

Christ Church, Pottstown

Reflecting & sharing Christ's love

Chronicles

May 2022



Rector's report

Dear Friends,

As I shared at the annual meeting in April, I will be undertaking a planned sabbatical this summer, beginning Sunday, June 12. Though a new practice for Christ Church and its previous Rectors, the expectation that clergy would from time to time plan a sabbatical in consultation with their Vestry has become the norm in the last several decades; so much so that it has become a boiler plate requirement of all Letters of Agreement in the Diocese of Pennsylvania. The Wardens, Vestry, and I began planning this sabbatical last year and agreed to its terms and timeline in the spring.

The purpose of a sabbatical is usually threefold: a time for spiritual, physical, mental, and familial rest; a time to invest in skills or experiences that will enrich future ministry; and a time for prayer and vocational renewal. This summer, I plan on time with my family for travel as well as spent at home. I have a few readings projects planned as well as time set aside for intentional quiet and prayer. Beyond that, I have been invited by the Rt. Rev. William Mostert, the bishop of the [Diocese of Christ the King](#) in the Anglican Church of Southern Africa to serve as a visiting priest in residence in his diocese. Specifically, he's invited me to visit and serve in a parish in Mondeor in the suburbs of Johannesburg, to assist its rector and to learn about a growing, thriving, and diverse parish and the ministries that sustain it. I am eager to see Anglican ministry in a different context and to learn how their experience of growth and engagement might inform our ministry here in Pottstown.

In the coming weeks, you'll learn more about our plans for the summer as a parish. Know that the Vestry, Wardens, and staff have been working hard to ensure that this time is not simply minimally disruptive for Christ Church, but also a chance for renewal for the whole parish. I am so thankful for their leadership and commitment to the spiritual well-being of the Rector and his family and for the leadership that makes such an undertaking possible.

Also know that, when I return in September, I will give a full report, not just the Vestry but also to the wider parish about my time away and what I've learned.

Yours faithfully,



Use Calendly to schedule with the Rector!

Would you like to set a meeting with the Rector? How about a phone call? Would you like him to make a pastoral or home visit to you? The Rector's schedule is such that he cannot accommodate drop-in visits at the office or impromptu conversations on most days. Instead, the best, easiest, and most reliable way to do set a time with him so that he can give you his undivided attention is by using [Calendly](#). Calendly is a web-based service that allows you to find open times on Fr. Joshua's calendar and add a variety of meetings, calls, video conferences, or home visits directly and securely to his calendar.

www.calendly.com/christpottstown

Deacon's report

Dear Friends,

As of late, I have been busy alternating time between [Church of the Epiphany](#) in Royersford, serving the Bishop (on Sundays and for ordinations), as well as continuing all of the ministries at Christ Church. Along with this we are beginning to provide a monthly diaconal presence at The Diaconal Center at [St. Stephen's](#) at 10th and Market Streets in Philadelphia.



The work at Epiphany, Royersford is particularly challenging, as we are trying to locate a new place for worship by May. On the Sundays when I can be present at Christ Church I feel very much at home; I thank you all for your support.

As you may know, this year's shelter has come to an end and we have encountered some obstacles in finding a way and a place to provide shelter for next year. Pottstown Borough Council and the Pottstown Area Economic Development board are surprisingly stubborn and indifferent toward helping (or just allowing us) to serve our fellow citizens in need. I find their efforts to be brutal and dishonest, and yet I know that only love will allow things to change. So, your continued prayers are encouraged.

Peace,
Deacon Dennis

Rev. David Robert Green, Priest Associate

Contact Father Green at santadavid4christ@gmail.com or by telephone at (610) 301-3969.

Vestry report

The Wardens and Vestry would like to thank all those who came out to the Annual Parish Meeting, Chili and Mac & Cheese Cook-Off, and Basket Raffle. The annual reports will be distributed electronically at the end of next week, and hard copies will be available outside the parish office beginning Sunday, May 15.

Organ Project Updates

As you can see, the chancel and organ chamber is now a construction zone. Though we try to clean things up for Sunday mornings, there may be times when we will have to leave some things sitting out and hope that you will understand. Work on Phase I of our organ project is progressing well according to plan. Last week you saw that all of the display pipes (they were just for show and did not make any sound) as well as the wall behind the choir was removed so that work could begin.

Two weeks ago, some of the large wooden pedal pipes had been taken out. A few of those pipes had been damaged by water when our roof was leaking decades ago, and they played as they should ever since. In addition we began the process of removing the Austin actions since they were causing the greatest problems. They will eventually be replaced with a much simpler and more reliable magnet valve. That task will be ongoing.

This past week, all of the pipes from the Austin Organ were taken out so that now you can see the empty space of the chamber. This coming week, cleaning 105 years of soot, dirt, and fallen plaster will be removed as we begin the cleaning process. We had 5 helpers working on Tuesday this past week to remove 694 pipes ranging from over 8 feet long to about 5 inches long.

Would about 4 or 5 people like to do some vacuuming and washing of walls and floors this week? We would love to have your help!

If you can help this week, please sign up on the sheet on the way out to the back parking lot or send me an e-mail at cglandorf@christpottstown.org!

Charles Glandorf



Eastertide bible study *The Acts of the Apostles*

What were the first Christians like? How did those who followed Jesus and the Apostles understand themselves? What was their relationship like with the biblical Israel? How did they fit in the larger Roman world? How did the Faith spread so far and so fast in those first years?

These and many other questions are the focus on the Acts of the Apostles, a biblical account of the first generation of Christian witness. Not only will studying this biblical book help us understand the New Testament world more fully, but it is also a vital starting place for thinking about how Christians today are called to think, pray, and act in a

diverse, changing, and uncertain world.

Join us during Eastertide beginning May 3 for a virtual Bible study as we explore the Acts of the Apostles. Fr. Joshua will lead a Zoom discussion each Tuesday in Easter at 7:00 PM for those who are interested.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87689777554?pwd=SCTJK3BQOE5oelJoZjVrOUFrY21YZz09>

Meeting ID: 876 8977 7554

Passcode: 918144

COVID-19 resources and updates

[The latest updates from our Bishop on protocols.](#)

[How to order free at-home COVID test kits delivered by the USPS.](#)

[How to get free N95 masks.](#)



COVID-19

Updated Mask Guidelines

Masks Required

- all children 5 years and younger.
- all children 5-17 who are not yet vaccinated.
- all adults who are not yet vaccinated.
- adults in ministry with children (regardless of vaccination status).

Masks Recommended

- children and adults (12 years and older) who have received a full course of the Pfizer, Moderna, or Johnson & Johnson vaccine, *including* a booster dose where applicable.

Stay Home

- anyone with symptoms associated with COVID-19.
- anyone exposed to a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19 within the last five (5) days.

Rector's Forum Schedule

What do Episcopalians Believe?

May 8

"Why do we have to be baptized to receive Holy Communion?"

May 15

What is Christian Marriage?

May 22

What is Christian Marriage (continued)?

May 29

What are Deacons?

June 5

What does a Priest do?

Upcoming Calendar Highlights

May 20-21

[Revival at Good Samaritan, Paoli](#)

May 21

Pre-Sabbatical Planning Retreat for Vestry & Staff

May 22

Rogation Sunday

May 29

Memorial Day Offering after the Dismissal

June 2

Narcarn Training in the Parish Hall

June 12

What is a Bishop for?

June 5

Pentecost

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sponsoring our monthly newsletter.

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