

# CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*"THE LITTLE STONE CHURCH"*

**MARCH / APRIL, 2020**

**NEWSLETTER**

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## MESSAGE FROM OUR PRIEST:

### **"The Celtic Way"**

When the Roman Empire fell, a darkness descended upon the whole of Europe. Great Roman cities, buildings, bridges, and roads crumbled under the onslaught of barbarian tribes. What was once Roman Britain was ravaged by Vikings in the form of Norsemen, Danes, and Swedes. Little wonder that historians would coin the phrase 'The Dark Ages' to describe this period of history.

In Celtic Ireland, three quarters of the entire island came under Danish rule. Celtic Spirituality survived for a particular reason. With all the great monasteries burned, churches destroyed, monks, priests, and clergy killed, somehow the Celtic faith still survived. My belief is that it survived due to the nature of spirituality itself, a spirituality that needed no building or structure.

There is much that we can learn from Celtic spirituality. When Patrick came to Ireland around the year 432ad, he found that the Druid religion had been established for hundreds of years.



Earliest references to the Druid religion go back to 400 years before Christ. In seeking to preach the Gospel and convert the population to Christianity, Patrick did something exceptional. He used the Druid practices, sites, and cycle of the seasons and incorporated them into the Christian liturgical year. Patrick even adopted Druid symbols, including the stone circles and what would become the Celtic Cross to make that transition to Christian faith. Hence, the North, South, East, and West of the Druid seasons became the four points of Christ's cross; and the Winter, Spring, Summer, and Autumn (or Fall Solstice) became the major feasts of the Christian Year.

What Patrick did was astute and clever in adapting Christianity to an agricultural people who lived by the seasons. Life for them always followed a pattern, a cycle not only of the year but the circle of life from birth to death. Patrick did not begin by taking their ancient beliefs away from them; instead, he colored their beliefs and filled the gaps by explaining that life was the gift of a giving God who gave his Son that we might all live and live more fully.

There are three elements to Celtic Spirituality, and they are all interrelated: Time, Place, and Pilgrimage. In Time, we are on a

journey, life's journey. In Place, we exist in the now. And in Pilgrimage, we are called to a constant Renewal that calls us to own our existence and elevate it to a higher level of being. It is the Celtic Way. In Christian terms, it is the mandate of the Gospel to follow Christ and embody his teachings. To be born with Christ, walk with Christ, die with Christ, and rise with Christ and be a renewed person.

It would be all too easy to write a history of Celtic Spirituality and fill it with symbol and meaning. Yet that would never capture what faith means to an ordinary working man toiling in his own fields. Let us leave it to him to explain where faith meets life ...

"Hello, and how are you this grand day? Charlie Gallagher is me name. Well you can see that today I am out here in the north field turning the clay. It's important in the cycle of things, the ground was frozen hard in the Winter months and had sheep and cows on it the whole of last season. We need today to get the air into the soil and let the wind, rain and sun do their job. Next month we will plant, watch the growth and harvest come the end of August. All the nutrients are there for a fine crop.

"Well, I suppose you come asking about the old faith. All I can say is what I learned down the years. Life is a circle, we are born, grow, marry, have children, and die. You become very familiar with that cycle as a farmer working the land. You see it each and every year, animals are born, grow, have their own, and pass on and the seasons come and go. Life would be hard without the old faith that has sustained us through the years; the stories give meaning to our lives. Personally, I love the Season of Lent. Hard as it is coming at the end of Winter, it brings with it a certain hope. Now you know that up here on the side of the hill we are on a branch road that forms a complete loop around the Malin Head, headland? We call it the circle. Walk around it is a good seven miles. It's a fair walk

during Lent, a sort of Stations of the Cross if you like. You can end up at the old church half way and then complete the circle back home.

"Sure, would it not remind you of the Christ walking the road to Jerusalem, or even our walking His life from birth to death? Now, just five miles up in the hills is a place we call 'The Holy Loch.' People will walk up there during Holy week on a rough stony path. They will pray the Stations around the lake as a sort of penance. Easter is our time for planting. You will see the whole patchwork quilt of the landscape change as the fields are turned. Now that is the Angelus bell you hear across the valley telling us it's Noon and time to pray. It will ring again a 6pm, and that is time to stop for the day.

"Funny thing, but through the years you just know time, weather, seasons. All the signs are there. City folk will think us simple. They think we go nowhere; but to us life is a journey, a pilgrimage if you like. It is what they call a paradox. Now, I read somewhere that that is some kind of contradiction. See, we belong and are rooted to one place that we love; but in a sense, we journey across the seasons and through life itself as if we are on a pilgrimage. It brings us blessings, fruits and fulfillment, friendships, and companions on the journey. It's the Celtic way, sure even the Rock Circles tell the story."

Celtic Spirituality, has no walls, no boundaries, and no fences. It is not limited by class, race or gender. It is the Pilgrim Way of Jesus and is carried in the heart. When the Danes attacked in the Sixth century, monks fled 15 miles out to sea to the Skelli Islands. Great granite rocks that came up out of the sea. There they survived on steep ledges living in Beehive huts made of stone. They lived on fish and kept the faith. After decades, they brought the faith back to the mainland and journeyed across the land lighting the flame of faith in every village and hamlet. They needed no churches, only the Word. They lit their Easter Fire and proclaimed that Christ was Risen and that His rising

would transform the world. The fire spread. The seasons changed. The faith grew. It was The Celtic way.

*Easter Blessings, Fr. Bill*



**OUR CHOIR** has been on hiatus during the recent early cold months of 2020. And, too, some of our ladies have been traveling and are out of state visiting their families. Once the weather and our song birds return to a more regular schedule, choir practice will return. Until then, please check our weekly church bulletin for schedule updates.

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

work with children, and to tangibly demonstrate God’s love by giving generously to support ONE THOUSAND DAYS OF LOVE.”

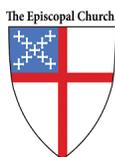
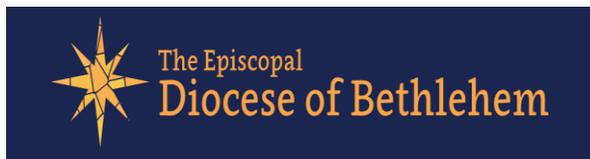
At the 2009 General Convention, Lent was officially designated as a time for dioceses, congregations and individuals to remember and support the work of Episcopal Relief & Development. Although the first Sunday in Lent is the official day of observance, churches may hold a special service on any Sunday.

Globally, 155 million children under the age of six are not reaching their full potential due to inadequate nutrition and healthcare. ONE THOUSAND DAYS OF LOVE is a three-year, \$3 million grassroots Church-wide fundraising campaign dedicated to expanding Episcopal Relief & Development’s programs for children up to age six. The campaign launched in September 2019 and will run for 1,000 days until May 31, 2022.

“In Matthew 18, Jesus calls children the greatest among us,” said Chad Brinkman, Director, Campaign for Episcopal Relief & Development. “Your support of the ONE THOUSAND DAYS OF LOVE campaign will enable Episcopal Relief & Development to expand initiatives that benefit these greatest among us – children -- around the world.”

Developed in collaboration with Grow Christians, the 2020 Lenten Meditations focus on the spiritual lives of children and how they can inform the prayers and meditations of all Christians. These booklets and other resources including hope chests, pew envelopes, bulletin inserts and special prayers are available at [www.episcopalrelief.org/Lent](http://www.episcopalrelief.org/Lent).

Supporters are encouraged to sign up for daily email meditations in English and Spanish and, new this year, to



The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry, Presiding Bishop and Primate of The

Episcopal Church, encourages congregations and supporters to support the **ONE THOUSAND DAYS OF LOVE** campaign through observance of Episcopal Relief & Development Sunday on March 1<sup>st</sup>.

“Lent is a time of reflection and of following Jesus, demonstrating his love for the world,” said Presiding Bishop Curry. “I invite all congregations to devote a Sunday in Lent to reflect on the transformational work of Episcopal Relief & Development, particularly their

subscribe to the meditations as podcasts on Apple Podcasts, Sound Cloud and Google Play.

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*For over 75 years, Episcopal Relief & Development has been working together with supporters and partners for lasting change around the world. Each year the organization facilitates healthier, more fulfilling lives for more than 3 million people struggling with hunger, poverty, disaster and disease. Inspired by Jesus' words in Matthew 25, Episcopal Relief & Development leverages the expertise and resources of Anglican and other partners to deliver measurable and sustainable change in three signature program areas: Women, Children and Climate.*



### **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?

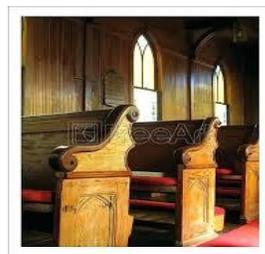
Working together to benefit both Christ and Trinity Churches, Fr. Bill will continue his expanded ministerial schedule in the New Year as noted below. Stop by and join him for conversation and music! (With access to a quiet office at Trinity Church, private consultations will be held there.)

### **March**

- 4 – Trinity, Wednesday (shared)
- 7 – Trinity, Saturday
- 11 – Trinity, Wednesday (shared)
- 14 – Christ, Saturday
- 18 - Trinity, Wednesday (shared)
- 21 - Trinity, Saturday
- 25 – Trinity, Wednesday (shared)
- 28 – Christ, Saturday

### **April**

- 1 – Trinity, Wednesday (shared);  
Lenten service 12 Noon,  
Ecumenical (lunch)
- 4 – Trinity, Saturday
- 8 – Trinity, Wednesday (shared)
- 11 – Christ, Saturday
- 15 – Trinity, Wednesday (shared)
- 18 – Trinity, Saturday
- 22 – Trinity, Wednesday (shared)
- 25 – Christ, Saturday
- 29 – Wednesday (shared)



### **NEWS from the PEWS**

#### **Electrical Problem Solved -**

meeting in January was found to be an utility's the pole.



high winds we experienced during a recent storm loosened a connection causing the problem we experienced. A quick inspection by an electrician from AB Electric, LLC found the problem, called the utility, and had the issue fixed the same day. The contractor was referred to us by using the free service of [homeadvisor.com](http://homeadvisor.com).

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#### **Lenten Pizza Sales -**

Our take 'n bake Friday Lenten Pizza Sales are upcoming, beginning February 28<sup>th</sup> through April 10<sup>th</sup>. Our Christ Church pizza makers will be preparing 12-cut three-cheese pizzas and 12-cut potato/cheese/onion pizzas in the church kitchen beginning at 9:30 a.m. Your help in the pizza preparation and/or box making is appreciated. Help is also needed during the Friday sales

hours between 3:00pm and 6:00pm. To volunteer, please contact Jack or any Vestry member.

Also note that the Ways of the Cross will be held beforehand, at 9:00am.

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### **Lenten Activities**

- *Shrove Supper*, Tuesday, February 25<sup>th</sup> 5:30pm, Christ Church
- *Ash Wednesday*, February 26<sup>th</sup>, 10:30am, Trinity Church; Noon, Christ Church (for those unable to attend either of these services, ashes will be distributed at the March 1st Sunday Mass)
- *The Way of The Cross*, every Friday during Lent, 9:00am, Christ Church, (immediately followed by pizza making FUN)
- *Palm Sunday*, April 5<sup>th</sup> 9:00am, Christ Church
- *Maundy Thursday*, April 9<sup>th</sup> 5:00pm, Trinity Church, dinner; 6:00pm worship service
- *Good Friday*, April 10<sup>th</sup> Noon, Christ Church
- *The Easter Vigil*, Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup> 5:00pm, Trinity Church
- *Easter Sunday*, April 12<sup>th</sup> 9:00am, Christ Church



The Browndale Fire Company will hold a fundraising  on Saturday March 7<sup>th</sup> at 620 Marion St. (St. Rt. 247), Browndale. Registration begins at 5:00pm, with the first game beginning at 6:00pm. The games are double elimination and cost is \$40 per team.

Pre-registration is recommended by contacting [browndalefire@gmail.com](mailto:browndalefire@gmail.com), or 570-785-5300. Cornhole tournament

rules and registration may be downloaded from our website, [222.43fire.com](http://222.43fire.com). All proceeds benefit the all-volunteer Browndale Fire Company. Come along and join us, and we thank you for your support!

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### **Annual Chicken BBW to Support the All-Volunteer Browndale Fire Co.**

The Browndale Fire Co. will hold its annual Spring Chicken BBQ on Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup> at the Browndale Fire Station on 620 Marion St. (St. Rt. 247), Browndale.

The menu will include a half chicken, baked potato, Browndale green beans, homemade coleslaw, roll & butter and dessert. The 'drive-through only' hours for serving are from 11:00am-1:30pm. Advance only tickets are \$10 and are available from any Fire Co. member, or at Tobacco Rd. 607 Main St., Forest City (570-785-2123); the Red Cross Pharmacy, 420 Main St., Forest City (570-785-5400); NAPA Auto Parts, 429 Main St., Forest City (570-785-9000) or by calling the fire station at 570-785-5300 and leave a message. Visit our web site at [www.43fire.com](http://www.43fire.com) or our Facebook page. Tickets are advance sales only. Proceeds from the BBQ to benefit the all-volunteer Browndale Fire Company.



### **ST. JAMES, DUNDAFF**

The little white church with the red doors will be opening again this summer from May 24<sup>th</sup> Memorial Day weekend until September 6<sup>th</sup> Labor Day weekend. One change is that worship services will begin at 11:00 AM. The reason for this is that our supply clergy will also be serving at St. Mark's, Moscow at 9:00 AM. Speaking of clergy Fr. Peter Pearson will be returning and be with us for all but three or four Sundays. We are also looking to get

Lucy Adams to return as our organist. If you have never been to the little summer chapel in Dundaff please join us one Sunday. We have a social hour on the lawn following each service (weather permitting then we move inside).



- Mar. 8: Daylight Savings Time begins
- Mar. 15: CC Vestry Meeting, 12:30pm
- Mar. 21: Spaghetti Dinner
- Apr. 5: Palm Sunday 9:00am, Christ Church
- Apr. 9: Maundy Thursday, Trinity, 5:00pm dinner; 6:00pm worship service
- Apr. 10: Good Friday service, Christ Church, Noon
- Apr. 11: Easter Vigil, Trinity 5:00pm
- Apr. 12: Easter Sunday of the Resurrection, Christ Church 9:00am
- Apr. 19: CC Vestry Meeting, 12:30pm
- Apr 25: CC Free Community meal resumes
- Apr 28: Election Tuesday

## The Stone Soup Kitchen at Christ Church



### NEXT FREE MEAL: APRIL 25, 2020

After a three-month hiatus, we look forward to hosting our monthly free community luncheon. And we look

forward to sharing fellowship with those in our church and our community.

As always, we're grateful to each and every one who shares this special church mission ... for their help to buy ingredients, bake deserts, and prepare and serve the meal together with love.

Remember ... ALL ARE WELCOME, so come along and join us. -Susie Schreiber



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

Did you know that shared recipes are the best? That's because such recipes are already tried and taste-tested then shared with Love and Friendship! This tasty treat is from church friend **Lenore Burns**, via Jack. Give it a try and Enjoy!

### YUM-YUM CAKE

#### **Cake Ingredients**

- 1 box white cake mix
- 1 sm. box vanilla pudding
- 4 eggs
- 1-¼ c. water
- ½ c. light vegetable oil

#### **Icing Ingredients**

- 1 lg. box vanilla instant pudding
- 8 oz. cream cheese
- 1 c. milk
- ¼ tsp. vanilla
- 1 can crushed pineapple, drained

#### **Cake Directions**

Mix all ingredients together, thoroughly. Pour batter into greased 13x9 baking dish. Bake for 45 min. at 350 deg.; check with toothpick for doneness. When done, let cool, then frost.

#### **Icing Directions**

Mix softened cream cheese, lg. box of vanilla pudding and vanilla. Add milk as necessary to make icing very creamy. Spread on cooled cake. Carefully drop and spread pineapple on top of icing.

Optional: Serve with whipped cream



### **Driving in Bad Weather**

You probably have experienced a wide range of driving challenges, including some caused by inclement weather. As a senior driver, how can you continue to be safe when driving in bad weather conditions?

**Stay in control.** Practicing responses to simulated emergency situations under safe conditions can reduce emotional impact and increase chances of correct performance. The driver who knows what to do in an emergency is more likely to stay in control when driving in bad weather.

**Respond to skids.** The first step in regaining traction is to recognize that you are experiencing a skid. Regardless of the cause of the skid, look and steer toward your intended path of travel. Keep your eyes focused on where you want the vehicle to go. Here are additional tips on three skid situations.

**Responding to front tire skids:** Smoothly ease up on the accelerator. This will transfer more weight to the front wheels, increasing the front tires' traction.

**Responding to rear tire skids:** Avoid using the brakes. As the rear tires regain traction, continue steering toward your intended path of travel.

**Counter-steering:** Steer in the direction you want the front of the vehicle to go, toward your intended path of travel. Most drivers tend to steer this way instinctively in their attempt to correct a rear-tire skid. When you counter-steer, straighten the wheels as soon as you feel the rear of the vehicle begin to realign with your intended path of travel.

**Be careful when you counter-steer** -- it is not enough to correct for only the first over-steer skid. The rear of the vehicle may swing back in the opposite direction of the first skid ("fishtailing"). Be ready to counter-steer quickly if more skidding occurs. You need quick and correct reactions for successful skid recovery.

Further sharpen your driving skills by attending a AAA North Penn Mature Driving Course. Participants that successfully complete the class are eligible for a minim 5% auto insurance discount. The class is available for those 55 and older. Call 800-982-4306, email [info@aaanorthpenn.com](mailto:info@aaanorthpenn.com), or visit online at [AAA.com/SeniorDriverTraining](http://AAA.com/SeniorDriverTraining)

- 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 1/31/22)  
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



**PANCAKE DAY,  
or SHROVE  
TUESDAY,** 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.

Bring your appetite ... Christ Church will celebrate Pancake Day at 5:00pm on Tuesday evening, February 25<sup>th</sup>. We will share lots of tasty pancakes and any other side dishes congregants might bring to share.



**SUNDAY,  
MARCH 8<sup>th</sup>** – Be

sure to mark your calendars to turn your clocks FORWARD one

hour before you go to bed Saturday night.



**MARCH**

- 4 Katelyn Dovin
- 15 Henry Tusar
- 16 Ronald Kulasinsky
- 18 Joseph Gliha
- 19 James Jones
- 25 Bryce Armstrong
- 30 Pamela Ferrari

**APRIL**

- 1 Jenna Dovin
- 4 Ryan Atcavage  
Joan Marcel
- 7 Claudia Davis  
Karen Woodward
- 8 David Jones
- 12 Robert Doyle
- 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



**CHURCH CHUCKLES**

**The Florist** - Joe was opening a new business, and one of his friends decided to send flowers

for the occasion. The flowers arrived and Joe read the card. It said, "Rest in Peace." Joe, enraged, called the florist to complain.

The florist replied, "Sir, I'm really sorry for the mistake, but rather than getting angry, you should imagine this: somewhere there is a funeral taking place today, and they have flowers with a note saying, "Congratulations on your new location."

**Preacher's Lamentations** - A minister in Florida lamented that it was difficult to get his message across to his congregation. "It's so beautiful here in the winter," he said, "that heaven doesn't interest them. And it's so hot here in the summer that hell doesn't scare them."

**The Storm** - A passenger jet was going through a severe thunderstorm. As the passengers were being bounced around by the turbulence, a young woman turned to a minister sitting next to her and, with a nervous laugh asked, "Reverend, you're a man of God, can't you do something about this storm?"

To which he replied, "Lady, I'm in sales, not management."

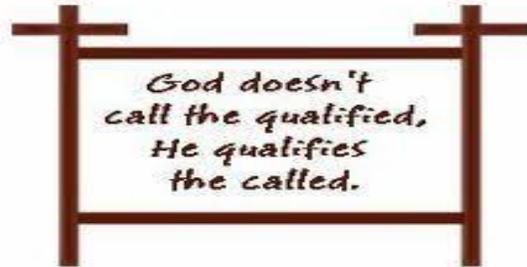
- Thanks for the funnies go to [www.makeitclearnow.org](http://www.makeitclearnow.org)

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**CLOSING THOUGHTS ...**



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*"There are three stages to every great work of God; first it is impossible, then it is difficult, then it is done."*

- James Hudson Taylor, Missionary




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**THE NEXT CHRIST CHURCH NEWS**

will be for May/June 2020; article submissions are due by April 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. So, 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* 