



Our door is always open ...

The Trumpeter

Church of the Holy Spirit, 3 Haytown Road, Lebanon, NJ

www.churchholyspirit.org

April-May 2017

OUR MISSION: To know Christ as we serve others, proclaim God's love, and grow in The Spirit.

Back
to
Basics



SERVICE AUCTION

Friday, April 28 - 6:30-10 pm
Church of the Holy Spirit
3 Haytown Road, Lebanon, NJ

- HORS D'OEUVRES, BEVERAGES
- WINE TO PURCHASE
- LIVE AUCTION AT 8 PM
- PAJAMA PARTY FOR KIDS



Tickets: churchholyspirit.org

Proceeds support the CHS Outreach Ministries throughout Hunterdon County and beyond

HAVE YOU RESERVED YOUR TICKETS YET? SEATING IS LIMITED, SO PLEASE DON'T DELAY. SEE PAGE 6 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

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From the Rector's Desk

Dear Friends,

Lent is that time when we focus most especially upon the character of our spiritual lives. But in real ways Easter is the season for reflection and integration of experience of the divine within our daily living. Lent prepares us, opens us, readies us for encounter. The principal, key, focal, and fulcrum point is found in the One Service Over Three Days. The Great Three Days. Triduum. Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Great Vigil of Easter. (You will find the schedule throughout this edition of the Trumpeter. Here, let us consider meanings)

Easter is, in a way, more suited to fasting. Fasts focus the mind and heart and body. The change in a habit dislocates the usual. That dislocation creates space for observation, evaluation, new choices. Say you've decided to give up caffeine, and that would not be my idea of a good time, coffee being my preferred drug of choice.

But the bodily change, the habit of waking, the means of shepherding energy during the day, would all prompt a person to consider many things about her life. Fasts, then, are hardly a negative, but rather an additive action to the quality of one's life. Easter being thoroughly a season of joy, what more joy than a life more vivid and thoughtful than mere stumbling through the twists and turns of mortality? Fasting creates that vividness.

Easter is for connecting the encounter with the whole. That connecting is classically called mystagogy (mist'-ah-go-gee). Entertaining the mystery. The Triduum is encountered, and for the next 50 days we revel in reflection upon it. While everyone knows Christmas is 12 days, if only because of a song, we hardly keep it this way. Usually it's one big day and a couple of remainders for the in-laws, and New Year's is almost never considered part of the 12, it being an entirely secular bacchanal. My tone is not complaint — eves are fun, after all. The point is rather that if it's hard to keep Christmas for 12 days, how much more so for the Great Fifty Days of Easter. Chocolate lovers should be the first to get behind my argument!

So fasting for Easter would look like a sustained thoughtfulness. Asking the central question of humanity: What did that mean? Ask the question. Mull it around. What *does* it mean? You stretched out your hands for a chunk of bread. It was an altar call, wasn't it? Your hands became blistered from raking and fingers pained from sewing. It was a surrender of your life: can you ever get that time back, and where else does your time life get surrendered — and for what? Your clothes smell of a campfire and the chime of bells rings in your memory. What stories direct your self understanding, and may have defined your choices and relationships? Maundy Thursday/Good Friday/Easter Vigil. One service. Three Days. Then the Great 50. All I'm asking us to do is think about it.

Philip+



| | |
|-----------------|---|
| April 13 | Maundy Thursday Seder and Service |
| April 14 | Good Friday Day of Service |
| April 15 | Great Vigil of Easter with Baptism and Bonfire |



The Great Three Days. Triduum



The Maundy Thursday Seder: April 13 — 6:30 pm

The Jewish **Passover Seder** is a feast held to celebrate the Exodus of the Jewish slaves from the land of Pharaoh. It is an occasion for praise and thanksgiving with the reading of the Haggadah in a family-based ritual stemming from the Biblical verse: "And you shall tell it to your son on that day, saying, 'Because of this God did for me when He took me out of Egypt'" (Exodus 13:8). The words and rituals of the Seder are a primary vehicle for the transmission of the Jewish faith from parent to child, and from one generation to the next.

We will hold our own CHS Seder on Maundy Thursday with the telling of the Passover story and eating of several traditional foods: matzo –the unleavened bread the Hebrews took with them on their flight from Egypt; maror (bitter herbs) which symbolize the bitterness of slavery; charoset which represents the mortar which the Jewish slaves used to cement bricks; salt water to recall the tears shed by the Jews during their time as slaves.

This very special event will begin promptly at 6:30PM in the Parish Hall and, after this celebration of the Word, we will proceed to the Sanctuary to celebrate the Holy Eucharist as Jesus Christ has instructed us to do, and the Stripping and Washing of the Altar. The silent vigil in the Garden, arranged in the Church this year, continues from 9 to midnight. To fully experience Maundy Thursday in this manner is to develop a greater understanding of the last hours of our Lord Jesus before the betrayal and Crucifixion.

Sign-up sheets for the Seder will be in the Narthex. Please consider a donation for the cost of the meal: \$10/adult and \$5/children or \$25 max per family.

Good Friday: April 14 — 8:00 am



This year marks our 27th annual day of service to the community. [It's also T-Shirt Day. Remember to wear your CHS T-Shirt if you ordered one.]

We are planning teams to go to Good News Home for various projects; to sew for a cause at Holy Spirit or do other cleaning and repairs at the Rectory. Weather permitting a team will do some yard work for Mr. Fixit clients. Our Y2K group will be helping out at Grow-a-Row.

SIGN-UP SHEETS FOR VOLUNTEERS are in the Narthex. Recruit your entire family, your friends, your neighbors. Team members need not be members of CHS to help with this service event. **Commissioning of all volunteers** will follow a continental breakfast provided by the Vestry starting at 8 am. We conclude back at the church with a prayer service and soup supper and time to chat about the day's activities. If you have questions about this Day of Service, please speak to Marge Keller, Kiki Mehner, or Eva Lesniak.

The Great Vigil of Easter: April 15 — 7:30 pm

From Fr. Phil: This is the high point and fulcrum of the church year.

- ◆ Bring lawn chairs! Gather at the bonfire for the stories of our faith
- ◆ We then journey into church for the baptism of Hazel Mae Babek at 8:00 pm
- ◆ Followed by the pronouncement of Easter and a festal Holy Eucharist.
- ◆ 30 teens from Cristo Rey will be joining us and helping us tell the campfire stories.
- ◆ Afterward a joyful reception and maybe even salsa dancing

Words from the Senior Warden

It's been a very busy two months since our annual elections! I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to our outgoing Vestry members – Janet Wulster, John Higgins, Oscar Jones, and Arden Olson – for your invaluable support during the transition and for your continuing involvement in so many arenas.



Our elected delegates attended the Diocesan Convention, along with Deacon Dot and Father Phil, at the beginning of March. Thank you so much, Marge Keller, Diane Bendahmane, Larry Robinson and Ed Filipski, for representing Holy Spirit.

Our “new” Vestry has met twice since the Vestry Retreat at the Community of St. John Baptist (www.csjb.org), and is making active progress in the eight priority areas identified during our planning retreat – Service Auction, Web Guild, Finance, Property, Stewardship, Outreach, Worship & Music, and Formation. You'll read about a number of these exciting efforts in this issue of our newsletter, with more to come in the next several months. One of those efforts involves inviting our youth to become more active in the leadership of the parish.

If you are teenager, 16 years of age or older . . .

The Vestry of the Church of the Holy Spirit
would like to invite you to join us
at any or as many of our monthly Vestry Meetings
as you can attend.

Be a part of the Leadership Team of your church!

Get a behind-the-scenes peek at how Holy Spirit is governed,
and influence what we do as the Body of Christ . . .

Even if you can't stay for the whole meeting, we would benefit
from your unique perspectives and your input!

We meet on the third Tuesday of each month,
from 7:30 pm until 9:15 or 9:30 pm.

Here are the dates for the rest of this Vestry year:

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Tuesday, April 18 th | Tuesday, September 19 th |
| Tuesday, May 16 th | Tuesday, October 17 th |
| Tuesday, June 20 th | Tuesday, November 21 st |
| (July & August off) | Tuesday, December 19 th |

If you think you might be interested, or if you (or your parents) have any questions at all, please feel free to contact me at eva@churchholyspirit.org

Eva Lesniak

Notes from the Junior Warden



As my first contribution to *The Trumpeter*, I want to start by thanking the people of Holy Spirit for placing your trust in me to act on your behalf as Junior Warden. Please bear with me while I learn the ropes and get up to speed. Eva is an inspiring mentor, and I look forward to working with her.

Looking to the next three years, there are a few major topics that have been raised in the vestry meetings that will involve my attention. Many of these fall under Stewardship, which will be my main area of focus. At its fundamental level, this is the notion of taking care of our community and ensuring its health and longevity.

- ◆ One of the first initiatives we are taking is to consolidate our technology and start shifting the way we communicate in order to capture the next generation of parishioners. The systems we have in place for communication, mainly email and the website, will become obsolete in the next 10 years or so. We want to stay ahead of the curve. Don't anyone panic...we are not going to make any major changes, but will start with a few simple steps each quarter to keep us moving in the right direction.
- ◆ A second initiative is to review our internal policies and procedures. We also want to make sure that these are in alignment with the current and future needs of the Church.
- ◆ Thirdly, we are looking at how to maintain an environment that keeps our next generation engaged. My son Liam asks to go to church on Sunday. It is not for the weekly spiritual maintenance or the intellectual challenges posed by the liturgy, since he's only three. He wants to come to church on Sunday because he likes the way it makes him feel. ("They may forget what you said — but they will never forget how you made them feel." - Carl W. Buehner, 1971). How does this translate to specific actions? I don't know yet, but the dialog has started.
- ◆ And finally, I have been assisting Father Phil and the vestry in looking at ways to maintain our financial health in the years to come.

Thank you and keep in mind I am here to serve you, our faithful congregation. If I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to ask.

Yours in faith,

Jonathon Babek

Ed Note: Please see page 15 for Jon's testimony on the birth of his and Lawren's daughter, Hazel Mae, last fall.

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to
Basics



Countdown to Service Auction

Have you caught Auction Fever yet? Tempus Fugit!

Auction Date is just weeks away—**Friday April 28th** Doors open at 6:30 PM

Have you purchased your tickets? They are available online at

<http://www.churchholyspirit.org/events/april-29-service-auction>

Single tickets are \$37.00 * Table for eight \$259.00 * Table for ten \$333

(ONLY until April 16th; then ticket prices increase)

Ticket sales are limited to 100; get yours now.

Did you turn in a donation form, offering your time, talent or goods? Everyone has talent of one sort or another. What's your's? Gardener, chef, handyman, tutor, painter, artist, organizer, planner.

Turn in your donation so it can be entered in the auction catalog.

Can you help us procure gift certificates or ads from local businesses? Stop by your favorite shop or restaurant, form in hand. Completed forms should be turned in as soon as possible. Email to marge.keller@churchholyspirit.org

Are your kids registered for the Pajama Party? Pizza, popcorn, games, crafts, movies

Sign up online—we need a count to assure sufficient supplies.



The Trinity Chorale
Spring Concert
Sunday, May 7
4 pm

Featuring

Coronation Anthem No. 4
by G. F. Handel

Pavanne by Maurice Ravel

Songs by Bill Whelan from *Riverdance*

O Clap your Hands

by Ralph Vaughan Williams

Spiritual arrangements by Earlene Rentz,
Andre J. Thomas and Roland Carter

The Ground (from *Sunrise Mass*) by Ola Gjeilo

Under the direction of Chris A. Williams

Church of the Holy Spirit
3 Haytown Road, Lebanon, NJ

A reception with light refreshment follows the concert.

A free-will offering will be accepted for the Pipe Organ Fund at CHS



Introducing Michelleslie Maltese-Nehrbass

Michelleslie has been a member of Calvary Church in Flemington for 20 years and has lived in Raritan Township for 29 years. She is halfway through the 3-year Deacon Formation/Training Program, and will spend the balance of 2017 with us as part of her training. Michelleslie's ordination date is January 2019. In addition to her time with us, she serves as a Chaplain intern at Capital Health Hopewell. She received a BA in Communication with a concentration in health communication from the College of New Jersey in 2011. Welcome, Michelleslie!

From the Acolyte Corner

February was a busy month for the acolytes. On the 11th some of our group were able to be at the Cathedral in Trenton with Bishop Chip and friends from other churches in the diocese. Later in the month we gathered for an overnight at CHS. See page 16 for photos of that fun evening. We welcome new members of the team and I would like to announce our most recent addition : Hayleigh Masenior.

I have changed the colors of the Acolytes' cross strings to coordinate with their respective times of service.

- ◆ White = 1 to 2 years
- ◆ Green = 3 to 4 years
- ◆ Red = 4 to 5 years
- ◆ Purple = 6 to 7 years
- ◆ Gold = 8 or more years.

Please congratulate the acolytes as you notice their new string colors. They are faithful and irreplaceable members of our worship together!

Jack Daniels



Weekly Altar Flower Dedication Sign-ups

The Altar Guild introduces a more convenient way for you to sign up for weekly dedications. Instead of using the kiosk board in the Narthex, there is now a binder on the table there. The entire year is included, so you can sign up months ahead of time if you wish to hold a special date. The binder is pictured here, and you'll find the simple instructions inside as well.

PS: Last call for Easter flower tributes is Palm Sunday, April 9th. Envelopes are available

in the Narthex.

Susan Landgraf

An invitation to Participate in the Shawl Ministry

"Shawls ... made for centuries universal and embracing, symbolic of an inclusive, unconditionally loving, God. They wrap, enfold, comfort, cover, give solace, mother, hug, shelter and beautify. Those who have received these shawls have been uplifted and affirmed, as if given wings to fly above their troubles..." — Janet Bristow



Shawls made by women at Edna Mahan Women's Prison

In 1998, Janet Bristow and Victoria Galo, two graduates of the 1997 Women's Leadership Institute at The Hartford Seminary in Connecticut, gave birth to a ministry as a result of their experience in the program of applied Feminist Spirituality. Care for others and the love of knitting (or crocheting, quilting, weaving) have been combined into a prayerful ministry that reaches out to those in need of comfort and solace. Many blessings and prayers are crocheted or knitted into each shawl. Some recipients have continued the kindness by making a shawl themselves and passing it on to someone in need. Thus, the blessing is rippled from person to person, with both the giver and receiver feeling the unconditional embrace of a sheltering, mothering God! Adapted from <http://www.shawlministry.com/>

The **Shawl Ministry** at Church of the Holy Spirit was started by Deacon Johnine Byrer in Sept. 2004 and continues to thrive, with 150-200 shawls being distributed every year.

Prayer Shawls are made by volunteers – this ministry is open to all; men and women, the young and less young, experienced and novice. Shawls and lap blankets are knitted or crocheted but no experience is needed. We can teach! The process is meditative and the maker thinks of the recipient, known or unknown, and incorporates their prayers and blessings into the shawl as they create a shawl. It can be done while watching TV, travelling, or just about anytime, anyplace!

Shawls and lap blankets are made and given for many reasons. Often they are given to someone who has experienced a loss or an illness, but they are also given for happy occasions such as the birth of a child, a wedding or baptism. Many prayers are entwined in the stitches throughout the creation process and each shawl is blessed before being sent on its way.

Please consider being a part of this wonderful ministry.

We hope you will share a bit of your time and creative talents. If you already know how to knit or crochet, you can jump right in! Shawls can be triangular (my favorite), rectangular or square. The latter are particularly useful as lap blankets. Patterns can be found online at many locations, including <http://www.shawlministry.com/>, or check Amazon for "shawl ministry" books.

If you do not know how to knit or crochet, or need a refresher course, please come to **Knit and Chat** and we will teach! This is a time to gather, work on current projects or learn new skills. We have yarn, hooks and needles available. We've been a little lax over the winter months and hope to resume a regular schedule beginning May 1st.

Knit and Chat

1st and 3rd Mondays of each month, 7-8:30pm, across the hall from the office, CHS lower level. Questions? Contact me at 908-479-6042 or kjbmurray@embarqmail.com. Thank you.

Karen Murray

First Sunday Breakfasts

February 5th—the Y2Y group, assisted by members of We Care, gave us a feast [see page 12 for Pat Egan's report].



March 5th's breakfast was prepared and served by Aimee Olsen and Marge Keller. Menu included tropical fruit salad of mango, orange, papaya and pineapple; Spanish tortilla—potato and egg skillet; scrambled eggs with chorizo sausage; baked ham (sorry it was not Serrano); Mancheco cheese wedge; French baguette bread (filling in for Puerto Rican pan de agua); assorted home-baked breads and muffins and an egg casserole and Irish soda bread provided by Vicki Brooks. Despite the return of the frigid temperatures, about 40 people came out to enjoy the spread.

Marge Keller and Aimee Olsen

Filling the Red Wagon

The requested CHS donation for **April** is cereal -- it's certainly easy to remember. Our requested general needs for May will be applesauce and canned tuna.

There will be a special one-week drive in **May** for diapers and/or formula to coincide with Mother's Day. This is a joint effort with Marge Keller, who is coordinating this with the module that month for "Growth and Renewal" (see below).

You'll see more information;/reminders about the Food Pantry in our weekly bulletins and handouts. Katie Higgins and Julie Schmidt and their families thank you for all you do.



Suzanne Higgins



Mother's Day Diaper Collection

On **Sunday, May 14th**, we will have a one-day collection of diapers (baby or adult) and formula. This collection is part of the "Growth and Renewal" module. We can accept new packages of diapers, those left-over ones baby has outgrown (place in ziplock bag and label the size, please) and/or baby formula (as long as the individual package has not been opened).

You know how many diapers babies use in a week; this drive will help moms when the assistance money runs out at month end.

We will have a collection bin in the Narthex for your donations. Remember, **this is a one-day drive**. Please help us make a difference at the Open Cupboard Food Pantry, which will be the recipient of your generosity. [Ed note: this little guy might have some obsolete-size diapers to bring in given how fast he's growing!!!]

Marge Keller

Around the County

FRIENDS OF THE HUNTERDON COUNTY LIBRARY 21ST ANNUAL USED BOOK SALE



Friday, April 28 - Preview Sale Hours: 1-4 PM \$60 entrance fee, limited to first 60 ticket requests. Must be current FOHCL member. Invitation form available on the Friends portion of the Library Website.

Saturday, April 29 - Early Bird Admission Hours: 8 – 10AM
Early Bird Admission is FREE to 2017 FOHCL members presenting membership cards. All others age 18 years and over pay \$20. Free Public Admission Hours: 10AM – 5PM

Sunday, April 30 - Half-price Day, Free Public Admission, Hours: 10AM – 3PM
Nonprofit, Educator and Volunteer Gleaning Hours: 3:30 - 5PM

Monday, May 1 - Bag Sale Hours: 9 AM – 2 PM – We provide the bags.

Location: The Grange, South County Park Fairgrounds, Route 179, Lambertville, NJ 08530

HAIRSPRAY



SKIT's next show, "Hairspray!" is full of Holy Spirited talent! Alyssa Van Veldhuisen is playing the female lead and Amy Schroeder and Kaylyn Feeley are also in the cast.

Shows are **May 6, 7, 12 & 13th** in the Voorhees High School Auditorium. The 7th is the only matinee and is also the complimentary Senior Brunch. Tickets

showkids.tix.com.

BENEFIT FOR AMERICA'S GROW-A-ROW



TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW!
Saturday, May 6, 2017
Join us for a delicious evening to support America's Grow-a-Row

Gala event **Friday May 6** in Pottersville. For more information

<http://www.americasgrowarow.org/2017-farm-fork/>

FREEDOM HOUSE 5K

The fourth annual Freedom House 5K Run & Walk will take place on Saturday, May 13, 2017, at the scenic Spruce Run Recreation Area, Clinton, NJ. Proceeds from this event benefit the men and women residents of Freedom House to help assure that those suffering from substance use disorders are not turned away due to lack of financial resources. There will be live music along with refreshments, food, and vendors for all to enjoy. T-shirts and race packets while supplies last. Event check-in begins at 8:00 am, with the race starting at 9:30 am, followed by an awards ceremony. Awards categories will include top male and female per age group (10 year age groups) as well as top 3 overall male and female. This is a sanctioned race with timing and scoring provided by Pro-Activity. Register here <https://freedomhouse5k.itsyourrace.com/register/> or email events@freedomhousenj.org



Y2Y Group

We hosted Breakfast between the Services on **February 5**. We flipped pancakes, browned sausages and served a hungry congregation.

This proved to be a practice run for the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper which was held on February 28, with helping hands from We Care.

Y2Y gathered together on Sunday afternoon, **March 12**, for "Cooking with Father Phil". The youth chopped, diced, sautéed, stirred and created a meal which we all enjoyed. Father Phil integrated Eucharist within the dinner and we chatted about our plans for the future.

Thoughtful Thursdays have begun as well through a private blog that is shared with Father Phil and the teens.

And we have just been accepted by America's Grow A Row to work the fields on **Good Friday**. (See page 11 for a benefit gala you might wish to attend in May.)

This is an amazing group of young people, and they are eager to be a vital community within CHS. If you have a child who would like to join us, please contact me at pegan3@yahoo.com. All in grades 6 to 12 are welcome.

Pat Egan



Congratulations to our children and youth and their adult guides who have created such a wonderful representation of an icon during this Lenten season. This is a piece of art that Holy Spirit will treasure for generations! Thanks to Father Phil and John Cahall for the creativity that enabled this wonderful piece.

Pulse of the Parish

Welcome to the Kavanaugh Family--Michael and Nicki and their daughter, Virginia-- who have worshiped with us recently. Nicki is the granddaughter of our **most** senior parishioner, Greta Tump who, as many of you know, is now living at Independence Manor in Flemington and will be 97 years old in July.

Additionally, **Welcome** to Patricia and Eric Sumner who have also worshiped with us this spring.

Deepest Sympathy to the Henry/Townsend family on the death of their mother , Pat, who, after a long struggle with dementia and Alzheimer's passed into larger life on March 25th. She joins her husband, Norm, who predeceased her on December 8, 2016 and was memorialized at a funeral service of military honors at CHS on December 13, 2016. Norm and Pat were long time parishioners at CHS and Norm was one of the founding members of Holy Spirit. The funeral service for Pat will be held at the church at 10 am on April 7th followed by interment of the ashes of both Norm and Pat in the CHS Memorial Garden and by a reception in the Narthex. (Note: for more information on the Henry/Townsend Family, see the Pulse of the Parish in the January 2017 Trumpeter.)

Heartfelt Thoughts to the Sullivan Family--Sandy and Frank, their son Jason, his wife Michelle and their daughters Kathryn and Jennifer, all former CHS parishioners who moved to Morrow, OH last year. Our dear friend Sandy was diagnosed with lung cancer last fall and has had a long and difficult struggle with the disease since then. She is now in a hospice situation at the family's lovely home in Ohio, which has been described as being in a beautiful pastoral setting, where she is surrounded by her family and friends. Father Philip flew to Ohio on March 29th for a pastoral visit to Sandy and the family, at which time he gave her **viaticum** (Eucharist given to a person dying or in danger of death). He writes, "The family has a very good plan that will support a holy death and the hope of the resurrection. I am honored to be her priest."

God's blessings to all,

Barbara Burton

MARK YOUR CALENDARS TO HOLD THE DATES

| APRIL | MAY |
|--|--|
| 2 First Sunday Breakfast Easter Egg Hunt (rain/snow date 4/9) | 2 Nourishing Peace |
| 3 Nourishing Peace | 7 First Sunday Breakfast |
| 9 Palm Sunday (Easter Flower requests due) | 7 Clinton Farmer's Market opens for the season |
| 13 Seder Dinner and Maundy Thursday Service | 7 Trinity Chorale Concert 4 p.m. with reception following |
| 14 Good Friday Day of Service | 16 Vestry Meeting 7:30 pm |
| 15 Easter Vigil with Bonfire and Baptism | JUNE |
| 16 Easter Sunday | 4 First Sunday Breakfast |
| 18 Vestry Meeting 7:30 pm | 20 Vestry Meeting |
| 28 Back to Basics Service Auction | |

Access the on-line calendar for more information at <http://www.churchholyspirit.org/calendar.html> and consult the weekly bulletins and emails for changes and additions.

We Care

Over the weeks of the Charter Church module preceding Lent, there were several folks who were asked to offer a few words on our experience as either givers to or receivers of care from the CHS community.. Below and on the following page are two of the testimonies offered during that time.



Good morning.

I've been asked to offer a few words today on compassion from the point of view of a giver of care, rather than a grateful recipient, which I've also been.

If you click on the Pastoral Care link on our website, you'll find an overview from Father Phil on the meaning of compassionate caring at Holy Spirit. He says, in part:

“. . . [It] is not only to gather around for support, but also to grow and mature in wisdom. . . be prepared to change.”

When I agreed to act as Jim Keller's "angel", coordinating rides and visits for this wonderful man as his illness took him further and further from independence, my first thought was – this'll be easy. After all, I had known Jim and Marge for many years – long before I joined Holy Spirit, and now they lived practically next door in Union Gap Village. And I knew that the group of faithful driver volunteers I was privileged to work with were ready to transport Jim to his various appointments whenever needed.

What I was NOT prepared for was how his presence and love would affect ME as I grew to know him better and to see how grace and faith sustained him throughout the months of his decline. Jim was often uncomfortable and became weaker and weaker as the chemo took more of a toll, but he remained cheerful and uncomplaining, and always honest about his condition.

His first thought was for Marge and his many friends and family members, keeping them current on how things were going through his cheerful Facebook posts so Marge and daughter Aimee weren't constantly bombarded with questions.

I came to look forward to our rides and our time together more and more. Jim had a wealth of information to share on a wide variety of subjects, and talking with him was never, never dull.

I know that his death was a release for him and that he was looking forward to the larger life that awaited. I miss him sorely, as I know many of you do, and received so much more from him in the way of Christian love and compassion than I was ever able to give. His memory is a reminder to me to keep trying to change in positive ways and to realize that it's okay to ask for help – not to do so may rob someone of the life-changing experience that such help can offer. La paz, dear Jim.

Vicki Brooks

What does CHS compassion mean to me?

Hi everyone. Deacon Dot asked me to speak to you today about my experience with the compassion my family received from CHS.

As is rather well known, we gave birth to a daughter in September. The trouble is, she was supposed to come in November. Now, nothing about this pregnancy went well. From weeks on end in the hospital, a bunch of false starts, anesthesia that didn't work as intended, and a heart-skipping ambulance ride at 3 am to another hospital, I found myself in a place where Hazel was hooked up to machines keeping her breathing in one hospital, my wife Lawren was in another hospital with dangerously high blood pressure, and my son was at home not understanding what was going on. To top it off, I had a house full of in-laws.

I would rather not share the journey into that dark place. Words won't capture the essence of the downward spiral or the moment you hit what you think is the bottom. I think it is a place that is thankfully unfamiliar, even if a lot of us have been there. It leaves you drained physically, emotionally, and spiritually.

In the weeks on our way down to those dark days, we had visits, calls and prayers from the congregation. From being on the Prayer Chain, to Arden and Father Phil visiting in the hospital.

On the way back up, Father Phil came to the hospital to see our newest addition. He was more than a welcome sight. In my past experiences with the Church, we were often offered hollow advice and empty platitudes. This was our first experience of anyone actually doing something useful. He wasn't there to give advice, but to share our situation as we were experiencing it.

A simple prayer over my daughter made me feel that everything was going to be OK. Deacon Dot came the following day, bring prayer shawls for all of us, and we shared the Eucharist. It was the closest I ever felt to being part of God's church. He wasn't ignoring us. He wasn't expecting us to keep our faith in the face of adversity. He was sending people to us where it was dark. We came home to a house filled with food, and cards, and prayers.

The compassion shown by the community, the genuine concern for our misfortune, was a transformative experience.

The church became not a place of pot-luck dinners and empty platitudes, but a living community that is present and cares about our family. We can count on their compassion when the night is dark, the prognosis is grim, and life seems to be unravelling.

Jon Babek

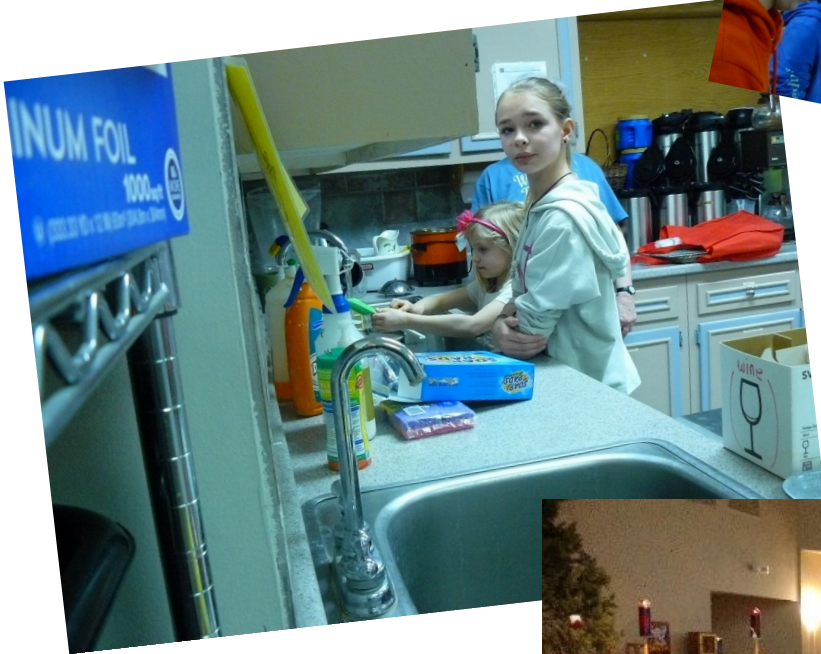
Note: Hazel Mae, our "miracle baby", will be baptized on Easter Eve.

We welcome her into the household of God!!



Photo Gallery

Acolytes working on their culinary skills as a part of Acolyte Overnight. Photos by Jack Daniels.



Fr. Philip and the younger congregants talk about the church. Ed. photo



Light in a Time of Darkness

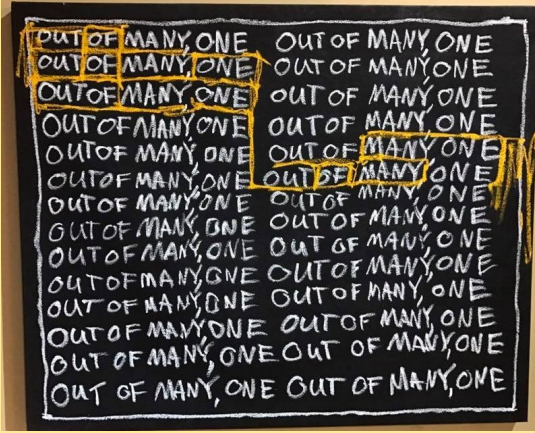
Multi-media Visual and Performing Art Show March 17-19, 2017

Apologies that your editor was not able to attend this wonderful event. That said, I thought it more important to include the wonderful photos of the artists' works that were taken by our own Sandy Burton and by Laurie Townsend Braman, an artist and friend who also attended the reception on March 17th. They were both able to document the show. I ask forgiveness of the artists, whose work I was not able to identify here because of time constraints with the newsletter deadline, and also for those who I didn't include. Readers, please let me know if you have questions regarding these wonderfully creative folks and thanks to all of them for their contributions! Thanks also to Father Phil, Wendy Hallstrom and John Cahall for their expertise in curating the show. I will be happy to give you information about each and every one of them. Father Phil tells me that the plans are for future art shows in the not-too-distant future. Hurrah! Vicki gracehappens@centurylink.net





Photos pages 17 and 18 by Sandy Burton



Photos this page by Laurie Townsend Braman



Church of the Holy Spirit — Vestry and Staff 2017

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The Rev. Dorothea N. Hospador, Deacon

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