



# CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*"THE LITTLE STONE CHURCH"*

## MARCH / APRIL, 2017 NEWSLETTER

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

#### **"I Believe!"**

At the point of writing, we are in the midst of Winter. Cold, wind, snow and ice have us in their grip; but despite it all, we wait, knowing that someday soon the first shoots of Spring will emerge. So it has always been.

Thoughts of Spring give us hope. We all need hope. It holds the promise of tomorrows. Very soon we will enter the season of Lent. It is a time of reflection, penance, and reconciliation. In Lent, we try a little bit harder to follow Christ more closely, listen to His work and resolve to be the men and women He calls us to be. Lent is a difficult season and without much cheer. Like Winter, we know in advance how it will end.

Lent takes us on a journey to Cavalry and the death of Jesus. Just as surely, it also leads us to Easter and the Resurrection. Easter is by far the most important Christian feast. Without Easter, there is no salvation, no hope and no rebirth. It gives us a

true sense of victory. Victory over death and victory over evil. Christ the man of love and peace overcomes all through His sacrifice on the cross. Surely, that tells all of us something about the nature of the Christianity we inhabit. We, too, have to be men and women of peace and love. This is our calling, our mission, from the first moment the water of Baptism hit our heads, all those years ago.

Join everyone at Christ Church this Lent and share this journey. It is the journey that maps the life of Christ and culminates in the Passion and death of Christ. At the end of it, we will renew our own Baptismal promises at the Vigil service on Holy Saturday Night. When we step out of church on that night, we do so in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Try to imagine: The whole of the Universe waiting with bated breath for that moment when Christ gave up his spirit. The grace that flowed from that act flowed into each one of us through the Holy Spirit. It empowers us, strengthens us to face any foe, any evil, any situation, and overcome in the name of Jesus Christ.

Will it be the case when we die and meet Christ in the flesh that He will

say to each of us, "I gave you all the grace and power that you needed to achieve good, and you didn't use it"?

Wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and the love of God. Those were the gifts of the Holy Spirit each of us received in Baptism and were reaffirmed in our Confirmation.

I believe in miracles. I believe in the power of Christ's healing. I believe that faith is the most powerful force on earth. Look again at our world and believe that faith, the faith of God's people can be a force for good.

Resolve this Lent to use your faith as a source for good. Begin this Ash Wednesday with these words: "Lord, I believe, strengthen my belief."

Blessings & Happy Spring,  
*Fr. Bill*

 **THE CHOIR**  
**SINGS OUT!**

With Easter and Spring right around the corner, the choir is busily working on some special Lenten and Easter materials. And with a little bit of luck, we hope to enjoy the sharings of those wonderful voices of our "special fellas."

Choir practice is held every Friday at 3:30pm (weather permitting). And ... new voices are always welcome to join the CC Choir, so come and share yours.

- Dawn Pentecost



**YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT MISSION**

**TRIP - June:** Working with Grace House on the Mountain Grace House on the Mountain (5100 Pewter Drive St. Paul, VA), a ministry of the Diocese of SW Virginia that serves the people who live in the coal fields of Appalachia, this is another wonder-filled event. Attendees will meet new people, assist in the repair of homes, gain valuable skills, help people in need, and learn from another culture.

Attendees (youth completing grades 6-12 and young adults) will travel together from Bethlehem. The cost is \$300 and scholarships are available. For additional information, contact the Rev. Doug Moyer via the Diocese of Bethlehem.

**LENT ...**



**On Fasting,**  
**Prayer, and Food**  
**for Thought**

**TASTY FUN,**

**February 28<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm** -- It might seem like the perfect excuse to gorge yourself



yummy pancakes, but there is actually some reasoning behind the tradition.

This year's Pancake Day falls on Tuesday February 28<sup>th</sup>, the last day before Ash Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, the first day of Lent.

In the USA, it's known as Mardi Gras, which is French for 'Fat Tuesday.' On this day, people stuff themselves with

fatty foods before the abstinence of Lent kicks in.

The word 'shrove' comes from the term 'shrive,' meaning to free yourself from sin.

In the past, families would be encouraged to clear out their cupboards to remove the fatty foods from their houses. They needed to come up with an easy way of get rid of temptation by throwing away their indulgent ingredients, so threw them into one simple meal.

The tradition of eating pancakes, believed to originate from pagan rituals, allows families to use up all their eggs, butter, milk and flour all in one dish. Some people believe that pancakes represent the four pillars of the Christian faith: eggs for creation, flour for sustenance, salt for wholesomeness, and milk for purity.

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**Where does the tradition of fasting come from?** Lent and fasting go hand in hand for many in the Christian church. (Lent is a 40-day fast and will run up until the Saturday before Easter Sunday (not including Sundays within that period.)

Many followers abstain from certain food or temptations, following Jesus' 40-day fast in the desert in preparation for his public ministry.

Fasting has been practiced for centuries within a number of religions and culture, and is featured within Jewish culture in the Old Testament. For example, Queen Esther asks the Jewish nation to come together in prayer and fasting, and Christians often combine the two practices nowadays.

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**THE PLACE OF FASTING IN PRAYER** -- Jesus' words about fasting

represent His invitation to a deeper experience with God.

As we place our physical desires under the spirit's control, we let go of our grip on the material in order to embrace the spiritual. Reasons for fasting include:



**Cleansing from sin** -- When we let our spiritual guard down, we start thinking as the world does -- protecting our rights instead of dying to self, or seeking to accumulate rather than sacrificing. Through these lapses, ungodly attitudes and habits can quietly take up residence in us, and we hardly notice. But God sees. They hinder our fellowship with Him, limit the effectiveness of our service, and erode our joy. Prayer combined with fasting will help us give God our undivided attention as He addresses our areas of sin. We, in turn, will find them grievous and be eager to let them go.

**Guidance** -- God is willing to give us clear direction, but for some things, prayer in conjunction with fasting is more effective. That is how we gain the cleansed mind needed to hear what He is saying and a submitted spirit ready to accept His instructions.

**Protection** -- Through fasting, we gain insight into God's ways and receive help in identifying unhealthy or dangerous situations. As we submit to His authority and confess our need for protection, the Holy Spirit will give us discernment to make wiser decisions and avoid unnecessary pitfalls.

Fasting coupled with prayer can also bring heightened spiritual awareness and more intimate communications with the Lord. Aren't these the deepest desires of our heart?

*From the sermons of  
Dr. Charles F. Stanley, In Touch Ministries*

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**TOP TEN THINGS YOU CAN TRY FOR THE LENTEN SEASON:**

10. An electronic fast. Give up TV, Facebook, texting, tweeting, e-mail and all things electronic for one day every week (or everyday of Lent!). Use the time to read & pray.

9. Start a prayer rhythm. Each day of Lent, visit *The Upper Room's* prayer wall and pray for another person.

8. Go deeper into the Bible. Take the online course, *Worship in Light of the Cross*.

7. Forgive someone who doesn't deserve it (maybe even yourself). Study a book on forgiveness, such as *Forgiveness, the Passionate Journey*.

6. Give up soft drinks, fast food, tea or coffee, or a most favorite food as a way to a way to grow closer to God. Give the money you save to help those in a different part of the world who are in crisis. Pick a current global issue ... YOU could help change the world.

5. Create a daily quiet time. Spend 10 minutes a day in silence and prayer. Read a daily devotional for the season of Lent; for ready reference, pick up a copy of *Our Daily Bread*, found at the rear of the church. See how it can help you add spiritual practice to your daily life beyond Lent.



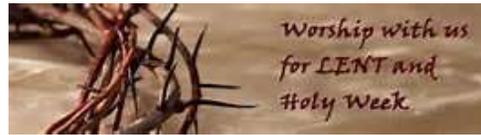
4. Cultivate a life of gratitude. Write someone a 'thank you' letter each week and be aware of how many people have helped you along the way. Learn more about spiritual practice of gratitude.

3. Participate in a Lent Photo-a-Day practice and pray each day with your camera in your hand ... start praying!

2. Volunteer one hour or more each week with a local shelter, tutoring program, nursing home, prison ministry. Learn about the many global issues and how you can help.

1. Pray for others you see as you walk to and from classes or drive to and from work. For reference, download the 'Nimbus Prayer' app and pray as you go through your day.

- From *The Upper Room*, Mini-series



Ash Wednesday March 1 6:30pm  
Fridays in Lent – Morning Pizza-making at 9:00am followed by Stations of the Cross  
March 3 – April 14

**Holy Week**

Palm Sunday April 9 9:00am  
Maundy Thursday April 13  
@ Christ Church – Light Supper 6:30pm  
– Service 7:00pm  
Good Friday @ Trinity Church April 14 6:30pm  
Easter Vigil @ St James-St. George, Jermyn April 15 7:00pm  
**Easter Sunday** April 16 9:00am



**And remember, it's not about the Easter bunny --** The reason for the season is the resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Bring your kids, grandkids, nieces, nephews, friends and neighbors to church on April 16 at 9:00am, and celebrate the true meaning of **Easter**.

**BATHROOM REPAIRS**

were recently needed in the church men's and ladies' rooms. Accidents occasionally happen due to natural wear and age. Time was of the essence so things didn't worsen, and Rick Kulasinsky oversaw the plumber's quick and efficient repairs. And while the cost has not yet been finalized, the Christ Church coffers can always use a bit of

extra help. Any extra donations to help offset these repair costs would be very welcomed. Please just drop an envelope in the offering plate, marked 'bathroom repairs.' Thank you. - CC Vestry



## The Stone Soup Kitchen at Christ Church

Our Free Community Meal, held one Saturday each month, is such a blessing to all those who participate. We serve approximately 50 to 70 of God's children.

Thank you to everyone who contributes by joining us in fellowship, buying and providing ingredients for the meal, cooking the food and preparing deserts, plus helping in do many other ways.

I cannot fully express my gratitude and what a fun time we have. Every month, I'm humbled by the hugs and thanks expressed by those who come to break bread with us.

- Susie Schreiber

## COMMUNITY NEWS



**Medicare Seminar:**  
Wednesday March 22<sup>nd</sup> 10:00am-Noon  
(Forest City Emergency Services Building, 380 Railroad Street).

**MUST CALL to**

**REGISTER** by March 15<sup>th</sup>. The basics of Medicare are presented by the APPRISE Program, as sponsored by PA LINK and your local Area Agency on Aging. For more information and to register, contact Tiffani Warner, PA LINK Coordinator, 1-800-982-4346 or email: [twarner@bsstaaa.org](mailto:twarner@bsstaaa.org).

## **Spring Alzheimer's Conference:**

Thursday, May 25<sup>th</sup> – All-day event includes a continental breakfast and lunch at the Holiday Inn (600 Wildflower Drive, Wilkes Barre) with six great speakers. Topics include Resident-Driven Care Environments, Caregiver/Family Elder Law concerns, Health Care Ethics, Interactive Activities. Cost is \$80 for Professionals (CEU's available); \$30 Caregivers (Sponsorships Available), \$72 Health Care Partners. For more information or to register, contact Jeffery Dauber at 570-822-9915, Ext. 4024, or [jdauber@alz.org](mailto:jdauber@alz.org).

## **Browndale Fire Company's Spring Chicken BBQ Fundraiser:**

Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, serving 11:00a-1:30pm; drive-thru ONLY (Rt. 247, 620 Marion St., Browndale). Menu features a half chicken, potato, green beans, coleslaw, roll & butter, dessert. Advance Tickets ONLY with a limited number of tickets; they go FAST at just \$9. Tickets available at the following locations: Tobacco Road Main Street, FC; Franceski Lumber Yard, Main Street, FC; Red Cross Pharmacy, Main Street, FC; NAPA Auto Parts, Main Street, FC; or by contacting any BFC member.

**Elder Justice Day 2017:** Wednesday, May 10<sup>th</sup> (Ladore Lodge, 398 South Street, Waymart). FREE lunch & FREE transportation provided for those eligible. 9 to 9:30 registration. RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED, space is limited. Call 570-253-4262 to register.

## **Survivors of Survivors of Suicide Loss Support Group:**

Fourth Thursday of each month, 7:00pm-8:30m (Wayne Memorial Hospital, [Conf. Rm. #3 via Elevator A to 2<sup>nd</sup> floor], 601 Park Street, Honesdale). Positive support in dealing with suicide & loss of a loved one. All individuals 16 years of age & older are

welcome. For more information contact Michelle Valinski at 570-253-9200. In case of inclement weather support group will not meet. Volunteers to serve on the W/P Suicide Committee are welcome! W/P Suicide Awareness Walk is Saturday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Wallenpaupack School.

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## **NOT ALL THIEVES**



### **ARE STUPID**

(is nothing safe these days????)

#### **1. LONG-TERM PARKING**

-- Some people left their car in the long-term parking at San Jose while away, and someone broke into the car. Using the information on the car's registration in the glove compartment, they drove the car to the people's home in Pebble Beach and robbed it. So, I guess if we are going to leave the car in long-term parking, we should NOT leave the registration/insurance cards in it, nor your remote garage door opener. This gives us something to think about with all our new electronic technology.

**2. GPS** -- Someone had their car broken into while they were at a football game. Their car was parked on the green which was adjacent to the football stadium and specially allotted to football fans. Things stolen from the car included a garage door remote control, some money and a GPS which had been prominently mounted on the dashboard. When the victims got home, they found that their house had been ransacked and just about everything worth anything had been stolen. The thieves had used the GPS to guide them to the house. They then used the garage remote control to open the garage door and gain entry to the house. The thieves knew the owners were at the football game, they knew what time the game was scheduled to finish and so they

knew how much time they had to clean out the house. It would appear that they had brought a truck to empty the house of its contents. Something to consider if you have a GPS - don't put your home address in it. Put a nearby address (like a store or gas station) so you can still find your way home if you need to, but no one else would know where you live if your GPS were stolen.

**3. CELL PHONES** -- I never thought of this! This lady has now changed her habit of how she lists her names on her cell phone after her handbag was stolen. Her handbag, which contained her cell phone, credit card, wallet, etc., was stolen. Twenty minutes later when she called her hubby, from a pay phone telling him what had happened, hubby says, "I received your text asking about our Pin number and I've replied a little while ago." When they rushed down to the bank, the bank staff told them all the money was already withdrawn. The thief had actually used the stolen cell phone to text "hubby" in the contact list and got hold of the pin number. Within 20 minutes he had withdrawn all the money from their bank account.

**Moral lesson** -- a. Do not disclose the relationship between you and the people in your contact list. Avoid using names like Home, Honey, Hubby, Sweetheart, Dad, Mom, etc.  
b. And very importantly, when sensitive info is being asked through texts, CONFIRM by calling back.  
c. Also, when you're being texted by friends or family to meet them somewhere, be sure to call back to confirm that the message came from them. If you don't reach them, be very careful about going places to meet "family and friends" who text you.

**4. PURSE IN THE GROCERY CART SCAM** -- A lady went grocery-shopping at a local mall and left her purse sitting in the children's seat of the cart while

she reached something off a shelf/ Wait till you read the WHOLE story! Her wallet was stolen, and she reported it to the store personnel. After returning home, she received a phone call from the Mall Security to say that they had her wallet and that although there was no money in it, it did still hold her personal papers. She immediately went to pick up her wallet, only to be told by Mall Security that they had not called her. By the time she returned home again, her house had been broken into and burglarized. The thieves knew that by calling and saying they were Mall Security, they could lure her out of her house long enough for them to burglarize it. – Shared by Juliann Doyle

**\*PLEASE PASS THIS INFORMATION ON --** Even if this does not pertain to you, please let your family and friends know so they don't get caught in a scam.



### **CHURCH VESTRY**

Thank you Juliann Doyle and Peg Wirts for your selfless dedication of your time and talents during the previous three years. Our church has been made better by your service on the Vestry.

Hearing the call to serve our church as our newest Vestry members are Armand De La Bruere and John Walters. Please give them your support and assistance.

Monthly 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:**

Jack DeMark	(term ends 1/31/18)
Sr. Warden	
Armand DeLaBruere	(term ends 1/31/20)
Juliann Doyle, Vestry Secretary	
Rick Kulasinsky	(term ends 1/31/18)
Jr. Warden / Treasurer	
Bob Schreiber	(term ends 1/31/19)
Susie Schreiber	(term ends 1/31/19)
Karen Toolan	(term ends 1/31/18)
John Walters	(term ends 1/31/20)



### **HERE'S WHAT'S COOKIN' in our CHURCH KITCHEN**

With Lent and Easter just around the corner, Juliann Doyle shares the following meatless offerings that are among her family's favorites. Maybe they'll become yours too? Enjoy!

#### **BROCCOLI AND CAULIFLOWER CASSEROLE**

Broccoli – 2 small heads or one large one  
 Cauliflower – 1 head  
 1 stick of butter  
 1 roll of Ritz crackers, crushed  
 (generic crackers work well too)  
 1 can cream of mushroom condensed soup  
 1 8oz. package cream cheese  
 ¼ cup milk

Cook broccoli and cauliflower until crisp/tender, broccoli will be bright green – do not overcook! Chill in ice water bath to stop cooking. Drain.

Sauté onion in half stick of the butter until tender. Add three-quarters of the crushed crackers. Add soup, cream cheese, and milk; heat over low heat.

Place broccoli and cauliflower in casserole dish, mix with soup mixture. Melt remaining butter and mix with remaining crackers to garnish on the top.

This can be made the day before and just heated 40 minutes or so prior to serving. Can also be used with only broccoli or only cauliflower, but the green and white make a nice presentation.

Bake at 350 degrees for 30 to 40 minutes or until hot.

### **BAKED POTATO SOUP**

Melt ½ cup Butter, slowly stir in 1/3 c. flour; blend until smooth. Add 4 c. milk; cook over low heat, stirring until thickened.

ADD: 2 baking potatoes (pre-baked, peeled, cooled and cubed); four green onions (sliced); add to milk mixture and simmer, 10 minutes.

ADD: 6 cooked & crumbled slices of bacon; ½ c. of sour cream; 1 c. cheddar cheese. Stir until cheese is melted. Salt and pepper to taste. Garnish with sliced green onion and enjoy!! Simple and easy, just be careful not to burn on the bottom.

### **AN EASTER BLESSING**

Dear God, today we celebrate the triumph of light over dark, day overnight, truth over lie.

May our family be blessed with comforts of the physical and riches of the spirit.

May our paths be lit with sunshine and sorrow never darken our doors.

May our harvest be bountiful and our hearts ever welcoming.

May we celebrate together in times of joy and comfort one another in times of sorrow.

And mostly, may we always stay together and share the laughter, the love, and the tears as only family can.

May God bless our meal and grant us a compassionate and understanding heart toward one another. Amen.



### **PARISH DIRECTORY --**

Updates to the Christ Church directory will be made this spring, and YOUR help is needed to ensure that data is complete and accurate for every congregant. Index cards will be available in the Narthex to facilitate the updating process. Please complete an index card with your name, address, telephone numbers (home and cell), along with the

names of all family members; email addresses and birthday/anniversary dates will also be helpful. When everyone's information has been gathered, Church Administrator Bob Schreiber will update the directory, and a copy will be made available to fellow congregants.



### **OUR CHURCH'S ADMIN CORNER**

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](mailto:www.christchurchparishforestcity@gmail.com).

We also have two web sites: [www.christchurchforestcity.com](http://www.christchurchforestcity.com) is the official church web site.

The second 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 Administrator



### **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
- 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

### **April**

- 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*

### **BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY**

**RECOGNITION AT MASS:** If you would like your birthday and/or anniversary recognized during mass, please personally contact Bob, our Parish Administrator, 570-785-3425.



### **Write It Down!**

An older couple was worried because they kept forgetting things all the time. The doctor assured them there was nothing seriously wrong except old age, and suggested they carry a notebook and write things down so they wouldn't forget.

Several days later, the old man got up to go to the kitchen. His wife said, "Dear, get me a bowl of ice cream while you're up."

"Okay," he said.

"...and put some chocolate syrup on it and a few cherries, too," she added. "You'd better write all this down."

"I won't forget!" he said.

Twenty minutes later he came back into the room and handed his wife a plate of scrambled eggs and bacon. She glared at him. "Now, I told you to write it down! I knew you'd forget."

"What did I forget?" he asked.

She replied, "My toast!"

Episcopal Bookstore, Seattle

### **Church Gossip**

Mildred, the church gossip and self-appointed arbiter of the church's morals, kept sticking her nose in the other members' private lives. Church members were unappreciative of her activities, but feared her enough to maintain their silence.

She made a mistake, however, when she accused George, a new member, of being an alcoholic after she saw his pickup truck parked in front of the town's only bar one afternoon. She commented to George and others that everyone seeing it there would know what he was doing.

George, a man of few words, stared at her for a moment and just walked away. He didn't explain, defend, or deny; he said nothing.

Later that evening, George quietly parked his pickup in front of Mildred's house and left it there all night!

### **Clown Ministers**

Reasons Churches Don't Ask Clown Ministries to Return:

1. They force people to smile during the 8 am service.
2. It's hard to say with dignity, "The sermon today will be given by Brother Umpa-Doody."
3. Whoopee cushions inevitably appear under pew cushions
4. Sermons take a lot longer when they are in pantomime.
5. Many denominations do not recognize seltzer water baptism.
6. Dribble glasses used during the communion service.
7. They have to pay janitors extra to get all of the silly string off the ceiling.
8. The kids pop their balloons during closing prayer.

Source: [www.christiansunite.com](http://www.christiansunite.com)

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## CLOSING THOUGHTS

*While Spring and Easter are  
right around the corner ...*

*“Question: Does God Care?  
There is only one answer: Jesus.  
In Jesus, God gave us a face.”  
- P. Yancey*

*“Love of God makes so  
much sense to me when  
other things don’t.”  
- Angela Bassett, Actress*

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**FRIENDLY REMINDER:** Turn your clocks forward before you go to bed, Saturday March 11<sup>th</sup>, and you'll be on time for Church.



**The Next Parish News** will be for May/June 2017; article submissions are due by April 17<sup>th</sup>. Please email your newsletter sharings and photos to Karen Toolan, [kbtwrite@nep.net](mailto:kbtwrite@nep.net); or post them to 993 State Route 2029, Clifford Twp. PA 18470.

Also, 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!

**EASTER BLESSINGS** and  
*Happy Spring* from

*The Roving Church Mice.*

