



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

"THE LITTLE STONE CHURCH"

MAY / JUNE 2017

NEWSLETTER

700 DELAWARE STREET, PO BOX 118

FOREST CITY, PA 18421

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OUR PRIEST'S MESSAGE

**"STORIES,
TALES, &
THINGS
THAT GO BUMP
IN THE NIGHT!"**

Hello! By the time you read this it will be May, probably my favorite month. In May I think of flowers, green open meadows, babbling streams, the return of the birds, rabbits, foxes and Howard Keel singing: "Spring is bursting out all over, from the musical "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers!"

Back home in Ireland, May is the height of the growing season in the countryside. Farmhouses filled up at lunch time and evenings with farming neighbors, each giving a week's work to the other's farm. You have to have been there to experience the storm that Irish women and their mothers can cook up for their men-folk returning from the fields after a hard day's work. Steaming hot, home-made bread, potatoes, big fluffy and round, vegetables straight from the field, steak that fills a plate and masses of home-churned Irish butter! Wash it down with milk by the pint straight from the cow; the beer comes later!

Nobody goes home after dinner, as the pipes and the tobacco, the fiddles, whistles, banjo, they all come out. Folks will clear the chairs and push the table back against one wall, and everyone dances and sings to the 'wee' hours. But as the dark comes down, the 'story-telling' will begin by the flickering light of the great turf fire ... in true Irish tradition that goes back thousands of years! It is an oral tradition! A story-telling tradition, where stories are handed down from generation to generation. The story-teller is a recognized position in the community. Yet, they are stories known by everyone. They are legends, fairy stories, sagas, legendary heroes, Ghost Stories, religious stories. The list goes on and on!

"The Children of Lir" is the story of Irish Music and its origins beginning with five children of the King turned into swans by their wicked step-mother and destined to live 1500 years on Irish rivers and lakes. "Finn MacCool" is the story of the Irish Giant who out-smarted the Scottish Giant who built the Giant's Causeway! There are great stories known by all Irish school children, such as "Cuchlann," the Irish warrior and legendary hero. "Brendan the Navigator" is the story of the Irish monk who sailed from Ireland

to Iceland and on to America in the 6th century.

Above all this, there are the local stories, often unwritten, family stories, church stories, storms, amazing events, characters, all abound. Dogs that rescue their master, magical stones, ghost stories of the dead and not so dead, enough to make you check under the bed!

How I loved those stories! They had a special magic all their own. I heard so many stories from Aunts, uncles, cousins, great-aunts, old priests, old places, and in old Pubs and Inns. Stories from the Highlands of Scotland and from the Western isles. From English castles, old churches, houses with hidden secret rooms, tunnels and secret gardens, Highwaymen, prison escapes. War-heroes, missionaries and tales from China, India, Africa and beyond.

Sadly, stories can die. Because people die and some of their history and story dies with them. My father only ever talked about his army and war experience to one person between 1945 and his death in 1988. That person was me. We were out together in 1977, and he began to talk about his first job after school in 1927. One thing led to another, and before long we went from Ireland to Egypt to India to China and from Dunkirk to D-Day. Maybe he thought it was time to share with one person.

I have stories of my own: childhood stories, old teachers and the things they said; old schools, some long gone. Ghost stories, college stories, things I did for the first time, travel, old pals, old priests. Funny things that went wrong. Growing up. Sad deaths, sad

loss -- great pain, great joy; old girlfriends and their weird families. Weird stories, priestly stories, religious stories, teaching stories and great long sagas of how I got myself in a total mess and how I got out of it and survived. Survival stories and disaster stories. And one or two 'holy' stories that made me think nothing, just nothing is anything that I do, but the hand of Someone other than me ... coincidence? Don't believe in it any more, as silly as I am, even I can see God, my God ... working in strange and mysterious ways. It's scary, so I try to play dumb! (Maryann says that is not so hard for me!)

Maybe, years from now, decades or centuries later, someone will find a manuscript hidden in a wall, in an old church or a buried chest entitled "The Story of Me!" by Bill McGinty. Marked: "Do not drink and read or read with a weak heart! You have been warned!"

So, here is the 60-million-dollar question: "Who will tell the story of Christ Church Forest City?" Will someone read it 100 years from now? Will they know that once there lived a group of Christians who loved one another and cared for one another and lived the most important story of all: "The Story of Jesus!"

Once upon a time ...

Fr. Bill



THE CHOIR SINGS OUT!

Music ... hymns and the lovely voices of our choir continue to enhance our church services. And new voices are always welcomed, so come and share yours. Choir practice is held every Friday at 3:30pm. - Dawn Pentecost



EASTER CHANGED THE COURSE OF HISTORY - THOUGH NOT IN WAYS WE MIGHT EXPECT

(A perspective shared from the April 20th newSpin Diocesan Newsletter.)

Killing Jesus, says Walter Wink, was like trying to destroy a dandelion by blowing on the seed head. Jesus left few traces of himself on Earth ... We would, in fact, know nothing about him except for the traces he left in human beings. That was his design. The poet Gerard Manley Hopkins got it right:

Christ plays in ten thousand places,
Lovely in limbs, and lovely in eyes not his,
To the Father through the features of men's
faces.

Like the disciples, I never know where Jesus might turn up, how he might speak to me, what he might ask of me. Easter set Jesus loose — in us.

Have you ever wondered what Jesus was doing between the first Easter and his ascension six weeks later? The New Testament records 10 appearances, half of them occurring on the same day and together occupying only a few hours of

his time. What else was taking place? Free of his former body's constraints, was Jesus paying unrecorded visits to other cultures on Earth, or zipping in and out of time warps and wormholes to check on other universes?

We rightly celebrate Easter as the day that changed history, the essential foundation of faith for 2 billion Christians. In the apostle Paul's words, "And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith." As I read through the accounts this year, however, I was struck by their understated nature, so different from the birth stories of a bright star, angelic choruses and foreign dignitaries bearing gifts. The resurrected Jesus showed up in the most ordinary circumstances: a private dinner, two men walking along a road, a woman weeping in a garden, some fishermen working a lake.

A superhero would have dazzled the crowds with a showy miracle, or swaggered onto Pilate's porch on Monday morning to announce, "I'm back!" Jesus' appearances show a different pattern: he mostly visited small clusters of people in a remote area or closed room. Although these visits bolstered the faith of those who already followed him, there are no reports of Jesus appearing to unbelievers.

The appearances have a whimsical, even playful quality. Jesus seems to enjoy going incognito and passing through locked doors as a surprise guest. He toys with the downcast Emmaus disciples, first feigning ignorance about the events in Jerusalem and then enlightening them. He changes plans in order to spend the night, although as soon as they recognize him, he vanishes. Now you see Jesus, now you don't.

- Philip Yancey is the author of several books, including "The Jesus I Never Knew" and "What's So Amazing About Grace?"



**STEWARDSHIP –
SOMETHING TO
THINK ABOUT ...**

The 2016 tax season has just ended and hopefully you will be getting a refund. The reason I bring this up is to remind you that each year when you make a pledge and contribute to the church, a statement is sent to you at least twice a year that identifies your contributions. This statement makes it easy for you to track your individual tax-deductible contribution, which in turn makes it easy to allow you to claim a deduction if you qualify.

If you are like most people, you generally contribute to many tax-deductible organizations throughout the year. However, have you ever thought of donating to one less mailed solicitation and perhaps give that money to your church instead? If you do not pledge to the church currently, maybe you can make that a goal for the remainder of the year. Remember when you do, a statement will be sent to you to track your giving.

How Are We Doing? Can you believe that we are already five months into 2017? Where does the time go? Here are some facts to let you know where Christ Church is at this time of the year.

First, Christ Church has 40 parishioners who contribute to the church in some way throughout the year. Of those 40 parishioners, 30 of them have taken the time to fill out a Pledge Card. These 30 parishioners have pledged a total of \$29,720.32 for 2017.

Also in 2017, we are still collecting towards the Capital Expense Fund that was started a few years ago and is used for various projects in the church. In recent years, this capital fund has

provided for projects such as new windows throughout the church (not including stained glass windows), a boiler conversion from oil to natural gas, a portion of the altar carpeting and most recently the emergency remodeling of the men's and women's bathrooms.

Some projects that we are continuing to look at for the church are repairs to the Undercroft west wall from continued moisture problems, the need and cost associated with handicap accessibility to the church from the Undercroft or the buildings front steps, painting of the fire escape as well as painting of the south side of the church that has shown signs of weathering. If you would like to contribute toward the upkeep of the church, please bring or send your contribution to Christ Church and mark it as "Capital Expense Fund." Emergency repairs may happen at any time (as with the recent bathroom repairs), and your contribution will ensure that our beautiful Christ Church remains in good order.

Finally, many people have helped to support with time and talent by helping at various fund raisers throughout the year. We have enjoyed the Spaghetti Dinner and the Lenten pizza-making -- sales to date have shown a combined profit of \$2017.48!

Everyone's support is much appreciated and needed. Through the remainder of the year we will work for a Spring and Fall Roast Pork Dinner, a Bake Sale at the Browndale Fire Company, a Soup Supper and usually one or two other events thrown in for good measure. Each and every event offers an opportunity for YOU to share, to become an even stronger part of Christ Church. Thank you. - Rick Kulasinsky



The Stone Soup Kitchen at Christ Church

The Free Community Lunch for Christ Church is usually held on the 3rd or 4th Saturday of each month, depending on other Church functions. These get-togethers are going very well. The folks who prepare the food and those who come to eat share in an enjoyable fellowship together.

Our recipes are chosen approximately one month in advance, as our congregation assists in purchasing the needed ingredients while they do their own grocery shopping. If YOU have special recipe that's special to you or is perhaps a family favorite, please share it with us too – we'd love to try it.

With the nice weather finally upon us, we all will have busy schedules as we work in our yards and enjoy being outdoors on weekends.

Please know that EVERYONE is welcome to break bread with us at Christ Church for these wholesome, hearty, and FUN meals. So, come along and take a break and join us. The camaraderie truly is *extra special*.

- Susie Schreiber



ACCESS TO CHRIST CHURCH

-- We pride ourselves on being a welcoming church. Every visitor -- whether during our Sunday worship services, our luncheons or dinners, or our coat distributions -- is warmly greeted, invited to join us and encouraged to come back again. We are blessed by the presence of visitors to our church.

However, there are people in our midst who we know and love who cannot join with us in our many church activities. One of the main reasons for this is because our building does not adequately provide accommodations for the ease and comfortable inclusion of people with disabilities.

Christ Church members with disabilities do not attend our Sunday services due to the stairway entrance into the church. With a reported one in five Americans being disabled, most with disabilities that you cannot see, we wonder how many neighbors who would want to join with us simply cannot due to the stair climb or steepness of the hill on which our building is situated. If a family has one or more members with a physical disability, it's a sure bet that family will not be attending our church.

The church, which is the body of Christ, has many parts. Each member of Christ's body is essential for a healthy church. A biblical foundation to include the disabled can be found in the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians (12:12,22): "The body is one and has many members, but all the members, many though they are, are one body. So it is with Christ ... those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable."

Let us have a discussion about the ways that we can welcome the physically disabled into our church family. Please share your thoughts, ideas, and suggestions. Drop a note in the offering plate or reach out to a Vestry member. Christ Church can only grow and continue to thrive from the caring and sharing of thoughts from every congregant.

- Jack DeMark



**ST. JAMES -
DUNDAFF
PREPARES
FOR SUMMER**

Well, this has been a different winter from what we experienced last year, when Winter Storm Stella hammered us just when we thought Spring was here. Regardless, the vestry and congregation at St. James-Dundaff are busily planning for Summer. Notice our new paint job and bright **red** doors!!

Regular Sunday worship services will begin Sunday May 28th at 11:00am – this time change is to accommodate Father Bill McGinty from Christ Church, Forest City, who will be our Eucharistic celebrant and pastor for the summer.

We welcome all who are visiting us and want you to know that all baptized Christians, of every age and tradition, are invited to share with us in the Bread and Wine of the Eucharist. Anyone not wanting communion can approach the communion rail with arms crossed and receive a blessing from the priest. Please join us on the lawn after the service for snacks, beverages, and fellowship.

We have planned a church clean-up day in late May starting at 10:00am; the date is not firm, but it will probably be the week of the May 22nd. I'll let everyone know when it is firm. We need a lot of hands to dust, polish, and vacuum, along with putting out the hymnals and prayer books. If you are able to help, please bring your own dusters, polish, and anything else you think we need. Please note that there is no running water at St. James-Dundaff, so please bring a jug of water to help with areas that will need a bit of scrubbing.

St. James-Dundaff is located on St. Rt. 247, Dundaff Corners, near Crystal Lake in Clifford Township. Please call Senior

Warden Bob Schreiber, 570-780-4356, for more information.

Looking forward to seeing everyone again this summer! - Bob Schreiber



**CHRIST CHURCH
CLEAN-UP DAY!**

Mark your calendars for **Saturday May 20th**.

Everyone is asked to gather at 9:00am to lend a hand cleaning our favorite parish. It'll be fun too, as a light lunch will be provided for all volunteers.

Come along ... the more the merrier and the lighter the tasks at hand! - The Vestry

**COMMUNITY
NEWS**



Elder Justice Day in Wayne County – Wednesday, May 10th, 9:00am registration at Ladore Lodge, 398

South Street, Waymart. Speakers will present on various topics and areas of interest to senior citizens. Lunch is FREE; however, you must register by contacting the Wayne County Area Agency on Aging, 570-253-4262, ASAP. Space is limited. Everyone is invited.

QPR Suicide Prevention Training (Question, Persuade, Refer) – Tuesday, May 16th, two sessions are available (1:00pm-3:30pm OR 6:00pm-7:30pm) to learn these three simple steps that anyone can learn to save a life from suicide. For more information or to register, contact Darlene, dmiller@waynecountypa.gov OR 570-253-9200 (deadline, Wednesday, May 10th). Ask a question, save a life!!

6th Annual Wayne County Safety Fair for Kids – Saturday, May 20th, 10:00am-1:00pm, 648 Park Street Complex, Honesdale. Activities include: fire safety, gun safety, toy safety, sun safety, food safety, free helmets and fittings, fingerprinting, car seat safety check and replacements, free hot dogs and refreshments.

Bake Sale Items needed – Saturday, June 3rd, 11:00am-4:00pm will be the third annual Car Show to benefit the Browndale Fire Company. Christ Church is invited to sell their baked goods at the show.

The Wilkes Barre VA Medical Center is recruiting participation in a **Veteran and Family Advisory Council** to attend quarterly meetings. If interested, contact Stacy Matthews, at: 570-824-3521, Ext. 7752 OR stacy.matthews@va.gov



CHURCH VESTRY

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 / Joint Ministry Treasurer
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

Sr. Warden Jack DeMark donned yet another hat ... this one a toque ... when he graced the Shrove Supper table with his tasty chicken pot pie. This yummy dish is sure to please your hungriest home crew too. Enjoy!

CLASSIC CHICKEN POT PIE

Heat oven to 425F

1/3 c. butter
1/3 c. all-purpose flour
1/3 c. chopped onion
1/2 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. pepper
1-3/4 c. chicken broth
2/3 c. milk
2-1/2 – 3 c. cut-up cooked chicken or turkey
1 box (10 oz.) frozen peas and carrots
1 pkg. (15 oz. refrigerated pie crusts, softened as directed on box

In 2-qt. saucepan, melt butter over medium heat. Stir in flour, onion, salt and pepper. Cook, stirring constantly until mixture is bubbly; remove from heat. Stir in broth and milk. Heat to boiling, stirring constantly. Boil and stir 1 minute. Stir in chicken and peas and carrots; remove from heat.

Roll one pie crust into 13" square. East into ungreased 9-in. (2-qt.) glass baking dish. Pour chicken mixture into crust-lined dish.

Roll remaining pie crust into 11" square. Cut out designs with 1" cookie cutter. Place square over chicken mixture. Arrange cutouts on top crust. Turn edges of pie crust under; flute edge.

Bake about 35 mins. or until golden brown.



PARISH
DIRECTORY --

Updates to the Christ Church directory have been ongoing this spring, and it is expected that a new directory will be available by summer's end.

For those who do not come to church regularly or reside outside of the Forest City area, please complete the card below, cut it out, and return it to the church office:

Christ Episcopal Church
P.O. Box 118
Forest City PA 18421.

If you have already responded, there is no need to send another card.

Many thanks to everyone who has helped with this useful update.



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.

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

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

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

- Bob Schreiber, Church Administrator

Name: _____

Street: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Spouse: _____

Children: _____

Phone (H): _____ Phone (C): _____

Email: _____



MAY

- 3 Sandra Murphy
- 6 Janet Seana
- 7 Katie DeMark
- 15 David Seaman
Priscilla Walters
- 16 Ivy Carpenter
- 20 Jennifer Dovin
- 23 Richard Kulasinsky
- 24 Sr. Laurie Niblick
Susan Schreiber

JUNE

- 4 Rev. Steve Matylewicz
- 7 Paul Mihelc
- 9 Luke Carione
Marie Cookson
- 18 June Arrowsmith
- 19 Charlie Davis
- 20 Donna Gasper
- 26 Lisa DeMark

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*

MAY

None

JUNE

- 9 Lisa & Jack DeMark
- 22 Claudia & Charlie Davis

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.



... and LAUGH

Maxims of the Internet Age

1. You can't teach a new mouse old clicks.
2. The E-mail of the species is deadlier than the mail.
3. Too many clicks spoil the browse.
4. A chat has nine lives.
5. Fax is stranger than fiction
6. Windows will never cease.
7. There's no place like <http://www.home.com>
8. Know what to expect before you connect.
9. What boots up must come down.
10. Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day; teach him to use the Net and he won't bother you for weeks.

A Christian Computer Virus

You have just received the "Christian Computer Virus." Because we are Christians, this virus works on the honor system.

Please delete all the files on your hard drive, then manually forward this virus to everyone on your mailing list.

Thanks for your cooperation.

Thanks to
www.christiansunite.com



CLOSING THOUGHTS

*There's
nothing to
doubt...*

*For God ...
made his light shine in our hearts
to give us the light of the
knowledge of God's glory displayed
in the face of Christ.*

- 2 Corinthians 4:6

*Praying on our knees reminds us
that God is the Master and we are
His servants. He knows all things,
whereas our perspective is narrow.
He is also all-powerful – He can
penetrate hard hearts and closed
minds. We cannot. Let's make
prayer a regular part of our day
and watch what the Lord does.*

- In-Touch Ministries



**The Next Parish
News** will be for
July/August 2017;
please your article
submissions by June 19th. Please
email your newsletter sharings and
photos to Karen Toolan,
kbtwrite@nep.net; or post them to
993 State Route 2029, Clifford Twp.
PA 18470.

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!

In the meantime, enjoy the sunshine!

The Roving Church Mice.

