



Christ Christ Church Chronicles

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316 E. High St. Pottstown, PA 19464

To Glorify God Through Worship, Nurture, and Service

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Change is Inevitable, Growth is Optional

[Recently] I had the honor of facilitating a men's retreat. Those of us who gathered for this event were all in the second half of our lives and so the theme for the retreat was especially relevant: "Maintaining Wellness in the Midst of Change and Transition." Author Richard Rohr writes about how the second half of life is inevitably full of change and transition. Often these changes involve some kind of loss, and the challenge then is to make choices that keep us well and growing, even when we experience difficult changes that are beyond our control.

During the course of the retreat, we reflected on these words from leadership author John Maxwell, "Change is inevitable, growth is optional." What comes to mind as you reflect on this quote? In the context of our men's retreat, we talked about this quote after we had each spent time sharing some of the changes that had occurred in our lives over the last several years. Given the many changes that were shared (related to health, relationships, finances, and work/retirement) it was easy for us to see the truth of the first part of Maxwell's quote. Change is clearly inevitable and is ever present in all of our lives.

The discussion was rich and deep when we talked about the second part of the quote, "...growth is optional." The consensus of our group of men was that growth is optional because it requires a choice by each of us to be intentional about turning change into growth. We agreed growth involves being humble, taking risks, being vulnerable, and acknowledging our need for help. It was concluded that without being intentional about choosing these actions that will move us towards growth, change is simply change. It can leave us disoriented and sometimes unhappy or angry.

Richard Rohr wrote a powerful book entitled "Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life" in which he describes the process of choosing growth in the midst of change. When we make that choice, we fall upward, learning and growing because of the change, instead of falling downward. It is all as simple as that, and as hard as that.

If I asked each of us if there has been change in our lives over the last five years, I think I am safe in answering for us all, "Of course." The more important questions, and ones that each of us can only answer for ourselves, is, in the midst of that change, "Has there been growth? And what can we do to help the changes in our lives be opportunities for continued growth?"

The Rev. Dr. D. Scott Stoner - [Change Is Inevitable](#)

From Fr. Kline

“There is a balm in Gilead, to make the wounded whole.

There is a balm in Gilead, to heal the sin sick soul.”

African American Spiritual



A friend asked me the other day: so can you get “balm” other than in “Gilead”?

OK, he was being a smart Alec. But it is a truly profound question. What IS the Balm in Gilead anyway? It turns out to be a clue to the fact that Jesus is our Lord and Savior because he is always up to saving, making whole, all of us, all parts of us.

When Israel came into the Promised Land, they discovered, just on the outskirts, a special grove of balsam trees that grew nowhere else, on the Eastern bank of the Jordan. The sap from this tree would become famous for its wild fragrant smell and its healing properties. The teachers of Israel would note that it first entered their story when eleven of Jacob’s sons were plotting to get rid of his favorite, their annoying youngest brother Joseph. They accepted this balm, this precious oil, as payment for the sale of their brother to the traders who would take him down to Egypt. What a healing it would be to not kill their brother, but only sell him into slavery!

And how else should the story end than that Jacob himself, thinking that his next youngest son Benjamin was hostage in Pharaoh’s house, would gift back the oil as a peace offering to Joseph, who would ultimately reveal himself as the savior of the entire family from famine and forgiver of every faithless treachery.

Thus did the balm in Gilead earn its reputation – ranked with the glories of Solomon and guarded by all the Kings of Israel. There are sacred places in this world that become like sanctuaries, islands of peace in

a violent world. Two acres east of the Jordan and west of Jericho - there grows the balm in Gilead.

So much so, that next we hear of it in the biblical tale is striking. The prophet Jeremiah seeing the destruction of Israel and the coming exile cries out: “Is there no balm in Gilead?!” And so, for 70 years of Exile, and 400 years of frustration in not ever recovering their sovereignty and restoration, Israel prayed and asked the question.

Thus, it is striking that when Jesus came, his first acts were of healing and deliverance. And when his friends and neighbors became frightened by him, and after the violence that broke out against John, the first thing Jesus did was to teach his disciples to go out two by two to do the things that he was doing, plus one more thing. Such a profound detail in the gospel of Mark - He commanded them to heal by anointing with oil. Nothing was to stop the message of God’s in-breaking Kingdom. It was after all, the balm in Gilead.

The balm in Gilead accompanies God’s people from slavery to freedom. That process always includes both the spiritual business of forgiveness and reconciliation - and physical healing. And how that shows up in the simple penetrating words of the spiritual – body and soul, healed and whole.

From death to eternal life. Jesus pioneer and perfecter of our faith. His kingdom come! He calls us to equip ourselves with healing oil and the other sacraments of the Church. Two acres east of the Jordan and west of Jericho - there grows to this day the balm in Gilead.

Yes, there is a balm in Gilead! You can bank on it on your passage from slavery to freedom. Thank you Jesus Lord and Savior.

Happy Hurricane Season!
Andy†

Address Updates

Paul & Debbie Harmon
778 Yemassee Loop
The Villages, FL 32162
(484) 524-5382
Harmon123@comcast.net

Don’t Forget - Pottstown Classics Car Show

4 August 5-9pm

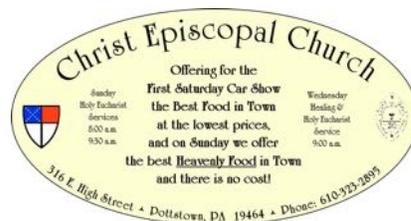
Christ Church Food Sales

Hot Dogs, Burgers, Hot/Regular

Sausage and Other Goodies

Come join us - we need the help -

3pm



What's Happened to Camp Wapiti?

Bishop Gutiérrez recently put a detailed review of the status of Camp Wapiti (Wapiti Retreat Center) online at [Link to article](#).

Wapiti is a 432 acre property purchased in 2003 as a youth camp and retreat center. The plans for it were never realized and the property has been up for sale since 2008.

This has been a significant issue, both politically and budget since the purchase. If you are interested in Diocesan issues, particularly financial ones, please review the article.



New Steeple Cross

We have a new cross on the steeple. The old one was taken down last summer after someone noticed it tilting - forward one day, backwards the next.

Research revealed that the long base of the cross, inside the steeple, had broken after some 140 years. Since its falling would pose danger both to people and to the building, we hired C. J. Diimer & Sons from Ephrata to take the cross down and cap the steeple.

The cross was also the top of the lightning rod for the parish so it was necessary to either replace it, or provide a different type of rod. The parish overwhelmingly wanted a replacement.

Mr. Diimer created a new stainless steel one, and on Friday, 13 July, put up the new one. Both removal and installation required a 125' moveable crane.

Photos below show the process of removal and reinstallation. The installation was covered by photographers from both the *Pottstown Mercury* and the *Reading Eagle*.

The Original Cross

This is cast iron, ca. 250-300 lb. and was originally gold plated. The decorative elements reflect Pottstown's past as a manufacturing town.



Coming Down



Going Up



Almost Done

New Cross



Scared of Heights?



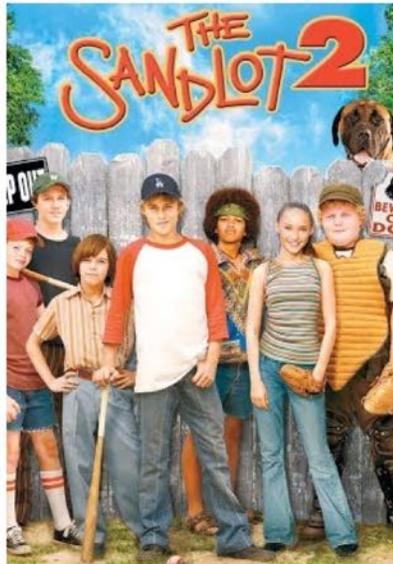
C. J. Diimer & Sons

YOU ARE INVITED

Aug 11, 2018 6:00pm

to **Second Saturday Neighborhood Night**

Movie and Popcorn



The Sandlot

The Sandlot is a coming-of-age story about a group of young boys growing up in California in 1962. A new, shy boy (Thomas Guiry) moves into the neighborhood, where he is initially rejected by the local boys because he doesn't know how to play baseball. Together they go on a series of funny and touching adventures.

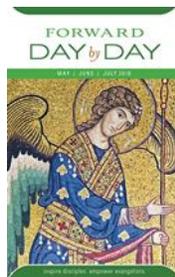
Enjoy a fun evening!
Bring your family & friends!
All are Welcome!



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/>

"Love is a ladder; it allows us to climb out of ourselves."--- **Noah benShea**

Vacation Bible School - 2018

Christ Church, First Baptist Church, St. Paul's UCC, Trinity UCC, and Zion UCC joined together this summer for VBS. For a complete presentation of the events, [click here.](#)



Our Gang Activities In 2018

August –Valley Forge Carillon Concert



[2018 Carillon Schedule](#) Washington Memorial Chapel, Valley Forge

For sixty-four years, Washington Memorial Chapel has presented performances by the world's finest carilloneurs. This magnificent music in the pastoral setting of Valley Forge National Historical Park continues to be a source of great enjoyment and inspiration for area residents and visitors from all over the world.



September – Boyertown Auto Museum Tour - Dinner At Greshville

This was one of the most worthwhile museums I have visited in a long time. Its holdings were extremely varied, from vintage penny-farthings, tractors and a Conestoga wagon to twentieth century Duryea's, Model T's and a

fantastic 1948 woody Chrysler. To top the collection off, there is an original Sunoco gas station and a beautifully restored 1938 diner! Everybody we talked to was exceedingly kind and accommodating, and I would visit the Boyertown Museum of Historic Vehicles again!



October – Bus Trip To Jim Thorpe In Fall

Jim Thorpe is a borough and the county seat of Carbon County. The town has been called the "Switzerland of America" due to the picturesque scenery, mountainous location, and architecture; as well as the "Gateway to the Poconos." It is in ...Pennsylvania. The population was

4,781 at the 2010 census.

Things to do in Jim Thorpe, PA - Asa Packer Mansion, Lehigh Gorge Scenic Railway, Old Jail Museum, Lehigh Gorge Glen Onoko Access, Glen Onoko Falls, Jim Thorpe Borough, Jim Thorpe Sidecar Tourz, Jim Thorpe River Adventures, Chamberlain...

SIGN UP SHEET IS ON THE BULLETIN BOARD – Don't forget to sign up!

FUTURE EVENTS to put on your calendar.

November – Bazaar - Our Gang members help as they are able.

December – Steel River (to be decided)

All our events are open to everyone – parishioners, family, and friends of parishioners. We'd like you to sign-up, so we know who is coming.

Warmly, Sue Rhoads and Barbara Ackerman



3rd Latin Festival

Saturday, September 22, 2018

12:00pm - 5:00pm

Riverfront Park

140 College Drive Pottstown, PA 19464



- Live music
 - Bachata, Merengue, Cumbia and more!
- Authentic cuisine
 - from Chile, Ecuador, Mexico, El Salvador, Puerto Rico and Guatemala
- Activities for children and family
 - Kung Fu, soccer, Zumba, and other games
- Merchandise vendors
- Winner of writing contest to be announced



FREE Admission!

There is space for vendors and opportunities to sponsor. Contact CCLU for more information!



We are a nonprofit organization. CCLU is a bilingual, bridge building organization, committed to enriching the lives of Latinos and others by embracing diversity through cultural, educational, and recreational programs in the Greater Pottstown Area.



Centro Cultural Latinos Unidos, Inc.
301 King Street Pottstown, PA 19464
610-705-0566
610-310-3451

[Link to Festival Vendor, Sponsor, and Advertising Form](#)

Intercessions

At each Eucharist we include an intercessory prayer. The BCP has seven, all of which are tailorable to fit the season and need.

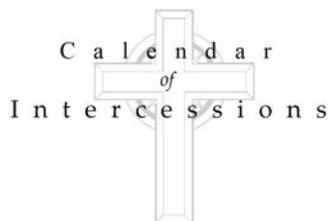
Among other things, they include prayers for church wide needs and programs, for our companion diocese, and for diocesan deaneries and parishes.

If you wonder where we get all those, they are found in the Diocesan Calendar of Intercessions,

available at

www.diopa.org.

Scroll to the bottom and look under Calendars.



Adler & Hearne

On August 21, Lindy Adler and Michael Hearne are returning to Christ Church for a concert and potluck dinner.

Join them for another soulful evening of Potluck dinner, camaraderie and SONG!!! Gather at 6 p.m. for dinner / music at 7 p.m.



Bring a dish and stay for the music.

Tickets - \$15 suggested donation per person (donate as you are able).

Order Adler & Hearne music here - [Adler & Hearne Music](#)



New Tax Forms

Last year Congress made major changes to the tax laws. Among other things was to be a serious simplification of the tax forms. As most people expected, the form produced by the IRS was not a simple as Congress hoped, but it appears that it will be a major improvement.

Here is an overview of the changes, with a sample (they aren't done yet) form. Click here: [1040](#).



"About my loaves and fishes . . . could I get a receipt for tax purposes?"

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

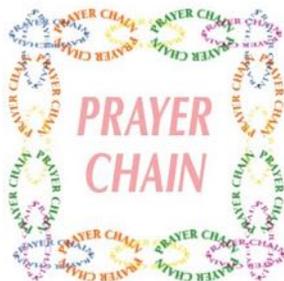
We need you on the Prayer Chain. The Prayer Chain is a voluntary email set in motion as soon as a request is received. The request goes out to a large number of people from Christ Church who have signed up to receive prayer chain requests. Prayer chains get their name from the idea of a phone chain or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



Alpha is Coming

The Alpha program is returning this fall with bilingual sessions starting 11 Sep. To register, contact Olin Mittan, omittan1@gmail.com, (610) 970-9334.

Alpha is a series of sessions exploring the basics of the Christian faith. Typically run over eleven weeks, each session looks at a different question that people can have about 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. It includes an evening meal and discussion of our questions about God, faith, the church, and anything else that matters.



General Convention 2018

The Episcopal Church held its 79th General Convention July 5-13 in Austin, TX.

Over the last few conventions, the church has increasingly made information available before and after, not only with resolutions and resulty, but also with explanations and analysis.

To see what happened, go to [79th General Convention](#). The best way to navigate results is to use the Virtual Binder, the icon to which is at the right of the page. You can also go to it directly with [Resolutions and Results](#).



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/>

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

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.



Serving Our Local Communities Since 1970



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

