

Christ Church Chronicles Volume 9 Issue 1, January 2018 316 E. High St. Pottstown, PA 19464

To Glorify God Through Worship, Nurture, and Service

Interim Rector Rev. William Rex Associates Rev. M. Longstreth **Rev. Jim Shelly** Rev. Andrew Kline (Spanish ministry) Rev. John Houghton (Hill School) Deacon Rev. Robin Robb Secretary Erma Magee Treasurer **Cindy Smith** Minister of Music **Shirley Dietz Sexton** Frank Benne Newsletter Robert Gross Vestry Class of 2018 **Sharon Johnson-**Accounting Warden **Edie Shean-**Hammond Susan Rhoads Peter Yaskowski Class of 2019 Jen Brickel

Eddie Ofodile Georgine Takach

Donna Yanalavage

People's Warden

Class of 2020 Robert Gross-

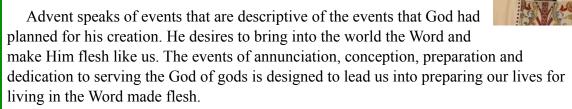
Rector's Warden

Warren Holohan

Jan Morris Miriam Spade

From the Rector

The Church Year is divided into two distinct sections the life of Christ from birth to resurrection and the life of the Church from Pentecost to Christ the King. The life of Christ is subdivided by seasons addressing the background and divinity of our Lord.



Christmas is that season that brings forth the Light of the World and we are confronted by the Glory of God and the joy of knowing his will for us in the birth of his only Son our Lord, the dawn has broken the darkness and a new age is unleashed upon us.

Epiphany is a season of growth, of travel and fulfillment of prophecy, and the pronouncements that the Word is for all to witness and draw strength from. He is our guide and bright morning Star leading us forward into his glorious kingdom.

Lent, the season directly before us, draws us away from things that illumine our path to ominous realities of the prophecies. During Lent we are to find ourselves wrestling, as the disciples did, with the difficult realities of being human and being in God's service and plan. Jesus has moved from swaddling cloths and growing up to be the Word made flesh into a time which captures the true essence of God's love and will for us and his Son as one of us. Jesus prepares himself and us for a sacrificial death foretold by the Word of God to the prophets of old for all who would have the ears to hear and follow. This is the Will of God and it must happen, even though we want to object, for the salvation of the world and all of us who live in it. This season, like the seasons of our lives, ends in death even death on a cross. Christ's life, like ours ends, but because he died the end is not completely written for Jesus and because he died, not for us!

Easter, Alleluia! Alleluia! He rises from the dead, and by his rising a promise is fulfilled for us all, life eternal is ours by the Grace of God through the birth, life and death of his Son – the Word of God made flesh. Each of our lives has meaning with no end. Life continues past our dying. Because he lives, we find a pathway to life unending through him. This season restores our hope and fills us with his promise. While we

From Fr. Kline

Towards the beginning of harvest, three of the thirty chiefs went down to join David at the cave of Adullam,



while a band of Philistines was

encamped in the valley of Rephaim.

David was then in the stronghold; and the garrison of the Philistines was then at Bethlehem.

David said longingly,

"O that someone would give me water to drink from the well of Bethlehem that is by the gate!" Then the three warriors broke through the camp of the Philistines,

drew water from the well of Bethlehem that was by the gate, and brought it to David.

But he would not drink of it; he poured it out to the LORD, for he said,

"The LORD forbid that I should do this. Can I drink the blood of the men who went at the risk of their lives?"

Therefore, he would not drink it. [2 Samuel 23:13-17]

Dear Friends,

A little known episode in the life of King David, preserved in the appendixes of the account of his life called "The Roll of the Thirty Heroes", is an appointed reading from the Daily Office for the days following Christmas. It is a high-spirited tale and a tantalizing parable. It holds a lesson for all of us who come to this New Year with a longing in our heart for what makes for peace and Godward change – and an awareness of the cost of pursuing "the utmost for His highest."

Bethlehem is the city of David. It is the city of David's family and the prophesied place of the Messiah's birth, the culminating heir to David's kingly authority. David, a man of war, a King of intense passion and contradiction longed for the waters of this place, just as he longed to see

God's house built in the "fortress" Jerusalem. Bethlehem would be the place where the Prince of Peace would enter human history to bring the waters of healing and salvation to the whole world.

Because of this unlikely and miraculous history Bethlehem, the humblest city of the smallest tribe in all Israel has become, more than Jerusalem, a city of Peace.

And so it was noticeable that once again the world is wrestling over who loves and who guards the gates of Jerusalem best. By rights, David asked for water from the city of his tribe. By God's strange, transforming justice, he realized he could not drink it unless it came to him without force of greed and violence.

If Jerusalem – or our hearts – are to be the dwelling place of God's Shalom – his peace with righteousness and mercy – then things must change. The good news is that we can begin almost anywhere in this divided world.

Peace, in Hebrew, is an almost infinite word. Shalom! Not only cessation of hostilities. Balance. Wellness. Wholeness. Justice. Prosperity.

Peace, in Christ. Infinite as well. Forgiveness. Reconciliation. Salvation in the broadest sense.

Peace has its price. It will not come without our commitment, without witness, and without action. Start anywhere. Embrace a commitment to transforming lives, to living sacrificially, of pouring out water borrowed or stolen or taken for granted, and seeking after last change.

Go big or go home. Our family, our church, our neighbors need this from each one of us. Start there with your resolutions.

Happy New Year! Rev. Andy Kline†

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.

Rev. Rex, cont

awaiting his return as he has promised, we must remain faithful to the work he has passed on to us to complete and that befalls us in the largest season of the Church year.

Pentecost, the longest season of the Church. In this season, we are taught to be proclaimers of the Word as living members of God's family. The longest season of the year, and one which many find too "ordinary" and boring. Yet it is the most important if we are to believe that Jesus came into the world to save us from sin and death. The Church is the Body of Christ called to live out, for all the world to see, the commission of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The Word is to live on in, with and through us. He will come again as promised, will we be found faithful servants on that day our will he find us asleep and unresponsive? This season challenges us to live on in his grace showing the world his presence and love.

The seasons of the Church year are for us the guide posts along the Way and pilgrimage we are called to travel toward the total fulfillment of his will. Life is hard, but Christ has given us the tools and grace to live it faithfully and with confidence in God's true Word given for all his creation.

I am your servant in Christ our Lord,

Rev. William Rex+

Special Newsletter

This edition of our newsletter is fairly brief due to several time-consuming items. There will be a special supplement coming out after the Annual Meeting.

Since we need information on candidates for the Vestry before voting, and need information on the voting results immediately after, it made sense to have two smaller editions. There is also added important information that will not be available until early next week.

Bob Gross, Rector's Warden

Automate Your Giving

After the Annual Meeting, the Stewardship and Finance Committees are introducing automated giving for anyone who would like to make use of it. Consider this:

Traditionally, giving dips way down in the summer months. Couple this with other reasons people miss church and you can have a problem!

Let's say someone intends to give \$100 per month. You'd expect to receive \$1,200 for the year, but they miss one week due to sickness, two weeks for summer vacation, a week for work travel, and a week because they forgot their checkbook. This is not an unusual scenario.

That's a lot of missed giving!

If we do giving via passing the plate: The church would receive \$700 due to the sick days, summer vacation, work travel, and forgotten checkbook. If you multiplied the missing amount by 60 members (an average church size in the US) you'd be missing out on \$30,000 per year in revenue! Even if these members were extra awesome and "made up" for missing by "doubling up" ... giving \$200 on two occasions ... you'd still be short \$18,000 for the year. This, of course, would have a serious impact on your budget for the following year. I could even impact your ability to pay bills or salaries depending on how much you have in the bank.

Giving an automated recurring donatoin You'd receive the full \$1,200 - the amount the person had initially set out to give in their heart.

In the automated recurring giving scenario, both the church and the giver are in a better place at the end of the year.

There are several ways to do this. We'll be providing instructions on how to set it up with your bank. After we analyze some security questions, we may make automated giving also available via our website.

Stay tuned for further details.

In August 2016, the banking giant Citigroup and the communications giant AT&T agreed to end their two-month-long legal hostilities over AT&T's right to have a customer service program titled "Thanks." Citigroup had pointed out that it holds trademarks for customer service titles "thankyou," "citi thankyou," "thankyou from citi" and "thankyou your way," and had tried to block the program name "AT&T Thanks." [NASDAQ.com, 8-25-2016]

Streetwise

This edition develops the request of several parishioners that I continue discussing how I have personally experienced God acting to change the institutional church. What I have noticed is that I have been blessed to



be present when something significant has occurred. I subscribe to the Episcopal News Service. I was startled this past month when I read the lead article announcing that Raymond Glover had died at the age of 89 years. I took a deep breath and my eyes filled with tears.

When I was writing my dissertation for my Ph.D. from Smith College School for Social Work, I moved to Richmond, VA. What I needed most was a quiet place in any library in the world because I needed to concentrate without interruption. Why Richmond? My psychotherapist had just become a professor at Virginia Commonwealth University. We decided that we could kill two birds with one stone.

I looked for an Episcopal Church. I found one

within walking distance. I began to sing in the choir. The choir director was Ray Glover, and his wife, Joyce, had a special ministry of taking those of us who were without local family under her wings.

Choir practice was long! We had music to prepare for three Sunday services. People stayed for all three services because of the beauty of the music. And notably, Ray was receiving suggestions from around The Episcopal Church concerning what hymns should be included in the 1982 hymnal; the hymnal that we use at Christ Church today. Actually Ray edited four companion volumes. I am not sure whether LEVAS is one of them. Perhaps our choir direction, Shirley Dietz, knows.

Ray and Joyce left Richmond at about the same time I did. I lost touch with them. I do know from the ENS article that Ray was granted an honorary doctorate from Virginia Theological Seminary where he joined the faulty as professor of music and as organist.

Rev. Robin Robb, Deacon+



Chili Cookoff a Rousing Success

The 4th Annual Chili Cookoff was a major event with some 40+ people in attendance (in spite of the people who stayed home to watch the game and fibbed about the reason,) with a large number of different chili's, black bean, chili con queso, etc.

We also had some 16 baskets to draw for.

The winner of the Grand Champion Chili Sombrero was Ray Page with his Pork Chili.

Thanks to Lisa Baro for her work in organizing.









Search Committee!

We are reviewing information from our current applicants! Committee members are Judy Shelly, Miriam Spade, Joseph Stalnaker, Dixie Andrus, Eddie Ofodile, Debby Metz, Lisa Baro and Stephanie Laidig. Please pray for us as we continue the

discernment process.

As always, we study a scripture passage and pray together.

Stephanie Laidig

Even en route to lunch, the Search Committee Kept their eyes peeled...



Grill for Sale

We have inadvertantly wound up with too many grills (not with Parish funds.) We'd like to sell one. Please contact the office or a member of the Property Committee and make us an offer. We can deliver.



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.



The Vestry is the elected body of lay members who provide the ongoing leadership and decision-making processes of Christ Church. There are twelve elected to three-year rotating terms. The Vestry has three primary areas of responsibility:

Prayer & Presence: While the Rector serves as the primary spiritual leader of our congregation, the ministry of the Church belongs to all baptized members. To that end, our Vestry members are called to serve as effective examples of a prayerful and purposeful life, to pray daily for our members and ministry, to give consistently to the needs and ministry of the church, and to be present in the life of our congregation.

Vision & Mission: Along with the Rector, the members of our Vestry are the primary vision casters for our congregation. Listening for guidance from the Holy Spirit and from our members the Vestry asks, "What is God calling our church to do next?" This can take the form of long-range planning, or the simple month-to-month decisions made at Vestry meetings.

Oversight and Empowerment: The Vestry has ultimate oversight of the business and financial affairs of the parish, plus additional responsibilities with Finance, Property, Christian Education, etc. Vestry members work with other leaders in these areas to ensure good communication among our ministries ,and to empower our members to serve creatively and effectively.

Elections

New Vestry members are elected during our Annual Parish Meeting in February for a three-year period. Nominees must be baptized and confirmed members in good standing; not be an employee of Christ Church; be 17 or older; and be willing to serve. Nominees are named before the Annual Meeting by a nominating committee composed, traditionally, of the outgoing current Vestry members, and may also be nominated by anyone ahead of time, or from the floor of the Annual Meeting. We normally elect four, unless we need to replace a member who has resigned.

If you feel called to the Vestry, or know someone you think would be a good candidate, please contact one of the Vestry members, or the parish office.

Vestry Candidates

The following are the candidates for Vestry as of this publication. The list may change between now and the election on 4 Feb. The list is alphabetical.

From the ByLaws: "Those qualified to serve on the Vestry shall be Baptized and Confirmed, Lay Persons, of the age of seventeen (17) years and upwards, shall be members of the corporation and shall not concurrently be employees of the Corporation. Those qualified to serve on the Vestry shall not be a member of the same household as a concurrent Vestry member or nominee for Vestry.

Name: Peter Hammond

Address: 636 Hunter's Run Rd. Pottstown, PA 19464

Phone: 484-624-3659

Education: Tufts University, BA

Northeastern University - Printing Management

Certificate

University of the South - Education for Ministry Employment: AI Randall, Inc. President, Printing

Management - 18 years.

Kelly Services - Temp work - 6 years

Goodwill - 1 year

Church Experience: Usher, Deanery Rep., Lay Reader, Community Meal, A&M Committee, EfM.

Previously: Eucharistic Visitor, Vestry

Family: married to Edie Shean-Hammond 37 years 2 children - Edith Clare Hammond, Clifford Alin Hammond

Hope for Christ Church: Grow the endowment, more young families. control the parking, missions to the community

Name: Stephanie Laidig

Address: 382 Trythall Rd, Elverson, PA 19520

Phone: 610-286-0717

Education: Miami University, BA Employment: Retired scientist/manager

Church Experience: Chalice, Altar Guild, Choir, Substitute Organist, Prayer Chain Coordinator, Prayer minister, Head of the Search Committee, Previous vestry service, Daughters of the King

Family: husband Kent, 3 adult children

Hope for Christ Church: I'm looking forward to the arrival of a new rector and the growth of the ministries that God is calling us to. I hope to see a vestry that is praying together and a congregation that is loving God, loving their neighbors, and

making disciples for Christ.

Name: Richard Metz

Address: 361 Reiff Ave., Pottstown PA 19465

Phone: 610-850-2567 (cell)

Education: High School; CAD design classes

Employment: Retired

Church Experience: Property Committee, Chalice

Formerly: Vestry, People's Warden **Family:** Wife - Debby; son - Jason

Hope for Christ Church: The optimism that Christ Church will be guided into the future with and through the Spirit, and all will be blessed with the strength and peace of the Spirit as we continue His work through ministry.

Name: Olin Mittan

Address: 2559 Willow Brook Ln., Pottstown, PA

19464

Phone: 610-970-9334

Education: Some College, Harrisburg Area Community College (HACC) – Liberal Arts Employment: Sr. Analyst/Programmer – The Eastwood Company-17 years-retiring this year

Church Experience: Member CEC since
2012. Former Vestry member 2014-17. Alpha
Coordinator. Usher/Greeter, Reader, Chalice.
Member of homeless support team. Prayer minister
and member of Prayer Team. Former Property team
member

Family: Wife: Jeannette. Son & Daughter-in-Law: Jason & Leah. Granddaughter: Cora. Brothers: Lawrence and Michael.

Hope for Christ Church: I have great hope for our future growth, through outreach programs such as 2nd Saturday Neighborhood Nights, and the afterschool children's music program, and our efforts to invite the Pottstown Latino community to worship and share fellowship with us. I believe sharing our love of Christ through programs like these, as well as our many other ministries, sends out a message to the community that we are a welcoming parish, with open hearts and open minds. I also have much hope that many of our younger parishioners will suggest and participate in new programs that will encourage community involvement and highlight that we make a positive difference in our community through progressive and inclusive

programs while maintaining a traditional format for worship and sharing the Gospel.

Name: Candace Woessner

Address: 164 Schoolhouse Road, Pottstown, PA

19465

Phone: 610-326-6551

Education: BSEE University of Michigan, MSEE

University of Michigan

Employment: Retired aerospace engineer

Church Experience: Previously: Vestry, Accounting Warden, Deanery Rep, Diocesan Council Delegate, Diocesan Spiritual Growth Resources Committee Chair, Diocesan Convention Delgate, Sunday School Teacher, EFM Facilitator. Currently: Choir member, Co-Chair of Advocacy and Mission Committee, Licensed Catechist, Eucharistic Minister, Eucharistic Visitor, Daughters of the King member, Prayer Minister, Bible study leader, Finance Committee Member, Auditor, Counting Team Member, Spiritual Director, Volunteer with Children's Music Program

Family: Husband Walter; two grown children, Dwight and Kim

Hope for Christ Church: While it is tempting to list goals for Christ Church, like increasing membership and bringing in children and youth to the church, I believe we are called to look deeper. Our mission statement is to glorify God through worship, nurture, and service. We need to go beyond our anxieties prejudices, and preferences to be Jesus people and actively seek to discover how we are called to do our part to make the reign of God more present within the community of Pottstown. I believe this begins with recognition of the presence of God wherever we are, and it requires expectant watchfulness. Intentionally practicing watchfulness, respectful listening, wondering, and reflection within the vestry would establish a model for the whole church that could lead to a transformation of our ways of being the church and how we individually and corporately conduct ourselves beyond the church walls. Pope Francis called all of us to be "artisans of the common good."

Vestry is more than a board of directors. Vestry members are spiritual leaders who are called to demonstrate the integration of "life in Christ" into practical day-to-day workings of the church (the corporate basis) and into our individual daily lives (personal basis), so that a "life in Christ" becomes the norm, the model, the Way of Life, the way we consistently relate to one another. Then God will be glorified in whatever we do.

We are all on a journey of learning to be the people of God. We do not necessarily know how to do this when we are called. God teaches us through interactions with each other as we go. In running for vestry, I am saying that I am willing to be a part of that adventure.

Lay Deputy to Diocesan Convention

Per the Diocesan Canons, we are allowed three Deputies, who must be communicants of this parish. We typically also elect up to three alternates.

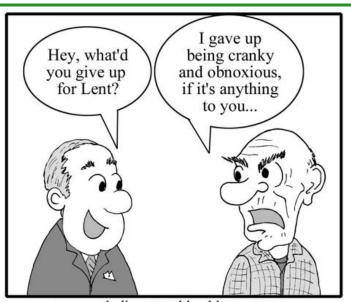
Stephanie Laidig, **Judy Shelly**, **Candace Woessner Alternate**: Bob Magee

Search Committee!

We are reviewing information from our current applicants! Committee members are Judy Shelly, Miriam Spade, Joseph Stalnaker, Dixie Andrus, Eddie Ofodile, Debby Metz, Lisa Baro and Stephanie Laidig. Please pray for us as we continue the discernment process.

As always, we study a scripture passage and pray together.

Stephanie Laidig



www.catholiccartoonblog.blogspot.com

Our Commitment Box and Stewardship

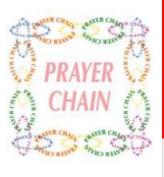
We offer Commitment Cards in the pews, to be used by parishioners at any time, year round, to confidentially offer their own personal promises of prayer, service and/or resources to God. The cards may also be used as pledge cards if desired. The Stewardship team feels that the fact that giving normally 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



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.



Prayer chains get their name from the idea of a phone chain or phone tree. The advent of e-mail and other forms of messaging has caused us to adopt an easier method of an e-mail chain.

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 NEEDED!!!

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

We need someone to manage the annual Pancake Supper on Shrove Tuesday. Please contact the office, or Bob Gross.

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

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



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.



Useful Links

Affirming Catholicism

www.affirmingcatholicism.org.uk

Alpha www.alphausa.org

Anglican Communion

www.anglicancommunion.org/

Anglican Communion News Service

www.anglicannews.org/

Anglicans Online anglicansonline.org

Anglicans Online USA anglicansonline.org/usa

Bible Gateway www.biblegateway.com/

Bishop's Bible Challenge

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

Christ Church, Pottstown

www.christpottstown.org

Church of England www.churchofengland.org

Daily Prayer and Worship Resources Online

oremus.org/index.html

Diocese of PA www.diopa.org

Diocese of PA Parish Events

www.diopa.org/parish-events

Episcopal Church Foundation

www.episcopalfoundation.org/

Episcopal Church in the US

www.episcopalchurch.org/

Episcopal News Service

episcopaldigitalnetwork.com/ens

Episcopal Questions and Answers

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

Generous Orthodoxy www.generousorthodoxy.org/

Glossaries <u>www.episcopalchurch.org/library/glossary</u> and <u>www.epicenter.org/church-terminology/</u>

Habitat for Humanity www.habitatmontco.org/ Liturgical Calendar

www.lectionarypage.net

Online Book of Common Prayer

www.bcponline.org/

Oremus (Liturgical resources) http://

www.oremus.org/

Project Canterbury (Anglican History)

anglicanhistory.org

SAMS—Society of Anglican Missionaries and

Sender www.sams-usa.org

Society of Archbishop Justus (Anglican

information and documents)

justus.anglican.org

SPCK—Society for Promoting Christian

Knowledge spckusa.org/

Recycling in Montgomery County (incl.hazardous

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

Rookie Anglican www.anglicanpastor.com

Anglicans for Life www.anglicansforlife.org

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

