



# Christ Church Chronicles

## Volume 9 Issue 2, February 2018

316 E. High St.  
Pottstown, PA 19464

To Glorify God Through Worship, Nurture, and Service

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Rev. Joshua Caler

### Interim Rector

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Rev. Jim Shelly

Rev. Andrew Kline  
(Spanish ministry)

Rev. John Houghton  
(Hill School)

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### Class of 2019

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Donna Yanalavage-

*People's Warden*

### Class of 2020

Robert Gross-

*Rector's Warden*

Warren Holohan

Jan Morris

Miriam Spade



## New Rector for Christ Church

A (Western) Pennsylvania native, Fr. Joshua is eager to begin ministry at Christ Church and in the Diocese of Pennsylvania. Most recently, he lived and served at St. Stephen's House, Oxford with his family while working on a post-graduate degree with the theology faculty of the University of Oxford. A graduate of Grove City College (B.A., 2004) and Duke Divinity School (M.Div., 2011), Fr. Joshua previously served as the Canon for Evangelism and Parish Life of Christ Church Cathedral, Nashville in the Diocese of Tennessee. There, he coordinated young adult ministry, led the Cathedral's evangelism efforts, and

worked to welcome and incorporate newcomers into the Cathedral's diverse congregation.

"Christ Church is a great parish and I am very excited to serve alongside such dedicated lay leaders, continuing the work of building up the Kingdom of God in Pottstown," he writes. "What has drawn me to Christ Church is the centrality of outreach to the parish, the sustained investment in the community, and a strong commitment to Christian formation, education, and ongoing discipleship. I look forward to diving in to this ministry with you. My family and I are grateful for the welcome we've already received from the Search Committee and Vestry, and are eager to get to know the congregation in the coming weeks."

Along with his wife, Mary, and daughter, Beatrice, Fr. Joshua will relocate to Pottstown in March. His first Sunday at Christ Church will be the Third Sunday in Easter (April 15.)

## Bishop Gutiérrez's Lenten Message

Lent 2018

My brothers and sisters, I greet you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

During the sacred season of Lent, Christians around the world will journey together through this time of preparation. Lent is a time of fasting, reflection, and centering. And because we are a people and a world in need of the saving power of Jesus Christ, it is also a time to acknowledge and repent of our sins. As we walk together toward the promise of Easter let us make use of this time to go deeper in prayer and make our beliefs manifest to the world.

Our vision is "To know Jesus and make him known to the world through prayer, proclamation, and peace." As we live into this sacred calling, I invite you to participate in at least two of the various holy offerings: The Daily Office, Reconciliation of a Penitent, uplifting the Maundy Thursday liturgy and service to both church and community.

**As a diocese let us pray the Daily Office.** The ritual of daily prayer is a part of our heartfelt identity as Episcopalians. I pray the Office daily and can tell you that this regular grounding in prayer and scripture has profoundly deepened my connection with God, and it is my prayer that we will know and use it together. The Office also contains shorter forms that can be used as family devotions. It will be a fantastic sign to the Church if our dioceses can continue this practice throughout the year. If you need help getting started please visit: [www.missionstelare.com](http://www.missionstelare.com). It contains everything necessary to pray the office. There is also an app that you can download onto your smartphone.

In the midst of my hectic schedule I find myself yearning for the time when I hold our beloved Book of Common Prayer, and begin reciting those holy words. I trust the Holy Spirit and believe we will make the Office just as much a part of our daily routine as is our morning coffee or exercise. It is part of the beautiful, historical and sacred identity we share with Anglicans throughout the world. "*Jesus said, 'Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.'*" (Mark 8:34)

**I invite you to enter into the Service of the Reconciliation of a Penitent.** In Reconciliation, we confess our sins and make restitution where possible with the intention to amend our lives. The Book of Common Prayer provides two forms of service for the Reconciliation of a Penitent. I read the service and reflect on my actions and seek God's loving hand and saving forgiveness. I encourage each of you to read it and also humbly ask the clergy to offer the service to your congregations. Moreover, I humbly request that both laity and clergy join me as we participate as penitents. *Holy God, heavenly Father, you formed me from the dust in your image and likeness and redeemed me from sin and death by the cross of your Son Jesus Christ.*

**Maundy Thursday.** I have been reflecting and praying over the divisiveness in our world. The Maundy Thursday liturgy not only institutes the Holy Eucharist, it also gives us the gift of foot washing. When we share the bread and wine; we become one with the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. In the same way, when we wash one another's feet, we humble ourselves and embrace our sacred calling to become servants. In the presence of our Lord, in the community of believers, there are no differences. Let us join together as one Body as we eat, drink, share and serve one another. "*The Lord Jesus, after he had suppered with his disciples and had washed their feet, said to them, 'Do you know what I, your Lord and Master, have done to you? I have given you an example that you should do as I have done.'*" (John 13:14-15)

**I humbly ask you offer a portion of Lent to service at your church or through some other outreach.** Serve your Church as a lector, help the altar guild or be a servant in worship. Give five hours during Lent through the food bank at your church, the outreach committee, or any of the numerous ministries that give life to our diocese. You will be the face and voice of Christ that people will see, hear and encounter. "*By this shall the world know that you are my disciples: That you have love for one another.*" (John 13:35)

**Finally, I invite you to read three books and watch two movies with me.** The first book is, "*Joy in Confession: Reclaiming Sacramental Reconciliation*" by our own Rev. Dr. Hillary D. Raining. The second is, "*The Day the Revolution Began: Reconsidering the Meaning of Jesus's Crucifixion*" by N.T. Wright. The final book is, "*The Case for Jesus: The Biblical and Historical Evidence for Christ*" by Dr. Brant Pitre.

The movies I encourage us to watch are: *Amazing Grace*, a biographical drama film about the campaign against the slave trade in the British Empire, led by William Wilberforce, who was responsible for steering anti-slave trade legislation through the British parliament. The title is a reference to the hymn "Amazing Grace." The film also recounts



# YOU ARE INVITED

to **Second Saturday Neighborhood Night**

**When: March 10, 2018, 5:00pm**

**What: Mac and a Movie - Neighbors gathering for macaroni and cheese and a movie**



**Bring your favorite Mac 'N Cheese recipe**

**Movie: Joyful Noise with Dolly Parton & Queen Latifah**

**Who: All are welcome.**

Come and enjoy!



**Where: Christ Episcopal Church**

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

Bring your family and friends!

the experiences of John Newton as a crewman on a slave ship and subsequent religious conversion, which inspired his writing of the poem later used in the hymn.

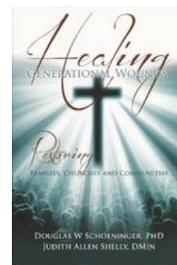
The second movie is *The Mission*. It is a 1986 British period drama about the experiences of a Jesuit missionary in 18th-century South America. It revolves around Father Gabriel, a Spanish Jesuit, who enters the northeastern Argentinian and western Paraguayan jungle to build a mission station. It has been consistently rated as one of the top religious films. The cast includes Jeremy Irons, Liam Neeson, and Robert De Niro. The cinematography is breathtaking, and the themes are moving. Pay particular attention to the waterfall scene where Robert De Niro is carrying his armor. The film does a magnificent job dealing with the Lenten themes of penitence and reconciliation.

The spiritual journey we are on as a diocese is holy and beautiful. I am blessed to serve as your servant and shepherd. You are a gift to the Church, and we are sharing the Good News of our Savior Jesus Christ. As we journey through Lent, let's us focus on the truth, that at its heart, Christianity is about the live-giving power of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Nothing is more important. And in the end all that will remain is Jesus Christ.

Know you are always in my prayers and are deeply loved.

†The Rt. Rev. Daniel G. P. Gutierrez  
*XVI Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania*

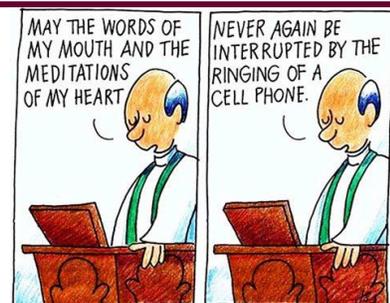
## Monday Night Book/Bible Study



Beginning March 12<sup>th</sup>, the Monday Night Book/Bible Study will be studying *Healing Generational Wounds: Restoring Families, Churches and Communities*, by Doug Schoeninger and Judy Shelly. We will follow the in-depth healing process described in the book. All are welcome to join us, up to a limit of 12 in the group. Because each chapter builds on the previous one, we are asking for a commitment to attend the sessions faithfully. Preparation is required for each session. Books will be provided without cost for those committing to the full course.

Each session will consist of a *Lectio Divina* on a relevant Bible passage and discussion of the chapter reflections for the week, applying the content to our own situations.

Please notify Judy Shelly if you are interested in joining us. [judyshelly@comcast.net](mailto:judyshelly@comcast.net) or 610-754-7001. Leave a message if no one answers the phone.



## Vestry Election

The following are the new members Vestry. Their terms are for 3 years.



**Stephanie Laidig**  
382 Trythall Rd, Elverson, PA 19520  
(484) 942-3711  
stephanielaidig@aol.com



**Richard Metz**  
361 Reiff Ave., Pottstown PA 19465  
610-850-2567 (cell)  
rjm361@gmail.com



**Olin Mittan**  
2559 Willow Brook Ln., Pottstown,  
PA 19464  
(484) 994-7315  
omittan1@gmail.com



**Candace Woessner**  
164 Schoolhouse Road, Pottstown,  
PA 19465  
(484) 941-4553  
cjwwjw2@verizon.net

## Lay Deputies to Diocesan Convention

**Stephanie Laidig, Olin Mittan, Judy Shelly**  
**Alternate: Bob Magee**

I've missed more than 9,000 shots in my career. I've lost almost 300 games. Twenty six times I've been trusted to take the game winning shot and missed. I've failed over and over and over again in my life. And that is why I succeed.

— [Michael Jordan](#)



## Our Gang Publishes 2018 Calendar of Activities

Our Gang has published a whole year of monthly activities. There are five new activities that include the newly finished Carousel in Pottstown, St. Peter's Bakery, Boyertown Auto Museum, Carillon Concert at Valley Forge Chapel, and a day trip to Jim Thorpe. Other activities are favorites from previous years such as the Picnic at Towpath Park and Steel River Playhouse. This is our fourth year providing events for Our Gang, which are also open to church members. The calendar will be posted on the bulletin board.

Our first activity for 2018 is lunch at the Railroad Restaurant in Linfield on Thursday, February 15. Save the date!

If you have questions about any of these events, see Sue Rhoads (late service) or Barbara Ackerman (early service).

## Grill for Sale

We have inadvertently 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.



Fewer than 10 percent of the 400 wealthiest Americans who appeared on the Forbes list in 1982, when "Blade Runner" was released, were still there in 2012. As for the permanent aristocracy of wealth, of the 20 biggest fortunes on the 2013 Forbes list, 17 of them were self-made.

## 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

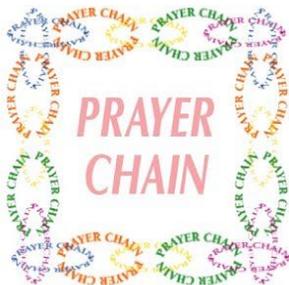


## Prayer Chain

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](mailto:stephanielaidig@aol.com).



## 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 would like more than one volunteer to rotate duties. Please contact Georgine Takach if you are willing to help.*



## **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.***

## Useful Links

### Affirming Catholicism

[www.affirmingcatholicism.org.uk](http://www.affirmingcatholicism.org.uk)

**Alpha** [www.alphausa.org](http://www.alphausa.org)

### Anglican Communion

[www.anglicancommunion.org/](http://www.anglicancommunion.org/)

### Anglican Communion News Service

[www.anglicannews.org/](http://www.anglicannews.org/)

**Anglicans Online** [anglicansonline.org](http://anglicansonline.org)

**Anglicans Online USA** [anglicansonline.org/usa](http://anglicansonline.org/usa)

**Bible Gateway** [www.biblegateway.com/](http://www.biblegateway.com/)

### Bishop's Bible Challenge

[www.diopa.org/bishops-bible-challenge/](http://www.diopa.org/bishops-bible-challenge/)

### Christ Church, Pottstown

[www.christpottstown.org](http://www.christpottstown.org)

**Church of England** [www.churchofengland.org](http://www.churchofengland.org)

### Daily Prayer and Worship Resources Online

[oremus.org/index.html](http://oremus.org/index.html)

**Diocese of PA** [www.diopa.org](http://www.diopa.org)

### Diocese of PA Parish Events

[www.diopa.org/parish-events](http://www.diopa.org/parish-events)

### Episcopal Church Foundation

[www.episcopalfoundation.org/](http://www.episcopalfoundation.org/)

### Episcopal Church in the US

[www.episcopalchurch.org/](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/)

### Episcopal News Service

[episcopaldigitalnetwork.com/ens](http://episcopaldigitalnetwork.com/ens)

### Episcopal Questions and Answers

[stgeorges.wordpress.com/seekers-andvisitors/episcopal-q-a/](http://stgeorges.wordpress.com/seekers-andvisitors/episcopal-q-a/)

**Generous Orthodoxy** [www.generousorthodoxy.org/](http://www.generousorthodoxy.org/)

**Glossaries** [www.episcopalchurch.org/library/glossary](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/library/glossary)  
and [www.epicenter.org/church-terminology/](http://www.epicenter.org/church-terminology/)

**Habitat for Humanity** [www.habitatmontco.org/](http://www.habitatmontco.org/)

### Liturgical Calendar

[www.lectionarypage.net](http://www.lectionarypage.net)

### Online Book of Common Prayer

[www.bcponline.org/](http://www.bcponline.org/)

**Oremus** (Liturgical resources) <http://www.oremus.org/>

### Project Canterbury (Anglican History)

[anglicanhistory.org](http://anglicanhistory.org)

**SAMS—Society of Anglican Missionaries and Sender** [www.sams-usa.org](http://www.sams-usa.org)

**Society of Archbishop Justus (Anglican information and documents)**

[justus.anglican.org](http://justus.anglican.org)

**SPCK—Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge** [spckusa.org/](http://spckusa.org/)

**Recycling in Montgomery County** (incl.hazardous waste) [www.montcopa.org/index.aspx?NID=637](http://www.montcopa.org/index.aspx?NID=637)

**Rookie Anglican** [www.anglicanpastor.com](http://www.anglicanpastor.com)

**Anglicans for Life** [www.anglicansforlife.org](http://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



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*Pottstown, PA 19464*

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