

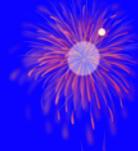


Christ Christ Church Chronicles

Volume 9 Issue 4, July 2017

316 E. High St.

Pottstown, PA 19464



To Glorify God Through Worship, Nurture, and Service

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People's Warden

Jan Morris

Miriam Spade

Class of 2021

Stephanie Laidig-

Rector's Warden

Olin Mittan

Candace Woessner

In his *Rule*, St. Benedict writes,

Let all guests who arrive be received like Christ,
for He is going to say,

"I came as a guest, and you received Me" (Matt. 25:35).

And to all let due honor be shown,

especially to members of the household of the
faith and to pilgrims.

Showing hospitality and welcome, especially to strangers, is a foundational Christian virtue. Like most virtues, it is cultivated by regular, sustained practice across one's life so that, in time, decision becomes reflex. Benedict understood that each guest gave his community an opportunity to welcome Christ and, in turn, to know him more fully.

Over the last several weeks, my family and I have been welcomed — both to Pottstown and to Christ Church — by so many of you with warmth, generosity, and kindness. Whether with meals, snow shoveling, flowers, pediatrician recommendations, or introductions around town, we've been shown remarkable hospitality and welcome, and will not soon forget all the kindnesses shown to us. Mary and Bea and I are particularly grateful to all of you who worked tirelessly to prepare the rectory as a home for our family. We came to you as strangers, and have been received with grace and love.

For me, this is not only a source of tremendous gratitude but also of encouragement and hope. Your hospitality is a witness to your love of God and desire to share that love with others. My family and I have seen already the hospitality and welcome that I am eager for others in the community to enjoy. Christian hospitality is central to a parish's call to reach out beyond its walls, inviting neighbor and stranger alike to share in a life together in witness to Christ's love. The mission and ministry of Christ Church and our ongoing flourishing will rely on our shared desire to continue practicing Christian hospitality to all who come through our doors, receiving them like Christ. In this way, we will not only bear witness to the love of God, but will also come to know him more fully ourselves.

The Rev. Joshua M. Caler†
Rector



Carnival Rides, Food Tent, Arts Tent, Beer Garden,
Vendors & Artisans, Live Entertainment
Laser Light show "sneak preview" July 3rd
Laser Light show finale on July 4th
[GoFourth! Festival](#)

Streetwise

Streetwise explores how God challenges the institutional church. This discussion presumes that God does not dictate a static church. Rather, He seeks a living, changing church that celebrates God's presence in our lives and expects His church to be responsive to the need of His people.



The Episcopal Church (TEC) is an established corporation. It is a complicated institution. Consider for the moment that Christ Church, Pottstown is located in the Diocese of Pennsylvania. But just down the road a few miles, we find ourselves in the Diocese of Bethlehem and a few miles south, in the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania. But we are all one body when General Convention convenes every three years.

Also, TEC has strong ties to the Church of England. Did you notice a few years ago that our Presiding Bishop, Michael Bruce Curry, was in an uncomfortable position when he was briefly rejected by the international body of bishops because of a decision made by our General Convention?

These thoughts are pertinent. Here at Christ Church, Pottstown, we have numerous decisions to make as we stretch to deepen our relationship with God—as individuals and as a community.

A recent example is that many members and friends of Christ Church were deeply moved by the recent wedding in England. We were not just spectators. We were gathered around our television sets and we were participating in the worship and the vows made by the new couple. And our Presiding Bishop Curry gave the homily.

Personally, I remembered watching the youngest boy, Harry, walking with his family to his mother's funeral. And now we have shared a healing moment when grown-up Harry married a woman from the United States.

How does God act to change the institutional church? We have been present together and at one with the Holy Spirit.

Respectfully submitted,
Deacon Robin†

From Fr. Kline

Dear friends,

Most of us I imagine are all familiar with the concept of “a teachable moment.” I find it hard to resist this old Sufi tale about how those moments show up for us. It just so happens that an academic hires a boat to take him across a deep lake so he might give a lecture. Out in the middle of the lake he turns to the farrier and asks, “have you ever given yourself to the study of knowledge?” The boatman has to confess that he has not. The good professor declares, “what a pity; you have wasted half your life.” Shortly after, the farrier looks up and asks, “have you ever given yourself to the study of swimming?” The academic confesses as to how he has not. “Well, you have wasted your whole life, as this boat is sinking!”

Here, in all of its delicious irony, we do indeed have a teachable moment. Not only are we open to learning something vital, we feel a need. we had better learn what we need to learn - and fast - because everything hangs in the balance. The tension and irony often reside in the instantaneous realization that this might be one of those situations where it is to late.. What we needed to have at our fingertips fails us. Youth is wasted on the young. You can't teach an old dog new tricks. Etc. etc.

Jesus' whole ministry, especially with his disciples in view, was an excuse to provide for them a teachable moment. Take the sudden decision to suddenly look up at an angry sky, drop a successful teaching tour on one side of the lake, and say, hey, let's head over to the other side! Our fishermen friends, no doubt, knew what they were getting into. What they really learned though, as they headed into the storm and Jesus decided to take a nap, was that they could trust him in absolutely every situation.

And as they thought about that event over and over, and kept walking in faith, they kept discovering new ways and new situations where they really could draw on the knowledge that Jesus is Lord of all creation as a key to calming every stormy sea.

We are being reminded with some regularity, that although the joy of summer is upon us, hurricane season has begun. And if we aren't preoccupied with the storms in our own lives, we certainly are in need

cont. p. 3



Fr. Kline cont. from p. 2

of some teachable moments when it comes to the increasing tribalism of our politics and civic life, even the life of our churches. With regard to immigration and asylum seeking at our borders, we are learning to pay attention. Some of us are even taking the time to learn about the complexity of immigration policy and law. Some of us are digging deeper into the stories of those coming here and what motivates them. Others are adding a biblical reflection to heed the command to treat “the alien and sojourner” in our midst with absolute dignity.

Most of all, we are learning that families are inviolable. We are learning again that how we treat the most vulnerable is the moral place to start. “Suffer the little children...” The children must not suffer. We are learning that the soul of America is at stake.

Most of all we are learning who we want to be. Are we people of mercy and compassion, grit and creativity, even in the face of the most intractable problems. I am pledged to the idea that we will all pitch in and not rest until all separated children within our borders are reunited with their parents. Many won’t stay here. But at least they will leave intact. It will take all our tribes to do it. Republicans and Democrats, military and civilian advocates, people of all convictions and faiths to take a step back, trust each other just long enough, to do the right thing.

Finally, in the story of Jesus sleeping in the boat as the storm reaches it’s climax, I feel like I am learning something of God’s infinite patience. God is patient with us so that we will be patient with each other. And also, so that we will take responsibility and learn the lesson of living by faith.

Let us pray for the Master, through each one of us, to calm the storm and get us safely to the other side.

Happy Hurricane Season!
Andy†



To the Vestry, Wardens, and Parishioners of Christ Church Pottstown

I wish to thank everyone for their love and support throughout the entire Diaconate process. You gave me encouragement and resilience along the way. I wish to also thank you for the beautiful stole and the donation toward my Discretionary Fund. Whenever I wear the stole, I will be reminded of Christ Church, Pottstown. Whenever I use the funds to help someone in need, I will be reminded of the ministries that Christ Church has, and how they have helped so many. I can’t thank you enough for the years of love and support you have shown me. I look forward to seeing all of you again and perhaps worshipping with you. Thanks to all who were present on that special day.

May Gods love continue to be with all of you throughout your lives and your ministries.

With warmest regards,
Rev. Deacon Louis K. Steffenhagen†

Fr. John Houghton’s Forwarding Address

609 Houghton Street
Culver, IN 46511
(610) 323-0739 (C)
numenor001@gmail.com



Address Updates

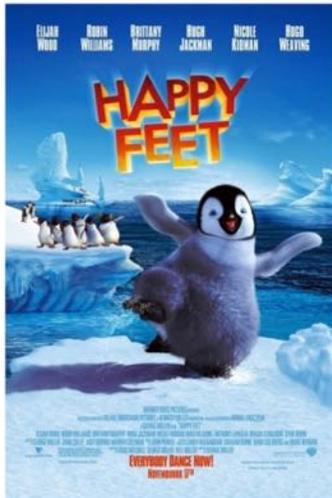
Jere & Annette
Bricker
1180 Benjamin Franklin
Hwy. East, Apt 238
Douglassville, PA 19518
(610) 385-5238
jeb716@aol.com

Joseph Stalnaker
432 Strafford Ave.
Apt. 3-D
Strafford, PA 19087
(610) 301-2888
jwstalnakersr@gmail.com

YOU ARE INVITED

**July 14, 2018
6:00pm**

to **Second Saturday Neighborhood Night**
Movie and Popcorn



Happy Feet

Into the world of the Emperor Penguins, who find their soul mates through song, a penguin is born who cannot sing. But he can tap dance something fierce!

Starring Elijah Wood, Robin Williams, Brittany Murphy, Hugh Jackman, Nicole Kidman, Hugo Weaving, and E.G. Daily. Directed by George Miller.



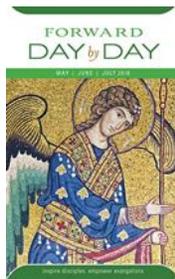
**Enjoy a fun evening!
Bring your family & friends!**

All are Welcome!

**Christ Episcopal Church, 316 East High Street, Pottstown,
PA 19465, 610-323-2895 Entrance in rear off Queen Street parking lot.**

Forward Day by Day

Forward Day by Day is a booklet of daily inspirational meditations, published quarterly, reflecting on a specific Bible passage, chosen from the daily lectionary readings as listed in the *Revised Common Lectionary* or the *Daily Office* from the *Book of Common Prayer*.



It's available in several formats, including

- Regular Print (3.5" x 5.5"), English and Spanish (*Día a Día*)
- Large Print (7.5" x 10.75")
- Daily email
- E-book on Kindle, Nook, and iTunes
- Daily podcast
- App for your smartphone: iOS or Android
- Braille
- Facebook and Twitter

A regular print subscription is only \$11/year, and Christ Church has a bulk subscription to the English and Spanish versions, available to parishioners at no charge, which can be found on the tables outside the office and by the Great Room. To subscribe to other versions, go to <https://www.forwardmovement.org/>

Baptisms

On June 3, we had five baptisms - Allison Mendez Morales, Edwin Mendez Morales, Rubi Mendez Morales, Diana Severiane Gomez, and Keila Perez. Parents - Josuo Severiano and Ovilia Gomez, Angelica Perez, Gildardo Menendez & Maria Morales.

We Welcome Them to the Household of Faith



"Lust is what keeps you wanting to do it even when you have no desire to be with each other. Love is what makes you want to be with each other even when you have no desire to do it." --- **Judith Viorst**

From Bishop Gutiérrez

My dear brothers and sisters,

I greet you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I give thanks to Jesus Christ, through Him, all things are made new. I am blessed to serve as your Bishop. I will never take for granted this sacred trust you have placed in me. I will strive every day to serve you as a loving shepherd, caring pastor, and faithful sojourner.

We have many gifts in this Diocese, and the possibilities are endless. We have the best message in the world – Jesus Christ. With Jesus Christ with us, we will build the Kingdom of God, hand in hand and one step at a time.

The Office of the Bishop and Diocesan Offices have one purpose: “To proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ and build the Kingdom of God by serving the clergy and laity of the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania.” We will endeavor to live into the purpose we have stated.

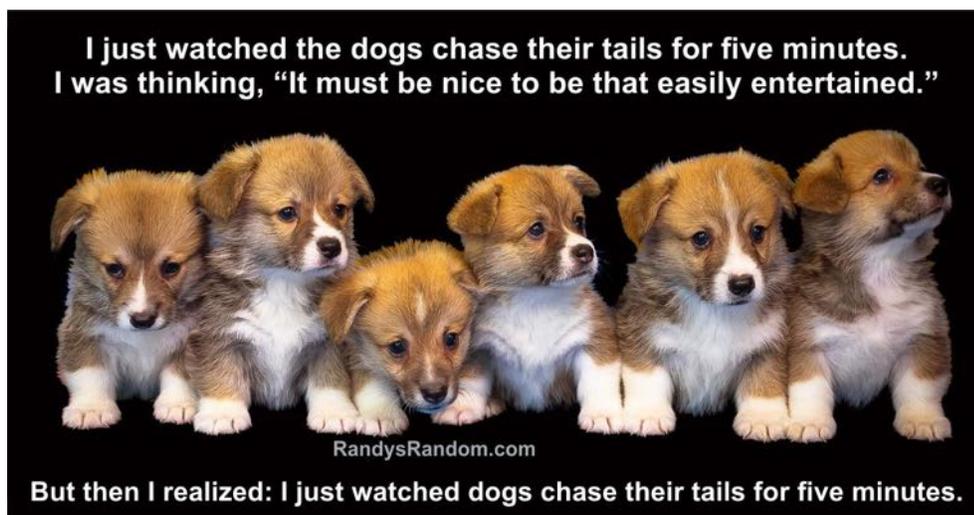


In the first chapter of John, Jesus is traveling and being followed by curious observers. Jesus is asked, “Where are you staying?” Jesus responds, “Come and see.” Imagine the possibilities, imagine the Kingdom if this Diocese is known as the “come and see” diocese. A place where we encounter God through prayer, community, liturgy and service. A place where we lift the dignity of every human being and show the world how we love one another. A diocese where Christ is reflected in one another.

“Come and see” the work we are doing in the name of Jesus Christ and you may want to join in this sacred story called the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania.

May you continue to be settled in God’s tender care.

In Christ,
The Rt. Rev. Daniel G. P. Gutiérrez
XVI Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania



Our Gang Activities Coming Up



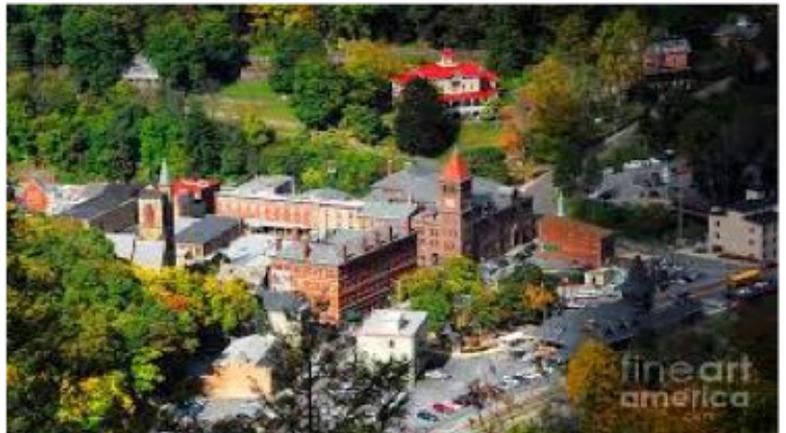
Our Gang has scheduled a picnic in Towpath Park for July 11. Hamburgers and hotdogs will be provided with Our Gang bringing sides. Sides include salads, hot dishes, and desserts. Whatever you brought last year would be great! We had a wonderful selection of food last year. Signup sheet is on the bulletin board. There is a pavilion in the

picnic area just in case a shower comes up and it protects us from the sun. Date Wednesday, July 11 – Time 11:00. See you there!!



FUTURE EVENTS FOR OUR GANG

Plans are underway for a day trip in October to the bucolic community of Jim Thorpe. Date is Thursday, October 11. We have reserved a motor coach with Klein, which seats 37. The vehicle has all the comforts that include a restroom and air conditioning. Several of us have visited the community recently and can't wait to go back. More information will go out on sites to visit, restaurants, and other places that will appeal. Save the date. There will be a sign-up sheet on this soon. The big structure in this photo is St. Mark and St. John Episcopal Church.



Other future

events include a visit to the Boyertown Auto Museum, the Christ Church Fall Bazaar and Craft Show, and a play at the Steel River Playhouse.

Anyone interested in Our Gang activities, please contact Barbara Ackerman at the early service or Susan Rhoads at the later service.



**Don't Forget - Pottstown Classics Car Show
7 July 5-9pm**

Christ Church Food Sales
Hot Dogs, Burgers, Hot/Regular Sausage and Other Goodies

Come join us - we need the help - **3pm**

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

prayers@christpottstown.org

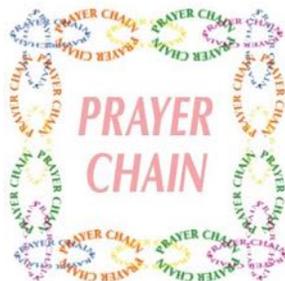
We need you on the Prayer Chain. The Prayer Chain is a voluntary email set in motion as soon as a request is received. The request goes out to a large number of people from Christ Church who have signed up to receive prayer chain requests. Prayer chains get their name from the idea of a phone chain or 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 at stephanielaidig@aol.com.

We have a new email address dedicated solely to the Prayer Chain:

prayers@christpottstown.org



"One mother can achieve more than a hundred teachers."--- **Jewish proverb**



Nursery Help Needed

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.



New Fundraising Opportunity

We are going to try a new approach to fundraising with gift cards. With this new process, we have the ability to choose gift cards from virtually any retailer, fast food or restaurant. You will be receiving a survey in the near future. The goal of the survey will be to select the gift cards that would be most popular so that we know what gift cards to keep on hand. We hope that you will take the opportunity to participate with the survey. On behalf of the fundraising committee, thank you!



Lisa Baro

Steeple Cross Replacement



We expect to have the new steeple cross up sometime in July. The old cross will be set up in

front of the church, visible from High St. The new one will be shaped somewhat like the old one, but will be made of stainless steel, and will also serve, as the old one did, as our lightning rod.

The delay has been due to the availability of the specialized equipment for raising the cross to the top

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 www.episcopalchurch.org/library/glossary and www.epicenter.org/church-terminology/

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/>

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

Effortless Fundraising

We continue to offer two ongoing effortless fundraisers - the **Redner's Receipt Program** and **AmazonSmile**. Thanks to Erma Magee, Debby Metz, and Jean Davidheiser for their commitment to these programs.



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



Gift Card Survey

We would like to try a new approach to gift certificate sales using the Scrip Fundraising program. There are over 700 retailers to choose from, with a turn around time of less than two weeks for certificates to arrive. With a little advance planning, this can be a great solution for shopping, gasoline, holidays, gift giving, and dining out. Christ Church could really benefit from the program. If you book a cruise with Royal Caribbean using your Scrips, we get 13%!! So maybe we should plan a group cruise....just saying!! Most major hotel chains and airlines are also represented so remember Scrips when planning your travel.



In addition, we can pick a few select businesses to keep certificates on hand for immediate use like we did with Giant cards in the past. In an effort to tailor this selection to meet your needs, please select your top 5 choices from the list below. **Please number your choices as #1 for most likely to purchase through #5.** Note that different businesses have different rebate rates, noted in parentheses, as this may influence your decision.

Visit shopwithscrip.com to see if there are other retailers that are of great interest to you. If there are, please let me know.

Please detach and return your survey to the church by July 29. There will be additional copies available for your convenience. You can also email your choices to me at <mailto:dlbaro@aol.com> or give me a call/text at 610-745-7938.

As always, on behalf of the Fundraising Committee, thank you for supporting our various ministries at Christ Church.

With love and appreciation,
Lisa Baro

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> A.C. Moore (5%) | <input type="checkbox"/> Applebee's (8%) | <input type="checkbox"/> Barnes & Noble (8%) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bath & Body Works (14%) | <input type="checkbox"/> Bed Bath & Beyond (14%) | <input type="checkbox"/> Boscov's (8%) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Burger King (4%) | <input type="checkbox"/> Chili's (11%) | <input type="checkbox"/> CVS (6%) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Giant (4%) | <input type="checkbox"/> Groupon (7%) | <input type="checkbox"/> Home Depot (4%) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lowe's (4%) | <input type="checkbox"/> Marshall's/T•J•Maxx/ Home Goods (7%) | <input type="checkbox"/> Michaels Crafts (4%) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Office Depot 5% | <input type="checkbox"/> Old Navy (14%) | <input type="checkbox"/> Olive Garden (8%) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Outback (8%) | <input type="checkbox"/> Panera (8%) | <input type="checkbox"/> Papa John's (8%) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Petco (5%) | <input type="checkbox"/> QVC (5%) | <input type="checkbox"/> Red Lobster (8%) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rite Aid (4%) | <input type="checkbox"/> Speedway (4%) | <input type="checkbox"/> Staples (5%) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Starbucks (7%) | <input type="checkbox"/> Subway (7%) | <input type="checkbox"/> Texas Roadhouse (9%) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> TGI Fridays (9%) | <input type="checkbox"/> Walmart (2.5%) | <input type="checkbox"/> Wawa (1.5%) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Weis Markets (5%) | <input type="checkbox"/> Wendy's (4%) | |