



Our door is always open ...

The Trumpeter

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

www.churchholyspirit.org

January 2018

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



Ode to Winter

Fall's sometimes milder weather gives way to the bleakness of winter. But with that harshness comes the promise of growing hours of daylight in each passing day. This symbolizes Hope!

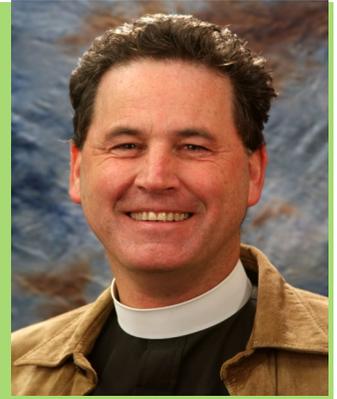
Materials: Assemblage of spring and fall flower in turned vessels of local woods.

Thanks to [Hal Murray](#) for sharing his artistry and words with us: A happy, healthy and hopeful 2018 to all!

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From the Rector's Desk



I find there are many skeptics and those who become casual atheists after they look at all the controversies and bad examples proliferating under the name of God. They often say things like they are spiritual, but not religious. Or they just don't like organized religion, to which I often say, well, you'd be welcomed here 'cause I'm not particularly religious and rarely organized!

A Facebook friend, John Cassian, puts it this way: "The idea is that you can go to God on your own; you don't need institutions and books and doctrine and a savior or any of that stuff. You just need to... well... I'm not sure exactly. At any rate, there's something you can do that will get you access to God without having to deal with 'organized religion'. Spirituality is good; 'organized religion' is bad."

He goes on to offer a rather nice and tidy analogy which I have been pondering. I think it is a very effective riposte. Next time you hear someone say they don't like organized religion, ask them if they like science. Sure, they'll say, a big fan of science. Then you might respond: I like science but I hate professors and doctoral students and especially universities and colleges. Just hate 'em. Don't need 'em. I prefer to get my science all on my own, thank you very much. I like my science without all those experts and folks that studied for years and are held accountable by their institutions. Who needs those four-eyes who have to write papers all the time and keep their credentials current. Who needs any of that or any of them. Who needs student and teachers. I'll just have my science the way I like it. Science is good. Organized learning is evil.

Such a person would actually stand opposed to true science, which is peer reviewed, held to a standard, organized, catalogued, ruled and regulated. No doubt, some universities have gone off the cliff of faddish speculative learning, in the same way as religious institutions. One could even argue that such eminent institutions as MIT or Harvard have been enthralled by Defense Dollar Spend, which corrupts or distorts the focus of their research. Even so, societal structures hold much more positive worth than going it alone.

It is a fashionable trope to call spirituality the genuine article, while organized religion is counterfeit. That just seems more magical thinking than any real faith. Faith, spirituality, religion, whatever label you use, requires some level of community, if only not to go off a cliff of eccentricity. Furthermore, there is this insular selfish agenda with the spiritual crowd. And quite frankly, individual spiritualists are by far lousier at getting prison visitation, homeless shelters, etc., going. It's harder work gathering together with people. But it's a healthier, truer vision of the spiritual life even with all the baggage of the institution. Church, properly grounded, is the only way to get it done, find a balance, get someone helping me get off my ass, and change the world for the better. It's cold out there, friends, so let's find some warm partners this year.

Philip+

Words from the Senior Warden

We had a great crowd and excellent response during our New Consecration Sunday services in November. I sincerely hope you found our stewardship program in the weeks leading up to and including our celebration with Canon Chuck Perfater, with the catered brunch that followed, to be a meaningful spiritual experience. Thank you so much for your participation! Here are our results as of December 31st:



	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>
Number of Households	79	60
Estimates of Giving Received	\$198,183.	\$154,312.

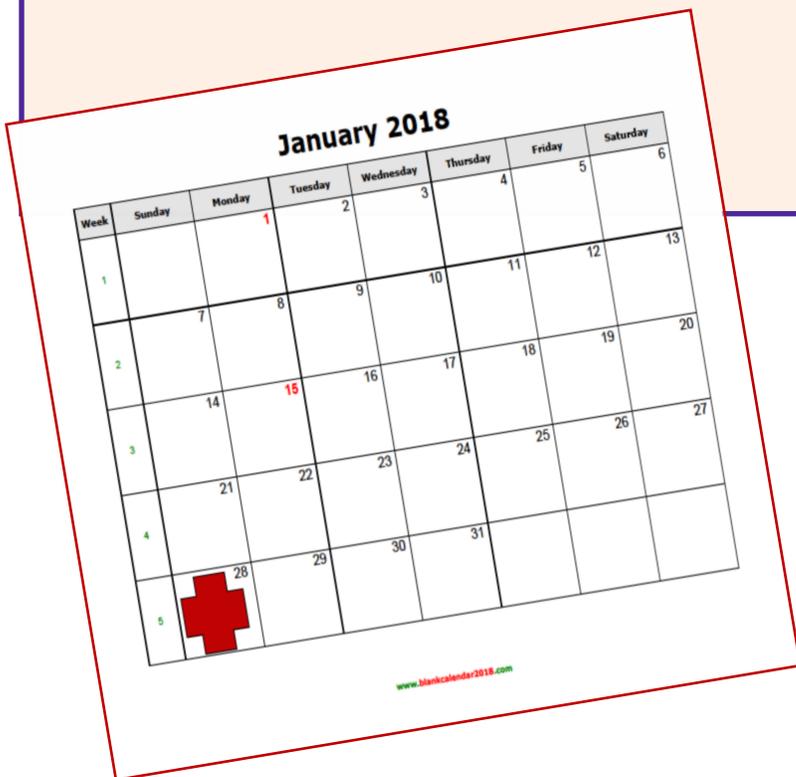
We have reached out to members of our congregation who were not able to celebrate with us, and I am hopeful that we will still receive additional Estimates of Giving to complete our stewardship campaign shortly.

We have made positive progress with the township regarding our certificate of occupancy. Consequently, 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 anticipate that the “elevator” will be immediately and frequently utilized once it is commissioned! I personally appreciate your patience.

Finally, it has been my honor and privilege to serve you as Holy Spirit’s Junior Warden in 2016 and Senior Warden this past year.

Respectfully yours,

Eva Lesniak



Reminder:

YOUR annual meeting is scheduled at CHS for **Sunday January 28**. 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”. You will also have an opportunity to recognize our current vestry members for their extraordinary efforts over this past year and to vote on the new candidates for 2018 and beyond.

Musings from the Junior Warden



CHS has a marketing problem. This is handed down from the general marketing problem of the Episcopal Church, and all the organizations, both big and small, that look to Jesus and his teachings as our roadmap to salvation.

The political theater that gave us the 2016 elections left a lasting mark that cuts across the divide between Church and State. The far left worked hard to associate fundamental evangelical Christians as right wing, uneducated, racist, homophobic rednecks with military grade weapons. The far right worked just as hard to label anyone not following their ideal as Godless fornicators doing drugs to pay for their abortions while living off the system and giving our wealth away to other countries. Both sides sound like fun, but neither is remotely accurate.

The reality is that Christianity as a label has always been a political pawn, with both sides using it for their own agenda. Nowhere is this more evident than in the recent wedding cake case from Colorado where the bakers refused to bake a cake for a gay couple. This has been labeled as a 'Christian assault on LGBTQ rights'. There is nothing Christian going on here from anyone involved. Would Jesus bake the cake for a gay couple? Would Jesus sue if someone didn't bake a cake for his friends?

If you look to the State Department and its recommendations for travelling and living in other countries safely, they recommend not identifying as 'Christian', but rather as a 'Follower of Christ'. The term 'Christian' has become a rally point for the extremists who follow Islam. (Note that Islam has the same branding issue.)

So, getting back to the marketing message. The political theater has weaponized the term 'Christian', and it has spread to the far reaches of the planet. Don't take my word for it. Do a Google News search for the word 'Christian', and sit down when you read the top stories.

With very few exceptions, the community of CHS is not made of extremists. We are a diverse group of people who are all walking our own individual paths and fighting our own demons as we strive to follow in Jesus' footsteps. As a community, we do a great job of taking care of one another and of those in need. At its fundamental level, we have created a living embodiment of our interpretation of Christianity. We just don't share the same values as defined by the weaponized word 'Christianity'.

Why is this appropriate for my update in the Trumpeter, when I am neither an authority on political matters nor a spiritual leader? I look at the marketing message we put to perspective parishioners and am asking if it is aligned with the value we propose to new members. I believe we can overcome the headwinds of politics and those that would divide us with a strong marketing message that communicates our value and our values*. This clear communication will be key to growing our congregation.

Jonathon Babek

Ed. Note —

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

HELP! HELP! HELP!

The CHS 'We Care'/Outreach has been planning a luncheon at the Mirota Senior Citizen Condos in Whitehouse Station, where our senior parishioner, **Jean Wallace**, lives. The date is **Saturday, January 13, 2018** and hours of serving are 12:15-1:15.

We need volunteers to make this lunch a wonderful experience for Mirota and CHS. Will you help?? A sign-up sheet will be posted in the Narthex at the 8 am and 10 am services on Sunday, January 7th. We need: appetizers, desserts, servers, transporters, minglers and singers. Total time investment is 11:45-1:45.

This is a great opportunity to practice our CHS Mission Statement – 'to know Christ as we serve others, profess God's love and live in the Spirit'.

Please look for the sign-up sheet and consider how you can become a part of this event. We need your help to make this a successful Outreach!

Any questions, please call: (908) 439-2532 Or (908) 246-0479

Sincerely,

*Jeff Anderson, Jane Anderson, June Filipski,
Marge Keller, and Jane Paradiso*



Finance Committee Update

Donations for 2017 will be accepted through **Sunday January 7**. If you have any special need regarding this please reach out to Sally Bird at sallybird@comcast.net.

It is not too late to make your estimate of giving for 2018. Please reach out to Ed Filipski or Eva Lesniak if you need a pledge card or have any questions and see Eva's Senior Warden piece in this issue for an account of 2018 pledges as of the end of December.

Rectory renovations are moving along as planned. It is our expectation that the completion date will be in March of 2018.

Thank you for your generosity throughout 2017 in giving of your time, talent and donations. Without your support we would not be able to provide for our community, both within the church as well as outside our walls.

Sally Bird



Ed. Note: Perhaps you've noticed this colorful display in the Narthex — if not you might like to have a look. It'll give you an idea of what CHS has in the way of ongoing expenses. If you feel so inclined and can do so, a contribution to one would be appreciated. You might want to take the "bill" you select as a reminder.



Filling the Red Wagon

For the months of January and February, our donations will include boxed mac and cheese, or dried pasta and sauce. Thanks for considering those less fortunate as you shop!

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

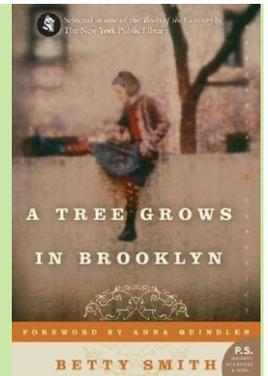
Suzanne Higgins

Spirited Readers Book Club

We had a lively discussion about Ken Follett's "Pillars of the Earth," and the one item we all agreed on was how interesting it was to learn about church politics during the Middle Ages.

I have reserved "A Tree Grows In Brooklyn" for the months of January and February, with the consensus being that we all needed extra time for holiday activities.

I will have it to distribute on January 7, with the thought that our next meeting will be **Sunday, February 25**, following the 10 am service.



Suzanne Higgins

News From Jane Roxbury:

"Things are going as well as can be expected here. I'm still undergoing some therapies but am getting better. I'm in my new house and have been unpacking boxes for days and days. Something strange is going on at night when I sleep, though. I think the boxes are multiplying and am not sure I'll ever come to the end of them. I have a guestroom, so tell everyone they are invited to come and stay with me whenever they want. I'd love to see anyone from Lebanon — miss you all so much!

"Utah is a strange place. You have to experience it to understand. That said, among the familiar experiences here is church. I've already played the flute as accompaniment several times and have joined the knit and chat group.

"My new snail mail address is 799 E. Dusty Rock Circle, Sandy, UT 84094. Much love, Jane."

[In response to a text I sent Jane before Christmas to let her know we were thinking about her — Ed.]

Church of the Holy Spirit Women's Retreat



“A woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, which she poured 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 Michelleslie 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 Acolyte Corner

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

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>

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

Y2Y (Youth to Youth)

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

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.

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



We Care

.As you read this we will have gone south to warmer climates. Susan to SC; Sue to Louisiana. Hope you're not getting too much snow up there!

Needless to say, even though we are gone the needs of WE CARE continue. Thanks to modern technology, distance is not an issue and problems can be solved wherever in the world we may be.

On December 10 we had a good meeting in Dove Hall to go over the various aspects of WE CARE. The meeting was well attended with a good cross section of ministries represented. However, new volunteers are ALWAYS welcome.

We have a list of volunteer drivers who are a terrific help in many situations. Something as simple as taking a fellow parishioner to a doctor's appointment can be such a great comfort. Nobody ever needs to feel alone. WE CARE is available to help wherever we possibly can.

A simple note on real writing paper with a real stamp can be very meaningful. Or a short telephone call. We all need to know somebody cares.

In the coming weeks and months drivers will be needed to offer rides between Washington, New Jersey (only 15 minutes from Clinton) and The Cancer Center at Hunterdon Medical Center. If you think you might be able to volunteer for this ministry and are not currently on the email list for requests as needed, let us know and we'll add you.

We pray for Good Health and Happiness for all in 2018 and remember; Jesus loves you.

Susan Kane & Sue Quinlan

Knit & Chat and Shawl Ministry

During the long winter nights perhaps you'd like to learn a new skill or improve an old one. What better way than by knitting or crocheting a prayer shawl or scarf for the seafarers who come into the Port of Newark from faraway, generally warmer, places and appreciate

receiving cozy scarves and caps unnecessary at home.

Think about joining us on the second and fourth Mondays of the month for conversation, crafting, and even a hot cup of tea courtesy of Karen Murray. There are experts who can teach you if you are a novice. We can supply needles, crochet hooks, and yarn to start you off. Alternately, if you need to give a little comfort to a friend or relative who is ill or grieving, or send extra joy for a happy occasion, there are many shawls available. You merely need to ask.



Pulse of the Parish

Best Wishes to Parishioners Shari Lynn and Randy Kremer on their wedding December 9th at Holy Spirit. Shari has been a member at CHS for many years and was very involved in the transition of the Trumpeter from a Parish Newsletter to a significant publication of CHS. She has a grown son who often accompanies her to church and to CHS activities. She and Randy had a quiet wedding on December 9th, Father Philip presiding.

Heartfelt sympathy to parishioner Jim West on the recent death of his uncle, Herbert Dorflinger. A funeral for Herbert was held at Holy Spirit on December 29th. May the dear departed rest in peace and may light perpetual shine upon him.

A Happy New Year to all and may I leave you with my favorite and most familiar part of American theologian Reinhold Niebuhr's Serenity Prayer:

God, grant me the Serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.

Barbara Burton

HOLD THE DATES

JANUARY

- 7 Epiphany Sunday
- 8 Knit & Chat 7 pm
- 13 Outreach Luncheon at Mirota Senior Housing in Whitehouse.
(See announcement page 5)
- 22 Knit & Chat 7 pm
- 23 Vestry Meeting 7:30 pm
- 28 **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING AND ELECTION OF VESTRY**

FEBRUARY

- 10 Acolyte Festival, Trenton
- 12 Knit & Chat 7 pm
- 13 **Shrove Tuesday pancake supper**

FEBRUARY (Continued)

- 14 Ash Wednesday
- 23-24 Women's Retreat, Mendham (see page 7)
- 26 Knit & Chat 7 pm

MARCH

- 2-3 Diocese of New Jersey Annual Convention, Cherry Hill
- 20 First Day of Spring (Hurrah!!!)
- 25 Palm Sunday
- 29 Maundy Thursday
- 30 Good Friday Day of Service
- 31 The Great Vigil of Easter

APRIL

- 1 Easter Sunday

Check the calendar on the CHS website for updated information:
<https://www.churchholyspirit.org/calendar.html>

Snapshots

I love the artistry of the members of the CHS Altar Guild. Hope that these reminders of past glories (pp 11-12) that I've snapped on past Sundays might warm you during the bitter winter we are experiencing this January.—Ed.







All Saints Sunday 2017

Christmas 2017
Father Phil photo





Christmas Eve Photos by Dave Dabour



Christmas Eve Children's Service. Interpretation of "Poppa Panov by Leo Tolstoy. With thanks to Director Michelle Marlow and all the participants. Photos by Jack Daniels



Church of the Holy Spirit — Vestry and Staff January 2018*

Vestry:	Senior Warden	Eva Lesniak	420-3613	eva@churchholyspirit.org
	Junior Warden	Jon Babek	(336) 978-6732	jon.babek@churchholyspirit.org
	Treasurer	Gabrielle Bolarakis	500-8997	gbolarakis@gmail.com
		Susan Kane	528-1788	bobnsue@usa.com
		Marge Keller	391-5078	marge.keller@churchholyspirit.org
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		Cate Mattison		cate.mattison@gmail.com
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		Ron Schroeder	399-1514	glarscast@comcast.net

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	Cleaning Service	Papics Janitorial Service		

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Webmaster Assistant	John Rollins	638-8693	jardigitalworks@gmail.com
Worship Schedule	Ministry Scheduler Pro	(for assistance, Dave Dabour or Eva Lesniak)	
Youth Coordinator	Pat Egan	586-7003	pegan3@yahoo.com

The Rev. Philip B. Carr-Jones, Rector

The Rev. Dorothea N. Hospador, Deacon

www.churchholyspirit.org

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

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* [Check back next issue for changes in the vestry following the annual meeting]