



The Dove

Church of the Holy Spirit - 3 Haytown Road - Lebanon, NJ - churchholyspirit.org

OUR MISSION: *to become like Christ as we serve others, proclaim God's love, and grow in the Spirit*

Giving Thanks Around the Globe

Schedule
 6 pm - Hors d'oeuvres
 6-7pm - Silent Auction
 7 pm - Live Auction

Tickets
 \$30 per person

To Eat and Drink
 Foods of Many Nations
 Beer, Wine, Soda

2024 Service Auction - November 16 - 6 p.m.
 Church of the Holy Spirit - 3 Haytown Rd, Lebanon, NJ

NOVEMBER 2024

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A Precious Gift

About 2 years ago, I was doing a Christmas Eve Vigil up at the Church of the Messiah in Chester. That night two of our grandchildren were at our house. When I returned about 6:30, I was tired and just wanted to sit and relax before dinner. My granddaughter, McKenna, who was five at the time, came running over to me and climbed in my lap and was all excited that they had watched me do the Eucharistic Service on Zoom. "We saw you on Zoom," she happily exclaimed. "But I must ask you one question. Why were you wearing that long, white dress?" So, I had to explain it to her. But her questioning did not end there. "What was that thing around your neck?" She was referring to the stole, so I explained that to her. Ah, but the questions kept coming. "It looked like a scarf. Were you cold?"

Children are such a precious gift to us. They bring us joy, laughter, unconditional love. At times tears, but always they are precious and dear to us. This morning's Gospel reminds us of the importance of them in our Christian faith. Yes, we are all God's children, but having our youth here participating in this Eucharistic service is so very vital and important to us. For they are the future, and it is important that we be mindful of what they represent, not only in our own immediate family, but to this community as well.

So let us imagine, if you will, that we are there in the crowd, and Jesus has come. We are all eager to see this young man whom we have heard so much about, and to hear what he has to say. He looks tired and a bit stressed out. The crowd keeps pressing forward to get closer to him, but his disciples keep holding them back. Suddenly he lifts his head and begins looking around and he espies a group of children, and they are being brought to him through the crowd. The disciples try to stop this and what does Jesus do? He rebukes them. "Let the children come to me, and do not stop them, for such is the Kingdom of God."

Many times in the Gospels we see our Lord with children. He speaks to them. Asks their names and where they are from. How old are you? Even though in this passage, he was tired and needed rest, he takes the time to show how important they are to him. Perhaps some climbed into his lap; he touched them, gave them a smile, a pat on the head. He had a smile in his heart to speak words of love and hope to them. Can you imagine how they must have felt?

Children are such precious gifts. Like something you prize and value a great deal. We all must strive to be good parents, grandparents, and such and to bring them closer to God by our words, actions, and example.

Today, there is so much strife, unrest, and there are the conflicts in the Middle East, Ukraine and now we read of the devastation in Florida, Georgia, the Carolinas, and Tennessee due to "Hurricane Helene." Then there are the violence, divisiveness, and conflicts we face here. What do we say to our children when they ask us about this? Surely they have questions. How do we respond?

What is Jesus' message to us this morning? To enter God's Kingdom, we must have the trust and dependance of a child. A trust and dependance upon Christ. Let the child in each of us trust, ask and simply be loved by Jesus. The Gospel also urges us to love and to do what is right in accordance with his message. This is our duty and obligation to pass on to our children. What do we hope them to become?

There are some today, who whether they realize it or not, may be hindering their child from understanding and realizing how important they too are to our Lord. The example we give, and our own words and actions, are of paramount importance. Children observe closely, how we behave and what we have to say. They react accordingly.

Soon we will have to decide on our future as a nation and how we decide will affect ourselves, our families, and especially our children, for it will also decide their future. Lest we forget we also need to look beyond ourselves and consider our community at large.

Our Christian faith and how we behave will influence our children as to how they believe and behave in accordance with the Gospel message. We must teach them grace, love, compassion, and hope. Guide their hearts through a relationship of love and freedom. Be a model of holiness and an example of Christ-like identity. Remember if you do not behave as you genuinely believe, in the end you will wind up believing as you behave.

“Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for God’s Kingdom belongs to such as these.” Children are so important to Jesus, and the same goes for us as well, for we are God’s children. He cares for us deeply and wants what is best for us and hopes that we will remain faithful and dependent upon him just like a little child.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the wonderful pastor, theologian, and Christian martyr, wrote: As Jesus called the little children to him, He reminds us all that “the ultimate test of a moral society is the kind of world that it leaves to its children.” They are the future, and it is ours as well. So, clasp your children’s hands in yours and walk towards him, for he is waiting to give you a big hug.

Fr. Andrew Calandriello

October 6, 2024

Prayer for the Election Season

Holy God, we come to you today in prayer, full of emotions. Election seasons always seem to bring that out in us — worry and hope, fear and frustration. The list could go on. So today we bow our heads and ask for guidance. Open our ears to hear the groans of creation. Open our eyes to see the needs of others. Open our hearts to make room for empathy. Give us the wisdom to navigate challenging conversations. Give us the patience to disagree with grace. Give us the compassion to make decisions for the greater good. And when all else fails, bring us back to love. Bring our hearts and our hands, our dreams and our hopes, our anger and our frustration, our hurt and our fear, all back to love. With hope we pray, with hope we are sustained. Amen. — Rev. Sarah Speed

Prayer in a Time of Transition

God of all ages and keeper of our days, we lay before you this season in which we find ourselves. What has been has ended and we know not what lies ahead. Be with us in this time and give us the courage and patience to live these days of losing and finding mindful, as Jesus taught his friends, that the grain of wheat must be planted in the earth and die in order to bear much fruit. Amen.

Have You Met?

This is the second in our series about new CHS members. We look forward to more profiles, and encourage folks to let us know something about themselves as they learn more about CHS and our missions and ministry..

The Savage Family



We are excited to share a bit more about ourselves with the CHS community! We are Brian and Loren, a married couple since 2014 who met and wed in Chicago. Originally hailing from Illinois and Minnesota, respectively, our journey together has included a few cross-country moves, serving in various church roles in those communities, and, most notably, embracing the richness of family. Our son, Davison, is a lively first grader at Patrick McGaheeran Elementary, and he brings a wonderful depth to our lives.

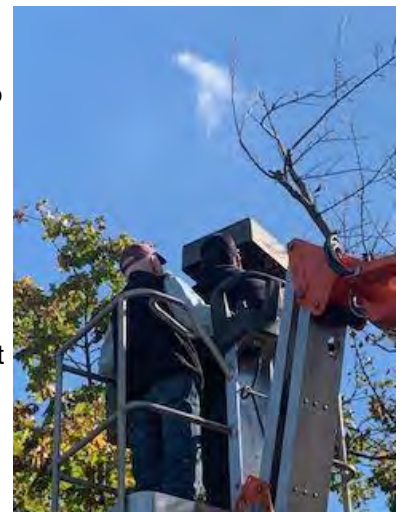
Throughout our years together, we have been actively involved in church communities. When we met, Brian was serving as the music minister for several congregations on Chicago's Northwest side. At Immanuel Lutheran Church in Chicago, Loren served on their church council, and Brian was a vestry member at the Cathedral Church of St. Marks in Salt Lake City. Our family grew when we became foster parents to Davison in December 2017 and joyfully adopted him in August 2018 while living in Salt Lake. We relocated to New Jersey in February of this year for Loren's new role as the chief development officer for Rutgers Cancer Institute, while Brian continues his career as a project manager for The Expo Group.

As we settle into our new home right up the hill from the church, we look forward to getting to know everyone and becoming active members of the congregation. We enjoy exploring our new community and the surrounding area, traveling as much as we can, and spending time with friends and family. We are excited to see how we can contribute to CHS. Thank you for the incredibly warm welcome you have all provided. We look forward to growing in faith and fellowship with you all.

Time and Talent (and Lights!)



When we started this project there were four parking lights out (two of them on the main driveway coming into the church). Alex (van Veldhuisen) took the time to get a Sky lift and assemble it on site. We replaced the bulbs that were burned out and then decided to replace all of them after John Higgins commented that once one went out, they usually all start burning out. While Alex was up in the air replacing the bulbs he also cleaned the clear glass lenses. I merrily stood safety watch on the ground. We also discovered that one parking light had to have a non-working ballast and capacitor replaced. John and Alex spent quite a bit



of time on the sky lift together to make that repair.

Jim West, author and photographer

Treasurer's Report

As of the end of September our financial results for 2024 were as follows:

	YTD	Budget YTD
Operating Revenue	\$ 235,456	\$ 278,047
Total Expense	\$ 257,132	\$ 278,047
Shortfall	(\$ 21,676)	\$ 0

A couple of notes regarding our finances:

- * Our expenses through September were lower compared to budget. This is due, in part, to less spent in salaries and benefits. Father Andrew is part-time (as of the beginning of September) and we do not need to pay for his housing, pension or health.
- * However, our income line is less than the budgeted amount through September. Just a reminder – our budget included a transfer of over \$45,000 from our savings account in order to have a balanced budget. Our annual auction is in two weeks and we have budgeted \$25,000 income to come from this event. The facilities committee has worked to increase the rental rate on several organizations that use our building. This, as well as a very successful auction, will help lessen the gap in the YTD income over expenses.
- * We were approved for a loan from the Diocese for \$50,000 to cover the cost of three renovations – roof replacement over Dove Hall, improved grading on the walkway past the Memorial Garden, and the update of the fire and security alarm system for the church. We received the funds in mid-October. The loan proceeds are currently in our savings account, since we had to “borrow” from ourselves to fund the needed roof replacement. As the remaining projects are completed, the money will be transferred back to cover them.

Thank you to all for your continued financial support of CHS. Many of you give of your time and talent as well. We are especially blessed at CHS. [See just one example of that time and talent on the facing page.]

As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me.

Sally Bird, Treasurer

Prayer For The Parish

God of all ages, our times are in your hands. Keep us engaged and hopeful—ever mindful of our mission: to become like Christ by serving others, proclaim God's love, and grow in the spirit.

Now is the acceptable time for us to get engaged, to show up, to step up, and to forge strong bonds with you and with each other. Stand beside us, Lord, cheer us on, rededicate us to building up the Kingdom of God. Amen.



A geomagnetic storm forecast for parts of the country on Thursday October 10th resulted in a majestic display of colors in the night sky. There were reports of northern lights being seen all over our area. [Dave Dabour photo from his home in Bloomsbury.]



The 27th Annual Empty Bowl Fundraiser was held in support of the Flemington Food Pantry on Friday, October 25th. This very well organized, delightful event resulted in 650 ticket sales and an adjacent display and sale of the wares of local potters who contributed. The "Bowl" included water, a sandwich, homemade cookies, choice of soup from a local restaurant (mine was butternut squash and apple from Nourish to Heal) and of course an original bowl from one of the artists. — Ed.

The Equal Credit Opportunity Act (ECOA)

This federal civil rights law is designed to ensure fair lending practices. It prohibits lenders from discriminating against loan applicants, with the sole exception being their ability to repay the loan. It became law in October of 1974 — 50 years ago.

Specifically, ECOA protects consumers from discrimination based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, age, eligibility for public assistance, or the exercise of any rights under the [Consumer Credit Protection Act](#). This legislation serves as a vital safeguard against unfair lending practices and aims to promote equal access to credit opportunities for all individuals. Prior to its passage, for instance, women were not permitted to have credit cards or take out loans on their own. [Last month we noted the 50th anniversary of the ordination of women in the Episcopal Church — so 1974 was a groundbreaking year!]



If I can stop one heart from breaking,
I shall not live in vain;
If I can ease one life the aching,
Or cool one pain,
Or help one fainting robin
Unto his nest again,
I shall not live in vain.

Emily Dickinson

Vestry Meeting Highlights from October

The Vestry met on Thursday, October 17, and we want to share some highlights from that meeting:

1. We reviewed recent successes:

- † The Parish Profile has been posted on the CHS website and the position of Rector has been advertised by the Diocese, as well as on the Episcopal News Service website. Interested candidates will apply to the Diocesan Transition Officer and the Diocese will conduct a “red flag” review. Candidates passing the “red flag” review will then be presented to the Search Committee. Rex van Veldhuisen, Chair of the Search Committee, reported that no candidates have been presented to the Search Committee by the Diocese as of last Thursday. Parishioners are encouraged to spread the word about the open position of Rector.
- † Theology on Tap has been restarted on Tuesday nights at 7:00 pm in Dove Hall and via Zoom.
- † The members of the Vestry and Search Committee attended a required Anti-Racism training session presented by the Diocese.
- † The third-quarter Stewardship Giving Statements have been distributed.
- † We have received the \$50,000 loan from the Diocese to fund the replacement of the roof on Dove Hall, upgrade our fire alarm system and repair the walkway to First Step. Sally Bird, our Treasurer, has written an explanation of why we applied for the loan. It can be found in the Warden and Vestry News section of the church website.

2. Fr. Calandriello reported on his first six weeks as Interim Rector. He also discussed the plans for the Worship Committee. All will be welcome at Worship Committee meetings where worship, liturgy and music will be discussed. The Committee will review the feedback from the congregation gathered by the Search Committee, as well as other suggestions made by parishioners.

3. The preparations for the Service Auction that will be held on November 16 were reviewed. Tickets are available online through the CHS website or after the Sunday services in the Narthex.

4. Eva Lesniak reviewed plans for the Annual Pledge Campaign that will kick off on November 24.

5. Jane Anderson reviewed the various outreach ministries and identified who is responsible for each of those ministries.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact John Andrews or Diane Hrozencik. [Contact information appears on the last page of this and every newsletter.]

In case you were not aware, the regular vestry meetings are open to all (except when personnel matters are discussed). If you are interested, they are generally held on the 3rd Thursday of each month at the church or via ZOOM. The vestry page on the website has more information.

Where Were They?



One of Jaime Lyn Gora's October trips was to Dubai. She took a host of photos of this fascinating modern city.

The Curtains (Tricia, Matt and Ellie, (minus college guy Charlie) visited family in western Massachusetts and took advantage of beautiful weather in a lovely area to stop at the Norman Rockwell Museum in Stockbridge. Definitely worth a trip if you're up there!



Barbara and Sandy Burton with daughter Judy Burton Gaines at a concert of Memorials given by the Bach Society of Dayton.

Richard Southwick and Anne Simpson traveled to Istanbul and Greece last month.

Thanks to them all for the armchair rambles on Facebook! — Ed.



Around the Area in November

High Bridge Fire Department is sponsoring a Craft Event on November 2nd from 10:00am-3:00 pm at the firehouse, 7 Maryland Avenue. Free admission and raffles along with the vendors.

Family Promise of Hunterdon County: First annual Designer Handbag Bingo on Friday, November 8th at 6:00PM. Flemington Elks, 165 Route 31. For more information: www.familypromisehc.org

The Hunterdon Wellness Centers in Clinton and Whitehouse Station are offering a free workout on Monday November 11 to all active and veteran military service members in thanks for your service. If you decide to join, there is no enrollment fee and the rest of November is free. (Must provide military ID or veteran's card).

Also on November 11th, Breakfast for veterans at Towne Restaurant in Clinton sponsored by the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick of Hunterdon County. Sign up in advance for 8:30 or 10:00am seating. Questions: veterans@clintonnj.gov.

Coping Skills for the Holidays: November 14th, 10:00am-12:00pm. Guest speaker: Chris Kellogg, MSW, LSW from Nightingale, NJ. Expert tips on coping with loss and easing holiday stress. Courtyard Luxury Senior Living, 111 West Main Street, Clinton (formerly the Holiday Inn). Reserve a spot 908-735-5111.

Good News Home Gala Nov 15, 2024, 6:30 PM – 11:00 PM
Razberry's Banquet Center, 834 NJ-12, outside Frenchtown., For further information:
www.goodnewshome.org.

Hunterdon YMCA Comedy Night, November 22, 6:30pm at Hunterdon Hills Playhouse. Every dime raised supports financial assistance for children and youth from low to moderate-income families to attend early and school age care and summer camp programs. Tickets at <https://ymcarivercrossing.org/giving/comedy-night>



Episcopal Relief and Development is coordinating with partners impacted by Hurricane Helene as they continue to address their local needs. All of your donation goes to the relief efforts.



PULSE OF THE PARISH

BIRTHDAYS

November

Sue	Gerish	11	4
Alex	van Veldhuisen	11	4
Phil	Carr-Jones	11	6
Levi	Chardoussin	11	15
Carolyn	Colitti	11	15
Daniel	Colitti	11	15
Robert	Jones	11	15
Llinda	Schroeder	11	15
Trent	Marlow	11	19
Darla	Babcock	11	23
Charlie	Curtin	11	27

December

Natalie	Marlow	12	8
Holly	Warnowicz	12	8
Marilyn	Smetana	12	9
Ray	Olsen	12	11
Barbara	Burton	12	21
Susan	Marcella	12	21
GH	Waller	12	25
Ricky	Waller	12	25
Jan	Paxton	12	31
Sarah	Shive	12	31

TRANSITION

Eternal Rest Grant to Him, O Lord: Fr. Jose Pascual Ramon Fernandez Lopez, affectionately known as "Padre Pepe," passed away in August. He was a former rector of Cristo Rey in Trenton.

From Chip Stokes, Retired Bishop of The Diocese of New Jersey: "Today, I give thanks for the incredible and deeply faithful ministry and leadership of our Presiding Bishop, The Most Reverend Michael B. Curry and invite all to join me in this. He has made our church and our world better and more loving.." Bishop Curry's last day of Ministry was October 31st. His successor, the Rt. Rev. Sean Rowe, will be welcomed as the 28th presiding bishop on November 2nd. See the CHS website for details on how to watch the service. (Biographical information about Bishop Rowe appeared in *The Dove's* August '24 issue.)



The summer flower has run to seed,
 And yellow is the woodland bough;
 And every leaf of bush and weed
 Is tipt with autumn's pencil now.

John Clare, 1821

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

NOVEMBER — Set your clocks back on 11/2 or you'll be late for church

- 1 — All Saints Day
- 2 — Presiding Bishop Investiture 11:00am Live stream [see previous page or CHS website]
- 3 — All Saints Sunday. [Bring photos of your saints to display]
- 4 — Caregiver Support Meeting via ZOOM
- 5 — Election Day**
- 10 — First Sunday of Expanded Advent
- 11 — Sangha Meditation in the Sanctuary, 6:30pm
- 15 — Good News Home Gala at Razberry's [CHS website has info]**
- 16 — Electronics Recycling at the County Complex 8:00-11:00am**
AUCTION AUCTION AUCTION 6:00PM
- 24 — Stewardship Sunday
Youth Group meets 5:30pm
- 25 — Sangha Meditation in the Sanctuary, 6:30pm
- 26 — Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service, Lebanon Reform**
- 28 — Thanksgiving Day

DECEMBER

- 2 — Caregiver Support Meeting Via Zoom
- 7 — Hazardous Waste Recycling at the County Complex 9:00am-1:00pm**
- 8 — ONE SERVICE AT 9:00 AM AND BREAKFAST WITH SANTA [PHOTOS BY DAVE DABOUR]
- 9 — Sangha Meditation in the Sanctuary, 6:30pm
- 15 — Commitment Sunday
- 23 — Sangha Meditation in the Sanctuary, 6:30pm
- 24 — Children's Service 4:00pm
Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist and Carol Sing, 7:00pm
- 25 — ONE SERVICE AT 10:00am (Come As You Are)
- 29 — Youth Group meets 5:30pm

Recurring Meetings

Mondays — 1:00-3:00pm, Knit/Crochet and Chat at the church

Tuesdays — 7:00am, Bible Study at The Spinning Wheel Diner

7:00-8:30pm in Dove Hall or on ZOOM—Theology on Tap

Wednesdays — Fr. Andrew's office hours, 11am-3:00pm

Third Thursdays — Vestry; 7:00-9:00pm [check website for special Zoom link].

Sundays — 8:00 & 10:00am, Virtual or in-person services (Eucharist can be delivered at home if requested).

9:30 & 11:15am, Choir Rehearsal, St. Francis Room

Who's Who at Holy Spirit [Area Code 908 unless otherwise noted]

VESTRY			
Senior Warden	John Andrews	973-476-5389	andrewsjohnt@comcast.net
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Formation	Jeff Anderson	439-2532	janderson4244@gmail.com
Church Growth	Diane Bendahmane	301-793-5068	bendahmane.robinson@comcast.net
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Social Services	Andy Follansbee	752-5633	andyfollansbee@gmail.com
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