, while reducing risk to you, your passengers and others on the road. The course covers topics like:

- Extending Your Safe Driving Career

- Distractions, Drowsiness, Aggressive Driving & Road Rage
- Managing Visibility, Time & Space
- Alcohol & Medications
- Comfort & Safety Tips

Although [SeniorDriving.AAA.com](http://SeniorDriving.AAA.com) contains many driving tips, taking a comprehensive driving improvement course will ensure that you have the most up-to-date driving techniques and understand the latest vehicle technologies.

AAA North Penn offers classroom styles courses in Scranton, Stroudsburg, Towanda, Williamsport, Tunkhannock, Wellsboro, and Honesdale.

The 8-hour course is available to anyone 55 or older and costs \$15 for AAA members, or \$25 for a married couple. Non-members pay \$30 each, or \$40 for a married couple. A 4-hour refresher class cost \$10 for members, and \$15 for non-members. Those registering for the 4-hour refresher class must provide a copy of their previous AAA certificate as verification the 8-hour class was taken within the last three years.

Participants who successfully complete the class are eligible for a minimum 5% auto insurance discount. It is always best to check with your Insurance agent for details. If both spouses are on the same policy, both must complete the course to receive the insurance discount.

As you age, it is important for senior drivers to know and understand how to adjust for slower reflexes, weaker vision and other changes. Some of the benefits related to taking AAA's Road wise Driver™ improvement course are:

- Potential discount on insurance premiums.
- Getting up to speed on the latest in vehicle technology, such as adaptive

cruise control and lane-departure warning systems. Learn the proper use of these and other safety systems available in vehicles today.

- As a group, senior drivers are at a higher risk of having a serious collision per mile driven than any other age group except for those under age 25. Drivers in their late 70s have about the same number of injury-involved crashes per mile driven as drivers in their early 20s. And driver's age 85 and older are injured or killed in crashes at a higher rate than any other age group. This is due primarily to increased fragility that comes with age. Older senior drivers are generally less able to withstand the forces of a crash, so they are more likely to become injured, compared with younger, stronger and fitter individuals. Older adults also don't typically recover from injuries as quickly as they once did.

Contact AAA North Penn today to learn more or register for a class. You can call 800-982-4306, email [info@aaanorthpenn.com](mailto:info@aaanorthpenn.com), or visit [AAA.com](http://AAA.com) - Look under Automotive.

- Donna Gasper, AAA Honesdale



Monthly **VESTRY** meetings are generally held on the third Sunday, about 12:30pm, in the church Undercroft. All are welcome.

**Current Vestry Members & Contacts:**

- Dawn Pentecost (term ends 1/31/20)
- Susie Schreiber (term ends 1/31/21)
- David Seaman (term ends 1/31/21)
- June Arrowsmith (term ends 1/31/22)
- Karen Toolan (term ends 1/31/22)
- Juliann Doyle, Vestry Secretary
- Jack DeMark, Sr. Warden, Ex Officio



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

We also have two web sites: [www.christchurchforestcity.com](http://www.christchurchforestcity.com) is the official church web site. The second website is: [www.christchurchforestcity.shutterfly.com](http://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. – Bob Schreiber, Church Secretary



**BAD WEATHER?**

Unsure if church services will be held if the weather turns nasty? Call the Christ Church phone line, 570-785-3425 ... a message will be available by 6:30am if Mass is cancelled.



**VALENTINE'S DAY,**

also called Saint Valentine's Day or the Feast of Saint Valentine, is celebrated annually on **February 14<sup>th</sup>**.

Originating as a Western Christian feast day honoring one or two early saints named Valentinus, Valentine's Day is recognized as a significant cultural, religious, and commercial celebration of romance and romantic love in many regions around the world.

Valentine's Day is said to have been brought to North America in the 19<sup>th</sup> century by British settlers. The first mass-produced Valentine's Day cards with embossed paper lace are said to have been produced in the US shortly after 1847 by Esther Howland (1828-1904) of Worcester, Massachusetts.

**An interesting Valentine's tidbit:**

Toda's popular and colorful conversational hearts got their start as medical lozenges! The story of these messenger hearts first began when Boston pharmacist Oliver Chase invented a machine that simplified the process of making lozenges used for sore throats and other illnesses. The result was America's first candy-making machine, because Chase soon started shifting his focus from making lozenges to candy instead. He founded the New England Confectionery Company, or Necco, and the candy lozenges soon became what we know today as Necco wafers.

But it was not until 1866 that we first got sweet-printed messages on the infamous conversational hearts. Chase's brother, Daniel Chase, started printing sentimental messages on the Necco sweethearts, though these candies were larger than today's versions, and they featured much longer printed sayings and phrases. Some of the earliest messages: "Married in white, you have chosen right," and "How long shall I have to wait? Please be considerate!"



**PANCAKE DAY**  
**or SHROVE**  
**TUESDAY (held**  
**on February 25<sup>th</sup>)**

is the traditional feast day before the start of Lent on Ash Wednesday. Lent – the 40 days leading up to Easter – was traditionally a time of fasting; and on Shrove Tuesday, Anglo-Saxon Christians went to confession and were “shriven” (absolved from their sins).

The word shrove is a form of the English word shrive, which means to obtain absolution for one's sins by way of Confession and doing penance. Thus, Shrove Tuesday was named after the custom of Christians to be "shriven" before the start of Lent.

But Tuesday became known as Shrove Tuesday. This was when the eggs, butter, and fat were used to ensure it was all gone for the Lenten season. The tradition of celebrating Shrove Tuesday and eating pancakes began because people wanted to use up the tempting foods that they were giving up for Lent.



**JANUARY**

- 2 Brian Gasper
- 6 Cody Seaman
- 11 Tom Seana
- 12 Taylor Ferrari
- 13 Jack DeMark
- 22 Karen Toolan
- 23 Allan Hornbeck
- 25 Madison Gasper

**FEBRUARY**

- 7 William Woodward
- 15 Beth Ann Atcavage
- Darrell Seaman

Zack Quinn  
18 Shirley Wallace

**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*



**JANUARY**

- 9 Karen & William Woodward
- 18 The Rev. Stephen & Maureen Matylewicz
- 31 Faith & James Collum

**FEBRUARY**

None

**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**

**The Organist**

The minister was preoccupied with thoughts of how he was going to, at the end of the worship service, ask the congregation to come up with more money than they were expecting for repairs to the church building. Therefore, he was annoyed to find that the regular organist was out, and a substitute had been brought in at the last minute.

The substitute wanted to know what to play. "Here's a copy of the service," he said impatiently. "But you'll have to think of something to play after I make the announcement about the finances."

During the service, the minister paused and said, "Brothers and sisters, we are in great difficulty. The roof repairs cost twice as much as we expected, and we need \$4,000 more. Any of you who can pledge \$100 or more, please stand up."

At that moment, the substitute organist played "The Star-Spangled Banner."

And that is how the substitute became the regular.

### **Practicing What You Preach**

An honest man was being tailgated by a stressed-out woman on a busy boulevard. Suddenly, the light turned yellow just in front of him. He did the right thing, stopping at the crosswalk, even though he could have beaten the red light by accelerating through the intersection.

The tailgating woman hit the roof, and the horn, screaming in frustration as she missed her chance to get through the intersection.

As she was still in mid-rant, she heard a tap on her window and looked up into the face of a very serious police officer. The officer ordered her to exit her car with her hands up. He took her to the police station where she was searched, finger-printed, and

photographed, and then placed in a holding cell.

After a couple of hours, a policeman approached the cell and opened the door. He said, "I'm very sorry for this mistake. You see, I pulled up behind your car while you were blowing your horn, flipping off the guy in front of you, and cussing a blue streak at him. I noticed the 'Choose Life' license plate holder, the 'What Would Jesus Do?' bumper sticker, the 'Follow Me to Sunday School' bumper sticker, and the chrome-plated Christian fish emblem on the trunk. Naturally, I assumed you had stolen the car!"

*- Thanks for the funnies go to  
<http://godslittleacre.net/funnies>*

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**CLOSING THOUGHTS ...**  
*from a Little Faithful Church Mouse*

# FAITH

(F) FORWARDING  
(A) ALL  
(I) ISSUES  
(T) TO  
(H) HEAVEN



## **THE NEXT CHRIST CHURCH**

**NEWS** will be for  
March/April 2020; article submissions  
are due by February 17<sup>th</sup>. Please email  
your news items, recipes, and photos to  
Karen Toolan, [kbtwrite@nep.net](mailto:kbtwrite@nep.net); or  
post them to 993 State Route 2029,  
Clifford Twp. PA 18470.

Please note that this is YOUR newsletter.  
Please ... if anyone from Christ Church  
would like to be 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, stay warm and  
enjoy a safe and wonder-filled New Year!

*The Roving Church Mice*

