



Our door is always open ...

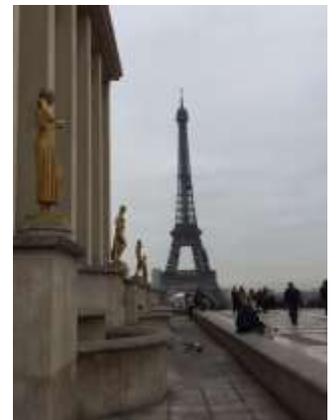
The Trumpeter

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

www.churchholyspirit.org

February-March 2018

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



April in Paris???? — let's celebrate it here on **April 27th** at the annual service auction. Mark your calendars now! Thank you to Deacon Johnine Byrer for the lovely photos. Come to the auction to see many more!!!!

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From the Rector's Desk



That Ash Wednesday falls on February 14 this year is not untoward. Lent is for lovers, after all. I don't mean to be glib about such weighty things as being shriven of our sins. But has guilt ever gotten the better of you? By that I mean, has guilt literally made you better? I think it has and does. But guilt is not at the heart of Lent, neither is it really the heart of the Good News. Guilt is the wrong way to think of Lent. It certainly is not the Jesus Way. And don't ever forget there is a big difference between the Jesus Way and the things that pass for "Christian" these days.

First off, you are probably guilty about the wrong things, I know I am. Most of our worst flaws are hidden from us by design or we just don't connect the interior dots. And then there's the corporate nature of our fallen selves. Too many times, we are blind to the systems we support and nurture and from which we benefit, but are inherently cruel or unjust. Where do we profit from social and economic structures that cheat and wound by the very nature of the business? Sinning isn't just about taking too many cookies from the cookie jar. Sin happens when people, organized together, despoil the planet for gain, invent means of injury, craft connivances that defraud. Oh it's much more complicated than the cookie jar, but far more impactful, and a hands-in-the-air, what-am-I-supposed-to-do-about-it pose of helplessness is not exactly the Jesus Way. It's all part of the disconnected dot syndrome, which seems pretty contagious.

Part of the disconnection may be from a misunderstanding of forgiveness. I blame John the Baptist. Or, maybe, our understanding of John the Baptist, who preaches repentance. Have you noticed a difference about the Jesus Way? Jesus forgives and repentance follows. It happens that way a lot. Repentance seems to mean doing something before to make forgiveness happen as if forgiveness is dependent upon you fixing it/you/them/us. Sit right there and have a little talk with God this way: "OK God, Lord of All, You will forgive only those over there who earned it and so deserve, but don't forgive those folks over there who aren't living right yet. You can't do your god-thing until they do the right thing." Not exactly the Jesus Way.

Zacchaeus! Come down from that tree, little man, and have dinner with me. Woman at the Well, let me give you living water. Peter, knock that off and follow me. Nate, you're ok just as you are, and I will make you better yet. Disciples, you are my friends, no longer just servants, Lame man on the pallet, your sins are forgiven, get up and walk. And, hey you, lepers, over there at a distance, come over here, It's all good. Jesus heals and forgives and THEN life changes.

Consider you are a Roman soldier, minding your own business, doing what you're told and today it's doing some routine executions. At least you got a robe out of it when you won the dice game. And then you hear it. Eloi Eloi lama sabachthani, which you understand oh too well. And what was it he prayed just before? To forgive you for you didn't know what you were doing. And not just forgiving you only for being a dope and nasty jerk, but a willing part of a social structure that oppressed others, exploited them for profit and made ruin of the countryside in the name of Rome. You heard it long before you repented. As did we all. Forgiveness first. That's the Jesus Way.

Lent is for lovers. It's for those of us who have felt a love long before we knew what it was or what it meant. Found a love that found us first. Lent is only and all about that love. Don't let guilt get in your way. Just fall in love again.

Philip+

Musings from the New Senior Warden

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the CHS community this past year. In my first year in a leadership position in the church, I found the depth and breath of the reach of our community in helping those around us rather eye opening.

2017 had a strong emphasis on our facilities. Initially, we started to look at upgrading the space for the First Steps daycare. While we were making progress towards that upgrade, the rectory project took shape and uncovered the Certificate of Occupancy (CO) issues we had with the town.

Dominating most of my bandwidth for the year, we were able to get the town to conditionally approve our CO, and some physical changes to the property have been completed or are in process of being completed. This coincided with the rectory renovations that are on track for a Spring completion.

Once the rectory is complete and we receive the CO for the church, we will pick up the facility upgrades for the First Step space. During our planning of this, the elevator project will be completed.

With facilities well in hand, I am looking to 2018 as a growth year. This is intended to tailor our marketing message to attract new families to the CHS community. While we will be swimming upstream against the demographic changes of Hunterdon County, there are still new families moving into the Clinton area along with many good people who simply don't have a place where they feel welcome in a faith-based community.

We can offer a sense of belonging in an increasingly divisive world. The divisiveness is all around us in the increased use of social media, the reduction of human interactions, the growing political divide, and the shifting culture of a 'me first' mindset. With a tailored message and an active congregation, we should be able to spread our common values. We will be taking a close look at how we can cast a larger net.

Thank you for this opportunity and I look forward to a wonderful 2018.

Yours in faith,

Jonathan Babek



Ed Note: This was Jon's submission as Junior Warden for the 2017 annual report. The complete report can be found on the CHS website at www.churchholyspirit.org. The 2017 Senior Warden and Treasurer's Reports are there as well, and follow in this issue for your convenience. We thank Eva, Jon and Gabrielle for their exemplary work on these difficult issues during the past year. Happily, Jon returns in 2018 as Senior Warden and Gabrielle as Treasurer, and Eva has agreed to stay on the vestry for another year. Congratulations to Cate Mattison, who has agreed to serve as Junior Warden; and to new vestry members Alice Hrebella, Tracy MacGeorge, Gary Scott, Holly Warnowicz and Eli Jones. We still have an open spot for the class of 2020. There is also an opening for a convention delegate (March 2-3 in Cherry Hill). Let Jon know if you're interested in either position.

2017 Senior Warden Report



I have truly enjoyed chairing our vibrant and very dedicated Vestry this past year. During our Vestry retreat in late January 2017 -- before we realized how consuming our property-related work with the Township and Diocese would be -- we identified eight (8) crucial areas of emphasis: Christian Formation, Outreach, Stewardship, Property, Service Auction, Web Guild, Finance, and Worship & Music.

I want to sincerely thank the Vestry for sustaining their focus and commitment to advancing each of these key areas despite and amidst the urgent orders of business associated with securing our Certificate of Occupancy. As a team, we balanced many competing demands and made significant progress on all fronts, which I believe you will see demonstrated by the breadth and depth of submissions in the Annual Report. As a faith community, this parish has been and continues to be the living Body of Our Lord, fulfilling our mission "to know Christ as we serve others, proclaim God's love and grow in The Spirit."

With the positive progress that has been made with the township regarding our Certificate of Occupancy (CO), we are finally able to apply for permits and proceed with the installation of the Wheelchair Lift that was graciously made possible through "Fund the Need" donations at the 2016 Auction and a very generous matching grant. I am very grateful to Christopher Gnash for his partnership and pro bono services as our project architect. I anticipate that the "elevator" will be immediately and frequently utilized once it is commissioned! I personally appreciate your patience as we worked through imperative prerequisites.

We had a great crowd and excellent response during our New Consecration Sunday services in November. This was our second year utilizing this Diocesan-recommended approach, and I sincerely hope you found our stewardship program in the weeks leading up to and including our celebration with Canon Chuck Perfater to be a meaningful spiritual experience. Thank you so much for your participation! We have reached out to members of our congregation who were not able to celebrate with us, and I am hopeful that we will still receive additional Estimates of Giving to complete our stewardship campaign. Here are our results as of this Annual Report:

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>
Number of Parish Households	79	78
Estimates of Giving Submitted	\$198,183.	\$190,713.

Finally, It has been my honor and privilege to serve you as Holy Spirit's Senior Warden. Thank you so much for your transparency, feedback and support throughout 2017!

Respectfully submitted,

Eva Lesniak



Annual Meeting 2018

A Message from the Treasurer

Dear Friends,

Our church's finances were managed diligently throughout 2017 under the leadership of the Finance Committee and the Vestry. The current members of the Finance Committee are Sally Bird, Gabrielle Bolarakis, Debby Canty, Ed Filipski, John Higgins, Oscar Jones, and Linda West. A special thank you once again goes to Linda West, who comes into the office weekly and keeps a watchful eye on each line item in our budget, providing a monthly update to the committee and the Vestry.



Two-thirds of our income comes from you, our parishioners, in the form of paid pledges (62%) and non-pledge giving (i.e., people who do not make a pledge, but give regularly (7%). While it certainly helps us to budget our expenses based on how much has been pledged, we appreciate all that each of you do to help the church financially. At this time, I am happy to report that 97% of the 2017 pledges have been fulfilled. Our other major sources of revenue are the Service Auction in the spring, smaller fundraisers throughout the year, the rent we receive from the Rectory lease, as well as the rent from First Step and usage fees from those who hold events in the Parish Hall. Our overall operating revenue received in 2017 was \$8,246 more than what we budgeted last year; despite a significant drop off rectory rental. (This tenancy arrangement is now terminated.) Refinancing our mortgage with the diocese gave us the capital to cover the loss and cover the cost of getting the CO for the church. As a result, the rectory renovation is under way and we anticipate it will be ready for occupancy in March of 2018, which will provide a return to stability for this revenue line.

While many of our expenses are somewhat fixed, John Higgins once again managed the property & utilities budget most efficiently in 2017 and came in under budget on many of the property & utilities line items by a total of \$1,216 for the year.

In 2017 we spent \$45,440, and in 2018 we have to spend another \$3,000 to complete the CO. This unanticipated budget expense required careful control of expenses in 2017. In 2018, we are keeping our rental income the same from First Step and Meals-on-Wheels. Plans are in place to have new tenants in the rectory; we expect tenancy to commence early in 2018 and have budgeted accordingly. The 2018 budget is included in the Annual Report and available on our web site. If you have any questions about the budget please reach out to any of the Finance Committee members, who will be happy to answer them.

On the expense side, many of our expenses are fixed. Payroll has been budgeted at a .05 % Cost-of-Living increase, as per the guidelines set by the Diocese. Our Fair Share commitment to the Diocese for 2018 is \$16,000; this is significantly less than the typical commitment. While we are fortunate to have a strong balance sheet and diligent oversight, the fact remains that we have presented a deficit budget each year since 2011, and 2018 is no different. Our operating shortfall is projected to be \$4,072. This can be offset by additional income from new pledges, rental income from the parish hall and/or additional fundraisers.

The Finance Committee would like to thank all of you who support our church through your gifts of time, talent and money.

Gabrielle Bolarakis

Y2Y (Youth to Youth): Parent Meeting

February 13th Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

There will be a short meeting for parents of Y2Y members on **Sunday February 11** after the 10:00 am service. We will discuss upcoming events for the year and any questions or thoughts the parents may have. Hope to see you all!

+++++

The youth need some adult volunteers to help with the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper (**February 13**).

We could use a few more helpers - maybe 2 - between 3-5pm to set up and start the cooking as most of the kids cannot get there until about 5:00pm A few "seasoned" Parishioners would be great, too to help as needed.

Please contact Pat Egan: pegan3@yahoo.com.



Lenten Program: Discipleship: What is it and how can I do more of it?

At the Annual Meeting we heard a conversation about discipleship that was an introduction to a five-week program that will be presented during Lent: Discipleship, What Does a Disciple Do?

We will explore and discuss these topics:

- Seeking the Kingdom
- Hear and Listen to Jesus
- Talk With People
- Do Good
- Minster Through Prayer



It all takes place over candlelight soup and salad supper after sung evensong around tables. Bring your experiences and ideas to share.

The programs will be held on Tuesday nights for five weeks from **February 20 until March 20**. We begin at 6 pm and end at 8 pm. A table will be set for youth and childcare will be provided for the younger members.

Sign up on line for cooking, setup and cleanup, and if you are requesting child care.

Click HERE <https://www.churchholyspirit.org/news/tuesdays-in-lent>

Arden Olson

Other dates to note:

- Sunday March 25—Palm Sunday (you may want to bring last year's palms in beforehand)
- Thursday March 29—Maundy Thursday
- Friday March 30—Good Friday Day of Service
- Saturday March 31—The Great Vigil of Easter
- Sunday April 1—Easter 1

Church of the Holy Spirit Women's

Retreat

*"A woman came to
which she poured*

**A REMINDER: LIMITED AVAILABILITY SO CHECK
RIGHT AWAY IF YOU WISH TO ATTEND.**

*him with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume,
on his head as he was reclined at the table." Matthew 26:7*

All of us carry this woman in our souls.

Place:

St. Marguerite's Retreat House
82 West Main Street, Mendham, NJ 07945

Times & Dates:

On **Friday, February 23rd**, the program begins at
6:00 pm with dinner and concludes at 9:00 pm with Compline.

Please bring snacks/drinks to share on Friday evening.

The program continues on **Saturday, February 24th**,
at 9:00 am and concludes at 3:00.

Registration:

Please register by e-mailing Michelle at: Admin@churchholyspirit.org, with your name, e-mail address, and contact number. Registration deadline **February 3rd**. Please feel free to invite your mothers, daughters, sisters, friends or any woman you love to this wonderful time of reflection, learning and laughter. Program is limited to 25 participants.

Cost:

\$85.00 Make checks payable to: Church of the Holy Spirit by **February 10th**.

Facilitator:

Reverend Maria Sanzo, of Saint Raphael in Brick, NJ. Rev. Maria is a trained Spiritual Director.

From The Deacon's Corner

Deacon Dot's sermon for the third Sunday of Epiphany (January 21). See also page 13



Jesus begins his ministry by proclaiming the "good news" of the gospel, which is that "the time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God has come near" (Mark 1:15). Jesus' coming was the "fullness of time," because he is the messenger promised in the Old Testament (Galatians 4:4, Ephesians 1:10). Jesus repeats the message of John the Baptist, "Repent and believe in the good news." The emphasis of Mark's gospel is that Jesus' coming is the gospel, the "good news," a term that in the first fifteen verses of the gospel occurs three times.

Since last Sunday's story is from the Gospel of John, we don't know the exact sequence of that text with this one from Mark, but the theme is the same. Today's text continues the story from last Sunday, that is, the beginning of Jesus' ministry as he calls his first disciples. Last Sunday we heard that Jesus called Philip and Nathanael. In today's story he calls four fishermen at the Sea of Galilee -- Simon Peter, Andrew, James and John.

Once again we don't know what there was about Jesus that led Simon, Andrew, James, John, and others to leave their homes and families to follow Jesus. Did they know him already? Or was this their first contact with him? In any case there was something remarkably compelling about Jesus to cause these and others to follow him into an uncertain future. The astonishing feature of the story is that they followed Jesus with no idea of where it would lead.

We know very little of the background of any of the disciples whom Jesus calls. The four in today's story were fishermen. Matthew was a tax collector (Matthew 9:9). What had the other seven done before Jesus came into their lives? We don't know.

As far as we can tell, the twelve persons Jesus called to be his companions were ordinary men. As far as we can tell, Jesus didn't do background checks to determine IQ levels, financial acumen, professional skills, or temple education. He picked people probably much like you and me. Furthermore, his disciples were anything but perfect. Many times they misunderstood him. They often hesitated to follow him. Judas betrayed him and Peter denied him.

But these would be the persons who would continue Jesus' work on earth after he left -- ordinary people, like you and me. They were called.

Furthermore Jesus' first disciples were "northerners," from the northern province of Galilee. The capital of Israel was Jerusalem, in the former southern kingdom, the religious center with the temple. It is no wonder that Jesus was greeted with such skepticism when he travelled to Jerusalem from his home in Galilee with his Galilean friends. The religious leaders in Jerusalem naturally considered Jesus an "outsider."

As far as we know, every one of the disciples was chosen and called personally by Jesus. We believe that God calls each one of us. God not only calls us to follow Jesus, but also calls us into the fields and careers of our lives. We often speak of "God's call" too narrowly, as if God "calls" people only into ordained ministry. That is true: God calls people to be pastors and church workers. But God's call is not limited to clergy. God calls every single one of us.

In the Middle Ages the clergy was considered to have a higher status of Christian than laypersons. They had their own regimen of frequent daily worship that laypersons didn't have. They had church rules to follow, which laypersons didn't have. They usually lived in communities -- monasteries and convents -- unlike laypersons.

The Reformation eliminated those distinctions between clergy and lay by affirming that God calls everybody. The word for this call to everyone is "vocation," from Latin *vocatio*, "calling." Everyone has a station in life, probably several stations in how society functions, and this "vocation." Every job that works to build up and maintain society is a calling -- teacher, insurance salesman, car mechanic, politician, etc. We also have callings within family structures -- mother, father, aunt, uncle, child, etc. We serve God in these family callings as well.

(continued)

A friend of mine is a junior high school teacher. Since he was active in his congregation as a boy, some of his relatives urged him to consider becoming a pastor. He told his own pastor that he felt no calling to be a pastor but felt God wanted him to be a school teacher. His wise pastor told him to follow his calling, and he would be serving God as well in a school room as in a pastor's office. That pastor understood what it meant to follow God's call in one's vocation.

The Old Testament lesson from the book of Jonah is also a story about "calling," but with ironic twists. Jonah is called to proclaim a message to people he doesn't like -- a message he hopes will not be accepted. After trying unsuccessfully to avoid his calling, he finally arrives in Nineveh and delivers the shortest sermon in the Bible, an eight-word threat of destruction. To his dismay the sermon is effective. The book of Jonah ends as God makes clear to Jonah that mercy is for everyone who repents.

Jonah's call included the message he was to deliver, but in today's gospel the four fishermen are called with no further instructions whatsoever. They are called to a totally uncertain future and would surely have been scared out of their wits had they known what lay in store for them.

God's call is always into an uncertain future. When we enter into our callings we have no idea how it will all end up. We choose our careers and jobs hoping that we can use the gifts and talents God has given us, but there are no guarantees.

Peace, Deacon Dot



From The Deacon in Formation:

Michelle Leslie's first sermon with us (Epiphany 1 — January 7, 2018)

Good Morning and Happy New Year,

This morning's Gospel reading is about John baptizing Jesus. Jesus's baptism marks the beginning of his ministry, the **Good News!**

When I read today's gospel, my first thoughts were about John the Baptist. I was curious as to who was John the Baptist. We know he was Zechariah and Elizabeth's son and second cousin to Jesus. He was a Levite—the priest class of the Israelites, and lived a simple but rugged life in the mountains of Judea. When you read about John, you can visualize him standing in the River Jordan. By all accounts he was different and appeared to be an extreme and eccentric man. John is not what you would expect from a priest! He has a wild appearance, he is different. God called John to be a prophet proclaiming the coming of the Messiah. John went into the country around the Jordan preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

Imagine John the Baptist, a man standing in the greenish waters of the River Jordan, the water is up to his knees. Taking a closer look; his hair is wild and long, he has a thick and full beard. John is wearing clothing made of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist. He is dressed like Elijah in the Old Testament. We have all heard he ate a diet of wild honey and locusts. John is in the wilderness, a symbolic place to the Jews of cleansing and renewal. John is blunt, to the point and speaking a hard truth. John spoke boldly to the religious leaders of the day, the Pharisees and the Sadducees, calling them a "brood of vipers." John's deep humility and great faith made him fearless. He warns them not to rely on their Jewish lineage for salvation. He is demanding them to repent, be baptized and return to their true identity as children of God. He is an intimidating man and I guess today we would call him a 21st century hippie-survivalist.

People were surprised and shocked at John's appearance, demeanor and words. I wondered if God intended him to look and act this way so that John could demonstrate the spirit of inclusiveness to all the sinners coming to him. People were looking for a community different from the ancient institutions and authorities. They did not want to be involved with sacrifices, they wanted forgiveness. They wanted to be named, touched and changed. John's baptism offered them something very different, a washing away of their sins dependent on their willingness to confess, to repent and to turn back to God.

(continued)

John's role is to point to and prepare the way for Jesus by preaching repentance. John's baptismal ministry had three components; two of them were repentance and forgiveness. John's very own explanation of what took place we heard in the gospel reading today. John proclaims "I have baptized you with water," which means his baptism will wash away sin. John then says "Jesus will baptize you with the Holy Spirit," meaning Christian baptism does far more than John's baptism.

Our baptismal liturgy as we practice it marks the end or death of our old life - our old allegiances, when we reply to the "Do you renounce..." questions and it is the beginning of a new life raised to live in God's grace and forgiveness. John announces an additional component with the gift of the Holy Spirit which is also part of our baptismal liturgy, "...you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own for ever."

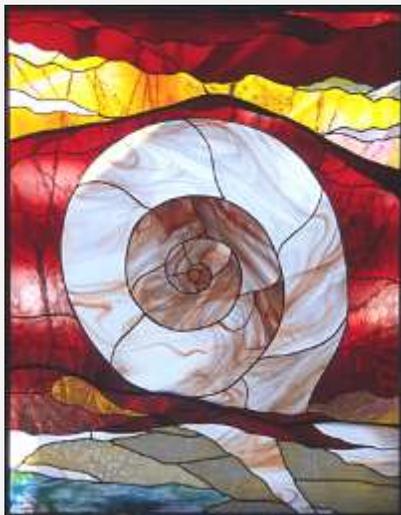
Baptism is a sacrament given from God which is one of the ways that God's grace comes to us. Baptism is about faith, either the faith of the person being baptized or the faith of the parents. Baptism is not an individualized act; in baptism we are reborn and become part of a people. Jesus shares in our humanity, which is why he himself, though without fault, entered the waters like everyone else. Just as Jesus submitted to His Father's authority, we too have that same responsibility. Our baptismal waters are real, deep, wet and powerful not only on the day of our baptism, but even still powerful today.

As I was writing my sermon, I soon became interested in the use of water for baptism. I started looking up facts about water and I found the typical facts we all know. I discovered a very interesting fact I never knew: water is sticky. The water molecules love to stick to things, especially EACH OTHER! The stickiness of water molecules holds them together as a liquid, making them a COHESIVE force. It keeps you alive: it means water can pull blood up narrow vessels in the body, often against the force of gravity. Imagine simple, unseen and uncomplicated water molecules are cohesive and stick to each other. After learning this fact, I found it fascinating that water is used for our baptism.

We are all baptized with "sticky" water. The baptism of water gives us God's love, grace and forgiveness. "We are sealed by the Holy Spirit in baptism and marked as Christ's own for ever." The gift of baptism sticks on us and with us throughout our lives, even when we feel lost, alone, frightened, aggravated or helpless. As God's children, we have the ability to be a cohesive force, connected and able to stick to Jesus and each other through our baptism.

In Christ, and in our daily return to our own baptisms, there is an inexhaustible source for the renewal and new beginnings of our lives. Our relationship with God should be pure, honest, deep, enduring and sincere. God comes to us at our baptism and proclaims that He is well pleased with us. God loves us just as we are, but He will never leave us as we are.

John was looking for the Messiah. He trusted that God would come. That great and steadfast faith prepared him for the hardships to follow. John shows us that each of us can be a strong and a serious witness for Jesus Christ. John shows us how to stand firm in our faith no matter the circumstances. As Christians, each of us will have our faith put to the test, and there will be times we will falter in our faith or cling to Christ and stand firm in our faith. We have John's witness to remind us to stand strong.



Our baptism changed us and continues to change us. Baptism is a reminder of God's love, grace and forgiveness. We are God's children. We are the water. Go out into the world and be a cohesive force, connected and sticky to Jesus, to each other, as well as, to those who maybe faltering in their faith.

"We are all sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own forever."

Michelleslie Maltese-Nehrbass

Baptize — one of the "Windows of the Spirit" that graces our sanctuary. Photo by Sandy Burton.



Filling the Red Wagon

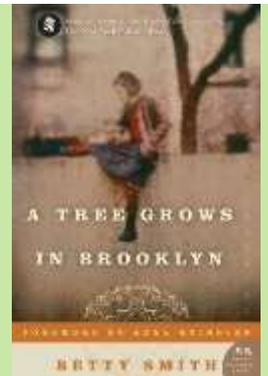
For the month of February, our donations will include boxed mac and cheese, or dried pasta and sauce. The Open Cupboard of Clinton is also in need of other food and household paper/cleaning products. They are serving an increasing number of clients whose benefit checks are stretched thin. Caroline Iler is a volunteer there and can give you more information. Katie Higgins and Julie Schmidt are to be commended for their continued interest in helping underprivileged families in the community.

. Please do not leave any donations in the Parish Office/Undercroft — put them in the Food Pantry Cart in the Narthex. Many thanks for your help for the less fortunate among our neighbors.

Suzanne Higgins

Spirited Readers Book Club

Whether or not you've had an opportunity to read Betty Smith's classic, *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*, I hope you'll consider joining us for the next discussion on Sunday, **February 25th** following the 10:00 service. The tree of the title, called the Tree of Heaven, grows in a 1912 courtyard and lives whether or not it is watered, even in cement, but only in the poorest neighborhoods. It's a metaphor for the lives of the family that is central to the story.



Suzanne Higgins

First Sunday Breakfast.

On a frigid January 7 morning we had a comforting breakfast of oatmeal with all the trimmings, bagels, juice and fruit offered by Julie Stine and her daughter Nancy and Vicki Brooks. Thanks to Marge Keller and her angels, whose lovely settings for the previous evening's Epiphany potluck were in place, to June Filipski for the German stollen and Karen Murray for her homemade bread. Thanks also to Carol Crawford Jones for coffee and cookies and Gloria Jean Waller, who organized and ran the cleanup afterwards.



Vicki Brooks



From the Acolyte Corner

The Acolyte Festival is **Saturday, February 10** from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm at Trinity Cathedral in Trenton; sign up is necessary so please let me know ASAP if you wish to attend. Here is a link to the Festival Flyer, which you will find on the

CHS website: <https://www.churchholyspirit.org/events/acolyte-festival-february-10>

This year's Acolyte Overnight is scheduled for **Friday, March 2** starting at 6:30 PM and ending on Saturday morning with pickup at 8 am.

I'm always seeking children age 7 and up who might be interested in serving as acolytes. If you have any interest or simply want to know what this is all about, please come to the overnight OR see me at a Sunday service or email me at jdaniels_fire@yahoo.com

Jack Daniels, Acolyte Master

Altar Guild

Would you like to help "set the Lord's Table"?

The Altar Guild is looking for a few new members to serve in this quiet, behind-the-scenes ministry. The ministry involves preparing the Altar and worship space for all services, including the flowers and cleaning up afterwards. The time commitment is about one hour to set up on Friday or Saturday and one on Sunday for the weekend you are assigned. Usually we work in teams of two and you can divide the tasks amongst yourselves. You are usually assigned every four to five weeks. If you are interested please contact me at 908-638-4341 or landgraf5@yahoo.com.



Sue Landgraf

Formation: Modules and Bible Story Focus

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, Marge Keller or Michelle Marlow.

We Care (February 4—February 11): Good Samaritan, How to be a Friend

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

Creation (April 8—May 20): Genesis 1

We Care: Friendship



Being a "Snowbird", I usually am not in town for the Annual Meeting. Even though I was actually at church last Sunday, I still missed it!

That's because this was my time to talk to the children and youth about Friendship. I hope the kids would agree our meeting was more fun!

I started by stressing the importance of just who you choose as a friend. As we change from toddler to school child, our friends become more and more a necessity. As teenagers, we are lost without them. We discussed what qualities a good friend should have. Trust and loyalty were mentioned. I asked if they felt they were a good friend and to my joy they all replied, "Yes".

I explained it was important to like yourself. If you don't, how can you expect anyone else to like you? Having said that, it's essential to know you are NOT going to like everyone and everyone is NOT going to like you. I shared my favorite phrase with regard to friendship: "TAKE THE BEST AND LEAVE THE REST". This statement comes into play with anyone who crosses your path in life. It was mentioned to me by a dear friend whom I no longer see but who helped me through some difficult times in my life. She remains in my heart. Everyone has something to offer.

Friendship can hurt sometimes because a friend does something you don't like or don't agree with. Take it slow. See what capabilities you have. Seek a friend who shares your values. A really good friend will walk beside you throughout your lifetime.

I mentioned that not all friends will stick with you, though. People come into your life for a time and then they are gone. Hopefully, you will learn something from each other while you're together.

We talked about Prison Ministry and how most of the women in Edna Mahan Correctional Facility have taken the wrong path somewhere along the way. That wrong path can lead to Hell on earth — as the women will testify. I told the children it is vital to stick to the right path in order to have a happy, successful and fulfilling life.

One concern that came up was bullying. It is sad when a person is a bully because that person is obviously very unhappy with themselves. It's hard when you are faced with this torment but crucial that you share your concern with a teacher or a parent or an adult friend.

I offer myself as a friend to anyone who came to my talk. I am only ever a phone call away and am a good listener. Talk to me: 908-528-1788.

Susan Kane

Ed Notes: There are many ways to be a friend. Deacon Dot drove a parishioner to HMC last Friday for ongoing treatment. Here's part of what she had to say about the day: "I brought my Communion kit with me and while she was hooked up to the machine, I announced to everyone there who I was and what I was about to do. I invited all to join us, saying everyone is welcome in the Episcopal Church. A number of individuals took the "Communion Under Special Circumstances" booklet. Two individuals participated fully (a woman and her mother) sitting right next to us. In discussion afterwards, the daughter told me they were Roman Catholic but really appreciated what I had done. It led to "thanks" all the way around and I think we made some new friends. I hope more will join in next time. I have committed to bringing communion to the Cancer Center on Fridays when our patient's chemo is scheduled. God works in mysterious ways and I believe the Eucharist is meant to be celebrated with the others present. It was a wonderful day."

And news from **Sue Quinlan**, who has safely arrived in Slidell, Louisiana only to find that the snow and frigid temperatures travelled with her. Her new snail mail address is 222 Constellation Drive, Slidell, LA 70458. She misses us. Says church there just doesn't have the same feeling as that of CHS. [But I'll bet she brought some of that feeling with her.] Happily Sue will be back with us this summer.

In case you missed them — treasures from recent Sunday bulletins

Who We Are and How You Too Can Find a Place

Jesus lived in a troubled time; but he announced the dawning of a new era, God's reign of justice and peace.

He defied the powers that opposed God's reign by reaching out to all the victims of these powers. He gathered a company of followers, teaching them how to live in the freedom of this new era. But the world turned against him; his followers abandoned him; and the authorities executed him as a threat to the peace, in about 33 AD. from the dead! - The one who had risen to them and, through them, to the world. They were now convinced that God had rejected the judgment against Jesus and yet had absorbed the pain of it. By giving Jesus a new life, God validated everything Jesus stood for and gave his followers a new life in solidarity with him and with those he sought to serve. They began to see this new kind of life as the world's true future; others caught the vision and joined them. Thus began an historic movement inspired by this Good News.

We are people bound together because we follow the way of Jesus Christ.

We recognize the presence of God in Jesus and see his way of life as God's way toward a world transformed by love.

We tell his story, from generation to generation, convinced that we must follow him and embody his vision.

Come and get to know Jesus by getting to know people whose lives are being shaped by this Good News. Discover the Spirit of Jesus and see what God is really like.

Experience what it means to be part of Jesus' deepening impact on the world

Hand-Carved Doves

Fr. Phil met master woodworker Biguel Fall on a visit to Dakar, Senegal, in 1995. Biguel owned a woodworking studio there and made incredible works of art with the most rudimentary of tools. The parish began sending him advanced machinery and he hired dozens of workers. As a thank offering, Biguel created the African rosewood dove gracing our Narthex. He also made the Christus Red, The Reigning Christ figure displayed in the Sanctuary. About when we were figuring out the furniture for the new church in 2000, Biguel emigrated to the US, becoming a US citizen (his Dakar studio is still going strong). He lived with the Emmitts and worked out of garages, first at the Karlos across the street, then at the Bierwirths, just down the street. Everything made of wood in our church was created by Biguel Fall. Other than the old Altar, everything — pews, platforms, nave cross (the thick white oak planks donated by the Higgins family). Parishioners stained and finished most of the wood. Biguel is foreman of a cabinet shop, living in Jersey City with his family. He still carves on the side. He is offering small hand-carved doves and we are pleased to continue our support of Biguel and his family. See Fr. Phil if you are interested: there is a sample near the main dove, and a photo above.



Pulse of the Parish

Belated congratulations to Jonya and Jonathan Langley on the recent birth of Grace Elizabeth who was born at St. Peter's University Hospital in New Brunswick on November 20th. She was born by C-section and weighed in at 9 pounds 2 ounces!

Condolences to Mary Haspel on the death of her sister, Susan Mary Horn, on January 13 after a long illness. A memorial service is planned for March 10th at 1:00 pm at the Reformed Church at Finderne in Bridgewater, NJ. For further information access www.ippolitofuneralhomes.com.

My thought for the new year comes to me from a friend in New York State: *The nicest place to be is in someone's thoughts; the safest place to be is in someone's prayers, and the very best place to be is ...in the hands of God.*

God bless,

Barbara Burton

HOLD THE DATES

FEBRUARY

- 10 Acolyte Festival, Trenton
Painters and Cleaners at the Rectory
- 11 Y2Y Parent Meeting
- 12 Knit & Chat 7 pm
- 13 **Shrove Tuesday pancake supper**
- 14 Ash Wednesday
- 20 Vestry Meeting 7:30 pm
Lenten program 6 pm
- 23-24 Women's Retreat, Mendham (see page)**
- 25 Holy Spirited Readers
- 26 Knit & Chat 7 pm
- 27 Lenten program 6 pm

MARCH

- 2 Acolyte Overnight
- 2-3 Diocese of New Jersey Annual Convention, Cherry Hill
- 6 Lenten program 6 pm
- 11 Daylight Saving Time begins (clocks forward)
- 12 Knit & Chat
- 13 Lenten program 6 pm
- 20 First Day of Spring (Hurrah!!!)
Lenten program 6 pm

MARCH (continued)

- 25 Palm Sunday
- 26 Knit & Chat
- 29 Maundy Thursday
- 30 Good Friday Day of Service**
- 31 The Great Vigil of Easter**

APRIL

- 1 Easter Sunday
- 9 Knit & Chat
- 23 Knit & Chat

27 Annual Service Auction

MAY

- 6 Trinity Chorale Spring concert
- 14 Knit & Chat
- 20 Pentecost (wear red.....)**
- 28 Knit & Chat

JUNE

- 12-13 North Hunterdon/Voorhees High School Graduations
- 21 Hunterdon Central High School graduation

SNAPSHOTS

Epiphany House Blessings and Potluck Supper (with piñatas) January 5-6, 2018

81 homes blessed, (including non-parishioner friends), along with 8 horses, 51 chickens, dogs, cats, a lathe shop and a dance studio. Next year our intrepid padre has plans to bless every house in the parish, so stay tuned.....





GJ Glorijean photo



GJ Glorijean photo

A Note of Appreciation from Mirota House: On behalf of myself and all the guests you and your wonderful congregation fed and entertained — I just want to thank you all. A day spent with such generous people lifted all our “cold” winter hearts for sure. May God bless you all and thank you. Peace to you all — Joyce and Mirota friends. [Ed note: you’ll find our own dear Jean Wallace front and center; Mirota House has been her home for some years.]



Mirota Luncheon Saturday January 13
Photos this page by June Filipski



Photos this page by
Nanette Chardoussin

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The Rev. Dorothea N. Hospador, Deacon

www.churchholyspirit.org

Check out CHS on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/churchholyspirit>

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Photos of CHS stained glass windows below by Sandy Burton

