



Our door is always open ...

The Trumpeter

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

www.churchholyspirit.org

November-December 2017

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



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From the Rector's Desk



What is it like to live at the edge of an era?

In a little less than 300 days (that's an average), we're going to witness another mass shooting, and folks will want to offer their thoughts and prayers. And thoughts and prayers should indeed be offered, even though 300 days from that future massacre a further massacre will take place. I don't mean to launch into another anti-gun rant, but you'd forgive me for it, since I'm the one who has to mount the pulpit each Sunday after one of these occasions to help make sense of the senseless. This is more frequently true when it comes to any of the terrorist attacks happening around the world, and most recently in lower Manhattan. As Jean Paul Sartre observed, Hell is life without eyelids. I think, though, with eyes open and from a higher distance we might find that The Kingdom of God is life without eyelids. Let me explain.

500 years ago Martin Luther broke with the Holy Roman Empire, left and got kicked out of the Catholic Church, and started what we have come to know as the Lutheran Church. Like all schismatic movements, this one would just keep splitting and splitting. There are several different types of Lutheran Churches in the U.S. alone. We Episcopalians have a few breakaways too, and they keep breaking away from each other as well. Some never much cared for women clergy, some are ok with that, but very negative toward non-straight persons. Some think the best prayer book edition was 1549 (the first) while others still prefer the 1662. Neither of those find the 1979 worthy. All that splintering is why I wish we never had the Reformation as indeed we had it. Not that the Romans didn't deserve reforming (nod to the book club's choice this month: *The Pillars of the Earth*). And they need a good bit of reformation still: consider the male-only clergy thing. If the argument is that Jesus chose only men for the first disciples, then the argument is wrong on two points. The apostles in the gospels vary one from the other and besides they neglect all the women who made the whole Jesus event possible, not the least being Mary, the First Disciple. But if you're going to hold forth against all reason on the grounds that the lists are of the male kind, you have to wonder why so insistent about that as opposed to other criteria. Yes, they were lists of men, but they were also first century Palestinian Jews. If clergy must be men, oughtn't they also be Palestinian Jews? The Reformation Church, of course, took over four of the last five hundred years to correct for that mistake themselves. That change, when it came, proved very disruptive in order to bring about that justice.

But half a millennia ago there was a moment. Historians always look for a moment to look back on if only to say, "Aha, that's it. That's when things changed," or, in this case, "There! That's when the Reformation started." Luther himself would have had little idea that he was moving the Western Hemisphere from the Late Medieval Era to the Reformation Era (and the Early Modern Era). And we would be wrong to think the change was only due to Luther and it was only one piece of parchment nailed to one church door. That's an easy point to name and makes for a good chapter heading in school books but, as we all know, much preceded and proceeded from Luther's moment. Many other persons like Jan Hus, generations before, would set the stage. The moveable type printing press, the Gutenberg Bible, and the novelty of widespread literacy would also contribute to the change of eras.

There is a reason to recount the past, because we too live on the edge of an era change ourselves. Even before Y2K, historians and sociologists had claimed that humanity was moving into a "post-modern" era. That isn't much of a name for it. Luther wouldn't have had any distance to christen the era which he is overly credited to have started. Like the Reformation, most of our era shift will be credited to technology, though instead of a printing press it will be a handheld device. We don't have a Martin Luther to point to, but perhaps we have IBM's chess-playing Watson computer. And we don't have the distance yet to know, and none of us will be alive when historians a century from now will settle on it, what to call this life we are living into.

That's kind of the point, yes? The shifts we see around us, all over, under, before and behind, all these shifts in how we understand ourselves as a species are nothing less than a whole era change moment, perhaps even a species changing moment—we become something other than *homo sapiens*. That's a scary thought. Soon, we will no longer need to hunt and gather, nor will we need to fix, produce and manufacture. Currently, we live in a world built on our need to buy and to secure: buy stuff and keep it safe, including the health of our bodies.

From the Rector's Desk (continued)

If we no longer need to do the things that have defined us in the past, what then becomes of us? That unanswerable question can prompt a visceral fear. Or rather, it prompts a viral fear we see in our own politics but worse, in violent religious outbursts, particularly in the regions of the world most exposed to the most rapid aspects of the era shift. I think this also has a hand in the mass killings we stupidly permit as a nation built on a paranoid (fear-based) argument: we need to own millions of mass killing weapons to be a free society. Just writing that last sentence is nutty. Our era shift, like all era shifts before it, comes replete with violent upheaval, be it by burnings at the stake, or random truck massacres, or automatic weapons fired into a crowd. The fever-pitched political battles of the moment need also to find their place in this landscape.

Having highlighted this violent world-wide upheaval and our own societal turmoil in response to this era shift, I now come to the point of this musing.

We are followers of Jesus.

Jesus was an era shift. A cosmic shift.

His first disciples — women and men and children, of all types, kinds and descriptions — followed him into what they could not then know would be a shift, not just of an era but a cosmic changing shift. That shift would be the radical equality and dignity of every particular and peculiar life. That world, then run by force and power, would eventually bend the knee to the ideal of charity and sacrifice. Though those forces and powers would at times, even perhaps at most times, sabotage and upend those ideals of Jesus, they resulted in a shift that cannot be undone. Don't take that for granted or assume we humans developed it all on our own. Without the life and witness of Jesus, the world is Lord of the Flies. Our era is referential to the Gutenberg Bible.

The flattening of access to information (our technology), however perverted by those forces and powers, accentuates a huge shift in our humanity. Which will win, Lord of the Flies or Jesus, feels like an open question. It is not.

The coarsening of current political elements and the eruptions of violence signal the doom of the very powers and forces stoking the flames and fires of our fears. Jesus accompanies us in this moment and, with him, we look down on the moment and are not afraid. We are followers of Jesus and into this moment we go with the one who has gone before. We will be changed. But consider the change before you fear it. Consider that countless other followers of Jesus have gone through, in, and past their moments of shift. We are not apart from their presence either. Stephen, the first Martyr, comes alongside us, and whispers, "The Church has been here before. We know something about death. We know something about change. We know something about how it all ends up. And because we have known him, we can follow."

We are the followers of Jesus. The forces and powers have no claim among us. Their guns and ammunition are weakness before us. Days will come that seem darkness, and tears will accompany those blasphemies causing "thoughts and prayers," but we are followers of Jesus. The respect and dignity of the whole Creation is both his gift to us and our obligation to realize. We are followers of Jesus and our ears hear not of the hatred and bitterness of those powers whose dying embers make their last trouble smolder.

We are followers of Jesus.

And we will love as he loves.

We are followers of Jesus.

Words from the Senior Warden

Consecration Sunday Is Coming: November 19, 2017

Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes.



Our congregation's Vestry selected the New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program last year as a way to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving in our stewardship education emphasis this year. This will be our second year following this program.

New Consecration Sunday is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. Instead of treating people like members of a social club who should pay dues, we will treat people like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. New Consecration Sunday encourages people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?"

During both morning worship services on Consecration Sunday, **November 19th**, we are asking our attendees and members to make their financial commitments to our church's missionary, benevolent, and educational ministries in this community and around the world.

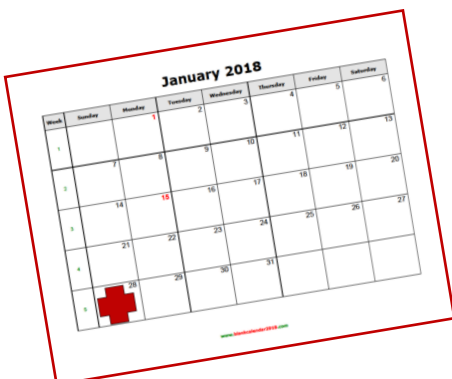
Every attendee and member who completes an Estimate of Giving Card does so voluntarily by attending morning worship on Consecration Sunday. *We urge people to attend who feel strongly opposed to completing a card. The procedure is done in such a way that no one will feel uncomfortable if he or she chooses not to fill out a card.*

We will do no home solicitation to ask people to complete cards. During morning worship our Guest Leader, Chuck Perfater, will conduct a brief period of instruction and inspiration, climaxed by members making their commitments as a *confidential* act of worship.

We will encourage participation in the foregoing events through the Consecration Sunday team and vestry members. Since we will make no follow-up visits to ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to inform, inspire, and commit everyone to attend Consecration Sunday worship.

Thanks in advance for your enthusiastic participation in Consecration Sunday events.

Eva Lesniak



Ed. Note:

Are you thinking about 2018 resolutions yet? How about this one:

Plan to attend YOUR annual meeting at CHS on **Sunday January 28th**.

Among other things, it will give you an opportunity to see where your contributions of time, talent, and treasure are spent and if you are new to the area and/or to CHS, you might be surprised to see how many opportunities there are for us all to "pay it forward".

Musings from the Junior Warden



Continuing the church Certificate of Occupancy project, we received the stormwater report from Van Cleef Engineering. The retention pond on the property is sized to accommodate a fully paved driveway, as per 1997 rules. What this means is that we have met the Board of Adjustment's biggest hurdle to giving us a CO on the church. This is really, really good news for CHS. We have received the resolution from the town attorney, and it should be ratified at the next Board of Adjustment meeting in late November. Once the resolution is official, we can complete the rest of the open items on the town's list, such as striping the parking lot, planting trees, and building doors on the garbage can enclosure. We should have the final CO before the new year.

I do appreciate the many comments concerning the time, effort and resources we have had to devote to this project to satisfy the town's requirements. I will remind you that the town is following laws put in place over many years and for many different reasons. The only way to change the system is to get out and vote on November 7th. Conveniently, you can now do that at Church of The Holy Spirit. We are now a voting center for elections.

CHS is now on Google Suite and we have been sharing calendars with a select group. Over the next few months, we will be converting everyone over to the new shared calendars and shared documents. This should streamline our internal communication and make it easier for everyone to see the events. Contact me or Cate Mattison with questions or to be included in the rollouts.

As we continue to find success with the modules, many other congregations are looking at our transformation. We are at the forefront of this newly created paradigm, and are becoming a model for Episcopal congregations across the country. As we look to solidify the modules in 2018, they will be more engrained in the fabric of our community and will become easier and more fluid. We are effecting real change within our church community and, by next year's end, communities across the country. This is a great time to be part of the Vestry, and I would encourage anyone who wants to leave their mark to be part of this endeavor and join our incoming Vestry class.

If you have any questions, or wish to contribute to the ongoing dialog, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Yours in faith,

Jonathon Babek

Formation: Modules and Bible Story Focus

As a reminder, here are the modules remaining in this church year. The weeks will be enriched for our children and youth when they are able to interact with you! If you can think about just one week during this period of formation that you might be available to spend 40 minutes or so with our wonderful young folks as a teacher or mentor, it would benefit them tremendously. If you have questions please ask Father Phil or Michelle Marlow.

Advent (November 12—December 24): Sheep & Goats Matthew 25: 31-40

Charter Church and We Care (January 7—February 11): Epiphany/Story of Three Kings, Good Samaritan

Lent (February 18—March 25): Passion Prediction and Transfiguration

Creation (April 8—May 20): Genesis 1

A Message from the Treasurer

Dear Friends,

As 2017 is winding down and we reflect on the finances of our faith group, we can look back with gratitude at our accomplishments. Our church's finances have been managed diligently throughout 2017 under the leadership of the Finance Committee and the Vestry. We could not do the job without your support.

Preliminary forecasts predict that we may end the year in a minor deficit. As you all know our budget was challenged very early in the year when we encountered some difficulty with completing the CO for our church building and renovation of the rectory; fortunately we were able to minimize the impact to our church finances with a loan from the Diocese. For our core income [Pledge, Non-Pledge and Plate], we forecast 97% achievement if we all remain current with our pledges; we could even cover the projected shortfall with generous giving over the holidays.

On the bright side, organizing through our community we sustained our planned programs and now that the CO and rectory project are well underway, we will soon be able to move on to the elevator installation.

Unfortunately, we had to make the tough decision in 2017 to reduce our Fair-Share diocesan giving this year to off-set the shortfalls described above. This was after conversing with the Diocese and receiving their approval and support for our capital projects.

As we look toward 2018, and Consecration Sunday, we hope that you will all look at the marvelous work being done here at the Church of the Holy Spirit and continue to give generously. Next year should be an exciting year, as we anticipate completion of the CO and rectory, as well as the elevator installation, early in the year.

We thank all of you who support our church through your gifts of time, talent and treasure.



Gabrielle Bolarakis

And a reminder from the Finance Committee

As we come into the last 2 months of the year, please help us meet our budget by ensuring your pledge is up to date by year-end. If you have any questions about this, please reach out to Ed Filipski, pledge clerk.

We will be bringing back the "Billboard" on Sunday to help us with some of our monthly bills. It will be located in the Narthex.

Thank you in advance for your support of CHS and our mission.

Sally Bird

We Care

A few weeks ago we had a request for a ride into NYC for medical treatment. Unfortunately, we were unable to come up with anyone but made several suggestions as to how this could be achieved. Uber was the chosen way to go!

More recently we had a similar request, and on this occasion, WE CARE was able to help.

The point we are trying to make is that ALL requests are taken into consideration and we promise to do our best to fulfill each and every one. Sometimes it just doesn't work out but never shy away from asking.

Any call for help gets our full attention so we hope folks will be understanding if we don't succeed - for the most part, we do!

In December we are hoping to have a meeting between services; tentatively December 10. This will include everyone who comes under the umbrella of WE CARE. It's a large umbrella, which is a good thing, as it helps to weather us through the toughest storms—some larger than others.

May God bless all our many WE CARERS.

Susan Kane and Sue Quinlan



Knit & Chat and Shawl Ministry

ANYONE can participate in this very rewarding ministry simply by making shawls to be given to those in need. One can knit or crochet shawls any time, any place! First thing in the morning with that cup of coffee, when unable to sleep in the middle of the night, while watching TV or riding in a car, bus or train — the list goes on.

If you're in the mood for company rather than solitary needlework, Knit & Chat "meetings" provide an opportunity to share patterns, brush up on skills

or learn new ones – and enjoy the community of two or more gathered together to share stories about the shawls; the joys of creation and freely giving, and the impact on their recipients (for a hint of that impact, have a look at the Thank You notes in the green box on the Shawl Ministry cabinet in the office). Note that our meetings have been rescheduled for the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month at 7:00 pm at the church. Do join us!

Karen Murray

Ed note: Just a reminder that these shawls are meant to be given away — both in times of sadness and in times of joy. Don't hesitate to ask Karen or any other member of We Care if you have a need. The women of Edna Mahan, who make many of the shawls, are eager to hear about their use, as are all of us at CHS who work on them. It means a great deal to know they are appreciated by the recipients.

First Sunday Breakfasts —

Our Sunday breakfast on October 8 was hosted by Wendy and Kevin Hallstrom and Alice and Andy Hrebella. The feast consisted of fresh fruit, garden-fresh grape tomatoes, sausage and bacon, Kevin's famous fried eggs, scrambled eggs, sausage and egg casserole, blueberry pancakes, banana bread, pumpkin walnut bread, and apple crisp. Thanks so much!

We still need hosts for this year; please check the sign-up sheet in the Narthex to see which month might be convenient for you to share your culinary skill with us!



Carol Crawford-Jones

Filling the Red Wagon

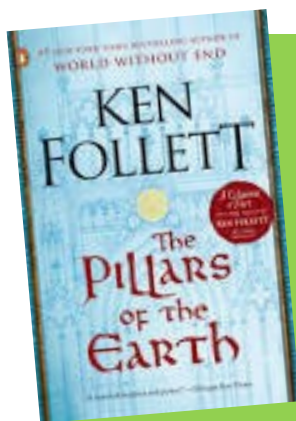
What's wrong with this picture? Oops— the wagon is empty!

During November and December, Katie Higgins and Julie Schmidt would appreciate your help filling it on Sunday mornings with canned fruit for the Clinton Food Pantry so that its clients can supplement their meals with colorful and healthful items. While you're at it, if you earn a free Thanksgiving turkey, ham or lasagna at ShopRite in Clinton and don't plan to use it, were you aware that you can sign it over to the pantry? The cashiers can help you and will arrange delivery. If there are too many to use at Thanksgiving, ShopRite holds them over for Christmas, when they don't offer the same promotion to the rest of us.



Suzanne Higgins

Please do not leave any donations in the Parish Office/Undercroft. Please put them in the Food Pantry Cart in the Narthex.



Spirited Readers Book Club

The book group is scheduled to meet on **November 19th**, following the 10:00 am service, to discuss the bestselling *Pillars of the Earth* by Ken Follett. Those who have read this extraordinary historical novel of life in England's twelfth century have commented that you'll never look at a Gothic cathedral in the same way again!

We will choose the next selection at the meeting. Even if you've not managed to finish this rich, enormous and absorbing book, do join us.

Suzanne Higgins



The
Trinity
Chorale

Holiday Concert

December 3, 2017 - 4 pm

Featuring

Adiemus by Karl Jenkins - *Ave Maria* by Giulio Caccini
Ave Maria and *Cherubic Hymn* by Sergei Rachmaninoff
Magnificat and *Nunc dimittis* by Harold Friedell
Christmas arrangements by Sjolund, Fraser, Rutter & Gjeilo

at

Church of the Holy Spirit

3 Haytown Road, Lebanon, NJ

under the direction of

Chris A. Williams

A free-will offering will be accepted
to benefit the church's Organ Fund

Refreshments will be served in the Parish Hall following the concert

Papa Panov Returns

With our extended Advent module, Papa Panov, we focus on our wait for Jesus' arrival. During the scheduled breakfast on **December 3rd** between the services, some of our young people will share Leo Tolstoy's Papa Panov. After hearing the story, we will engage in table conversations to reflect upon how we recognize Jesus and how we are changed after seeing Jesus in others. We hope you can participate in this special time during our Advent season to enjoy fellowship during breakfast while contemplating the coming of Christ into our world.



Michelle Marlow

Help Contribute to the Greening of the Church

Christmas flower donations due by December 10th

Christmas flower envelopes for your donations towards Christmas flowers and greens for the "greening" of the church will be available beginning November 19 on the table in the Narthex. Donations are due by **December 10th** to ensure that the names of the people for whom the donation is being made are included in the Christmas bulletin. To submit your donation:

On the envelope, include your name and the name(s) for whom the donation is being made and whether it is a memorial or in thanksgiving. **Please write clearly.**

Put your donation (\$35 is suggested) in the envelope and place it in the collection plate on any Sunday, in the Altar Guild mailbox (in the hallway by the lower entrance), or return it to the office.

Greening of the Church Sunday, December 17th

Join us after the 10 am service on **December 17th** to help decorate the church for Christmas. The Altar Guild supplies the greens, wreaths, Poinsettia plants, bows and some guidance to decorate the sanctuary. You don't have to be an interior decorator to help — every pair of hands is welcome. We'll also set up the Christmas tree and the nativity scene. Come join the fun and be amazed at how beautiful our sanctuary looks when we are finished!

Sue Landgraf



Recycle Those Calories!

Wondering what to do with all the excess Halloween candy? Please do not donate it to the Food Pantry, A good option is Operation Gratitude (<https://www.operationgratitude.com/>) to learn how to donate it to military Christmas boxes. Or bring it to Church of the Holy Spirit at 3 Haytown Road, Lebanon NJ 08833 for the Seaman's mission donation box by **November 8th** or Veteran Haven North box for delivery to homeless veterans by **December 15th**.

Getting to Know the Online CHS Church Directory

Each Sunday we shake hands, hug and even kiss during the Peace. You see familiar faces and smile at them each week, but do you know their names? Their family members? How to get in touch with them? Enter the CHS parish directory, available online at <http://directory.churchholyspirit.net>.

If you've never logged in there, stop first at the help screen: <https://www.churchholyspirit.org/directory-use.html>

Your user name has been set up as your first name + last name without a space. I stubbornly kept trying to enter catemattison, only to get "user not found". It took me a few tries to realize I was entered under catherinemattison. If you can't get in at first, it may be that your full name was used. The initial password is **chsodio3hr**. That is also on the help page, but I wanted to make it easy for you to find.

If you are still having issues, please email Dave Dabour (dave@dabourphotography.com). He is currently our administrator for this. Once you are in there, if you don't have a picture, please upload one! Dave will be happy to do a family portrait for you as well, but upload what you have for now.

Newer parishioners: you may not be in the directory, but that is simply an administrative task. Please contact either Dave Dabour (dave@dabourphotography.com) or me (cate.mattison@gmail.com). We want you to be included so we can get to know you better!

We'd like to get everything as updated as possible because there are technological changes on the way. We have been hard at work merging the tech side of church operations into a single platform. You will be hearing more about that in the near future. But for now – take the time to log in, update your profile, and browse the pictures.

See you online!

Cate Mattison



Spirited Discussions at Theology on Tap

All parishioners and friends are invited to join the upcoming Theology on Tap sessions for Advent beginning **Tuesday, November 7, from 7 to 8:30 PM**, at the Wunderbar on Route 22 West. The setting is unconventional and the discussions are thought-provoking. We begin a new book, *What Are We Waiting For?* by William Peterson, on the experience of an extended Advent. A plus is the Wunderbar's menu of German specialties and micro-brews. Combine a night out with spiritual refreshment. Contact Father Phil for more information.

Diane Bendhamane

Pulse of the Parish

We welcome into the household of God:

Births: Parishioner Arden Olson was presented with two new great-grandsons recently--his 6th and 7th! Case Kenneth Bredahl was born on September 28th and Carson Beau Roether followed on October 8th.

Weddings: Courtney Mason and Scott Klasner were married on September 9th in Pennsylvania, Father Philip co-officiating. Courtney is the daughter of parishioners Susan and Mark Mason and spent her childhood at Holy Spirit.

Tom McGrew and Devyn Aguilar were married on October 21st at St. Luke's Church in Catskill, New York. Father Philip officiated.

Welcome: Lauren and Joel Mandell (and their sweet baby daughter), who have been worshipping with us recently. They are new to the area .

Birthday wishes:

Michael Cannizzaro (son of parishioners Liz and John) celebrated his 21st birthday on October 30th with a wonderful gathering at a micro brewery, accompanied by friends — and a beer sampler. What a fun way to celebrate such a special occasion!

Condolences to parishioners Bob Jones III and Carol Crawford-Jones on the September death in Dresden, TN of Bob's sister, Patricia. A graveside service was held in Piscataway, NJ on September 22nd and Father Philip was one of three officiants.

Peace and blessings to all,

Barbara Burton

HOLD THE DATES

NOVEMBER

- 12 Second Sunday Special Breakfast
- 13 Knit & Chat 7 pm
- 19 **Consecration Sunday.** Special guest Charles Perfater at both services; breakfast/lunch after each service
Spirited Readers meet after the 10:00 service
- 21 Vestry Meeting 7:30 pm
- 27 Knit & Chat 7:00 pm

DECEMBER

- 3 9:00 am Breakfast and reintroduction to Papa Panov
4:00 pm **TRINITY CHORALE HOLIDAY CONCERT**
- 11 Knit & Chat 7:00 pm
- 24 One morning service at 9:00
Christmas Eve services at 4:00 pm; 7:30 pm and 11:00 pm
- 25 One Christmas Day service at 10:00 am

JANUARY

- 7 Epiphany Sunday
- 8 Knit & Chat 7 pm
- 13 Outreach Dinner at Senior Housing in Whitehouse. (Dinner will be provided; we need volunteers to help serve and entertain)
- 22 Knit & Chat 7 pm
- 28 **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING AND ELECTION OF VESTRY**

FEBRUARY

- 12 Knit & Chat 7 pm
- 13 Shrove Tuesday pancake supper
- 14 Ash Wednesday
- 26 Knit & Chat 7 pm

Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD)

Over the last month, we have seen an incredibly active Atlantic hurricane season and many other disasters in the US and abroad. Episcopal Relief & Development is partnering with the Dioceses of Texas, West Texas, Central Florida, Florida, Southeast Florida, Southwest Florida, Georgia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, the Dominican Republic, Vanuatu, Cuernavaca, Southeastern Mexico and Kamango to respond to the current disasters.

We pray for those affected and those responding.

We are in close contact with church leadership in the affected areas, and our partners have begun responding to the immediate needs and are planning for longer term responses. Our staff has been on the ground in Texas, Florida, the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico to help leadership discern these responses, and these churches are doing incredible work to meet immediate needs post-disaster.



Episcopalians have been responding to disasters in other parts of the country, as well. For example, in the Diocese of San Joaquin, leaders have been [providing critical food and water](#) to first responders as they battle the Railroad Fire in Oakhurst, CA.

We are so thankful for everyone who has reached out with offers of help and support. Right now, our partners in areas affected by the hurricanes are not ready to accept volunteers from outside their region, though once they are ready to accept outside volunteers they will have access to the Ready to Serve database.

To help the hurricane response, consider donating to the [Hurricane Relief fund](#).

For up-to-date information about dioceses responding to Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria, please see www.episcopalrelief.org/hurricanes2017.

For information about disaster preparedness, please visit www.episcopalrelief.org/preparedness. For your convenience you can also access more information on our website:

<http://mailchi.mp/episcopalrelief/october2017?e=9c22c3f034>

Ed note: Although Mother Nature tried to drown us last Sunday (October 29), some intrepid souls were privileged to enjoy the superb guitar of Peter Griggs, who tempted us with selections from 500 years of music for that instrument, including several pieces that he composed. Proceeds of the free will offering were sent to ERD to support their hurricane relief efforts.

If you missed the concert, you might want to visit Peter's website, www.musicbypetergriggs.com for information.

Peter's appearance was made possible as part of the Jane Self Burnham Memorial Music Scholars Program, which began in October 2015 and brings students from local colleges who are studying advanced music degrees in vocal and instrumental programs. At the 10:00 service that same Sunday, we were treated to the glorious voice of soprano Grace Gilday, a recent graduate of Westminster Choir College in Princeton. Upcoming appearances by other music scholars will be announced on the CHS website.



Kiwimbi International

A good crowd was on hand Sunday, October 22nd, between services to be introduced by Janet Wulster to Kiwimbi International (KI), a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization upon which Janet serves as a board trustee. Janet introduced CHS to Catherine Malalah and Olubayi Olubayi from Kiwimbi Kenya (KK), KI's sister organization in Kenya.

For those of you not in attendance, Kiwimbi International partners with its sister organization, Kiwimbi Kenya, to fulfill this vision:

We see a world where all people are empowered through education to enrich their lives and reach their fullest potential. To accomplish this vision, our mission is to partner with underserved communities worldwide to create educational opportunities through locally run learning centers.

In Kenya, Kiwimbi:

- Supports underserved schools so students can pass national qualifying exams for secondary school and university
- Provides vocational training for young adults

- Provides agricultural training to enable farmers to grow crops more efficiently and counter deforestation

- Runs the Kiwimbi Library and Community Center:

- Provides, in addition to National Exam prep programs and lunch for 8th grade students:

- Learning camps at Kiwimbi Library 3 times a year during school breaks

- Mentorship programs: Women of Substance and Life Skills at local schools

- Outreach programs focusing on English literacy and public speaking at 33 schools with about 3,300 students

- Vocational programs in sewing and tailoring, art, weaving, beading, carpentry and agro-forestry

- English Access, an American Embassy program, for select students from 5 secondary schools

So, you may ask, how did Janet get involved with Kiwimbi? Here's her story:

In the back of my mind, I've always felt that I wanted to do some sort of volunteer work to help children in underserved countries. I had as my role model my Mom, who in retirement tutored children who needed extra assistance in learning to read. Fresh in my mind from a college reunion was my college's mission statement, "Preparing Students to Lead Lives of Consequence" and I also wanted to live that life of consequence. So, when a college friend of mine asked if I would consider joining the Board of Trustees of Kiwimbi International, the time was right and I said "Yes!".

My focus as a board member is to identify foundations and businesses who provide grants to non-profits like Kiwimbi and to develop proposals for funding. We are currently working on a few different projects, including our "Food for Thought" program, and a new project to continue an early grade reading program which was a Kenya-wide USAID-funded initiative for grades K-3 that concluded this year. Kiwimbi plans to seek grants and funds to continue the program for grades 4-7 (acquire curriculum, train teachers). Other projects include acquiring additional e-readers (loaded with the school curriculum) for the library, installing solar panels at the library to stabilize electricity, and supporting construction of a new library/learning center.

You can learn more about Kiwimbi at our website, www.kiwimbi.org, or by contacting me in person or at jwulster@gmail.com. I'd love to tell you more about the mission trip I'm going on to Amagora, Kenya next summer; there are spots available if you're interested in coming with me.

Janet Wulster



Y2Y (Youth to Youth)

Father Phil has created, via Google, a form of exchange with the Y2Y group and myself called Thoughtful Thursdays. He starts the texting discussion with a question and kids take it from there. It is private and respectful and whatever is shared remains within the group. The question is posted every Thursday afternoon. We want to make sure that everyone between Grades 6 and 12 is included in our conversation, so please contact Father Phil if your pre-teen or teen did not receive a Thoughtful Thursday text!



We will be working with the Diocese this year in order to formulate a youth-centered program of faith and community.

On the Horizon-2018

Confirmation Camp will return this year from **Friday, August 24 through Sunday, August 26, 2018**. All youth from Grade 6 and beyond are invited to join us.

Father Phil and I look forward to spending time with our youth this year. We are blessed to be surrounded by such compassionate and thoughtful young people.

Godspeed,

Pat Egan



Herman Kapp senior apartments residents collected school supplies for the CHS drive. Jane Paradiso photo

Snapshots Harvest Module 2017



Blessing of the animals at Pickell Park, Whitehouse, October 1, 2017

Photos pages 16-17 by Jack Daniels





Harvest Module. Making "Stone Soup" for Culinary Angels October 15, 2017
Holly Warnowitz photos
(Stone Soup is an old folk story in which hungry strangers convince the people of a town to each share a small amount of their food in order to make a meal that everyone enjoys.)

Food for Thought

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us. —**Hebrews 12:1**

When I was a kid, I loved collecting rocks. While visiting a relative, I learned of a marvelous invention – a rock polisher. It was a machine with a motor that would continuously turn a coffee-can-sized cylinder. You put your rocks in the cylinder, turned it on and left it tumbling. In time those rocks bumped up against one another and broke off the sharp edges and ground down the rough spots. The rocks came out of that coffee can looking like jewels to my childhood eyes. The rocks weren't transformed into gemstones but they sure were shiny and beautiful in their own right.

So I think of church as God's tumbling coffee can for our souls. We come together and as we interact we bump into one another, sharing our conflicting ideas and diverse perspectives. In the process, our souls are polished. And not just in church. The people in our lives teach us how to be the unique person God is calling us to be. Other people are the voice of God to us.

God uses each of us to shape and teach others. So it's a good thing we're not all the same. There's a beautiful soul in each of us, and as we worship in churches full of lots of different Christian people, God makes us each more the person we are called to be, not by changing us into something we're not, but by helping each of us shine.

— **Michael Buerkel Hunn**

Canon to the Presiding Bishop for Ministry Within The Episcopal Church



Irish rocks from my travel in Ireland — Ed.

Top: Giant's Causeway, Antrim Plateau,
Northern Ireland

Bottom: Glendalough, County Wicklow

Church of the Holy Spirit — Vestry and Staff 2017

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www.churchholyspirit.org

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