



Our door is always open ...

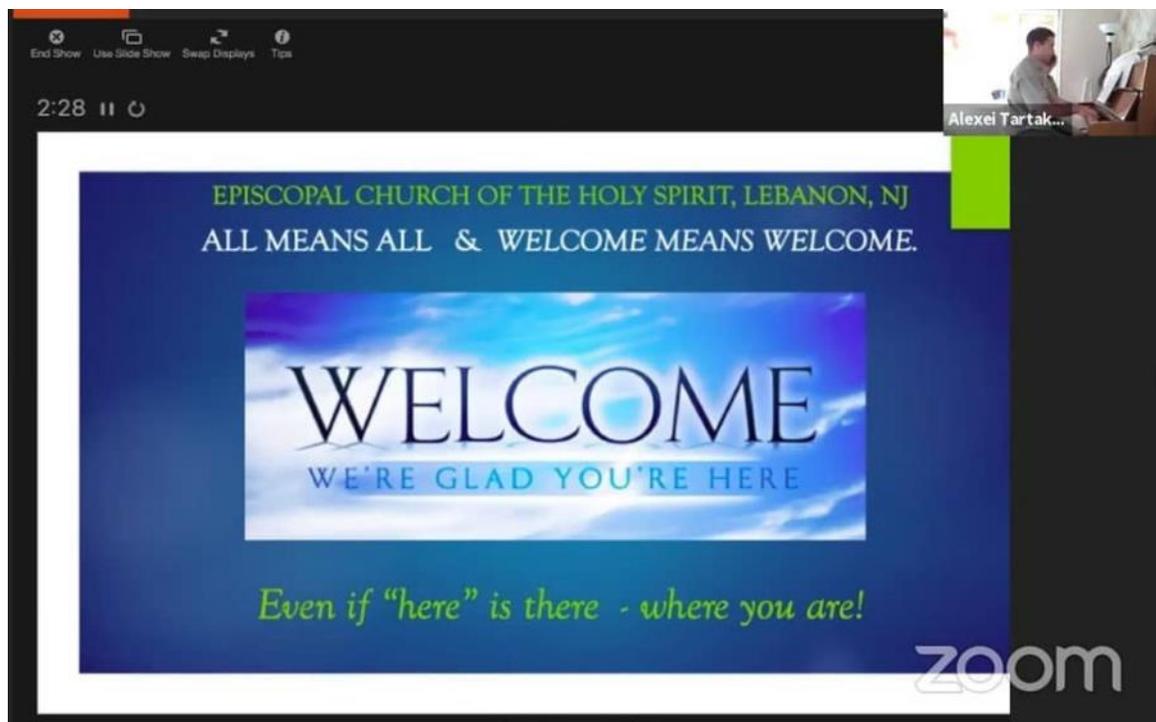
The Trumpeter

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

www.churchholyspirit.org

September 2020

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



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From the Deacon's Corner: (Homily August 30, 2020)



Peter was just trying to get it right. Bless his heart, Peter was just trying to get things right for Jesus.

He had always been a dedicated disciple. One of the first to sign up to follow Jesus.

And he did it wholeheartedly; listening intently to every sermon, marveling at every healing and exorcism, and going obediently wherever Jesus went. Peter even asked to walk on water with Jesus -- even though he sank like a stone.

But bless his heart, Peter was just trying. He was trying to get it right.

Peter wanted things to be right for Jesus. He wanted everything to go right for him in his God-given mission. He wanted success for Jesus; he wanted cheering crowds, a big worship center with a bookstore and a coffee shop, he wanted fame and admiration for Jesus.

Which was why he was horrified when Jesus started telling his disciples that he was going to Jerusalem; that he would face the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, that he would suffer, and that he would die. And when Peter heard Jesus saying that, he knew it couldn't be right. He knew that wasn't what was supposed to happen for Jesus.

It wasn't how things were supposed to go. God forbid it, Lord. God forbid that any of those very wrong, very horrible things should ever happen to you. Peter was just trying to get it right for Jesus.

Because moments earlier, Peter had gotten it very right. Peter had just confessed in front of everyone that Jesus was the Messiah. He had identified Jesus as the Son of the Living God.

That was Peter, getting it right. And Jesus had blessed him for it. He said Peter had God-given insight. That Peter was the rock on which he would build his church, that he would hold the keys to the kingdom, and that he would forever be remembered in the comic strips as the guy standing outside the pearly gates, checking people into heaven.

And all because Peter had gotten it right.

He had said Jesus was the Messiah, the anointed one, the redeemer of Israel and all of creation. But as soon as Peter said it, as soon as the word, Messiah, came out of Peter's mouth, Jesus told his disciples not to tell anyone. And then Jesus told them he must go to Jerusalem; he must suffer, he must die, and then be raised on the third day.

That's what would happen next. He would go to Jerusalem, but he would not conquer it. Jesus would suffer there, be killed there, die there, and then something about being raised from the dead.

When Peter heard it, he knew that for a Messiah, it was a stupid plan, if ever there was one. Jerusalem, suffering, death, resurrection.

It didn't make sense.

It didn't sound right.

Not to Peter.

Not to any of the disciples.

That's not what was supposed to happen.

The Messiah wasn't supposed to suffer, he was supposed to inflict suffering. The Messiah wasn't supposed to be killed, he was supposed to kill all the evil in the world.

Jerusalem, suffering, death, resurrection. It wasn't right.

Peter, in his heart of hearts, knew it was all wrong.

He knew Jesus was strong and mighty. He wasn't weak or powerless. He shouldn't suffer or die.

A Messiah didn't do that. A Messiah didn't surrender.

It wasn't right. And Peter knew it. Just saying he might die, created bad karma.

"God forbid it, Lord," Peter said. "God forbid that you should suffer. God forbid that you should be humiliated.

God forbid things should end that way. Jerusalem, suffering, death, resurrection. God forbid, my Lord, that any of those things should happen to you."

Peter wanted things to be right for Jesus. And his plans for the Messiah didn't include suffering, or death, or some slim chance of resurrection.

Peter seriously doubted that this could be God's plan, but Jesus knew he would do whatever it took. He would do whatever God asked. He hadn't come this far to save his own life. He had come to give his life to save others. And he knew the devil when he heard it.

He knew all his tricks -- pretending to be reasonable, pretending to be concerned. Doing whatever he could to talk him out of what he was meant to do.

Jesus lashed out at his weakness and he lashed out at Peter: "Get behind me, Satan," he says to him. "Get out of my way. You have no idea how God works."

Peter was just trying to get it right.

Like all of us, he was just trying to get it right for himself and for Jesus. He was trying to help Jesus; trying to fix things for Jesus, trying to keep Jesus safe, trying to keep everyone safe -- by doing what he thought was best.

Perhaps we might find ourselves trying to do that a lot -- trying to fix things, trying to help God do things a little better, trying to control things in the world with our great superpowers. Because, somehow, we think that if we do everything and do it right, then things will be OK, then we'll make it through life.

If we can just hold it all together. Because we know how all of this is supposed to work.

Peter just wanted to get things right. He tried and he tried and he tried.

Maybe some of us know what that's like. Maybe we know what it's like to have tried and tried and tried. Maybe we have tried to fix things, tried to make things right, tried to be in control of life.

Maybe we have tried to have a good life, full of everything they tell us we should buy in order to be happy. Maybe we tried to help our kids, tried to be a good son or daughter, tried to be loved, tried to find peace, tried to do everything in our power that there is to do.

Maybe, just maybe, it's time for a power that is not our own. Jesus tells Peter that the way God works is different.

The success we seek, the love we seek, the life we seek does not come from us. It is not something we can fix for ourselves or control for ourselves or purchase for ourselves.

Life, abundant life, eternal life, doesn't come from us. It comes from God. It comes when we stop trying to give it to ourselves. When we stop trying to accomplish the purposes that we have in mind and we surrender ourselves to God's purposes.

When we let go. We die to all that trying. And we let God create life. We give our lives to God and let God give them back to us.

Lose your life and you will find it, Jesus says. Die to yourself and the world around you and you will be raised.

Jesus tells his disciples that he is going to Jerusalem and he will surrender. He will suffer and die, but he will be raised up on the third day. On the third day, when love is dead and hope is lost, there will be resurrection.

But Peter doesn't seem to hear that part. He doesn't seem to hear that in the end there is more to the story.

Jesus will win.

Evil will lose. Darkness will be overcome by the light.

In the end, love will win.

But Peter doesn't hear that part, because it just doesn't seem possible that you could win by losing, that you could be held by letting go, that you could live by dying. It doesn't seem possible.

Until you see it, and experience it, you just can't believe it.

Try to hold onto your own life and you will lose it. But give up your life for the sake of others and you will find it.

"Do not be conformed to this world," says the apostle Paul. "Don't believe for a second that our life is our own.

That it's just about us, what we want and how we want to do it.

We are not our own. We are part of God's purposes. And they are something far greater than we can know.

So let go. Let go of the worry. Let go of the guilt. Let go of the plans that didn't happen.

Let go of the things that can't change. Let go of trying to get it all right.

Let God get it all right. Let go and on the third day, you will be raised. Let go and let God.

We belong to God. In life and in death.

We belong to God. No matter what.

Even when things aren't right and we can't make them right, we trust that God will make them right.

And when we can't hold it all together, we know that God will hold us all together. Amen.

Peace, Deacon Dot

Ed Note: In case you missed Deacon Dot's homily on August 30, it was taken from Matthew 16: 21-28. It seems a perfect message for this very uncertain time we live in. Thank you Dot!



Comet Neowise. Photo: Mike Williams, Montana Photography. Reproduced with permission



On the day of Frank Hooper's funeral, he takes his last ride through Clinton on the iconic fire truck that was front and center in so many holiday parades. Rest in peace, Frank. We will miss your kindness and love of community.

Red Wagon



Dear friends, our donations to the Open Cupboard necessarily were curtailed these past months because of Covid. However, Father Phil and I believe we can again continue to support this vital component of our community via two drop-off locations. Although we originally were going to request school items, we are instead asking for: beef, lentil, or pea soup, or brown or white rice. These items were listed on their website to support families while home schooling. You can continue to place them in the Red Wagon in the Narthex. Additionally, WE ARE PLACING A LARGE PLASTIC CONTAINER OUTSIDE BY THE PARISH HALL ENTRANCE. You can simply drop your donations off there, and we will make sure they get to the Pantry. [If it's more convenient, send a check to the Open Cupboard Food Pantry, 37 Old Highway 22, PO Box 5071, Clinton 08809.] Thank you for your continued generosity .

Katie and Suzanne Higgins

Spirited Readers Book Club

Dear friends,

After successfully being able to return our last book selection kit, "Educated," to the library, I believe it would be prudent to take a few more months' break from the Group. There are several considerations involved in distributing the books to members, and some members, including myself, have voiced their reluctance to meeting online in Zoom sessions to further compare notes about our readings. I am sure that we will be able to successfully resume our literary meetings in the future. Until then, we should continue to stay safe and healthy.

Suzanne Higgins



We Care Group

September already! Summertime has been very different this year as the world continues its battle with COVID-19.

Who would ever have thought, back in March, we would still be in this position? However, we are slowly learning to cope, always remembering God is by our side.

Social Distancing makes WE CARE a challenge! No new "Guardian Angels" (for explanation, call me) have been appointed due to the requirement for social distancing, yet they ARE amongst us. My heart has been truly warmed as I hear of the many acts of kindness amongst our CHS faith family. We do what we can to help each other during these difficult times. We are surrounded by quiet heroes.

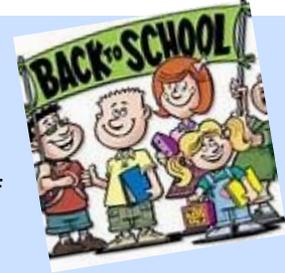
Various problems have arisen over the past few months but I know, first hand, they have been eased by the simple receipt of a card. A little note can ease an anxious soul.

This virus has brought the world to its knees ... but, whilst we are ON our knees, let us give thanks to our Lord for the abundant blessings we DO have.

As I always say, I am only a phone call away if help is needed (908-528-1788). I will do my best to find a solution.

Susan Kane

CHSchool



Kudos and thanks to all the instructors who have given so generously of their time and talents, making The CHSchool possible.

Specific appreciation goes out to:

- ◇ Dave Dabour of Dabour Photography near High Bridge, who offered courses in Photography for Kids as well as Photography for Moms (and Dads), which are now completed.
- ◇ Marge Keller, who coached a class in conversational Spanish. Mil gracias, Marge!
- ◇ Janet Matts, who completed 4 weekly 30-45 minute guided imagery and meditation sessions entitled Mindfulness. She's indicated she could be persuaded to offer the same set of classes again as interest arises.
- ◇ Whitney Wetherill, who has been conducting weekly, fun-packed and informative classes about beginning drawing to whet appetites and interests. Much appreciated, Whitney.

Ongoing course offerings include:

1. An hour of 1:1 "Basic Computer Skills" with Carol Crawford-Jones set up individually with her at carolcj@prolog.net
2. Gloria Jean Waller encourages visiting a 24/7 online event involving art and photography entitled "Spiritual Hospitality Through Creative Fellowship" at <https://fineartamerica.com/profiles/glorijean?tab=about>
3. Karen Sammer, a certified women's health educator, offers "Empowering Women to Take Charge of Their Heart Health". The same discussion will be offered **Friday September 11** at 10am and **Tuesday September 15** at 7pm. Register at karen.sammer@gmail.com
4. Fr. Phil is putting together a lecture about the Book of Common Prayer (or another issue pertaining to Episcopalianism) and
5. Roberta Maas has promised a discussion about The Use and Influence of Color. Can't wait!!

I'm also still hoping for someone to share an hour on local history and places of interest. For instance did y'all know the man who discovered the first gold nugget at Sutter's Mill (thus starting the California Gold Rush) was a native of Lambertville?

Lastly, if anyone has a suggested class to offer, a skill set or fund of knowledge to request, or a repeat class announcement, please contact judy.linger@gmail.com.

Ed. note: Thank you to Judy for all of her painstaking work gathering teachers, students, and ideas for CHSchool. Please watch the Friday news email and the CHS website for timely updates.

Judy Linger, "Superintendent"

Around the Region

- ◆ The **General Election** (Tuesday, November 3) is less than two months away. The deadline for voter registration by mail or in person is Tuesday, October 13th. The Hunterdon County Clerk's Office has prepared an FAQ document that contains answers to just about every conceivable question local residents might have about write-in and in-person voting. Here is the link: <http://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/election/2020/General/FAQ%20G2020.pdf>
- ◆ **The Good News Home for Women** is accepting new clients: Contact the intake coordinator at (908) 483-5395 for further information or check the website: <https://www.goodnewshome.org/>
- ◆ **The Bishop George E. Councill Memorial Golf Tournament** will be held on Monday, October 12 at Mercer Oaks Golf Club, West Windsor, NJ. Diocese of New Jersey COVID-19 Guidelines will be in place to keep everyone safe. Proceeds benefit the ministries of Trinity Cathedral, Trenton. The CHS website has complete information on registration and ways that the non-golfers among us can help.
- ◆ **Veteran's Haven North** in Glen Gardner has ongoing needs for consumable items for its residents as they enter the program. To check the most current wishlist, go to their website: <https://www.nj.gov/military/veterans/services/vetshavennorth/> Donations may be left in the appropriate box in the CHS Narthex.
- ◆ **The Red Mill** in Clinton has just replaced its iconic wheel. (See photo above which captures part of the installation process). <https://theredmill.org/> for more information about programs and membership.
- ◆ **Phillips Farms** has recently opened its brand-new Farm Market store at 564 Milford-Warren Glen Road (Route 519) just north of Milford. Open 7 days a week, hours are 9am-6:30pm, with 9-10am on all days reserved for Seniors and those individuals at high risk. Farm-fresh fruits and vegetables are available, as well as other locally sourced products. They also have Pick-Your-Own Grapes and Vegetables at this location. The Church Road Farm Stand is now permanently closed.
- ◆ **The Open Cupboard Food Pantry Thrift Shop** has reopened. For information about hours and donations, go to www.opencupboardfoodpantry.org.



Pulse of the Parish

Starting with this issue, we will try to list monthly birthdays, since it will likely be a while before we can sing blessings to the recipients in person! God grant them many years.

Adam Cagno	September 7	Michelle Marlow	September 3
Linda Canulette	September 28	Meg McKenna	September 9
Carol Crawford-Jones	September 24	Alison Schnaudt	September 10
Joseph Gora	September 5	Jillian Shaughnessy	September 3
Susan Kane	September 13	Tricia Simpson-Curtain	September 10
George Landgraf	September 13	Jared Van Veldhuisen	September 22

Rest eternal grant to them and light perpetual shine upon them:

- † C. David Follansbee, father of Andy, August 18
- † Frank Hooper, founding member of CHS, August 13
- † All who have succumbed to Covid-19 and to acts of violence

HOLD THE DATES

September 11 or 15—Women’s Heart Health with Karen Sammer (See page 6 or CHS website)

November 1 (Sunday) — All Saint’s Day

November 14 (Saturday) — Virtual Diocesan Convention (Vicki Brooks and Ed Filipski are delegates)

Tues—Thurs **12:00 pm — Noonday Prayer

**8:00 pm, Compline

Tuesdays **6:00 am, Bible Study

Thursdays **7: 00 pm, Theology on Tap

Third Thursday **7:00 pm, Vestry Meeting (all are welcome: a vestry member can provide the link)

Sundays 8:00 and 10:00 am—**Virtual or in-person services (Eucharist will be delivered at home if requested).

All meetings are held by Facebook Live and /or Zoom. Links are posted on the CHS Website and Friday CHS News. (If you aren’t receiving the latter by email, it’s easy to sign up: www.churchholyspirit.org. And check your snail mail address — have you moved recently? Please make sure Eva Lesniak and Marge Keller have the current information for our updated contact lists.) While you’re on the CHS website, see what else is going on — Jan Paxton and John Rollins share a wealth of information about local events as well as church news. And they post early and often — unlike the Trumpeter, which generally is a recap of past events.

Ed. Note: This is actually a plea — I try to keep the Pulse of the Parish as current as possible. Given social distancing and the lack of a regular church bulletin, it’s been especially difficult to insure that life events in the Trumpeter accurately reflect our membership. Please feel free to reach out to me with your family’s concerns. Vicki. (gracehappens@centurylink.net).

Snapshots: Church Life During Quarantine



Cate Mattison photo (and masks)



Ed note: Here are some simplified Zoom instructions

Find the meeting number in your email and write it down. Close email.

Click the link in the email to see if you have Zoom. It should download automatically. Do this before step 3 if you've never used Zoom on that computer or phone before.

MOST IMPORTANT: First, **REBOOT**: turn the phone or computer or tablet all the way off and then restart it every time you go to a new meeting. This turns off unused programs and also clears out the memory, which Zoom needs a lot of.

WIFI: If you have cable internet (Comcast, Xfinity, etc) or DSL (phone company provided, the cheapest internet): you should be near your modem.

CELL PHONE: If you are using your phone, try to use it on the WIFI setting, not the cell phone data setting, and stay near the modem.

Even better than WIFI or Cell phone: use a computer that is physically connected to the modem. **Now Open Zoom** - Either click the link that you got in an email (but turn email off afterward) or click the little Zoom icon to open the program. Mute yourself until you need to speak. Do not turn on any other programs while you're trying to use Zoom.



A Litany in a Time of Pandemic

Let us pray to our Compassionate God, during this time of pandemic, that we may find our divine Companion joining us in our journey of both shadow and light.

For all who have contracted coronavirus, we pray for care and healing.

For those who are particularly vulnerable, we pray for safety and protection.

For all who experience fear or anxiety, we pray for peace of mind and spirit.

For affected families who are facing difficult decisions between food on the table or public safety, we pray for policies that recognize their plight.

For those who do not have adequate health insurance, or suffer financial turmoil, we pray that no family will face financial burdens alone.

For those who are afraid to access care due to poverty or legal status, we pray for recognition of the God-given dignity of all.

For those responders and care-givers, for teachers, for all whose public work puts them at sustained risk, we pray for proper resources and wisdom in the ordering of our civic priorities.

For our brothers and sisters around the world, we pray for shared solidarity.

For public officials and decision-makers, we pray for wisdom and guidance.

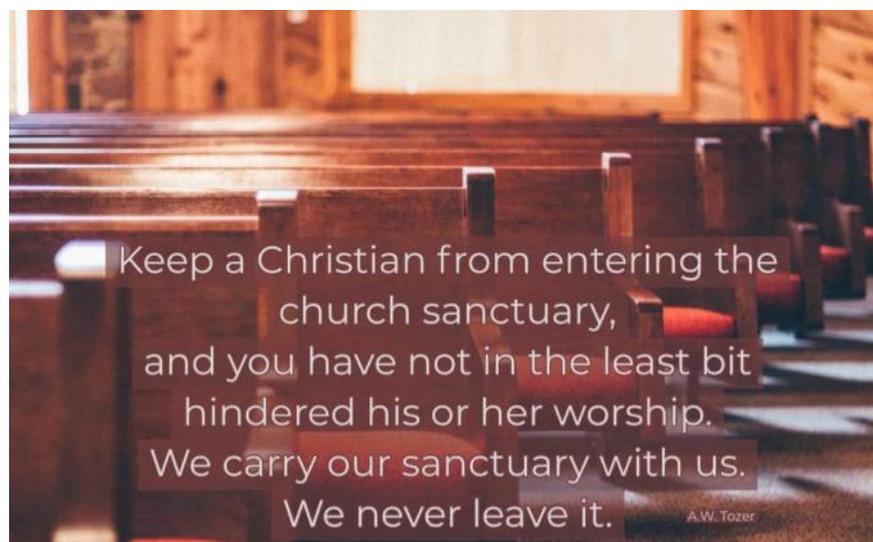
Gracious Spirit, during this time may your Church be a sign of hope, comfort and love to all.

Grant peace.

Grant comfort.

Grant healing.

Be with us, Lord. Amen.





The above risks assume that all other safety protocols are being followed.

Church of the Holy Spirit — Who's Who

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The Rev. Philip B. Carr-Jones, Rector

The Rev. Dorothea N. Hospador, Deacon

The Rev. Michelleslie Maltese-Nehrbass, Deacon

www.churchholyspirit.org

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

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[all phone numbers 908 area code unless otherwise listed]

Check the CHS calendar on the website, Sunday bulletin and the Friday email news for updated information. And a reminder to make sure that you register on the website so that you don't miss the most timely news from CHS. Especially if you're new to our parish, make sure we know how to reach you! And don't assume that we do — nobody's perfect and there are no mind readers here!