

# The PARISH LETTER

November December 2018 Publication of Christ Church, Woodbury, NJ    Advent/Christmas





# From the Rector

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Dear Beloved of Christ,

Originally erected in the 1300's, the spire of Chichester Cathedral in England served many purposes to include standing as a welcome landmark for sailors out at sea to the south. However, on February 21, 1861, five years after the cornerstone of our own church was laid, the massive stone structure literally collapsed. As one schoolboy who witnessed the catastrophe reported later, the tower seemed to fall in on itself in a rather graceful way. The once magnificent structure lay in a pile of debris within the crossing of the Nave and transepts. This during a time when horses and mules pulling wagons would have been the only means available in which to remove hundreds of thousands of pounds of debris.

It is largely reported today, by those who write their own history, that a lightning strike badly damaged the tower and it was simply a matter of time before it crumbled into a massive pile of a twisted mess. Robert Willis (1800-1875) best known today as a historian of architecture and construction, and Professor of Mechanics at the Metropolitan School of Science (Royal School of Mines) in London wrote:

On Thursday morning, the upper part of the pier was found cracked and audibly cracking in many directions, flaked stones fell from it, whole stones burst out and fell. Finally at half-past one, the whole gave away. (Chichester Cathedral, Mary Hobbs, pg. 152)

However, there is more. The real culprit to the collapse had nothing to do with lightning. It was due to the then dean wanting to remove the stone rood screen which literally was holding the gothic spire up toward the heavens. A common feature in late medieval church architecture, a rood screen is an ornate partition standing between the chancel and nave. The dean considered its placement a visual obstruction. Once the rood of Chichester Cathedral was removed, the weight of the spire simply could not stand.



Architects, engineers, masons, and craftsmen of the 14th century may not have had Computer Aided Drafting (CAD) capabilities, but they were not lacking whatsoever in their ability to do the math and erect such a magnificent structure to the glory of God in the right way. There was no flaw in the design or engineering of the original construction. There was a flaw in the manner in which the people of God remained faithful and traditional rather than clever and progressive.

Too often, throughout the ages, those constituting the current generation think that they are so much more advanced in their intellect and priorities than those of previous generations. Over many centuries the encroaching priorities of being contemporary, progressive, and relevant to the demands of society have retarded the advancement of kingdom priorities and distracted us from our mission in bringing all others to Christ.

The collapse of the spire at Chichester could not have happened at a more opportune time. The work of building the new spire was completed on June 28, 1866, and was accomplished during the height of the Oxford Movement in the Church of England and throughout the Anglican Communion. Our own parish church built in 1856 is evidence of a that time when catholic principals and

ecclesiology supported a high doctrine of Incarnational theology to include the necessity of apostolic succession. The Church was literally being rediscovered and rebuilt from under the tons of rubble and debris which had been left behind by iconoclasts; those who are want to be liturgical architects without any knowledge or investment in doctrinal or theological engineering.

Christ Church Woodbury in its 163 year history has always done the math - and it will continue to do so. **We aren't catholic because we like incense, we like incense because we are catholic.** In other words, lace and damask silk; Anglican Chant and the keeping of the Church Calendar; solemn processions and catechizing our children are the means by which we live into the Incarnational faith of Jesus Christ without apology and without reservation. And perhaps more importantly, without deviation.

I have been a priest of the Church for only twenty-years and already I am greatly fatigued over what is constantly being held up as contemporary, relevant, and necessary for church growth and development. You have heard me say before, **"There is absolutely nothing wrong with the Church (or by extension, our families) that an attitude of faithfulness, sacrifice, and stability would not cure."** Please remember these priorities within an attitude of theological maturity as the Church translates the seasons of Advent, Holy Nativity and the Epiphany of the Christ of God. There is a great deal to be proud of when considering our parish identity but only one reason in all of creation for why we are even here. That being to worship God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

As I shared with our Episcopal Church Women (ECW) during a recent gathering for prayer, fellowship, and instruction, it is important to consider the theological Bethlehem in which we inhabit/traverse. However, we should do so only after considering the great redeeming gift given to us by our Father in heaven above:

Our God, heav'n cannot hold him,  
Nor earth sustain;  
Heav'n and earth shall welcome him  
When he comes to reign:  
In the bleak mid winter  
A stable place sufficed  
The Lord God incarnate,  
Jesus Christ.

Hymn 44 - The Hymnal 1940  
Words: Christina Georgina Rossetti, c. 1872





There is no curriculum or program that will ever replace our need to ring the tower bell, gather as the people of God in common prayer, and sing songs of praise before the very footstool of our **Father's heavenly throne. For that structural** reason alone, there is an altar established by Bishop George Washington Doane (1799-1859), the second bishop of the Diocese of New Jersey, at 62 Delaware Street in Woodbury, New Jersey. **Bishop Doane may not have had benefit of today's** latest and most attractive programs or social media applications, but he did have benefit of the sacramental life of the Church just as we do today. Besides that, we should never place into question his theological genius. We are very proof of that **"engineering" brilliance.**

Thank you for your faithful stewardship. Thank you for calling Christ Church your parish home, and thank you for living consecrated lives to the glory of God and on behalf of the Church He came to build.

In the peace of God, which passeth all understanding;

Fr. Brian K. Burgess, Rector

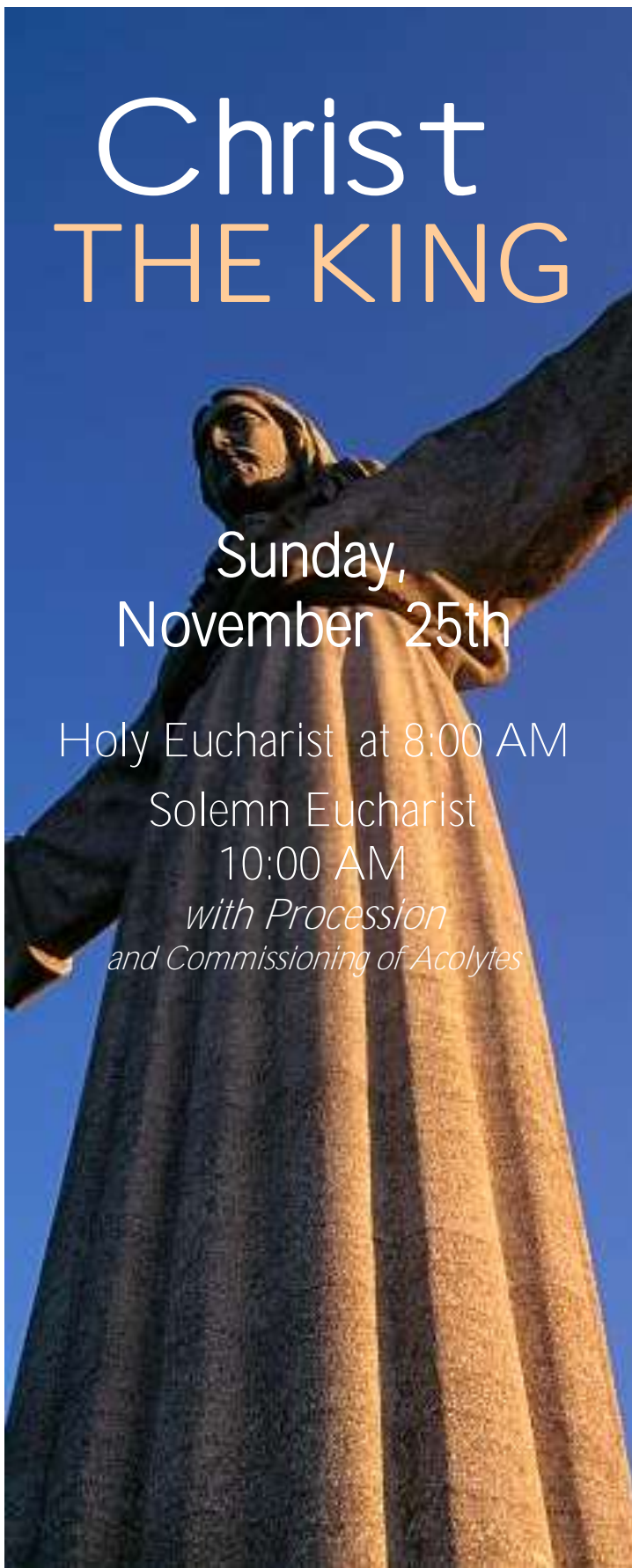
# Christ THE KING

Sunday,  
November 25th

Holy Eucharist at 8:00 AM

Solemn Eucharist  
10:00 AM

*with Procession  
and Commissioning of Acolytes*





## *from the* **Organist Choirmaster**

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Some years ago, I attended the graduation ceremonies of my school, Westminster Choir College. Because of the size of the gathering, it is held each year in the gothic splendor of Princeton University Chapel. The keynote address that year was given by the great American choral music composer Morton Lauridsen (b.1943). In his address to the graduating students, he issued a challenge: Try to find a place where you can go and be able to have absolute silence. He warned it would not be easy to do. It is a sad fact of the times in which we live that our ears are perpetually assaulted by sounds of one kind for another. **One of those sounds is "Muzak", also called "Elevator Music". Wherever one goes, it is there** - perpetual, relentless - in restaurants, malls, stores, arenas, even in our own homes. It is meant to subliminally relax us, to get us to buy more, drink more, eat more.

Under this perpetual assault, all of us have learned to **"tune out", to not actually listen to this music.** We are not meant to. Nonetheless, it is an invasion, a sometimes subtle and sometimes not so subtle assault on our ears and brains. We live in a culture of noise and we have learned how to tune it out - to ignore it. Christ Church, Woodbury, offers us a unique opportunity to experience the rare gift using our ears and minds as we ought. It offers us moments of silence and the holy wonder of the spoken sacred word and sacred music in a sacred space of exceptional beauty.

On entering Christ Church for sacred worship, one is asked to **"let quietness and reverence characterize your entrance into the House of God".** We are asked to prepare ourselves for the Sacred Mysteries in which we are about to join in common worship.

The first thing to greet our ears is the Organ Prelude. Because we have all become so **conditioned by the endless assault of "Muzak",** it is tempting to treat the Organ Prelude in the same way. The Organ Prelude is not background music, something to be **"tuned out".**

**Neither is it a "recital". It is meant to help center** us on Divine worship, to draw us in, and focus our hearts on the altar, to fill our souls with holy expectation of the God who made us and redeems us, breaking into our lives.

Sometimes the Organ Prelude is assertive, full and joyful. At other times it is soft and meditative. In either case, it is in itself an important musical message. Have you ever noticed that, often, the music is based on one of the hymns sung that morning, or is a work by the same composer as **that morning's anthem or motet? Organists take** great care choosing this music, and spend considerable time practicing it, so that when Sunday morning comes, it will be a worthy offering to the Glory of God and the edification of man.

I invite you to take this music seriously and to let it help you prepare for all that is to follow. I consider it to be an important part of my ministry, just as any priest would his sermon. It is a gift I make each week to God and to each of you. Let it be your invitation into holy worship

Sheldon Eldridge, Organist and Choirmaster  
sheldoneldridge@comcast.net



# SET IT AND FORGET IT!



It's almost that time of year again: the holidays! Thanksgiving is coming, Christmas will be on its heels, and I'm pretty sure I'm going to forget something in there somewhere. Definitely not the St. Nicholas Child Bishop Mass on December 6th, though! I'd never forget Lessons and Carols on December 14th of course. On any given Sunday, though, I'll be likely to forget something: a message for Father, a dish for coffee hour, sometimes even my music! I'm always running around, so it's easy to forget things between four kids and choir rehearsal...but I won't forget my pledge, because I already made it electronically.

I know, "John, you're the evangelism chair!" but stewardship is something we're all responsible for, and regular pledges are the best stewardship we can have! During the summer when my family gets a few Sundays to go visit grandparents for the weekend, my pledge is already there. It's easier to budget for because I'm not going to have to double up the next week. It's like the Ronco-matic pledge: set it and forget it!

If you're not e-giving, it's easy to set up. If you're already set up it's easy to change. Just send Marietta an email, or call the office, and you're pretty much done. If you want to put something towards a special intention, you still have envelopes to bring on Sunday...as long as you don't do what I do, which is tuck it on the keyholder on Saturday night, then grab my keys the next morning, walk out, start my car, realize I left my music on the piano, go back, get my music, get to Wawa, turn onto Delaware, pull into the parking lot and realize I left the envelope on the keyholder.

So at least I have electronic giving, which keeps me from banging my head on the steering wheel most weeks. See you Sunday!

John Lyden, Vestry Chair of Evangelism  
rasputinaxp@gmail.com

# **NEW!** HVAC System

Sometimes we take for granted the comfort of heat and air conditioning at our Church services. Thanks to your faithful stewardship the replacement of our failed York HAAC system with a new Carrier HVAC system has been completed.

McAllister the Service Company installed and tested the new system completing the final work on October 4, 2018. Again your stewardship matters and allows us to maintain our systems, buildings and grounds.

Faithfully,  
Frank McGarry, Vestry Chair of Buildings and Grounds  
[fmcgarry139993@comcast.net](mailto:fmcgarry139993@comcast.net)







## BUDGET PLANNING COMMITTEE

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During their regular September meeting, Vestry invited five members of our parish in good standing to come together with the Executive Committee as the Budget Planning Committee. The 2019 parish budget will be presented to Vestry at their December 13th regular meeting for review and adoption. Each year, the fiscal reach of our parish is evaluated and adjusted in order to meet anticipated demands, opportunities for expanded mission, shifting demographics, priorities of Vestry, and expectations of the Diocese. Intended as the detailed roadmap toward our immediate future, a great deal goes into the process of Budget planning.

Vestry welcomes the following baptized, confirmed communicants as well as pledging members of our parish to the 2019 Budget Planning Committee: Frank McGarry, Phil Nichols, Cindy Babnew, Jim Bathurst, and Melinda Burrows. Their work is on our behalf and is facilitated by the prompt return of our annual giving commitment cards. Have you returned a pledge card? Please keep our parish in your intercessory prayer as the Budget Planning Committee goes about their particular ministry in interest of our ever expanding mission reach and the strengthening of our financial resolve.

**A**lmighty God, whose loving hand hath given us all that we possess: Grant us grace that we may honor thee with our substance, and, remembering the account which we must one day give, may be faithful stewards of thy bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*



# Jeff's Portable Sawmill



The latest from our own Jeff Lasoski in Madison, WI who has been awarded the contract for our four conference room tables. These four tables (two 7' and two 5') are made of silver maple and were designed in such a way that a number of different configurations may be achieved with maximum seating intended for fourteen. Adjustments to the bases were requested by Vestry and we hope to have delivery before Thanksgiving Day.

*On Monday, October 1st, Jeffery wrote in an email:*

Hey Father Burgess,

I have begun working on it, tops are made and working on the bases. My little brother hurt his knee playing soccer and so right now there is just two of us, trying to keep up. Should be done soon thank you for your patience!



# Christmas Tea



All Women of Christ Church are invited to a

## Christmas Tea

Hosted by the ECW

on Saturday, December 15

at 1:00 in the

Upper Assembly Room of the Parish House.

Serving tea, finger sandwiches, scones, and cookies

Sign up in the Parish Hall  
by December 12th or call the church office.  
(856) 845-0190



Episcopal Church Women Christmas Fundraiser  
to Support our Mission and Ministry

## Recipe in a Jar

Chocolate Chip Cookies  
Cranberry Oatmeal White Chocolate Chip  
\$8.00

Available in the Parish House Sunday  
November 25<sup>th</sup> December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>



# Faith of an English Catholic: The Sacramental Principal



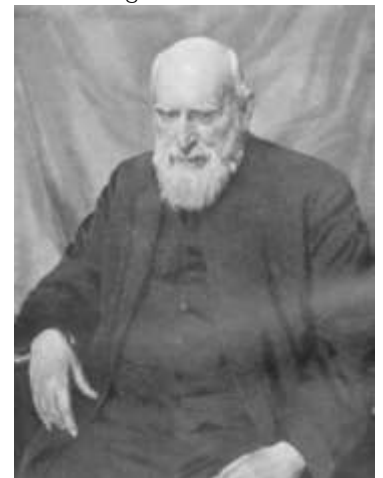
As it were in the Incarnation, so it is in the sacraments. The end is spiritual but there are material means. The water of Baptism is applied by a bodily hand, and words are spoken by a bodily voice; and the soul of the baptized person receives spiritual benefit. In Confirmation the recipient of the sacrament is touched by the hand or is anointed with oil, and the spiritual strength of the sacrament is received. In the Holy Eucharist words are spoken in regard to bread and wine, and the bread and wine are themselves spiritually transformed and become means of spiritual grace to those who use and receive them. In Penance words spoken by the mouth are instruments for spiritual forgiveness. In the Unction of the Sick, spiritual blessings are conveyed through the use of material oil. In Orders the laying on of hands and the words of the Bishop are used by the Holy Ghost to empower the ordained with spiritual gifts. In Matrimony the outward contract is so blessed by God that the relation of the married to one another is spiritual as well as bodily.

The sacraments are not magical. unlike the process of magic,

they are not used to bend an unwilling god to the will of worshippers. Rather, they are the provision of the loving God, who wills by means of them to help His creatures. Unlike the process of magic, they are not devised to produce mechanical effects in those who use them. There are indeed objective results. Those who are baptized or confirmed or ordained are and must remain baptized or confirmed or ordained persons even though there is no spiritual response in them to the administration of the sacrament. . . .

The sacramental principal, then, involves the use of material things as means of spiritual process in a way that is not magical.

From: *The Faith of an English Catholic* by Darwell Stone, Principal and Librarian, Pusey House, Oxford; and *Anglo-Catholic Theologian* (London: Longmans, Green and Co. Ltd., March 1926), Pg. 24 and 25





# A Gift From Afar

Among all the beautiful stained glass windows in Christ Church, one is unique. This window, located to the left of the pulpit and behind the organ console, was dedicated in September 1998 honoring the ministry of The Reverend Canon William V. Rauscher, the 11<sup>th</sup> Rector of Christ Church.

What makes this window different from the others is a tiny bit of material at the center top, between the branches of a tree and in front of a moon. This treasure is a piece of lunar material given to Christ Church by Astronaut Edgar D. Mitchell, the sixth man to walk on the moon and a close friend of Canon Rauscher.

Many of the long-time members of Christ Church are already aware of this gift. But what may be news to many is the beautiful letter written by Astronaut Mitchell to the congregation at the time of the presentation of this precious and unique gift.

So for your reading pleasure, here is Astronaut Mitchell's letter to the members of Christ Church – us! – in 1998:

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*I am very pleased that the Lunar Material I gave to my dear friend Canon William V. Rauscher has a permanent home in the stained glass window of Christ Church honoring his life and ministry. Some material gathered by myself and my associate Alan Shepard is estimated to be more than four billion years old, among the oldest found on the moon.*

*The gift you now possess, I brought back from my 500,000 mile journey to the moon on January 31, 1971. I was on the lunar surface thirty-three hours and thirty minutes. My journey lasted nine days. I returned to earth a different person on February 9<sup>th</sup>. I know when I walked on the moon that life in this universe was not just an accident based on random process and that the universe has meaning and direction. I encountered through mind that unseen dimension that has brought to life the intelligent design of the universe. I am the sixth man of twelve to walk on the surface of the moon.*

*My encounter with the cosmos occurred during the Apollo 14 flight and the successful landing of our lunar module "Antares" in the vicinity of Cone Crater, a thousand foot wide hole dug out by a meteor in an area near the Moon's equator and the Sea of Storms called the Fra Mauro formation. The lunar material in your window came from that very place.*

*Please remember that once you have seen the earth suspended like a tiny jewel against the immense velvet*



*sky it is impossible to resume the old ways of thinking and behaving – patterns and ways that have plagued mankind since the beginning of history. The view from space has shown me as no other event in my life has how limited a view man has of his own life and that of the planet.*

*May this gift serve to help remind you not only of outer space but also of inner space. The teachings of Jesus affirm that higher consciousness is the ultimate goal for those on earth if this planet and all its inhabitants are to survive and live in peace.*

*Sincerely,  
/s/ Edgar Mitchell*

As of this writing, only one other church on earth that we know of has a window containing lunar material. That window is located in the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C.

On a personal note: Canon Rauscher often visited Astronaut Mitchell in his home in Lake Worth, Florida. During one of his trips, while driving home after a late dinner the night turned especially dark, and the starless sky was illuminated only by a full moon. Astronaut Mitchell was driving his SUV, with Canon Rauscher seated beside him. During an particularly dark part of their journey Canon Rauscher looked up at the moon, and then turned and glanced at his friend whose face was reflected in the moonlit glow. **"This is surreal," the Canon thought to himself. "I'm sitting here in a car next to my friend Edgar – who walked on the surface of that very same moon I'm looking at."**

One final bit of history: Several years after Astronaut Mitchell returned from his trip to the moon his first son was born. He named him Adam. And I find that very appropriate.

Joan Mitchell  
babayaga430@verizon.net



## CALLING ALL MEN OF CHRIST CHURCH: IT IS TIME TO CONSIDER OUR MALVERN RETREAT!

This is a first official call to all men of Christ Church to consider joining us at what has become the **men's annual retreat opportunity**. This is the 12th year that we will be attending the Epiphany Retreat Weekend (January 4-6) at the Malvern Retreat House in Malvern, PA. The retreat begins at 6:00 PM on Friday and ends on Sunday morning. The retreat gives us the opportunity to step back from our busy and hectic schedules and draw closer to the Lord. This is a beautiful space for a retreat because of the accommodations and the grounds. The sessions will challenge you to consider where you are in your spiritual journey as well as to give you the opportunity to get to know other men of the Church. **The theme for this year is "Encountering the Divine Physician, Jesus Christ" with a focus on the three major characters in the parable of the Prodigal Son.** This is a real gift to give oneself, the gift of being able to spend quality time with other men who profess their faith.

If you are planning to attend, or if you would like to have more information, please contact Jim Bathurst at [jim5001@verizon.net](mailto:jim5001@verizon.net) or at (609)472-2812.



## Christ Church.....captured in a photo 130 years ago!

*Above-*This is perhaps the earliest known picture of the interior of Christ Church Woodbury. From Wikipedia we are told that "the use of photographic film was pioneered by George Eastman, who started manufacturing paper film in 1885 before switching to celluloid in 1888-1889. His first camera, which he called the 'Kodak,' was first offered for sale in 1888. It was a very simple box camera with a fixed-focus lens and single shutter speed, which along with its relatively low price appealed to the average consumer."

Based on the interior appointments and the history of the camera that uses photographic paper, we surmise that this picture was taken in 1889 on or near Easter Sunday. Notice the vent in the original hand cut tile floor that allowed an opening for heat to rise into the chancel and sanctuary from the coal burning furnace below in the undercroft.



Christ Church Today





# HONORING OUR OLDER ADULTS



On Saturday, September 29th family, friends and parishioners from throughout our diocese gathered within Trinity Cathedral in Trenton to give thanks for the specific ministries of our older adults. Sponsored by the Diocese of New Jersey - Committee for Ministry with Older Adults, 105 candidates received particular recognition for their lives and ministries among us. Bishop William Stokes officiated, spoke most favorably of later in life ministries, and pronounced a blessing over the honorees. Those receiving honors represented 56 parishes or missions of the Diocese of New Jersey.

Mr. Fran Fulghan and Mrs. Linda Rowe received this honor this year on behalf of Christ Church Woodbury. Nominated by the rector, staff, and Vestry of Christ Church, these two tireless lay leaders volunteer a great deal of time and talent while making their offering before the altar of God. Each continues to work for the expansion of Christ's kingdom while the manner in which they go about their particular ministries emboldens the Church.

*Congratulations to Fran and Linda for having received accolades from our entire diocese.*





# Thanksgiving Day

NOVEMBER 22 | HOLY EUCHARIST | 10:00 AM



## Join the Brotherhood

If you want to explore another level of your faith and fellowship at Christ Church, the Brotherhood of St. Andrew is waiting for you. **On Thursday evening, Nov. 29, Christ Church's chapter** of the national Brotherhood will bless and induct new members during a special Mass and service. The Brotherhood of St. Andrew is looking forward to another year of service to our church and community. Our mission is one of Prayer, Service and Study and we meet September through June beginning at 7:00 PM within the Parish Hall on the third Thursday of each month.

Among the projects undertaken by our men are the serving, grilling and cleanup at the annual parish picnic; assisting in the preparing of pancakes and sausage for the acolytes with the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper; and support of **the Seaman's Church Institute of Philadelphia and South Jersey**. In addition, several of our members make it a point to attend the three-day Malvern Retreat to recharge spiritual grounding during Epiphany weekend. In the year ahead we look forward to continuing several projects and finding ways to support and assist our church family and to community. Our meetings are interactive and include topical Bible study, discussion of ongoing projects, any other subjects we might consider and, of course, great fellowship.

If you have any questions or an interest in joining, contact Steve Shomo at [steve.shomo@yahoo.com](mailto:steve.shomo@yahoo.com) or Jim Atkins at [jatkins1127@iCloud.com](mailto:jatkins1127@iCloud.com)



# The Feast of St. Nicholas

## & THE SEATING OF THE ELEVENTH CHILD BISHOP

Thursday, December 6th | 6:00 PM | Reception to Follow

Christ Church in Woodbury, NJ



# A Quiet Addition to the Calendar

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For many years I kept track of upcoming events in my life with a pocket calendar - a paper pocket calendar. I remember those days fondly not only because a paper calendar created physical memorabilia, but also because my life was simple enough to be contained on paper.

When I purchased a *Palm Pilot* in 2002 it was perfect to deal with my life's growing complexities and it changed everything. Years worth of events could be entered and edited digitally without the need to erase, rewrite, or carry additional pages. The *Palm Pilot* was great at organizing everything, with the single glaring exception of the liturgical calendar. The liturgical calendar remained only on paper. I could track and observe liturgical events, but the paper format prevented those events from being seen with the regularity of things like my grocery list. I did not live the liturgical schedule in the same way I lived the other parts of my life.

**Now, when I look at my smartphone's calendar, I cannot even imagine keeping track of everything on paper.** Several years ago, I purchased the electronic *Book of Common Prayer* and was thrilled to be able to carry a digital version of the daily office readings. I was also finally able to synchronize the liturgical calendar with my own calendar of events. Church feast days, complete with readings, now show up right next to doctor appointments and car maintenance appointments making it easier to live the calendar.

Even with this feat of modern technology there remain some events that require special attention and must receive additional emphasis.

Yes, of course, I highlighted Thanksgiving at Christ Church on my calendar. Autumn colors bring the nave of the church alive in way unique to the day.

Yes, of course, I highlighted the St. Nicholas child bishop mass on my calendar. Giving young people a prominent role is essential to building up the church for generations to come.

Yes, of course, I marked *A Ceremony of Lessons and Carols* on my calendar. Being a service of evensong allows the music to be the highlight of the evening.

Yes, of course, I highlighted Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services on my calendar. These are joyous services that not one of us would miss.



This year I also marked something new on my calendar: Advent Quiet Day on Friday, December 7th. The season of **advent, neglected by the secular world's desire for instant gratification**, continues to assert itself by asking us to observe a time of patient anticipation. This prayerful evening will allow us to set aside the often frantic schedule of December and focus on Advent. The worship schedule for the evening includes *Evening Prayer*, *Holy Eucharist*, and *Compline*. Between these services there is scheduled time for meditation, reflection, prayer, and a light meal. Brother Steven Hawes will lead us in this Advent Quiet Day and proceeds of the evening will be donated to the Community of the Resurrection of which he is a part.

Any one of the events listed above could be seen as the highlight of the year; together they demonstrate the vibrancy of our parish and the dedication of our parishioners and clergy. Although few of us can observe every service on the calendar or attend every event organized by our church, my daily calendar now reminds me that as a parish community we observe them all.

Jeff Wenzel. Junior Warden  
thewenzel@gmail.com

Thanksgiving Day  
November 22

The Feast of St. Nicholas  
December 6

Advent Quiet Day  
December 7

A Ceremony of  
Lessons and Carols  
December 14

## 2018 Healthcare Ethics Seminar

As a member of the Bio Ethics Committee of *Inspira* Medical Center in Woodbury, Father Burgess attended the Third Annual Healthcare Ethics Seminar sponsored by the *Inspira* Health Network. Over 150 registered for the event which was held on September 27th at The Grove at Centerton in Elmer, NJ. Topics included: Supporting the Second Victim of Healthcare Error; Serving a Diverse Population, Communicating Through our Own Biases; Treating the Medical and Behavioral Health Needs of the Opioid Dependent Patient; Serving the Mental Health Needs of Veterans.

In interest of continuing education, those with pastoral, medical, legal, financial and administrative oversight came together from many different South Jersey campuses to broaden their perspective in an ever expanding healthcare environment.



# You are appreciated.

- Thank you to former parishioners Tom and Nancy Seddon for remembering us while traveling through the Holy Land. Tom and Nancy moved to Southeast Florida and now Central Florida in their retirement. While in the Holy Land, they filled a bottle of water from the Jordan River as a gift to Fr. Burgess. Tom is the father of our own Matthew Seddon and grandfather to Michael Seddon.

- Thank you to Junior Warden Jeff Wenzel and Clerk of Vestry Sarah Rash for combining efforts in organizing an

opportunity for food and fellowship with the people of St. George's in Pennsville. During the first week of August, while Father Burgess was on vacation, Fr. Boatwright of St. George's offered the Thursday evening Feast of the Transfiguration (tr.) Mass before the altar of Christ Church. Thinking quickly as well as hospitably, these two parish leaders organized an opportunity for extended Eucharistic fellowship at Ciconte's Italian Restaurant in Thorofare for those of both parishes who made their Holy Communion together. For all who participated, it was a more than enjoyable evening.

- Thank you to Nathaniel Maggi for offering the organ music during Communion on the Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost (September 2nd). The outstanding offering of the Bach Minuet in G Major added to the sanctity of the moment and made us mindful of the responsibility we hold for raising up the next generation of quality church musicians. The music was offered precisely, stylistically, and without even the slightest corruption of tempo or meter. This young man, puts a great deal of effort into all that he pursues. His grandfather (Richard Kurtz) and grandmother (Gloria Kurtz) have impressed upon him the priority of making music to the glory of God and for the edification of His Church.
- Thank you to Chief Randall Gartner and the Woodbury Fire Department for responding so quickly and professionally to our emergency call for assistance. Late in the afternoon on Tuesday, September 4th, It was discovered, shortly after being worked on by a service technician, that the mulch at the bottom of the compressor serving the air conditioning unit to the church was on fire. As the compressor fans operated, the hidden embers were stoked to a greater and greater flame. The fire was extinguished in the proper manner and the service technician inspected the entire unit for any damage. Because of the fire department's quick response, the air unit was saved, and the fire was not allowed to spread.
- Thank you to vestrymen Matthew Seddon and Kim Wright for leading us into such a fun, inviting and well organized Opportunity Sunday. It has been a number of years since we have enjoyed this offering to this level and with such tremendous participation. Opportunity Sunday this year came to us with the theme of *County Fair*. Those who participated adorned their ministry booths with carnival games such as ring toss and typical county fair food to include caramel apples. Based on the number of hotdogs served, and with both the first and second floor assembly rooms being utilized, we estimate that approximately 150 participated in the day's event. *Bravo!* Matt and Kim.
- Thank you to Jane Gosdis for capturing the life of our parish in such wonderful photographs. She volunteered her time and talent to capture the festivities of Rally and Opportunity Sunday. We always look forward to her particular offering enhancing our newsletter and parish website.
- Thank you to Kate Baldwin for her vision and leadership when it came to organizing our 2019 Annual Giving Campaign. The manner in which she led us into and through Consecration Sunday brought glory to God while encouraging us to approach stewardship first and foremost as a people on exodus together. The gatherings were well planned, the vision was beautifully communicated, the invitations were timely, and we experienced an expression of our parish that inspired thankful hearts for all that we are and all that is yet to come. Please express your appreciation for Kate and the rest of our parish leadership by completing an annual giving commitment card. Empower them to plan as well as act boldly for our future.




- Thank you to our former Mayor Don Sanderson for inspecting a plum tree on our property that we have become more than a bit concerned over. In addition to being a good friend of Christ Church, Don is a trained arborist. His recommendation was factored into the conversation that we are having with our landscaper in interest of taking measures now to save the tree.
- Thank you to Nathaniel Maggi for vesting and serving as acolyte for the Friday evening Mass on the Feast of the Holy Cross. His presence with his mother invited the invitation for him to serve alongside the rector in such an extraordinary manner. This was his first attempt at standing as first server and having concern over the credence table. He did a tremendous job.
- Thank you to Sage Rickert for assisting Fr. Burgess during the adult form. Following her participation in Sunday school, she made sure that all the hand-out sheets for the small group exercise in the upper assembly room were collected and returned.
- Thank you to Riley Shomo for standing in for her father by attending the parish leadership dinner with her mother on Wednesday, September 12th within our Parish House. Over fifty-parish leaders were present for a reception, dinner and to greet our 2018 keynote speaker, Mr. John Campbell. Riley, who began first grade this year, took part in the entire evening and represented her father exceptionally well.
- Thank you to the *tremendous* team of Telecorp, Inc. for keeping our parish office computers running at their absolute optimum. These IT professional are always immediately accessible and so cordial when we call with a situation that requires their attention (even on a weekend). For most situations, they dial into our specific computer, make corrections, run a diagnosis, install the most updated spyware and then report back their evaluation.
- Thank you to Linda Burns Catering for once again assisting us with our banquet needs. Linda prepared and served three tremendous meals on behalf of our Consecration Sunday and Oktoberfest festivities. Her staff is always most professional, prepared, and helpful. They "go the extra mile."
- Thank you to former choral scholar Lauren Canna for substituting on a regular basis as our choral music program underwent auditions for our alto scholar. Lauren is a dear friend of our parish and an accomplished music teacher in her own right. Both her smile and her attitude toward her offering is contagious.
- Thank you to Audrey Daugherty for concerning herself with the oversight needs of our altar guild while our directress was visiting children and grandchildren in Arizona. All went well as small matters of concern were handled effortlessly. Audrey's leadership throughout our parish is recognized, appreciated, and celebrated.
- Thank you to Karin McGarry for offering her talent as cellist on the Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost. She joined our organist and choirmaster in accompanying the Choir in their offering of J. S. Bach's *Jesu, joy of man's desiring* (from Cantata 147). Karin always brings to the sacred liturgy an encounter with holiness through her high degree of musical proficiency and sense of spiritual depth.
- Thank you to Jeff Wenzel for donating a Dell computer keyboard to the parish office. Fr. Burgess' keyboard was missing 12 of the symbols/letters on his keys. It was time. It is amazing how muscle memory kicks in when looking for an a, e, g, > and l.
- Thank you to Father David Laquintano for his assistance during the week when Fr. Burgess must be away from the parish. Now resident in Swathmore, Pennsylvania, Fr. Laquintano is the recently retired



rector of Holy Trinity Church in Ocean City, NJ, and a celebrated priest of our diocese. Previously a pastor within the Baptist tradition, on November 7th, Fr. Laquintano celebrates 31 years of ordained ministry within the Episcopal Church.

- Thank you to the staff of Fox Trail Assisted Living at Deptford for allowing a handful of parishioners to have a bit of a house warming event for our own Jeanne Webb. Those who are regular in their attendance during the Friday Evening Office gathered within her new residential facility for a tour and a reception. All took place following the Evening Office at Christ Church and invited a toast to Jeanne's beautifully planned and professionally staffed new surroundings.
- Thank you to acolytes Colwyn Moser, Charles (C. J.) Moser, Josephine Moser, and Michael Seddon, for serving as hosts during the 2018 Fall Meeting of the Woodbury Convocation on October 30th within the upper assembly room of our own parish hall. For many attending that meeting, this would have been their first time within our newly renovated parish hall. These acolytes gave tours, assisted with the operation of lift, and served refreshments in interest of a well organized evening.
- Thank you to parish administrator Marietta Hutchison for compiling and maintaining a file of coupons from such retail businesses as Staples, Amazon, Michael's, and Walmart. The discounts we are able to take advantage of when making tax-exempt purchases has saved our parish hundreds of dollars.
- Thank you to all of our nursery volunteers who so beautifully and lovingly assist our nursery sitter on any given Sunday morning. Although a well-oiled machine, at times, there are up to 8 infants and toddlers in the nursery all with very important needs of their own. This is another example of Christ Church reaching toward and welcoming its very bright future.
- Thank you to Mike Sanchez for organizing and offering two training sessions for those participating in our ushers ministry. This vital ministry of our parish is being asked to accomplish more and more in interest of hospitality, evangelism, safety, and security. If you are interested in serving as an usher, please let Mike Sanchez know or simply contact the parish office.
- Thank you to Deacon Jorge Liriano Martinez of St. Andrews's in Camden for securing a table of twelve during our Oktoberfest gathering on Friday, October 26th. Having benefit of these faithful churchmen joining us not only for worship but for an evening of food, libations, and dancing was a tremendous statement of extended Eucharistic joy and gladness. This is just one of the many ways that Christ Church Woodbury truly and authentically passes The Peace.



# BLOOD DRIVE

## Dr. B. Dawson Shoemaker Memorial Blood Drive

There is always a need for blood. Did you know that your gift of one pint of blood can potentially help 3 persons? Did you know that cancer patients are now the largest group of people that will benefit from your blood donation? Did you know that you are eligible to donate blood every 57 days? Did you know that it only takes about one hour of your time to save a life?

**Your help is needed to make this year's drive a success we need donors.** The annual Christ Church Blood Drive in memory of B. Dawson Shoemaker, MD, will take place on Thursday, January 31 from 2:00 PM to 7:00 PM. It will take place in the Parish Hall. For many years Dr. Shoemaker served his medical and Christ Church communities with an untiring effort of caring and compassionate concern. The American Red Cross Blood Drive is a means by which Christ Church can show the same concern that Dr. Shoemaker showed to others. We need donors! You may sign up online, beginning now, at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org), by calling Mary Beth or Jim Bathurst at 856-686-0559, or send an e-mail request to [jim5001@verizon.net](mailto:jim5001@verizon.net). We also need **"bakers"** to make cookies for the day of the Drive. Donors are thrilled when they can partake of home-baked items.



# From the Acolyte Masters

The Acolyte Masters would like to thank all Acolytes and the Parish for the continued dedication and support of this Ministry. As we move into the holiday season it will be a busy time for the Acolytes.

We would like to extend our sincere invitation for all the members of the Parish to join us on Sunday November 25<sup>th</sup> for Christ the King. All Acolytes will be in attendance and in procession. Please make plans to attend and personally thank them for their continued service to our Parish.

Acolytes are also reminded of the upcoming Ceremony of Lessons and Carols on December 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM and all three Christmas Eve services. If scheduled to serve on those dates please make same a priority. If for some reason unable to attend please secure an age and training appropriate substitution well in advance.

Finally the acolyte masters would like to thank **Deacon Jorge and the Acolytes of St. Andrew's** Camden who assisted during the Michaelmas mass. We truly enjoy having your participation and fellowship and look forward to them joining us in future services!

Faithfully,

Steven Lewis and Rob Johnson, Acolyte Masters

Steve Lewis  
(856) 223-9799

Rob Johnson  
(856) 415-7652



## WHATS AHEAD?

As the chairperson of programs and activities I would like to take a moment to express my praise of Thanksgiving for the blessing of such a wonderful parish family.

Our Opportunity and Consecration Sunday events were considered a huge success and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves.

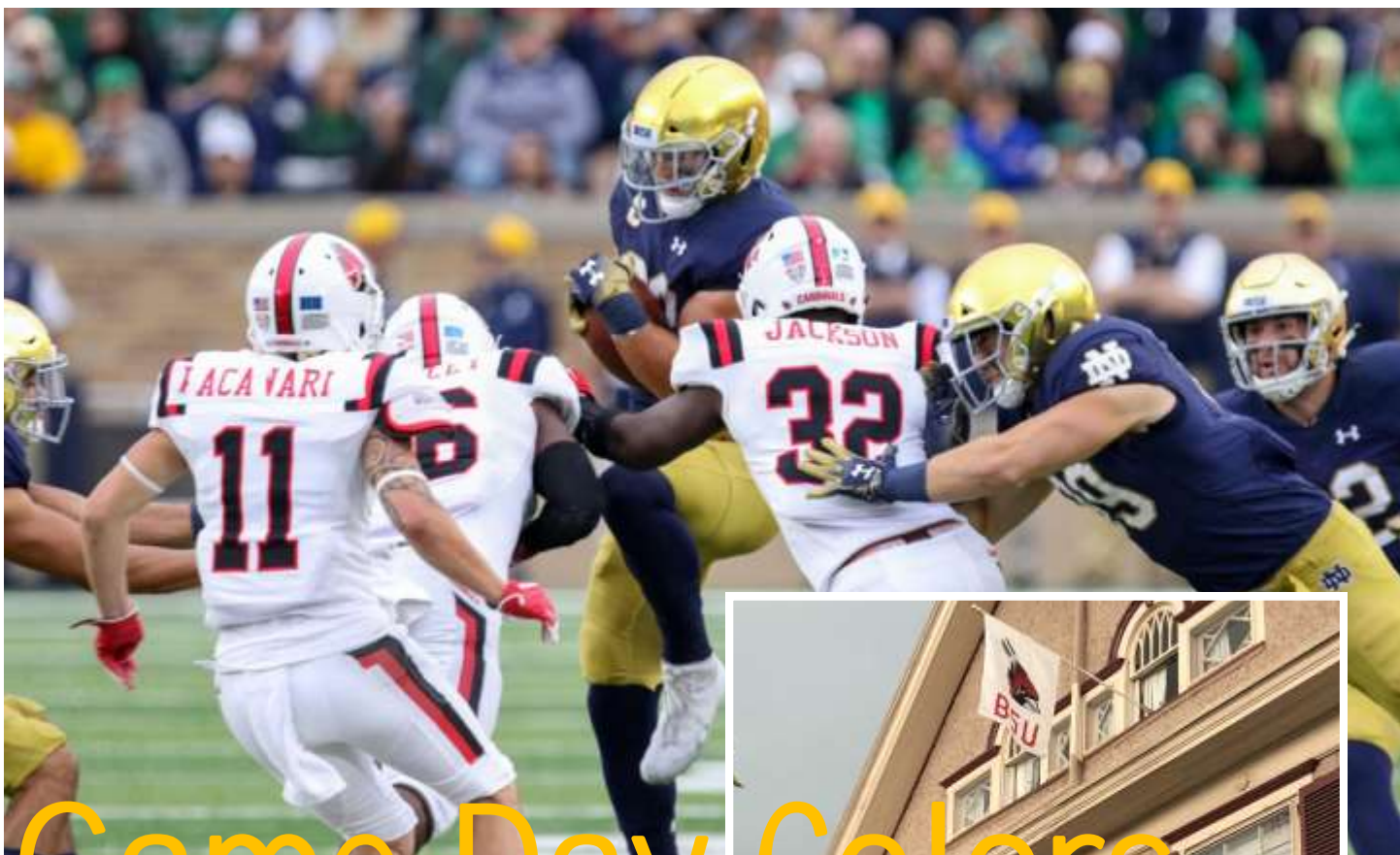
Looking ahead we have a few busy months with Oktoberfest and lots of fun to be had on the evening of the 26th.

In November, we celebrate a wonderful Thanksgiving Day eucharist to give thanks to the Lord for all that he has provided for us.

December brings us to the Child Bishop Mass on the 6th which the children love to participate by writing their essays. After Mass a reception is held in our parish hall to celebrate.

Then we have our absolutely beautiful Lessons and Carols on December 14th which fills the church and has been the talk of the town since we began offering it. I have gone every year and each time it has touched my heart. I look forward to seeing everyone at these celebrations. Please join us if you are able and thank you all for making Christ Church what it is today.

Kim Wright, Vestry Chair of  
Programs and Activities  
kimwright71@comcast.net



# Game Day Colors

On September 8th of this year, the Ball State University Cardinals traveled to South Bend, IN to square off in football against the Notre Dame Fighting Irish. Being graduates of Ball State, Father and Denise Burgess flew the colors from the rectory, high enough so that the priests occupying the rectory of Holy Angels Roman Catholic parish could see and be placed on notice that the rectory of Christ Church is inhabited by Ball State Cardinals. The final score was 24 to 16 with Notre Dame having *to earn* every yard and every point of their hard fought victory. Wait till next year!

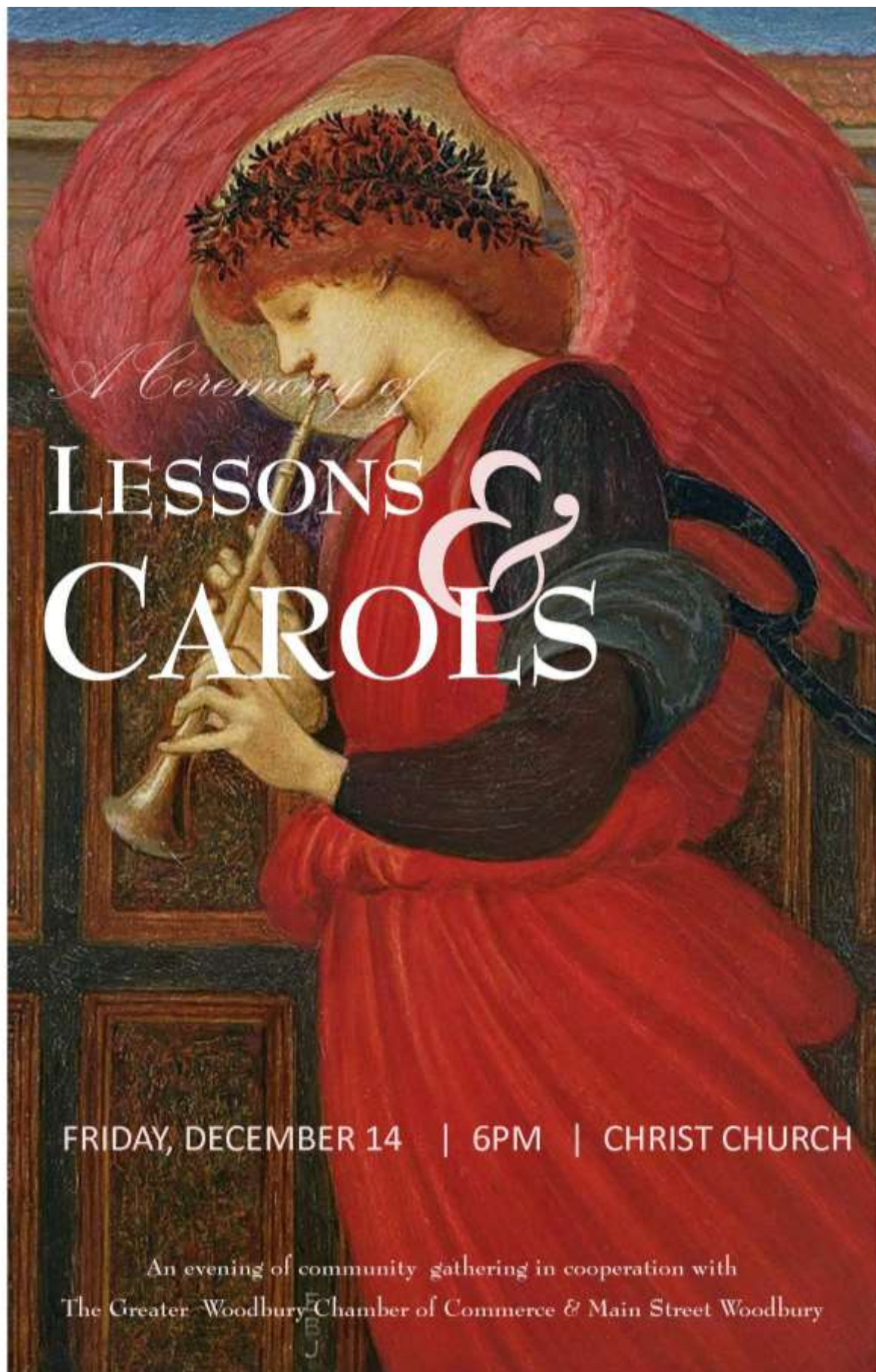


## Attention Graduating Seniors Apply for the 2019 Van Duzer Scholarship

The purpose of the Bishop Van Duzer scholarship fund is to assist high-school seniors preparing to enter their first year of accredited post-secondary education. Applicants should be aware that certain criteria will be considered in the awarding of scholarship funds: service to the local and wider church, community service, academic achievement, and financial need. This application and additional information must be electronically submitted no later than April 1, 2019 to the Diocese of New Jersey.

[https://dioceseofnj.formstack.com/forms/vanduzer\\_scholarship\\_application](https://dioceseofnj.formstack.com/forms/vanduzer_scholarship_application)







Attention @1856 Youth Group meetings are back in full swing for the new school year. Remember we meet the first Sunday of the month after Dismissal of the 10:00 service in the downstairs of the parish house. ***Come out and meet our "special" guest.***

**Upcoming dates:**

November 4th  
December 2nd  
January 6th

We have a few events coming up soon. Save the date on your calendar and join us in the fun and fellowship with the other members. We have a lot of fun together!

**Upcoming events:**

**November 4th-** We are hosting coffee hour for the Adult Forum. What fun to greet the members of the parish!

**November 17th-** We are hosting a Thanksgiving dinner at the Gosdis' House. We will be starting at 4:00pm. We will be collecting items for donation to the GWCM Food Pantry.

**Save the Date:**

**January 12th** for Dinner and a Movie!!

If you are interested about the @1856 Youth Group or you would like to help with the fine youth of our parish please contact me by email or by cell phone.

Jane Gosdis, Youth Group Director  
jane@gosdis.com or (856)217-3037



# Sacristy Notes

*From: Dorothy Diggs, A Working Manual for Altar Guilds  
(New York: Morehouse-Barlow, Co., 1968)*



Certain vessels are necessary adjuncts to worship in the Episcopal Church. If in new missions and under certain conditions in parishes it is unavoidable that substitutes for these be used, suitable and correct vessels should be procured as soon as possible. In very many cases these are given to churches as memorials.

## *Vessels needed for the Holy Communion are:*

- ◆ Chalice and paten
- ◆ Bread box
- ◆ Wine and water cruets
- ◆ Lavabo bowl

Wine may be kept in the bottle in which it comes from the manufacturer. It may also be stored in a flagon, or in a large glass cruet, or in a decanter.

If the Sacrament is reserved, a ciborium will be needed as well as a pyx.

When it is the custom of the parish to use incense, a censer, or thurible, with a "boat" will be necessary.

Alms basins or offering plates, must be provided, the number and size depending on parish needs. A large receiving basin for the smaller plates will be helpful.

## *Vessels needed for Baptisms are:*

- ◆ Ewer, usually of silver or brass
- ◆ Baptismal bowl
- ◆ Baptismal shell

A small communion set for administering to the sick should be acquired. Some priests have these given them by family or friends at their ordinations, but when it is possible for the parish to have one of its own it is much more satisfactory.

## *Sacristy supplies include:*

- ◆ Hand towels for clergy - linen, cotton, or terry cloth
- ◆ Covers for vesting chest
- ◆ Cleaning and polishing cloths
- ◆ Soaps, polishes, and brushes
- ◆ Sewing equipment
- ◆ Notepads, labels, pencils, tape, thumb tacks

These are but a few needs and each individual Altar Guild will determine its own. Everything should be done to keep the altar and sacristy appointments well cared for and anything required to bring this about should be procured.





From *Answers to Laymen's Questions* by The Right Reverend James P. DeWolfe, Bishop of Long Island (1942-1966). New York: Morehouse-Barlow Company, 1959

# Answers to Laymen's Questions

Does the  
Episcopal  
Church  
believe  
in fasting?

Yes. A Table of Fasts can be found on page li of the introductory pages of the [1928] Book of Common Prayer [Page 17 of the 1979 Book of Common Prayer]. Days of strict fasting are Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. "Other days of fasting, on which the Church requires such a measure of abstinence as is more especially suited to extraordinary acts and exercises of devotion," include the forty days of Lent; the Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday of the four Ember Seasons; all the Fridays in the year except Christmas Day and the Epiphany, or any Friday which may intervene between those feasts; and the three Rogation Days of solemn supplication, being the Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday before Ascension Day. The usual interpretation of abstinence includes not eating flesh meats and cutting total food consumption during a single day to about two-thirds of one's usual daily eating.

Because fasting before the reception of Holy Communion is so ancient and so general a custom in the Church, the revisers of the Book of Common Prayer in 1928 considered it unnecessary to introduce a rubric directing the practice. Every Friday is a commemoration of Good Friday. In olden days flesh meats constituted the chief diet of the people. Not to eat flesh meats, therefore, was the most effective way of practicing self-denial. Fasting is a vital element in conforming to the discipline of the Church. The sinfulness of not fasting depends upon individual cases; dispensation from fasting may be granted by the bishop and the parish priest in their extension of the Pastoral Ministry.



# THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

Grab a paper bag and fill it during your next time out shopping. Help Christ Church provide Greater Woodbury Cooperative Ministries Food Bank the supplies they desperately need.

We had a  
resounding  
response  
to the  
summer  
food drive  
and this  
our  
opportunity to  
KEEP IT  
GOING!

*Items that usually most needed include the following:*

Applesauce, Canned Proteins (Beans, Chicken, Tuna, Salmon, Ham, SPAM), Canned Vegetables, Cooking Oils (Olive and Canola), Crackers, Dried Herbs and Spices, Canned or Dried Fruit, Granola Bars, Instant Mashed Potatoes, Meals in a Box, Nuts, Peanut Butter, Rice, Shelf Stable and Powdered Milks, Canned or Packaged Soups, Stews and Chili, Whole Grain Cereals. *Avoid junk food and items with glass or cellophane packaging that can break.*

**Have an idea or want to help us plan next year's outreach programs?**  
I would love to hear from you.

Christopher Piskun, Outreach  
cpiskun@yahoo.com

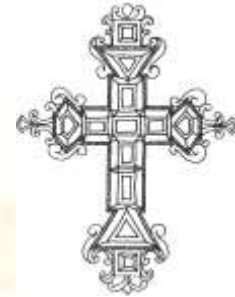
## FAMILY GAME NIGHT

FRIDAY, JANUARY 18th at 7:00PM

The following people/families have turned in a pledge card in support of the mission of Christ Church in the year 2019. *Thank You!*

Paul and Deb Allbright  
Robin and Jim Atkins  
Kate and Matt Baldwin  
Jim and Mary Beth Bathurst  
Pat Bolton  
Joseph and Sharon Bowen  
Frank & Debra Brooks-Manall  
Father and Denise Burgess  
John and Melinda Burrows  
Patrick Coleman  
Sarah Cranston  
Hughie Curtis  
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Daugherty  
Carol Eells  
Ed and Allene Ferrell  
Margaret Frasier  
Fran and Judy Fulgham  
Shane and Jane Gosdis  
Russell Griffith  
Frank and Helen Gwaltney  
David T. Hanson  
Mark Hendricks  
Kim Henning  
Doug and Carol Hill  
Richard and Regina Howey, Jr.  
Kim and Rob Johnson  
Jonathan Jones  
Susann Kaback  
Mrs. Carolyn Kinkler  
Laura D. Kurtz  
Richard and Gloria Kurtz  
Bernard and Beverly Lasoski  
Elaine Lewis  
Stanley Lewis  
Steve and Jennifer Lewis  
Jerry and Linda Lonabaugh  
Tom and Jean Lucas  
The Lyden Family  
The Mass Family  
Frank and Karin McGarry  
Scott & Marilynn McGeoch  
Doreen Mills  
Joan A. and George T.  
Mitchell, Jr.

Chester and Janice Morrison  
Donald and Karen Moser  
Mark Nester  
Phil and Taeko Nichols  
Mark and Susan Novalsky  
Nancy Parker  
Janet and Reynold Philipp  
Jerry and Pam Pierson  
Christopher Piskun  
Mary Ellen Quinn  
Canon William V. Rauscher  
E. Diana Redfield  
John E. Redfield  
Cheryl Rheiner  
Barbara Rickert  
Dorothy Rodano  
Garry Rowe  
Linda Rowe  
The Sager Family  
Mike and Darcie Sanchez  
Kevin and Michele Schiffer  
Penny Scott  
Matthew and Sophie Seddon  
The Sheeky Family  
Barbara Sheets  
Robertta and Steve Shomo  
Gwendolyn Simpson  
Brandy and Dennis Sims  
Jean and John Smith  
Jennifer Smith  
Jim and Helen Straub  
Sandra H. Sutton  
Caroll Tillberg  
Sue Velasquez  
Kathleen Viereck  
Jeanne Webb  
Jeff and Tracey Wenzel  
Donna and Jim Wenzel  
Ted and Dolores Wilgus  
David and Victoria Wishnick  
The Wright Family  
Anonymous (5)



**The Bishop Doane Society:**  
Recognizes parishioners in good standing who have pledged and contributed \$80.00 a week or more to our Annual Giving Campaign.

**The Rev. Herbert Norris Society:**  
Recognizes those parishioners in good standing who have increased their pledge over the last calendar year and met it.

**The 1856 Society:**  
Recognizes those parishioners in good standing who have maintained an un-interrupted pattern of meeting pledged giving over the past five-years or more.



# Monegasque princess removed from British line of succession for becoming Catholic

Monaco, Oct 1, 2018 / 12:29 pm (CNA/EWTN News).- Princess Alexandra of Hanover, a member of the royal family of Monaco, has reportedly been removed from her distant place in the British line of succession after having become a Catholic.

The news was reported in English Sept. 27 by Royal Central, which cited Point de Vue, a French weekly.

Because the British monarch is head of the Church of England, which is the established church, British law bars Catholics from succeeding to the throne.

The Succession to the Crown Act 2013 allowed heirs to the throne to marry Catholics, among other changes. However, the law still stipulates that the acting British sovereign mustn't be a Catholic. Catholics have been barred from the English throne since the Act of Settlement 1701.

The website of the British monarchy lists only the first 17 persons in the line of succession.

Princess Alexandra, 19, was born in Austria and was baptized as a Lutheran two months after her birth. She is the daughter of Caroline, Princess of Hanover and Prince Ernst August of Hanover. Through her father she is descended from Victoria, Princess Royal, the eldest child of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert.

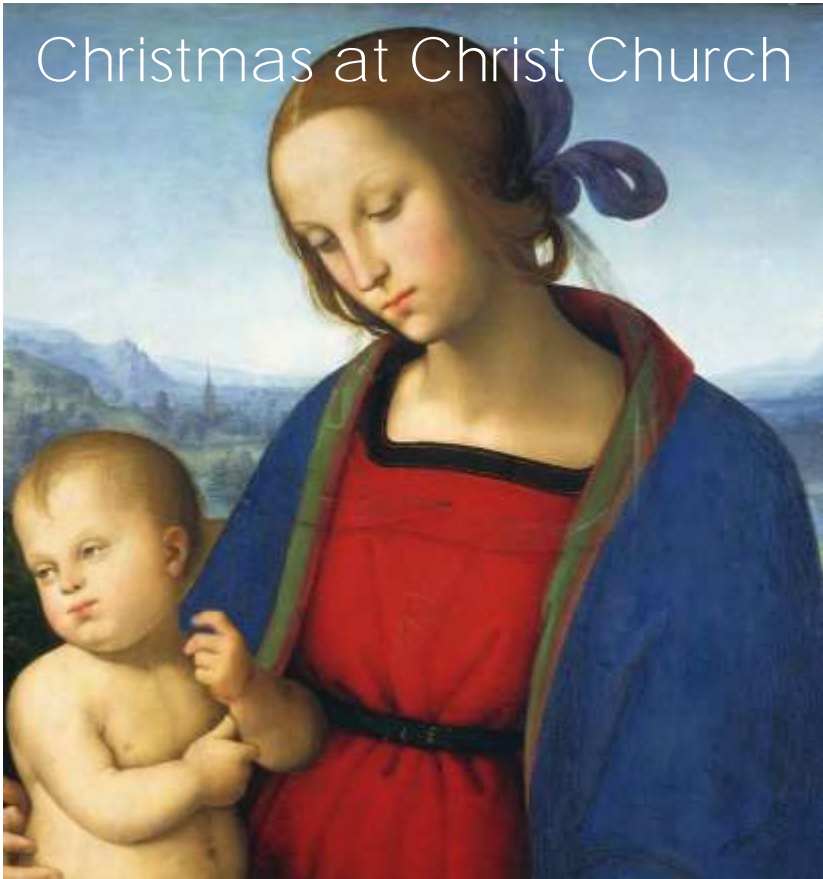
Alexandra is the granddaughter of Grace Kelly, who in 1956 became Princess of Monaco when she married Rainier III. So in addition to having been in the British line of succession, Alexandra is 12th in line to the Monegasque throne.

She is a figure skater, and has represented Monaco at international skating competitions.

Along with Alexandra, Lord Nicholas Windsor has also been excluded from the British line of succession for becoming Catholic. Lord Nicholas is a great-grandson of George V, and was baptized in the Church of England. He was received into the Catholic Church in 2001.



## Christmas at Christ Church



### CHRISTMAS EVE

Monday, December 24th

Holy Eucharist with  
Traditional Carols | 5:00 PM\*

Choral Eucharist | 7:00 PM\*

Solemn Midnight Mass | 11:00 PM

### CHRISTMAS DAY

Tuesday, December 25th

Holy Eucharist with  
Traditional Carols | 10:00 AM

*\* Denotes nursery is available*



## Society of the Holy Cross 2018 Provincial Synod

During the month of September, Father Burgess (front and center, left) attended the Annual Provincial Synod of the Society of the Holy Cross (SSC) in the Americas. Fifty Society priests of the more than 150 were in attendance from The United States and Canada. The Society gathers annually in interest of prayer, mutual support, offering the Holy Sacrifice of the Altar, theological meditations, and hearing from the Provincial Master. This year's provincial synod was hosted by The Parish of All Saints Ashmont in Boston, Massachusetts. Those attending were informed that the 2020 Provincial Synod will be held in conjunction with the Provincial Synod of England and Wales in London, England.



# Saddle Up

put on your boots and mosey on over for a

## COUNTRY WESTERN JAMBOREE

We're celebrating MAD HATTER 2019

A Two-Step Progressive Dinner

Save the Date: February 23, 2019

SO COME  
ON Y'ALL



*Vestry invites parish leaders to submit a 2019 ministry grant request for funds generated from our annual Mad Hatter dinner.*

Letters of request must be addressed to Vestry and delivered to the Parish Office no later than December 3rd

Measurable objectives impacting mission, evangelism, education or outreach should be held up in the interest of reaching toward our future as disciples of Christ.

Vestry will review all written requests based on the above criteria and select the 2019 grant recipient(s) during their 2018 regular December meeting.

*Thank you for taking such a leadership role in ushering in the future of Christ Church.*



## The Bells of St. Martin's Fall Silent As Churches in Harlem Struggle

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In a tower above Malcolm X Boulevard in Harlem are more than 40 large bells that were fabricated in the Netherlands — they form the carillon of a once-proud church, **St. Martin's**, and are one of only three carillons in New York City. The queen mother of the Netherlands attended a dedication ceremony in the 1950s. The current Episcopal bishop of New York **says it was "a giant big deal" that she was there.**

The bells were last played in July, and then only briefly during an inspection by a carillon expert. The last time they were heard regularly was in 2013 because the carillon has been **"deemed structurally**

**unsound,"** said Malcolm J. Merriweather, a member of the congregation. He is also a conductor and an assistant professor of music at Brooklyn College.

The carillon has become a flash point in a dispute among some members of St. Martin's and the Episcopal Diocese of New York over how to repair the instrument and the rest of the decaying church building. In August, **the bishop replaced the congregation's lay leaders after failing to come to terms on \$2.4 million that he offered to advance for the repair work. He wanted St. Martin's to repay the money to the diocese by selling one of three nearby brownstones that it owns.**

Real estate also figures in the conversation at another nearby Harlem church, Metropolitan Community United Methodist Church. **Like St. Martin's, Metropolitan Community is in such bad repair that services are no longer being held in the sanctuary, where the ceiling collapsed a couple of years ago.**

The struggles of the two congregations are emblematic of the troubles afflicting what was once one of the most church-filled and church-conscious neighborhoods in the United States. But attendance in Harlem has dwindled as America has become less religious, and some congregations in Harlem have merged with others in an effort **to remain viable. Nationally, with polls indicating that more Americans than ever consider themselves "spiritual but not religious,"** headline writers summarize what has happened as "the great American unchurching" or "the de-churching of America."

At Metropolitan Community, the Rev. Richard N. Hayes said the plan was to sell some of the church's real estate — including the sanctuary. Reverend Hayes said the congregation would then build a new building on a nearby lot that the church owns and does not plan to sell.

Selling the sanctuary building has angered people who do not want to lose a part of Harlem's past. Among them is Derek Q. Johnson, who grew up in Metropolitan Community, even as he acknowledged that it was hard



to describe the building as being “in a state of anything other than perhaps unsalvageable disrepair.” But he also talked about accountability “both for the community of people who count themselves as worshipers and congregants” and for church leaders who, he said, “recognizing that these churches have lost their relevance — the relevance of yesteryear that commands the kind of maintenance funding you’d have to put in to sustain them — have become accountants rather than spiritual fiduciaries.”

The tribulations at Metropolitan have a familiar ring to Michael Henry Adams, a historian who leads tours in Harlem and is the author of “Harlem: Lost and Found, an Architectural and Social History, 1765-1915.”

“Historically, the old people I’ve talked to say there was a bar and a church on every corner,” Mr. Adams said. “Today, there’s neither.” He said the disappearance of bars was understandable. “People socialize in a different way” nowadays, he said. “Bars are no longer neighborhood living rooms where people go on a regular basis.”

As for churches, he worries that the money from selling assets will not last as long as leaders expect it to, “and sooner or later they’ll be right back where they started.” Churches, he added, could be replaced by apartment buildings with condominiums filled with the kind of people who will not help the neighborhood’s remaining sanctuaries. “The overwhelming majority of people who buy condominiums in these buildings will be white,” he said, “and therefore will hasten the day that these churches close altogether because it is unlikely that most of these people who move into these condominiums will become members of these churches.”

Both churches were built by white congregations before Harlem became a black metropolis — Metropolitan Community in 1870, St. Martin’s a decade later. The original white Methodist congregation moved out in the 1930s. A black congregation that had been worshipping nearby took title to the building.

St. Martin’s was taken over by a black congregation under The Rev. John Howard Johnson, who led a boycott of retailers on 125th Street, a main street for shopping in Harlem, who resisted hiring or promoting blacks.

A fire in 1939 left the building badly damaged, but as Father Johnson’s parishioners made plans to rebuild, they commissioned the carillon. The Rev. David Johnson, Father Johnson’s son and successor at St. Martin’s, proudly called the carillon “the poor people’s bells.” The expert who played the carillon in July called it something else: “A cultural treasure” and “an irreplaceable historical instrument.”

The expert, Tiffany Ng of the University of Michigan, also noted that it was the first carillon in the world to be played by a black musician, Dionisio A. Lind, who moved to the larger carillon at the Riverside Church 18 years ago. Mr. Merriweather said that St. Martin’s did not replace him.

What has played out at St. Martin’s over the last few months has been a complicated tale of architects and contractors, some brought in by the lay leaders of the church, others by the Episcopal diocese. The vestry — the parish’s governing body, made up of lay leaders — wrote the diocese in July with concerns that the diocese “would seek to pass along the costs” to the vestry, even though the vestry had not been involved in hiring the architects and contractors the diocese sent in. Some parishioners complained of a lack of transparency on the diocese’s part.

Bishop Andrew M.L. Dietsche said it was not the carillon that had brought St. Martin’s to his attention, but a structural survey conducted several years ago. By spring 2017, Bishop Dietsche said the architect who had



conducted the survey was warning that “the bell tower is in such urgent trouble that it is not inconceivable it could collapse in the next 30 days.”

The architect’s report also said the tower was “supported primarily by gravity,” after noting that a brick backup wall “effectively has no mortar.” The roof and floor in the tower had been “saturated with water for so many years that the wood is severely rotted.”

In 2017, Bishop Dietsche offered the church what amounted to a loan of \$2.4 million. “I said, ‘You don’t have any money, but you do have what most parishes don’t, a surplus of real estate,’” he said in a recent interview. He said he had called for St. Martin’s to repay the money by selling one of three nearby brownstones that it owns.

The bishop said that time passed, but no one from the vestry signed the contract he had prepared to codify the deal for the diocese to advance the money to the church. “I came to wonder if they were willing to sell the brownstones,” he said of the members of the vestry.

In August, he dissolved the vestry after designating St. Martin’s a vulnerable parish under church law, steps he said he took because of the “absolutely on-fire urgency of getting the necessary contract agreements signed so we could go forward with the restoration.” By then, he said, the diocese had put about \$400,000 into preparatory rehabilitation work.

He noted that he had not required St. Martin’s to transfer to the diocese the titles to its property, as he could have, and that if the brownstones were sold, the money “will go into the parish’s accounts,” not the diocese’s.

“My interest is in stabilizing and restoring St. Martin’s. It begins and ends with that.” He also said, “That building must be saved.”

Diocesan officials say it is in everyone’s interest to keep the church going. Bishop Dietsche said he was “conscious of liabilities that would fall on the parish and then would come straight to the diocese” if there were an accident.

He closed the building in midsummer and announced that services for **St. Martin’s would be held in a building on the grounds of the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine.** He himself attended the first. But some parishioners, including Mr. Merriweather, held their own service on Malcolm X Boulevard, on the sidewalk outside St. Martin’s.

“I’ve had a lot of sleepless nights over what has happened to this community,” he said. “It’s kept me up at night. I’m extremely disappointed in the leadership of the diocese.”

*James Barron for The New York Times*

# Travel Journal

## Frank and Helen Gwaltney

attended  
Trinity Episcopal Church  
York, ME

The First Parish Congregational Church  
Saco, ME

Religious Society of Ocean Park  
Ocean Park, ME

## John and Melinda Burrows

attended  
St. Clements Church  
Philadelphia, PA

## George and Joan Mitchell

attended  
Trinity Episcopal Church  
Moorestown, NJ

## Debbie and Sarah Rash

attended  
St. George’s Episcopal Church  
Pennsville, NJ



## Jeff Wenzel

attended  
St. Philip’s on-the-hill  
Unionville, Canada

## Thomas Dennison

attended  
Church of the Holy Spirit  
Heidelberg, Germany

St. Peter’s Cathedral  
Regensburg, Germany



# The Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ

January 6



Holy Eucharist 8: 00 AM

| Choral Eucharist 10:00 AM

*Reflecting on Sunday mornings*

At 7:00 AM on a Sunday morning, I unlock the front door of our church and I hear the organ. Sheldon is rehearsing. I turn on the altar lights and go about my duties of preparing the altar for the 8:00 AM service while Sheldon continues to play. I am in good company.....Sheldon and our Lord.

After the mass, I continue my duties, clearing the altar and preparing for the 10:00 AM Mass. The choir is rehearsing. So, again, I am treated to beautiful music in a beautiful church.

Is there any better way I could start a Sunday?  
**My heart is filled with joy....praise be to God!**

Sandra Sutton, Altar Guild  
(856) 845-0190



I just wanted to take this time to say thank you to all of you who signed up to be a part of the nursery ministry on Opportunity Sunday.

I look forward to another year of your help in caring for our little ones.

Deb Allbright	Sarah Cranston
Jennifer Lewis	Aimee Lyden
Karin McGarry	Marilynn McGeoch
Chandra Rickert	Brandy Sims
Anne Steffney	Alexandria Strati
Tori Wishnick	Kim Wright

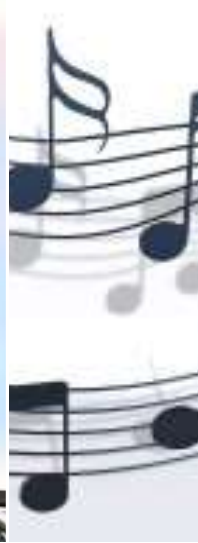
Please know that it is such a pleasure to work with each and every one of you.

The commitment you put into being a part of this ministry makes our nursery run so smoothly. Again thank you all for your time and service. We always welcome new members to our ministry if you are interested please see myself or Jennifer Allbright.

Kim Wright, Nursery Coordinator  
kimwright71@comcast.net



Grace Arseneau  
West Deptford  
High School  
Marching Band



Erika Arseneau  
West Deptford  
High School  
Marching Band



Aaron Schiffer  
Deptford High School  
Marching Band



Louisa Sahkul  
Gateway Regional High School  
Marching Band

On most weekends during the Fall, a handful of our parish youth can be found showcasing the stadium fields of area high schools, performing in the color guard or playing instruments while rhythmically marching under the direction of drum majors.

These talented young students, familiar to our parish, spend many, many hours of their week practicing for their next outstanding performance.

Bravo Band Members!



CJ Moser  
West Deptford  
High School  
Marching Band



# From the Parish Register

## Burials:

*Rest eternal, grant unto him...*

**Daniel Pleis**

September 21, 2018

## Service Schedule

Sunday

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist  
10:00 AM Choral Eucharist

Wednesday

10:00 AM Holy Eucharist with Rite of Healing

Thursday

6:00 PM Holy Eucharist

Friday

5:00 PM Evening Prayer

Prayer Book Feast Days are observed on the day of their occurrence or otherwise as announced.

The Sacrament of Confession and Reconciliation is available by appointment.





# Advent Quiet Day

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7TH AT CHRIST CHURCH IN WOODBURY

For more information, please contact the  
Parish Office of Christ Church at (856) 845-0190.

## Annual Parish Meeting

Sunday, January 13th

In the Parish Auditorium immediately following the 10:00 AM Mass.

*Child care will be provided during the meeting.*

### Parish Clergy

The Very Reverend Father  
Brian K. Burgess  
*Dean and Rector*

The Reverend Dr.  
John E. Bird  
*Assisting*

The Reverend Canon  
William V. Rauscher  
*Retired*

The Reverend Father  
Robert Sullivan  
*Retired*

### Parish Musicians

Mr. Sheldon Eldridge  
Organist and Choirmaster

Mr. George T. Mitchell, Jr.  
Assistant Organist

Mr. Richard W. Kurtz  
Organist Choirmaster, Retired

### Parish Staff

Ms. Marietta Hutchison  
Parish Administrator

Mr. John Marsden  
Facilities Manager

Mrs. Michele Schiffer  
Sunday School Superintendent

Mrs. Mariana Torres  
Parish Sexton

Ms. Jennifer Allbright  
Parish Nursery Sitter

Ms. Susann Kaback  
Parish Preschool Teacher

Mrs. Sandra Sutton  
Volunteer Coordinator

### Parish Vestry

Mr. Steve Lewis, Senior Warden

Mr. Jeff Wenzel, Junior Warden

Ms. Sarah Rash, Clerk

Mr. Mark Novalsky, Treasurer

Mr. John Lyden, Evangelism

Mr. Matthew Seddon, Hospitality

Mr. Frank McGarry, Buildings & Grounds

Mr. Christopher Piskun, Outreach

Mrs. Kate Baldwin, Stewardship

Mrs. Tara Mass, Mission

Mrs. Kimberly Wright, Programs and Activities

Mr. Jim Atkins, Communications