



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

"THE LITTLE STONE CHURCH"

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER, 2019

NEWSLETTER

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MESSAGE FROM OUR PRIEST:

**"I Believe in drops
of paint that fall!"**

Throughout September and October, the Sunday readings have been speaking a lot about Faith. Just as well really, because I have recently been running into people who have no Faith. That gives me pause ... pause to stop and think long and hard about my own Faith and how it works. Jesus said: "Blessed are those who have not seen, but yet believe!"

There are so many ways to think about Faith. Some will argue that their Faith is derived from an awareness, a consciousness of the presence of the 'divine.' To that extent, they are claiming that they have had some kind of a 'religious experience.' I've had experiences such as that, but I don't believe that they are always about Faith. Let us begin

Imagine that you are walking through a forest or the woods. The going is difficult because there are no paths or roads. You move through the trees with difficulty until you come to a clearing. The clearing is marked out as a perfect square. It has stone paths, lawns freshly cut, and floral beds laid out in exact patterns with rows of flowers and carefully groomed rose bushes. You turn to your companion and ask: "Where

did this garden come from? Who put it here? Where is the gardener?"

Much to your surprise, your companion answers: "There is no gardener. Why does there need to be a gardener? This place 'just happened.' It is an accident of Nature. The clearing grew flowers and roses, and the paths appeared. No big deal!"

"You're trying to tell me that this just happened? No way," I reply. "This garden was designed and worked on. It was groomed and cared for in a unique way. Someone had to bring these stones here. There has to be a gardener."

The 'Garden in the Jungle' is a story discussed and talked about in many Philosophy classrooms. It is saying: "How can you say you don't believe in God or the divine, when all around you there are signs of design and wonder? The whole Universe witnesses to some kind of creator. How can you say: "It is an accident, it just happened?"

Yet, many people do. They believe that all existence, all being, the entire Universe and everything that is, came from nothing and will eventually disappear into nothing. No need for a creator, a designer, or a God.

Thinking about this brought me full circle back to school. I always had an interest in science. Scientists tell me that nothing comes from nothing. Even if I question them about the so called 'Big Bang.' Scientists want to know what came before the Big Bang.

One day in July 1978, I sat by a lake fishing while in the Irish countryside. It was a hot sunny day with no breeze. Through the reeds, I heard the long noisy

drone of a dragonfly. I couldn't believe how large it was as it hovered over the water. With its two pair of blue and green wings, it reminded me of a helicopter from the Vietnam era. As it rose from the water, it lighted right on the very tip of my fishing pole. It stayed there for the longest time, wings moving so fast as it stayed in one spot. I remember thinking how magnificent it was: a perfect design, a masterful piece of engineering. And the thought came to me, 'God is such an artist.'

It has been that way for me most of my life. I take delight in the simplest of things, which to my eye are far from simple. The way the light plays on a babbling stream running over dabbled stones ... it flashes and twinkles, and as you stare you begin to realize that there is a spotted trout holding itself motionless against the current and the dotted background of the stones. It is difficult to think this is real, like an enchanted moment captured in time. Moments like this speak to me of God, the divine and the deeply spiritual. There is no science to moments like this. It is more of a 'religious experience.' I believe it speaks the language of God.

Have you ever doubted your own thoughts? Have you ever thought something and asked yourself, "Where did that come from?" You had a thought that was so profound, so wise, that on reflection you know that it did not come from you! Sometimes I have this experience in my car. I am happily driving along, when I begin to think of someone who did me a great wrong 25 years ago. A dark mood comes over me, and I begin to think dark thoughts of all the nasty things I would like to do to that person by way of revenge: burn them at the stake, drive their car over a cliff, pull out their fingernails with rusty scissors, put live rattlesnakes in their bed!

Then something strange always happens - a voice comes into my head and says something entirely different. "Why are you thinking like this? This is not you! Where

is your kindness? Where is your forgiveness? Don't think like this, it only hurts you. Be the better person who knows how life has turned out for them. Oh, they may have gotten richer, wealthier; they might well still be stabbing friends in the back, but this need not concern you. You only need to be a good person." I'd love to know who that little voice was. I never believe that it is just me! Maybe someone I once knew, maybe someone I did something nice to many years ago

Faith is a strange companion on the road through life's moments. The unbeliever says that he never hears God, that God does not speak to him. The true believer believes that God is always talking to him/her -- they see God everywhere and hear him/her in and through everything. God is their painter, their musician, guitarist, poet, writer, designer of their imagination; God is their carpenter and builder of their dreams!

Some people go through life and nothing is a miracle, nothing is magical, nothing causes the blood to stir in wonder. But for others, everything is a miracle, everything is magical, everything causes wonder and they long to see beyond the hilltop, over the horizon, beyond the sea, into the Universe ... believing that what they have experienced so far is merely the footprints of a creator God, stepping on the drops of paint that fall from his brush.

You cannot talk about Faith and not mention Love. Do you believe in love? We are all going to say: "Yes." But not everyone. For some, hate and evil are stronger than any love they have experienced. Let us confine ourselves to those who said, "Yes." Most have experienced love, maybe the way we experience the heat of the sun on a sunny day. But, how do we measure love? I mean real love. That may sound like the question: "how big is a hole, or how long is a piece of string?" Surely, it can be any size and any length.

Let me put this suggestion to you: "We can measure love best when we have lost it." A mother loses her child in an accident or to some cruel disease. She can measure the loss because of the intensity of her love. A boy loses a girl he loved with all his heart; his loss tells him all he needs to know about his love for her. The love we lose is the hole we cannot fill; it is the string too long to measure. Because I believe in love, I believe in 'Faith.' I believe that everything has an ultimate, an absolute, an event horizon. I believe in ultimate love and a Universe that can only be filled by Ultimate love -- and I believe that Ultimate to be my God.

So, if you are driving down the road and you pass me driving by, and I have that annoying little whimsical smile on my face, know that it is just my Faith peeping through! I can't help it! I don't do it to be annoying. I'm thinking of something nice, wonderful, magical. It's not me, but that little voice in my ear saying: "What do you think about that?"

Blessings to you all. The wondrous Christmas Season is here, with all its beauty, faith, and love.

Fr. Bill



OUR CHOIR – The holiday season is almost here, and with it comes some of the most wonder-filled music of the year.

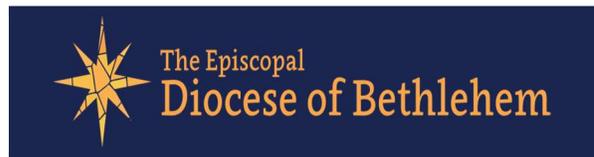
And in preparation for the season, our choir is already in the midst of preparing for Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany. We're always working one or two church seasons ahead, so we're even preparing for beyond Epiphany! Our practices are on Tuesday afternoons, when we meet about 4:15/4:30 pm (weather dependent).

As always, we invite anyone who would like to lift their voice in song to join us for Sunday Mass and during Tuesday practice. I guarantee that you will have

FUN ... after all, church music is very uplifting!

Oh, and we also enjoy having guest musicians and/or guest singers from time to time, so come along and join us too. Do you know anyone who plays the flute, the harp, the French horn, trumpet, hand bells, or any musical instrument? Please put them in touch with me, too, so we can plan ahead to welcome them to join us on any Sunday. If there is anyone you know who plays the guitar, drums, keyboard, etc. who would be willing to play for our occasional guitar mass, we'd love to have them join us for that. We're always open to ideas, suggestions, and new experiences that would enhance our musical service.

In the meantime, the festivities of holiday hymns and lyrics are already here. Please, won't YOU join us too? – Dawn Pentecost



Thirsting and the Way of Love at the 148th Convention (Posted Oct. 10th)

"There is a deep thirst for God here in the Diocese of Bethlehem," said Bishop Kevin D. Nichols in his address to the 148th Convention of the diocese. "For many, though, that thirst has not been quenched."

The first day of Convention began on a somber note, with Nichols discussing how the distrust that pervaded under past leadership still affects the diocese. "My dear friends, as much I want to move forward with new plans and a compelling vision, something is still amiss here – culturally, systemically, spiritually – there is a thirsting," said Nichols.

Nichols went on to tell of events he experienced around the diocese during his first year as bishop that demonstrated the systemic issues that are still at play:

vestries that were immediately suspicious of him, staff that were struggling with the chaos of the past, and unhealthy dynamics between a parish and its previous rector.

“We need new cultural values: transparency, honesty, respect and trust. No longer can fear or mistrust or the cult of secrecy continue,” said Nichols.

When discussing what needed to be done to rebuild trust, Nichols referred to a report created in 2015 after interviews were held across the diocese. The report stated that going forward three things are vital to the health of the diocese: an opportunity for healing, actions that can restore the fullness of the people of the diocese, and transparent leadership.

“This day I commit to you whatever is needed to fulfill all three,” said Nichols.

Nichols went on to commend the people of the diocese for “the many ways that you are responding to your community’s thirsting. We need to tap into the creative energy and vibrant mission and ministry that is present and support it, strengthen it and replicate it,” said Nichols.

Nichols also announced that the Diocese of Bethlehem will be receiving a grant totaling \$75,000 from the Ministerial Excellence Fund of the Episcopal Church Foundation. The Ministerial Excellence Fund is part of the Lilly Endowment’s national initiative to address economic challenges facing pastoral leaders. The Diocese of Bethlehem is one of only two dioceses chosen to receive this grant.

The grants and the matching funds raised, totaling \$50,000 per year for three years, will be used to supplement three clergy in strategic congregations or communities poised for revitalization and growth. “I encourage you to begin to imagine how your community might be transformed with such a grant,” said Nichols.

Nichols also introduced the members of the new Envisioning Team which will help to create a framework for a new vision for

the diocese. The team consists Connie Andrejko, the Rev. Michele Causton, Jim Harding, Rebecca McLaughlin, the Rev. Dennis Reid, and Steve Baker.

“From village to city, valley to mountain top, God has been at work with us in the Diocese of Bethlehem and has begun leading us along exciting new pathways,” said Nichols.

The Convention programming, led by the Rev. Kyle Oliver, focused on Presiding Bishop Michael Curry’s Way of Love. Oliver, an Episcopal priest and Christian Formation researcher, cohosts The Way of Love podcast with Sandy Milien. The podcast explores the Episcopal Church’s vision for a shared rule of life that brings ancient spiritual practices to our modern everyday discipleship.

As part of the program, Oliver and Milien interviewed people from around the diocese in light of how they are practicing the Way of Love in their communities. Those interviewed were Lynne Graham, Senior Warden of St. Paul’s in Montrose; the Rev. Canon Dale Grandfield, Canon Missioner of the Cathedral Church of the Nativity; and Bishop Kevin D. Nichols.

The Way of Love permeated the Convention Eucharist as well, with Nichols speaking on the importance of the practice *Rest*, and how we continue to strive for a “day when this world is different and love wins out.”

Visit <https://diobeth.org> to listen to Bishop Nichols’ sermon and the interviews noted, and read the resolutions accepted by the 148th Convention and those elected to diocesan bodies. View resources provided by the Rev. Kyle Oliver, including the presentation given at Convention.



The 148th Diocesan

Convention – This year’s Diocese of Bethlehem’s Convention convened on October 4 and 5 at the Crown Plaza convention

hotel in Reading. The theme of the

convention was The Way of Love. More on that later. After checking in delegates, lay and clergy, were seated by parish and I was seated with Trinity, Carbondale. Forty-nine of fifty-eight parishes in the diocese were represented. The convention began with Morning Prayer and as would be expected, worship was an integral part of the convention with Morning Prayer and Noonday Prayers each day lead by a lay person. The bishop's address followed which is included elsewhere in the newsletter.

Following the bishop's address the convention key note program was led by the Rev. Kyle Oliver, and focused on Presiding Bishop Michael Curry's THE WAY OF LOVE Practices for a Jesus-Centered Life. The Rev. Oliver is an Episcopal priest and Christian Formation researcher from the Virginia Theological Seminary.

After the keynote address and lunch we returned to the convention hall and continued with small group sessions to review and discuss the message of Bishop Curry's "The Way of Love."

Following the first day's business session we celebrated the convention eucharist at St. Alban's church in Sinking Springs. The day ended with the convention banquet back at the convention hotel. The dinner was unusually good.

The second day, Saturday, was routine diocesan business: voting for members of the various committees, treasurer's report, approving resolutions for the 2020 budget and salary schedule, and election of diocesan officers - treasurer and secretary. The 149th diocesan convention will convene on October 3rd at the Cathedral Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem.

If you have not experienced Presiding Bishop Curry's the Way of Love, Practices for Jesus - Centered Life, I invite you to explore

www.episcopalchurch.org/wayoflove for more detailed questions for discernment and reflection, along with additional resources. – Bob Schreiber, Delegate



Hello everyone, Fr. Bill here again, but with a different message ...

What is the worst thing that you have ever eaten? Now that has really got you thinking, hasn't it? Even I must think back over the years to answer a question like that! In 1976, I ate Octopus while working on the Isle of Malta in the Mediterranean. It tasted like rubber and black ink! Then, of course, I ate a snail in France. Taste was okay, but I don't like the texture. Swordfish steak tastes really good, especially fried in a pan. A couple of things in China I really wasn't sure what I was eating, but it was not until I came to America that I ever experienced **hunger**.

It was 1995, and I was living in a hut in the woods. I needed a job. Those were difficult days. I had three university degrees and 25 years of teaching experience and no job, no house, and an old borrowed Pontiac car. More than that, I was 3,500 miles away from home. Saturday was my grocery shopping day, and I always went to the local Shop Rite. Now I wasn't a normal shopper. I had budgeted for the month, including gas, tolls and everything else. But after everything else, I could afford to spend \$14.50 on food for the month. It was going to be a lean year. Yet, I wasn't downhearted, nor was I pessimistic! In my mind, I was on a journey, and of course I prayed. I prayed that during this journey through life and the Gospel, God would show me the next stage of his plan for me. At midnight one evening, I knelt by my little bed by the light of an old lamp, deep in the woods, and I simply prayed: "O God, help me!"

The very next day, I popped into church and there on the parish noticeboard was a letter. It was inquiring whether anyone in the parish was interested in earning a

Master's Degree in Religious Studies. I took a copy of the phone number and called the Dean. "Yes," she said, "even though it's a part-time degree that normally takes four years, you could do it full time over a year." So, I signed up. Yonkers NY was at least 90 min. away, but I was sure I could do it. Most of the classes were in the evening, from 7:00pm-9:00pm so I was often back in my little hut around 11:00pm. After three months, I was approached by a woman who said:

"Bill, they're looking for a Theology teacher in January at John A. Coleman High School in Kingston NY -- are you interested?" Three days later, I was signed up to teach High School Theology. The salary was modest, about \$28k per year, but I fully intended to also continue with working toward my Master's Degree. Now my days began at 5:00am, driving the length of Rt. 209 from Port Jervis to Kingston, leaving at 3:00pm for Yonkers down the freeway, and getting back in the car to head home after classes by 9:00pm; all of this five days a week.

The little white car kept going, breaking down only once in twelve months. The miles piled up until they reached 168k. After one year, I no longer cooked a pot of spaghetti that lasted all week, and I bought a small house on Rt. 209. That was the year I allowed the little white car to go its own way to church early one Sunday morning, and to my surprise it arrived at the bright red doors of an Episcopal church. I went in, enjoyed the service and was invited to coffee hour. "Hello," said the woman minister, "my name is Betsey Myers."

I tell you this story because it is my firm belief that our God has a plan for each one of us, and nothing happens by coincidence. God's plan is sometimes not our plan. I always knew that in spite of my good education, I would never ever be rich, because I had chosen to be a man of the Gospel and a minister to God's people. I just never expected to ever be homeless and penniless and so far from home. Still,

in my heart of hearts I knew that God had never deserted me in all my years.

Each of us is called to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ alive in our lives. If you are *lucky* like me, you become active in the pastoral field. But not everyone gets to do that. Quite simply, people have to go to work. And pledging is our Episcopal way of allowing everyone to participate in the mission and ministry of the Church. The church must function. It exists in the world and in the town. Insurance, heating, maintenance, power, wages are all a big part of the daily struggle of the church to minister to God's people. Giving to the ministry of the church ... we only have to remember one important belief:

"YOU CANNOT GIVE TO GOD, BECAUSE EVERY TIME WE DO, HE GIVES IT RIGHT BACK WITH INTEREST!"

Twenty-five years after being jobless and penniless, I have total faith in that statement. So many times, during those 25 years I've had the opportunity to test that belief. I've given away so much money that Maryann would say: "Bill, are you kidding me? Have we won the lottery or something?" No, we've not won the lottery. But, every time I gave money -- and I mean every time -- within weeks, it came right back! How do you explain that? Last year I sent \$1,000 to a sister who was struggling. Two weeks later, a British Company put \$11,000 in my bank account by direct deposit, claiming it was money owed to me from years gone by. How do you explain that? Perhaps I could go on, but then everyone would be asking me for a loan! Yet, how do you explain it? I can: GOD REPAYS WITH INTEREST!

As we prepare to develop our budget for next year and to again plan our pastoral programs, please think seriously about how much you love this small church and all that it does for our community. All I ask of you is that you believe, for belief will do wonders in continuing to grow Christ Church and helping it survive to welcome our children's children.

Stewardship ... talk about it, think about it, pray about it! How much is God's work worth to you? Say to yourself: "I want to be a stronger part of Christ Church and part of its ongoing growth here in the Forest City community. Quite simply, I want to be a living part of this Gospel effort!"

With thanks and prayer, Fr. Bill.



EXPANDED MINISTRIES -

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 has expanded his ministerial schedule; his early-Fall schedule follows. Stop by and join him for conversation and music! (With access to a quiet office at Trinity Church, private consultations will be held there.)

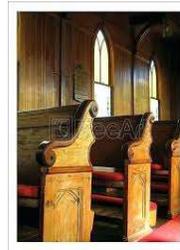
November

- 2 - Trinity, 9:00am-2:00pm Counseling
- 6 - Trinity, 9:00am-1:00pm (shared Bible studies, 10:00-11:00am)
- 9 - Christ, 9:00am-2:00pm Counseling
- 13 - Trinity, 9:00am-1:00pm (shared Bible studies, 10:00-11:00am)
- 16 - Trinity, 9:00am-2:00pm Counseling
- 20 - Trinity, 9:00am-1:00pm (shared Bible studies, 10:00-11:00am)
- 23 - Christ, Luncheon, 9:00am-2:00pm
- 27 - Trinity, 9:00am-1:00pm (shared Bible studies, 10:00-11:00am)
- 30 - Trinity, 9:00am-2:00pm

December

- 4 - Trinity, 9:00am-1:00pm (shared Bible studies, 10:00-11:00am)
- 7 - Christ, 9:00am-2:00pm, Counseling
- 11 - Trinity, 9:00am-1:00pm (shared Bible studies, 10:00-11:00am)
- 14 - Trinity, 9:00am-2:00pm, Counseling

- 18 - Trinity, 9:00am-2:00pm (shared Bible studies, 10:00-11:00am)
- 21 - Christ, 9:00am-2:00pm, Counseling
- 24 - Christ Church, Christmas Eve Mass, 5:00pm
- 25 - Christmas Day, no Mass
- 28 - Trinity, 9:00am-2:00pm, Counseling



NEWS from the PEWS

Community Coat Drive -

Our annual *Coats for the Community* distribution will be held Friday November 1st, Noon-5:00pm and Saturday November 2nd, Noon-4pm.

All coats - along with scarves and hats - are free. And there are no qualifications, and no questions will be asked of those seeking new and gently used winter coats for men, women, and children.

All items have been provided by the American Legion Post 154 in Montrose, and by our congregants and the greater Forest City area. Donations of winter coats are also welcome ... all coats must be clean and serviceable. Monetary support for this program may also be made payable to *Coats for the Community* and mailed directly to the American Legion Post 154, 14515 St. Rt. 3001, Montrose PA 18801.

Alternative Christmas Gift Ideas -

Can't find that special gift? Honor your friends and relatives with gifts that allow them to bring life and hope to people in our community and around the world.

Give a gift in someone's name to the *Almoners Fund* at Christ Church. This fund provides assistance to those who are looking to our church family for help. Other worthy organizations for you to donate in someone's name include:

Habitat for Humanity Int'l
322 West Lamar Street
Americus, Georgia 31709-3543
www.habitat.org

Episcopal Relief & Development
P.O. Box 7058
Merrifield, VA 22116-7058
www.episcopalrelief.org

Heifer Project, Int'l
1 World Avenue
Little Rock, AR 72202
www.heifer.org

United Thank Offering-DFMS
PO Box 958983
St. Louis MO 63195-8983
www.unitedthankoffering.com

Six Storm 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.

Notes for your Calendar:

November

- 1 – FREE winter coat give-away; Noon-5:00pm
- 2 – FREE winter coat give-away; Noon-4:00pm
- 3 – Daylight Savings Time ends; set your clocks 1 hr. BACK
- 17 – Vestry meeting, 12:30pm
- 23 – Free Community Luncheon, Thanksgiving Feast
- 28 – Thanksgiving Holiday

December

- 6 – Soup Sale; Take out only, Noon-6:00pm
- 21 – Free Community Meal, Christmas Feast
- 24 – Christmas Eve Service, 5:00pm
- 29 – Service of Lessons & Carols



NEWS IN/AROUND OUR COMMUNITIES

Preventing Falls – Tips to Keep You on Your Feet & Lower Your Risk of Falling – Talk openly with your health care provider about falls. Find out about

the side effects of any medicine you take. And have your eyes and hearing checked regularly.

Stay physically active to improve your balance and strength. See your health care provider about any foot problems. Make sure to discuss proper footwear.

Make your home safer. Remove things you can trip over from stairs and walkways. Have grab bars and non-slip mats in bathrooms. Hold on to handrails when using stairs.

Caregiving One Day at a Time, 2019

Caregiver Conference – Join us for a day of education, support, and fellowship. Guest speakers will discuss a variety of topics including Veterans' benefits, care tips, and stress relief. Vendors will be available. Parking available in the visitor parking lots on campus. This conference is designed for family caregivers only.

Marywood University-Latour Rm., 2300 Adams Ave. Scranton; Tuesday, November 11/12, 9:00am-2:00pm.

24/7 Helpline: (800) 272-3900; attendees MUST call to register; the conference is FREE to attend.

Volunteers needed for the OMBUDSMAN Program

– Volunteer Ombudsmen are community neighbors who are specially trained to help clarify responsibilities and rights of consumers in long-term living facilities. If you are available for a few hours a month, are over 18 years of age, concerned about the rights of nursing home and assisted living/personal care home residents, and interested in making a difference in the lives of long-term living residents, then you may be perfect for the Volunteer Ombudsman Program.

For more information, please contact: Ombudsman Linda Korgeski 570-344-7190 or email lombudsman@epix.net,



Call 1-800-273-8255, press 1; Send a text to 838255; Chat online at VeteransCrisisLine.net

– Veterans Crisis Line is a toll-free, confidential resource that connects veterans in crisis and their families and friends with qualified, caring U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) responders. The Veterans Crisis Line responders are specially trained and experienced in helping veterans of all ages and circumstances. Whether it is coping with a mental health issue or difficulty transitioning back to civilian life, the Veterans Crisis Line can help.

Veterans and their loved ones can call, chat, or text to receive free confidential help twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year, even if they are not registered with VA or enrolled in VA healthcare.

For more information about Veterans Crisis Line, visit: <https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/about/what-is-vcl>. For more information about mental and behavioral health services available through the VA visit: www.mentalhealth.va.gov



What is the PA VETERANS REGISTRY?

The PA VETERANS REGISTRY is an online application that allows veterans, family members, and veteran advocates to connect with the PA Dept. of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) to request information related to the valuable state benefits, programs, and services they have earned.

By connecting with DMVA, registrants can also opt-in to receive the weekly DMVA DIGEST, filled with valuable veteran-related news, job opportunities and events. (view our most recent edition here) The PA VETERANS REGISTRY is DMVA's long-term strategy to achieve a higher level

of communication with our veterans as well as our partners who support them. Encourage all veterans you know to register today and sign up yourself. You do not need to be a veteran to register or to receive the DMVA Digest. Professionals and community members, as well as veteran family members, caregivers, and advocates will find the DMVA Digest to be a useful and informative resource. To start receiving the DMVA Digest, simply go to the PA VETERANS REGISTRY at register.dmva.pa.gov/, fill out the form, and be sure to check the box in the "Would You Like to Receive:" section of the registry. You can unsubscribe from the DMVA Digest at any time.

Register today! register.dmva.pa.gov/.



New CC Sweatshirts –

Our spiffy new Christ Church polo shirts and totes were recently enjoyed by all who ordered them. And now, with the colder weather and holidays approaching, folks have suggested that we order some CC sweatshirts too.



Three handsome sweatshirt styles are now available in your choice of size and color. And each will bear a beautifully embroidered Episcopal flag logo, which colorfully identifies the wearer as being from our friendly stone church on the hill in FC. Wearers are literally life-sized advertising boards – so, let's all help recruit new members and wear our shirts proudly!!

If you would like to order sweatshirts prior to the holiday season, please contact Jack or Karen by November 10th. The order sheet is available in the Undercroft, and payment is requested upon placing your order. Thank you!



The Stone Soup Kitchen at Christ Church

Our monthly Free Community Lunches still bring praises from the many folks who join us for food and fellowship. Heartfelt thanks to everyone at Christ Church for your continued support, ensuring the luncheons are well planned and ongoing month after month.

Please remember, too, that we welcome ALL to join us! So, bring your friends, family members, and neighbors to join us too. We really do have the best camaraderie in town!!

And those of you who regularly pluck an index food card to help prep our ever-changing menu, those who help serve our monthly guests and do the prep, cooking and baking, along with the clean-up ... **HATS OFF TO EACH OF YOU!**

May we each continue to do God's work!

Please also note that in consideration of winter weather issues, Vestry has opted to NOT hold our community luncheons during January/February/March 2020.

-Susie Schreiber



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

With cold weather and the holidays approaching, here are three tasty treats to try: A thoroughly yummy **MOLASSES CAKE** from **Carol Dennis**, and **Juliann Doyle's** ever-popular **CRANBERRY CAKE** makes a reprised visit here. Also included is our ever-popular **MEAT LOAF** recipe, the one and only used for our much-enjoyed monthly free community luncheons. Bake, share, and enjoy them all with family and friends.

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!

MOLASSES CAKE

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease and flour (or spray) 13x9 in, cake pan.

4 c. flour
2 c. sugar
1/2 lb. (2 sticks) butter
1 Tbsp. baking soda
2 c. boiling water
1 c. molasses

Measure flour, sugar and butter into a large bowl. Crumble mixture into fine crumbs. Take out 1 c. mixture and set aside for topping.

Add baking soda to remaining mixture and blend in well. Add molasses, boiling water and mix until smooth.

Pour mixture into prepared pan. Sprinkle reserved crumbs over top of cake. Bake for 50 to 60 minutes. Enjoy warm with vanilla ice cream.

CRANBERRY CAKE

1 8 oz pkg. cream cheese at room temperature
1 cup butter at room temperature
1 1/2 cups sugar
1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract
4 eggs
2 1/4 cups all-purpose flour, divided
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
2 cups cranberries, coarsely chopped
1/2 cup chopped pecans or walnuts
Confectioner's sugar

In a mixing bowl, beat cream cheese, butter, sugar, and vanilla until smooth. Add eggs, one at a time, mixing well after each addition.

Combine 2 cups flour, baking powder and salt; gradually add to batter mixture. Mix remaining 1/4 c. flour with cranberries and nuts and fold into batter. Batter will be very thick. Spoon into a greased 10-inch fluted tube pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 65-70 mins. until cake tests done. Let stand 5 minutes before removing from the pan.

Before serving, dust with confectioner's sugar, or try drizzling with a confectioner's sugar and milk glaze.

CHRIST CHURCH's MEAT LOAF

For 1 1/2 lbs. ground beef add the following: 2 beaten eggs, 3/4 cup milk, 2/3rd cup fine bread crumbs (or more if needed), 1/4 cup chopped onion, 2 tbs. parsley, 1 tsp. salt, 1/2 tsp. sage, 1/2 tsp. basil, 1/2 tsp. oregano, 1/8 tsp. black pepper.

On top of ground beef mixture before cooking add: A combination of ¼ cup catsup, 2 tbs. brown sugar, 1 tsp. dry mustard. Mix and spread on top of meat loaf before cooking. Makes about 8 servings

Bake in 350F degree oven for 90 mins., or until internal temp registers 160 degrees F.



SAFETY FIRST for winter driving – As winter weather sweeps across the country, rain, ice, and snow are sneaking into the forecast, and fast! Here are some ways to help keep our senior friends and family drivers safe on the roads this winter:

Plan ahead -- Don't wait until the last minute to check things like your antifreeze levels, windshield washer fluid, tires, and car battery (especially since cold weather reduces battery life, often below the standard 3/5-year mark). It's also a good idea to test your brakes, in a controlled environment, to see how long it takes them to stop on wet roads.

Save trips for the daytime -- Since visibility is greatly reduced at dusk or dark, try to plan all errands and trips during the daylight hours. If you're going on a long trip, make sure to tell someone where you're going, when you're leaving, and when you expect to arrive. And, if you absolutely must travel out after dark, don't hesitate to ask a family member, friend, or neighbor for a ride.

Carry a cell phone – and know how to use it! If you're venturing out on the roads this winter, make sure to have a cell phone with you in the car ... charged and pre-programmed with emergency contacts. Cell phones are extremely handy for emergency situations, so be sure you know the bare-bones basics of how to operate yours; i.e., how to turn it on, make a call, and answer a call.

Be ready -- Make sure to keep some staples in your car in case you get stuck and need to wait for help, including a blanket, flashlight, water, and snacks (especially if you have diabetes or other conditions that impact your blood sugar). It's also a good idea to keep your gas tank full, and plan to refill it as often as you can throughout the winter months.

Remember, if driving conditions are bad, there's no shame in staying at home and off the roads. Enjoy the winter season. And above all, stay safe!

Visit www.seniordriving.aaa.com for more safety driving tips.

- 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.

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

- Bob Schreiber, Church Secretary

REMINDERS for NOVEMBER 3rd

Daylight-saving time ends

- Turn your clock back one hour tonight before going to bed.
- It's also time to change batteries in your smoke detectors.



THANKSGIVING is a national holiday in the United States and Canada, which celebrates the harvest and other blessings of the past year. The first national Thanksgiving was proclaimed in 1789 by President George Washington. However, it did not become a regular US holiday until 1863 when President Abraham Lincoln declared the last Thursday in November should be celebrated as Thanksgiving; it will be recognized this year on November 28th. Originated as a harvest festival, the event that Americans commonly call the "First Thanksgiving" was celebrated by the Pilgrims and the Wampanoag people after their first harvest in the New World in October 1621.



NOVEMBER

- 7 David Suhadolnik
- 18 Barbara Mihelc
- 19 Margaret Wirts
- 22 Laura Statkun
- 23 Fern Cornall
- 30 Emily Maslar

DECEMBER

- 2 Lynn Jones
- 8 Juliann Doyle
- 15 Ann Emmett
- 19 Deborah Zane
- 27 Lorraine Jones

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*



NOVEMBER

- 26 Allan & Marie Hornbeck

DECEMBER

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 Beginning of Life – In a recent Round-table Discussion Group, the question was asked

of the Ministerial Panel, at what point does life begin.

The Baptist Preacher spoke first and said, "At conception, of course."

The Presbyterian Minister said, "No, no, it's certainly begins at birth."

The Catholic Priest tried to buffer the obvious argument point and suggested, "Perhaps you're both wrong, and it's a compromise in that the fetus is not functional with a heartbeat until the third month.

They had to prod the Jewish Rabbi for his answer, and he finally leaned forward to his mike and spoke softly, "All of my friends here are wrong. Life begins when the last child leaves home, and the dog they left behind dies!"

Do You Remember – Grandma and Grandpa were sitting in their porch rockers watching the beautiful sunset and reminiscing about "the good old days". Grandma turned to Grandpa and said, "Honey, do you remember when we first started dating and you used to just casually reach over and take my hand?"

Grandpa looked over at her, smiled and obligingly took her aged hand in his. With a wry little smile, Grandma pressed a little farther, "Honey, do you remember how after we were engaged, you'd sometimes lean over and suddenly kiss me on the cheek?"

Grandpa leaned slowly toward Grandma and gave her a lingering kiss on her wrinkled cheek. Growing bolder still, Grandma said, "Honey, do you remember how, after we were first married, you'd kind of nibble on my ear?" Grandpa slowly got up from his

rocker and headed into the house. Alarmed, Grandma said, "Honey, where are you going?" Grandpa replied, "To get my teeth!"

Thanks to www.jokes.christiansunite

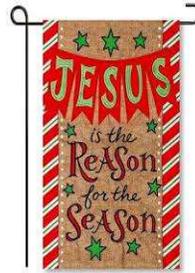
CLOSING THOUGHTS **for the New Year, 2020**

"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything with prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, make your requests known unto God; and the peace that passes all understanding will fill your heart and mind through Jesus Christ."

- Philippians 4:6-7 / NKJV

"A merry heart doeth good like a medicine."

Proverbs 17:22



THE NEXT CHRIST CHURCH NEWS

will be for January/February 2020; article submissions are due by December 16th. Please email your news items, recipes, and photos to Karen Toolan, 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, holiday blessings to all, and best wishes for a wonder-filled New Year!

The Roving Church Mice

