



Christ Christ Church Chronicles

Volume 8 Issue 6, August 2017

316 E. High St. Pottstown, PA 19464

To Glorify God Through Worship, Nurture, and Service

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Como me preparo para viajar a Pittsburgh para una semana de reposo estoy pasando el calor como todos ustedes. Recuerdo la vieja canción que dice: ¡verano y la vida es fácil, peces saltan y el algodón (maíz por aquí) es alto! El idílico letra de la canción es cantada por una voz entrenada para evocar un sentimiento de paz y tranquilidad, centrándose el oyente más allá de las preocupaciones y cuidados del día, incluyendo el calor y pensando en una oscilación en el porche, bebidas frescas y de brisa verano. Busco algo de eso esta semana que viene.



Sin embargo, no importa cómo duro tratamos de escapar de las realidades del mundo constantemente nos rodean con sus distracciones, especialmente en la era digital actual. En el pasado no muy lejano tarda días, meses o incluso años para se refieren a eventos más allá de nuestra configuración actual y el concepto de noticias manufacturados era un elemento básico del día. Qué papeles vendidos no era la verdad de los acontecimientos pero la verdad energizado para excitar. Escucho esto en la pregunta antes de Jesús de Pilato mientras que él era decidir qué hacer con él.

¿Qué es verdad? Es ley inmutable? " Pilate fue confrontado por enojado celosos líderes dependiendo de su poder de control sobre las personas. Su 'verdad' que querían era para ellos la única respuesta, Jesús tuvo que morir, que era la verdad! Pero Pilato de detección de la falsedad de su 'verdad' querida una respuesta de Jesús para solucionar el dilema. Él sabía que tenía que mantener la paz, incluso si significaba condenar a un hombre falsamente. Esto no le gustaba, por lo que quería Jesús para justificar las acusaciones de la multitud o darle una buena razón para dejarlo ir. ¡Jesús no dice nada! De forma predeterminada, los triunfos de la multitud, la verdad es falsa y Pilato lava las manos. 2000 años después todavía estamos discutiendo sobre la pregunta '¿Qué es verdad?'

El intenso calor del día nos alienta a buscar refugio en los confines de aire acondicionado de una casa, una tienda o un lugar para nosotros que nos mantendrá fresco. Pero no disminuye el hecho de que es caliente afuera no importa cuánto lo queremos ser diferentes (tibia no caliente, fresco, no frío).

Para nosotros los cristianos, es la verdad, vida, muerte y resurrección de Jesús no fue simplemente un refugio del calor y las tormentas de la vida sino más bien una manera de vivir verdadera y totalmente expuestos a las dificultades de la vida no tiene miedo, sino más bien anima a afrontar la vida en términos de la vida. Somos una comunidad de fe con el mandato de entrar en el horno caliente de la vida para continuar el trabajo que tenemos

ante nosotros.

Nuestro Señor nos conceda tiempos para encontrar refugio tras la tormenta no una forma de ejecutar de las realidades de la vida, sino como un tiempo de refresco para hacer frente mejor a lo que está por delante. Nos da la palabra de la edad y el Sacramento de la vida para bendecirnos y animarnos a vivir adelante. También, proporciona tiempos de oración, reflexión y recreación que nos da tiempo para reenfocar las prioridades en la vida.

Por lo tanto, estoy en mi camino por un corto período de tiempo en Pittsburgh, mi lugar de retiro, cerca pero lo suficiente para recargar las baterías. Ruego que sus tiempos de peregrinación bendecidos y refrescante en este momento del año o en cualquier momento elija. Pero siempre recuerda que el curso por delante todavía espera su participación. No creo que desaparezca. Cristo es contar, en quién (o qué) ¿dependes? ¿Qué es la verdad? ¿Y cómo se vive?

Para mí, a servir al Señor, porque él es mi Dios y mi salvación. Yo soy su siervo y en servicio estoy cumplí. Reconocerlo como mi verdad, mi camino y la vida que he sido llamado. Actualizarse y saber que Dios ha dado todo para que usted pueda tenerlo todo en la vida y en muerte.

Yo soy su siervo en Cristo, el Padre Bill†

Common Prayer

As Anglicans (of the US variety) we share an extremely important resource with the rest of the Anglican Communion – a book of **Common** prayer. Note the emphasis. In our current environment where “new” is a synonym for “good,” we have, at the center of our faith, something old. The BCP dates originated in 1549 and was updated only minimally for over 400 years. One of the main criteria for the 1979 BCP was that it maintain a continuity with the original. How well that criterion was held to is a moot point, but to anyone reading both, the commonality is easy to see.

So, why is that a big deal? Imagine yourself in a regular Sunday Mass as an average, mostly illiterate, English subject before 1549. What do you see and hear; what is your experience of worship?

You will see a man in fancy dress enter, go to the altar, and start talking. Some of that will be to you, some to God, but all of it will be in a foreign language. With luck, there will be a sermon, possibly in French, maybe (!) in English. More likely, it will be in Latin. It’s not totally unintelligible - you know a number of words and phrases and possibly a basic idea of what the priest says, but no matter how well done and how devout you are, you are only an observer. Even the Bible reading would be Latin.

Down the road, however, is a monastery or convent. They have organized worship as often as 7-8 times a day, and are taught to understand what is said and what it means, and to internalize it. You don’t really have that, unless you are wealthy and have taken it on yourself to learn Latin.

In the upheaval of Reformation, particularly the English part, and Henry VIII’s issues with getting an heir, Henry separated the English church from

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Children’s Music Program



With Phyllis Mitchell

Instruments and Music Provided

Every Tuesday @ 4 p.m.-5 p.m

Christ Episcopal Church

316 East High St., Pottstown, PA 19464

(Entrance and Parking on Queen St.)

Free for All Kids K-12

Contact: Edie Shean-Hammond, Director of Education
Christ Episcopal Church @ esheanhammond@gmail.com or
call the church: 610-323-2895 & leave a message



Collect for the Election of a Rector

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on Christ Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall call our new rector, that we may receive from you a faithful pastor, who will care for the people of this congregation and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ownership by Rome. Henry did not push reform of worship or doctrine; he remained a devout Roman Catholic till his death.

Thomas Cranmer, the Archbishop of Canterbury (the head prelate in England,) with Henry's approval, realized the need to have English rather than foreign (Latin) worship, both for reasons of faith and for national identity. He took the monastic services and turned them into a structure that could be done both publically and privately, by anyone. It was in English, so was understandable by anyone. We had Matins (Morningsong if sung) and Evening Prayer (Evensong) with the advantages of the monastic worship life available to all. He added the Eucharistic service with rules mandating the language of the people, and surrounding prayers and psalms. Most of all, he took most of the *BCP* from the *Bible*.

England had Common prayer. While other groups have books of prayer, it is difficult to find another example that had such a profound effect on worship, faith, ethnic identity, and history.

Cranmer's remarkable writing talents came when Middle English was at the point of becoming Modern English. The fact that the BCP was read every Sunday in every parish in England (Henry also made Sunday attendance mandatory) set the linguistic style for the *King James Bible* and Shakespeare, and the future. It had the added effect of moving Saxons and Normans in the direction of being English.

To illustrate, remember the start of the Marriage Service - "Dearly beloved, we have gathered..." You can look in most denominations' service books and immediately detect the influence of the BCP. English is full of phrases originally (in English) from the BCP - "to have and to hold," "moveable feast," "pass our time in rest and quietness," "peace in our time," and numerous others.

Even in other languages, the prayerbook resembles the BCP. In his writing of the Prayerbook, Cranmer wanted the people of England to be constantly exposed to the Bible in a language they understood. He succeeded well beyond his highest hopes. The *Prayerbook* has evolved, both in English and other languages, but world-wide, we pray together.

Bob Gross, Rector's Warden

Read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest.
Collect for the Second Sunday in Advent



Alpha is returning!!! So what is Alpha? Alpha is a series of sessions exploring the Christian faith, typically run over eleven weeks. Each talk looks at a different question around faith and is designed to create conversation. It's just an open, informal and honest space to explore and discuss life's big questions together. Alpha is run all around the globe, and everyone is welcome.

Previews of the program are currently scheduled, in the church parish hall, for:

Saturday, September 9th at the 2nd

Saturday movie night

Sunday, September 17 at 9:15am (between services during Adult Forum)

Tuesday, September 19th at 6:00 pm

Or - Check it out on-line at www.alphausa.org/try

Come and see what it's all about. Grow your connection with God. Bring a friend who may be struggling with the tough questions of life.

The program begins on September 26th and will continue on most Tuesday nights, 6-8 pm, with a meal included. There is never any pressure to do, say, or join anything, and the entire program is completely free of charge. There's nothing to lose, and everything to gain. Come and see.

For more information, contact Olin Mittan – omittan1@gmail.com



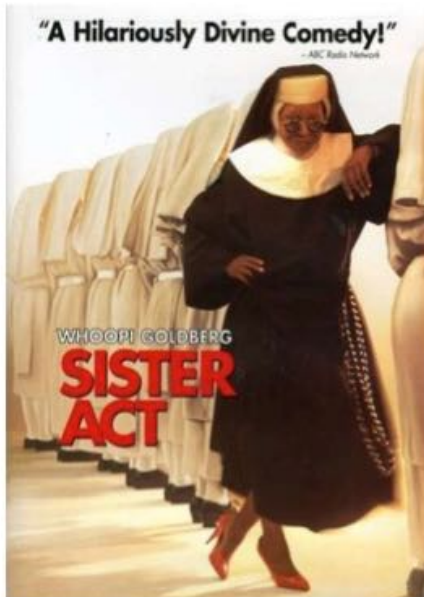
YOU ARE INVITED

August 12, 2017,

6:00pm

to **Second Saturday Neighborhood Night**

Movie and Popcorn



Bring your family and friends!

All are Welcome!



Christ Episcopal Church

316 East High Street, Pottstown, PA 19465, 610-323-2895
Entrance in rear off Queen Street parking lot

Ministry of the Month

Vern's Vision was started by our dear friend and Deacon Vern Steffenhagen, it was his vision that we as a parish get more involved in helping each other. We hear all the time that we all have gifts and talents that are not always used. By listening to one another we can learn when and where there are needs. Some of the things that we provide would be a ride to the Doctor or grocery store, some light cleaning, or some yard work, making a meal for a shut in and taking the time to share that meal with them. Something as little as a phone call to someone you have noticed has not been to church for a couple of weeks, people do appreciate that phone call.



Currently there are thirteen active members of Vern's Vision. Each month there is a coordinator and a backup, their names and phone numbers are always listed in the weekly bulletin as well as the monthly news letter. When a person is in need of assistance they would call the coordinator, or if they are not sure who that is they will call the office and Erma will notify the coordinator. We each have a list of those willing to help, and what they will help with ie: driving, cleaning, a meal. The call is made to the coordinator and whatever the need it is fulfilled.

I myself since joining Vern's Vision have found out a lot more about the people I attend church with. I enjoy helping others and feel this is something I can do and hopefully if ever the time arises there will be someone there to give me a hand. It always amazes me that no matter the request there is always someone willing and available to give a helping hand.

If anyone is interested in learning more about Vern's Vision or is interested in joining please feel free to talk with me.

Kathy Roth

Valley Forge Deanery Summer Plenary Picnic

Wednesday, 23 August 2017 from 4 pm - 8 pm

Where: Hosted by St. James' Episcopal Church at home of parishioner, Mrs. Sally Tempelton,
268 Hopwood Road, Colledgeville, Pa 19426



What to Eat: A caterer will provide - Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Veggie Burgers, Pasta Salad as well as the buns and fixings such as lettuce, tomato, onions, pickles, ketchup, mayo, mustard and cheese assortment!

Included: The service also provides set up, plastic plates, utensils, warming dishes and clean up. (Wow!)

What to Bring to Eat: Please bring a dessert to pass!

Games & Activities: Sally has lawn darts and horse shoes. Please bring any yard games and balls, etc. that you would enjoy sharing with others! And extra lawn chairs, if you have some... *(also don't forget sunscreen and bug spray)*

We are hoping for a great turnout with loads of Fun and Fellowship!

Please RSVP to Rev. Mike Sowards, fr.mike6554@gmail.com

Parish Pictorial Directory

We plan on having the Parish Pictorial Directory available by the end of August.

Our intent is to distribute them free of charge. We would appreciate a donation to cover costs. It will be in 3-hole punch, loose-leaf format so we can make page substitutions to keep it up to date.

We currently have pictures of 53 families. If you haven't had one taken, please contact the office, Jen Brickel, or Bob Gross.



"... I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger from Satan, to torment me. Three times I...."

OPERATION Backpack



Operation Backpack provides food to students in our community whom would go without over the weekend. We work with the School District, individuals and organizations to help homeless and hungry students succeed by addressing the issue of childhood hunger.

PRE-APPROVED SHOPPING LIST

Item	Product Example
Tuna To-Go	StarKist Lunch To Go
Compleats Meals	Hormel
Mac & Cheese	Chef Boyardee Mac & Cheese (7.5oz or 14.25oz)
Spaghettios/Ravioli	Chef Boyardee Beef Ravioli (7.5oz or 14.25oz)
Chicken & Beef Soups	Campbells To Go Chicken & Beef Noodle Soups
Fruit Cups/ Applesauce	Dole Fruit in Juice & Motts Applesauce
Granola Bars/Fruit Bars	Quaker Chewy Bars (chocolate); Nutrigrain Bars
Pop-Tarts	Kellogg's Pop-Tarts
Cereal (Single serve)	Kellogg's, General Mills
Non-refrigerated milk	Hershey's, Horizon, Giant (8oz boxes with straw)
Variety Snack Packs	Gold Fish, Cheez-it, Animal Cookies, Crackers
Fruit Snacks	Welch's, Kellogg's
Water	Store Brand Bottled Water (pkg of 12 16oz bottles)
Juice Boxes	Capri Sun, Hi C', Juicy Juice, Apple & Eve
Pudding	Jello pudding snacks

*OBP does not endorse any of these items or brands. All items should be sized for a single individual and ready to eat with no cooking required. Items should be easy to open without a can opener. Products containing peanuts will not be distributed.

www.operationbp.org

345 King St. Pottstown, PA 19464 (484) 374-8754

Nursery Help Needed

Due to the departure of Linda Nabozny to accept a full-time job, we are in need of added nursery help. For the time being we are looking for volunteers. We would like more than one volunteer to rotate duties. Please contact Georgine Takach if you are willing to help.



Pottstown Classic Car Show

Christ Church Burger and Dogs

Each summer the Pottstown Classics Car Club holds a rally on the first Saturday of each month from May thru September. It is one of the largest classic car shows on the East coast.

We started several years ago selling food at the show - hot dogs, Italian sausage (hot and mild) and hamburgers, plus water and various sodas. We've added popcorn and pretzels this year. Oh, yeah - we provide free water and dog biscuits for pets.

This has become one of our largest fundraisers, and a great social event. For the last 2-3 years it has been managed by Keith Bricker, but this will be his last year doing so. We really need someone to replace him managing the sales.

While it seems complex, we have a step-by-step manual on how to do it. The actual time involved above the Car Show itself is only a few hours the couple of days before.

Join us for a great show and fun.



HELP

We need a Car Show sales director for next year. Please contact the office, Keith Bricker or Bob Gross.

Carillon Concerts at Washington Memorial Chapel

July 5th to August 30th.

Route 23 in Valley Forge Park. Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m., rain or shine. Free hour-long concerts by international & American carillonners. Bring a blanket, lawn chair, snacks or dinner.

July 26: Thomas Le

August 2: Lynnli Wang;

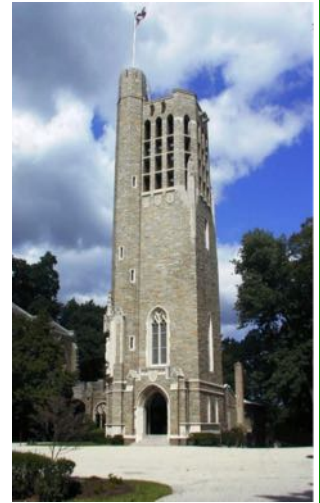
August 9: John Widman

August 16: Doug Gefvert/Irish Thunder Pipes & Drums

August 23: Tatiana Lukyanova

August 30: Doug Gefvert.

610-783-0120, 610-265-5211; www.wmchapel.org



Vestry Notes

What's your Vestry been doing lately. Here are some significant items.

1. As part of our tithe from Bob Connit's bequest, we approved a grant to St. Peter's, Phoenixville (where Joe Dietz is deacon, and Lou Steffenhagen has been deacon-in-training) Food Pantry. Bob Shanley volunteers there. We also approved grants to Harris Family Ministries for their House of Restoration ministry, Habitat for Humanity for projects in Pottstown, to Centro Cultural Latinos Unidos for Hispanic ministry, to Birthright of Pottstown for ministries to needy mothers with new infants, and to Meals-on-Wheels.

2. Purchased portable audio/video equipment for use by such ministries as Second Saturday events, Alpha, etc.

3. Funded supply and advertising costs for a Fall Alpha program.

4. Approved purchase of more Bibles (including large-print) and Prayerbooks for Adult Forum. Some Prayerbooks will be replaced with outworn ones in church.

5. Approved initial funding of a parish photo directory, which should be available by the end of August. There will be no charge for the directory, but we would appreciate donations to cover the cost.

6. Approved an Alpha program to begin on 19 September, for 11 weeks.

7. Approved final payment for the stonework, and disapproved the contractors proposal for cleaning the remaining stone (too expensive.)

8. Discussed what to do with the old steeple cross and whether to put up a new one. No decision yet.

9. Began discussion on a proposed Financial Policy being produced by Rick Stoudt and the Finance Committee. On approval, it will be followed by a *Financial Procedures Manual*.

Choir Picnic – Sunday 27 August

Location: The Woessners', 164 Schoolhouse Rd, Pottstown, PA 19465.

Time: Swimming, games, and chatting, 3:00 pm

Potluck picnic, 5:00 pm



Diocesan Convention - our annual Convention will be Sat. 4 Nov. at the Cathedral. If you are attending, registration is now open at <http://www.diopa.org/convention-2017-registration>. The Nominating Committee is looking for candidates for Christmas Fund, Church Foundation, Clergy Compensation, Disciplinary Board, Finance Committee, Standing Committee, Nominations Committee, Church Attorney, and General Convention Delegates. You may propose yourself or another. Contact Cordelia Biddle (cordeliafrancesbiddle@comcast.net) or go to <http://www.diopa.org/convention-2017-nominations/>.

OUR GANG GOES TO THE RAILROAD RESTAURANT



OUR GANG enjoyed lunch at the Railroad Restaurant in Linfield in July. The menu consists of numerous unusual variations on the toasted cheese sandwich. Everyone gave the place a high rating and would like to return. Two new couples joined us: Rose and Dick Strange and Candy and Walt Woessner.

Next month we are having lunch at the church with trivia games led by Wendy on Tuesday, August 22 at 11:30.

Sounds like fun. All are welcome!



Potential activities for the Fall are the Colebrook Railroad in October and Steel River in December.

Sue Rhoads and Barbara Ackerman, Coordinators

Adult Forum

The Adult Forum on Sunday morning has been studying the *Book of Acts* as it relates to the mission of Christ Church. When this study is complete, we will begin a study of the *Book of Common Prayer* which will include such subjects as:

- †Origins of the BCP
- †It's Global Impact and effect on the English language
- †How did we get from 1549 to today
- †What's Where in the book
- †The Bible and the BCP
- †The Collects
- †*Lex Orandi, Lex Credendi*
- †Spirituality of the BCP
- †Catholic or Protestant?
- †Creeds and promises
- †Music in the BCP
- †The Prayerbook in the rest of the world
- †The Future of the Prayerbook



Come join us on at 9:15 each Sunday for Coffee Hour and Forum



Prayer Chain

We need you on the Prayer Chain. The Prayer Chain is a voluntary email set in motion as soon as a request is received. The request goes out to a large number of people from Christ Church who have signed up to receive prayer chain requests.

You can ask for prayers for whatever you need. Some people ask for guidance, others ask for healing for an ailing loved one. At Christ Church, we believe the prayer chain is another way to be of service to others and fulfill one of our core values experiencing God's love and grace. To join, send an email to Stephanie Laidig, stephanielaidig@aol.com.



HELP!!!!

Lou Steffenhagen was instrumental in getting our Memorial Garden established and has continued to manage it while training for the Diaconate. With his new assignments, he won't be able to continue that, so we are looking for someone to take on that responsibility.



The requirements of the job include insuring, with the Property Committee, that the Garden is maintained, keeping appropriate records, and ordering new memorial bricks when needed.

If you are willing to take on this responsibility, please get in touch with Erma, Lou, or one of the Wardens.



Our Commitment Box and Stewardship

We offer Commitment Cards in the pews, to be used by parishioners at any time, year round, to confidentially offer their own personal promises of prayer, service and/or resources to God. The cards may also be used as pledge cards if desired. The Stewardship team feels that the fact that giving normally exceeds pledges supports the concept that planning should be based instead on known and projected expenses versus an estimated income that reflects actual income of recent years.

You can put your Commitment Card in the box at the bottom of the steps below the choir.



Israel is slightly smaller than New Jersey. Moses in effect led the tribes of Israel out of the District of Columbia, parted Chesapeake Bay near Annapolis, and wandered for forty years in Delaware.

P. J. O'Rourke

Effortless Fundraising

We continue to offer two ongoing fundraisers - the **Giant Gift Cards** and **Redner's Receipt Program**. The purchase of Giant Gift Cards has dwindled over the past year and we are at risk of losing this opportunity. Please note that even if you do not do your grocery shopping at Giant, the gift cards can be used to purchase their gas. We receive 5% return on the Giant Gift Cards. For Redner's shoppers, remember to place your receipts in the box outside the ladies choir room and we will receive 1% back on the purchases. Goodness knows, everyone at Christ Church loves to celebrate with food so let's capitalize on these opportunities!



Thanks to Erma Magee, Debby Metz, and Jean Davidheiser for their commitment to these programs.



Serving Our Local Communities Since 1970

Steeple Cross

We have two big questions to decide regarding our cross. First, the Vestry has agreed that replacing the current one is too expensive, but we can (probably) manage a lighter replacement. (The reason is that the current cross is heavy enough to require added internal carpentry and a crane, at a fairly high cost. A lighter replacement can be installed without major carpentry and with just a cherry-picker.) Do we want, or need, a cross on our steeple? If so, what?

Second, what shall we do with the old cross (below.) Suggestions so far have been a) hang it on a wall indoors, b) put it in the Memorial Garden (on the wall or free-standing,) c) put it standing in front of the church (perhaps near the sign,) or d) put it on the gate to the Memorial Garden.

The Vestry has agreed to take this slowly and solicit thoughts and feelings from you. Please let them know what you think.



Useful Links

Episcopal Questions and Answers

stgeorges.wordpress.com/seekers-andvisitors/episcopal-q-a/

Diocese of PA Parish Events

www.diopa.org/parish-events

Diocese of Pennsylvania

www.diopa.org

Episcopal Church in the US

www.episcopalchurch.org/

Online Book of Common Prayer

www.bcponline.org/

Anglican Communion

www.anglicancommunion.org/

SPCK—Society for Promoting Christian

Knowledge spckusa.org/

Bible Gateway

www.biblegateway.com/

Liturgical Calendar

www.lectionarypage.net

Anglicans Online

anglicansonline.org

Anglicans Online USA

anglicansonline.org/usa

Alpha

www.alphausa.org

Habitat for Humanity

www.habitatmontco.org/

Recycling in Montgomery County (incl.hazardous

waste) www.montcopa.org/index.aspx?NID=637

Society of Archbishop Justus

justus.anglican.org

Project Canterbury (Anglican History)

anglicanhistory.org

Anglican Communion News Service

www.anglicannews.org/

SAMS—Society of Anglican Missionaries and

Sender www.sams-usa.org

Episcopal News Service

episcopaldigitalnetwork.com/ens

Christ Church, Pottstown

www.christpottstown.com

Christ Church (website in development)

www.christpottstown.org

Daily Prayer and Worship Resources Online

oremus.org/index.html

Bishop's Bible Challenge

www.diopa.org/bishops-bible-challenge/

Generous Orthodoxy

www.generousorthodoxy.org/

Glossaries

www.episcopalchurch.org/library/glossary

and www.epicenter.org/church-terminology/

Amazon will donate 0.5% of your purchases to Christ Church if you register your account as an AmazonSmile account. There is no change to your cost, and, except for the initial setup, no effort on your part. Just go to <https://smile.amazon.com/gp/aw/ch/about> to get started. Pick Christ Episcopal Church as your organization.



Don't forget your Giant Gift Cards

When you buy a Giant gift card at church, you get the whole value of your purchase, and Christ Church receives 5% of your cost. It does not expire and purchases with it earn Giant Rewards Points, which can be redeemed for gas or food discounts. As an easy fundraising mechanism, it's hard to beat. They are available from Debbie Metz between services.



Thanks to Houck and Gofus - Sponsors of the Newsletter



Houck & Gofus Funeral Home

55 N. Charlotte St.

Pottstown, PA 19464

(610) 323-8220

Fax (610) 327-1187

