



Our door is always open ...

The Trumpeter

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

www.churchholyspirit.org

January 2020

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



Erin Anderson Photo (CHS Choral Evensong, December 22)

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From the Rector's Desk: A Litany for Christmastide

The Deacon calls the People to prayer saying

A sign has been given to us. A child shall be born for us and wrapped in bands of cloth and laid in a manger. Let us gather in one spirit as we pray to you, O Lord,

People ***Help us put it all down and pick up the baby.***

Intercessor: Caring for another person means kindness in touch, and tenderness in words, to surrender our own needs and wants as we attend to the other. And when we're holding and caring for another, we can't do much else. And when you tend to a little child, you have to put it all down in order to pick up the baby.

Gracious God, we're busy, we're tired, we're full of pressure, and worries, and yet you call us, like Mary and Joseph, to kneel down and pick up the baby, and so, we pray you, O Lord: ***Help us put it all down and pick up the baby.***

Even if you're a toddler yourself; even if you're a preteen; even if you're 95; even if you don't remember ever holding a baby; even if you know nothing about birthin' babies; you'll still have some idea as you gaze on something so helpless, that first things are first, and when something is fighting for its life, you've got to stop what you are doing and so, we pray you, O Lord: ***Help us put it all down and pick up the baby.***

Even if we can't, or won't or will never want to have a baby, we sometimes need to know that Jesus is the only thing we need to hold on to. Even when we don't know what else to do, we pray you, O Lord: ***Help us put it all down and pick up the baby.***

Even when there is nothing else we can do, we pray to you O Lord: ***Help us put it all down and pick up the baby.***

It's just true. When you're holding a baby, there's not much else you can do . . . except just hold it, and *love* it, and *pray*. And honestly, the baby can't do all that much either. We pray you, O Lord: ***Help us put it all down and pick up the baby.***

The two of you just sort of melt into one another. You just sort of . . . exist . . . *together*. We pray you, O Lord: ***Help us put it all down and pick up the baby.***

I don't know what it is you came to church for today, why you're here or however easy or hard it was to come here, we pray you, O Lord: ***Help us put it all down and pick up the baby.***

Whether you know it or not, you have come here for one thing, and one thing only. You have come here *to hold the baby*. We pray you, O Lord: ***Help us put it all down and pick up the baby.***

Whether you know it or not *he* is the One who has brought you here and really, *there is nothing else you can do but* just hold him. And love him. And pray you, O Lord: ***Help us put it all down and pick up the baby.***

But be forewarned, for this comes at great cost. To hold *this* Baby — this Jesus whom we proclaim — means you are going to have to put some things down. We pray you, O Lord: ***Help us put it all down and pick up the baby.***

When you hold *this* Baby, *nothing else matters*. Everything else falls away. We pray you, Lord: ***Help us put it all down and pick up the baby.***

When you hold this Baby, the war makers must put down their weapons
and all their garments rolled in blood.

The oppressors must put down their rods.

The emperors must put down their censuses.

The shepherds must put down their staffs.

We pray you, O Lord: ***Help us put it all down and pick up the baby.***

The judges must put down their gavels.

The bankers their pencils.

The farmers their plows.

The nurses their stethoscopes

We pray you, O Lord: ***Help us put it all down and pick up the baby.***



The journalists their laptops.
 The teachers their books.
 The janitors their brooms.
 The interns their clipboards.
 The internet trolls their keyboards.
 The leaders their egos.
 Priests and Bishops their collars

We pray you, O Lord: ***Help us put it all down and pick up the baby.***

When you and I hold this Baby—
 when we hold this Jesus—
 everything else must fall away:
 our cell phones,
 our distractions,
 our ambitions,
 our rights,
 our wrongs,
 our hurts,
 our grievances . . .
our power.

We pray you, O Lord: ***Help us put it all down and pick up the baby.***

“Whatever that is you’re doin,’ you gotta put it down and come hold this baby.”

But here’s the final twist.
 Here’s the insane *grace* of it all.

For all that you and I have to lay aside—
 for all the power that we have to let go
 in order to hold this Baby—
 the thing is *he* has already gone *first*.

Yeah, you have to give up a lot
 in order to *hold* a baby,
 but think of *how much more*
 you have to give up
 in order to *BE* the baby.

We pray you, O Lord: ***Help us put it all down and pick up the baby.***

He could have come any way he wanted.

As a mighty warrior.
 As a fearsome beast.
 As a rich king
 with swagger,
 and prestige,
 and power.

But instead,
 this Baby—
 this Jesus—
 came like this.

We pray you, O Lord: ***Help us put it all down and pick up the baby***

Whatever it was *he* was doing, *he* put it down all those years ago
 so *he* could come and rest right there next to *your* beating heart.

We pray you, O Lord: ***Help us put it all down and pick up the baby.***

"So, my friends, what is it? What is it that *you* get to lay aside, even if just for this one moment?

The Creator of your soul has put down everything he had, because all he ever really wanted . . . *was just to be with you.*

We pray you, O Lord: ***Help us put it all down and pick up the baby.***

So whatever that is you're doing,
put it down.
Come on.
Hold the baby.

There's nothing else
you *can* do.

You just *hold* him.
And *love* him.
And *pray*.

We pray you, O Lord: ***Help us put it all down and pick up the baby.***

And when you do, when you put everything down, and hold and love and pray and melt together, You get to become the Christ to others.

Let us find the Christ Child in all God's children who have no one to hold them. Let us hand over the wounds of loneliness and desperation within our own hearts we hide from others and even ourselves.

Let us allow ourselves to be held, we who have the memory of wrong etched on our bodies and in our minds.

Let us find the Christ Child in this planet in crisis and reach out, and hold, love, and pray.

We pray you, O Lord: ***Help us put it all down and pick up the baby.***

Adapted from a sermon of Lonnie Lacy+ by Philip Carr-Jones and given with congregational responses at the services on Sunday, January 5, 2020 (Christmas I)

Mirota House 3rd Annual Luncheon January 18th

All members and friends of CHS are invited to participate in an amazing local outreach program on Saturday, January 18, 2020. What can you do to help? Come and represent the Church of the Holy Spirit by all you say and do. Just sit down and join the party.



The time is Noon to 1:30 P.M. and the location is [Mirota Senior Residence](#), 200 Van Horne Road, Whitehouse Station, N.J. 08889 (behind Cushetunk Estates). An excellent luncheon will be served for the resident seniors. Live music will be provided. Come and help make this another amazing and successful CHS outreach event.

Jane and I will be at both services January 12 to answer any questions you may have. We will have a sign-up sheet for desserts and attendance. If you have questions, see Jeff or Jane Anderson (janderson4244@gmail.com).

Jeff Anderson

Treasurer's Report



As of the end of November, our financial results for 2019 are as follows:

	YTD	Budget YTD
Operating Revenue	\$ 285,884	\$ 272,429
Total Expense	\$ 319,188	\$ 293,078
Net	\$ 33,304	

Our budget for 2019 reflected a net loss of \$22,526. Currently we are slightly over that projection. December has always been a good month for the church so I expect our year end numbers to come close to our budget number.

The finance committee is working on preparing the budget for 2020, which will be presented to the congregation at the annual meeting on **January 26th**. The budget is voted on by the Vestry at their January meeting and is then shared with the congregation.

Our Stewardship campaign will be incorporated into the area house blessings during Epiphany in January and February of 2020. (see next page) The 2020 budget will be updated, as needed, after all pledge cards are returned by the end of February.

Thank you.

Sally Bird

January 26th Annual Meeting.

Please come!! This is YOUR parish and we need your suggestions so that we can serve God in the most meaningful way, YOUR annual meeting is scheduled at CHS for Sunday, **January 26th** at 9:00 am as part of the single service.. 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". If you have been wanting to get involved and didn't know where to go for information, this would be a great time. 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 2020 and beyond. Lunch will be served following. We do hope you will be able to join us for this very important annual event.



Dave Dabour photo

W3K — We Three Kings [Area House Blessings and Parties]



A reminder from the previous issue: This year we will be blessing all homes in manageable geographic groups across the Season of Epiphany in January and February. We will bless homes from 5-7 pm on Tuesdays, some Wednesdays, and Thursdays, and then gather together at the last house for light refreshments and conversation from 7:30-8:30 pm. Whole families with children are welcome to attend. It's a chance for the priest of the parish to a) share plans and dreams for our community in the coming months; b) present a financial health statement and offer an opportunity to support the mission of the community; and c) have open time for questions and conversation. You will shortly receive an invitation to participate which includes a notice of the scheduled date for your home's blessing.

The youth of the parish have made a special gift for each home this year and a packet of information about key dates and programs will be presented to each family during the blessings. We can reschedule you to a different date if your assigned evening isn't suitable (just send us a note)!

+Philip

If you have recently moved or changed your email, or are new to the parish, PLEASE make sure we have current data for you so that we don't omit you in the schedule. You will appreciate that this is a challenging series of meetings to orchestrate and we don't want to exclude you! Thanks so much to the team — Sally Bird, Fran Ingram, Eli Jones, Eva Lesniak, Tracy MacGeorge, Deacon Michelleleslie and Jane Paradiso (not to mention Fr. Phil) for all of their planning — and do forgive your editor if she has missed anyone...

CHS Café Every Sunday



Join us after the service for coffee and conversation. Now that the Christmas rush is past and the greens recycled, we have room once again in the Narthex to put out small tables and chairs so we can linger comfortably with a hot beverage and a nibble. Can you help with the treats? we are asking for volunteers to bring a snack to share, whether homemade or store bought; the coffee/tea setup is done by others. Suggestions: bagels and cream cheese; donuts; cookies; anything sweet or savory, but keep it simple. Offerings should be finger foods so we don't need plates and forks. We have white catering trays for plating and are using the table under the Dove for service. Sign-up sheet is in the Narthex. If you can take a turn bringing goodies some Sunday, we thank you in advance! Stay and meet a new friend or two.

Dedication of Keller Sacristy

The Keller Sacristy will be dedicated on **February 8th at 10:00 am**. Please join me, my family and friends for this special event.

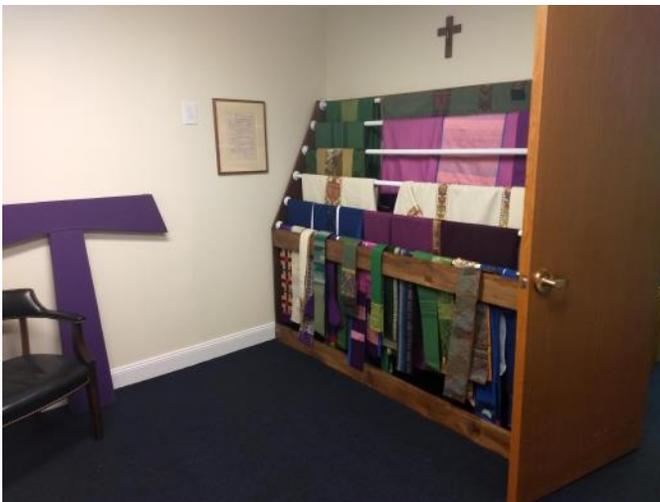
Jim was passionate about all things church-related, having joined the Episcopal Church, as he would say, “for fun and profit”. He was a paid member of the boys’ choir at St. Michaels in Baltimore. During his young adult years, he was mentored by Fr. John Maddox, SSJE, and that led to his desire for ordination to the priesthood. As often happens, however, life interceded and he was not ordained. But Jim never forgot the lessons or rituals he learned along the way.

One of the things Jim felt we needed at Holy Spirit was a Priest Sacristy—a place where clergy could vest, store their vestments and have a quiet place for spiritual meditation prior to/after a service.

When Jim died after a three-year struggle with leukemia, I knew that neither he nor I would want a lot of flowers at the funeral. In lieu of that, I requested that we start a Jim Keller Memorial Fund. Fr. Phil and I felt that if the funds were sufficient, the most meaningful thing we could do in Jim’s memory would be the building of that longed-for Priest Sacristy. That dream is now fulfilled, for Jim and for his family.

I hope you can join us for the brief dedication service on February 8th. If you have not seen the lovely space created by Gary Scott, Jim West, George Landgraf, Hal Murray, Rex VanVeldhuisen and Rich Southwick, please do stop in to see their wonderful gift of time and talent on Jim’s behalf. The Keller family is most grateful.

Marge Keller



We Care Group

Let us ALL strive to seek the joy in this New Year. There was much sadness last year, but also wonder. We have a choice to seek that wonder — or not.

WE CARE is always “on call” to help fellow members of our faith family. A simple meal or a ride to the doctor/hospital can be such a help and comfort when illness strikes.

Sometimes something as small as a “Get Well” or “I’m thinking of you” card can bring a warm, much needed glow to the recipient.

Church of the Holy Spirit is overflowing with love. New folks feel it when they walk through our door. Someone is always there to welcome them with a smile. We all feel it when we are gathered together. How blessed we are!

We give thanks for our Priest, the epitome of love.

WE CARE NEEDS ADDITIONAL VOLUNTEERS. Please call me (908-528-1788) or Vicki Brooks (908-752-3062) if you are able to drive a faith family member to a doctor/hospital appointment; deliver a meal to make life a little easier or visit someone in need of a smile. Let’s strive to seek the joy in every day this New Year. There will be challenges along the way (we have them now) but with God’s help and the loving support of our WE CARE group, we will get through.



Susan Kane

Red Wagon



For the months of January and February, we are asking for donations of canned fruit or vegetables. These are listed as most needed by the Open Cupboard in Clinton. As always, *any* donations of non-perishable foods are most welcome, as are household cleaning supplies and personal toiletries. Your gracious support of needy families and individuals in our community is so appreciated! The Open Cupboard also has a shop and welcomes appropriate donations to fill it. Their website has suggestions:

<http://www.opencupboardfoodpantry.org/>

Katie Higgins

2020 Epiphany Sermon Series On Prayer

The who, what, why, where, when, and how of Prayer — "Pray without ceasing" [Thessalonians 5:17]

Throughout the Sundays in January and February, sermon offerings will be directed toward the development and practice of our community's understanding of prayer. Though the teachings and reflections do not require attendance at any previous offering and each will provide its own stand-alone content, we do hope a fuller embrace of your own prayer life will be accomplished if you catch the whole series. Here are some sample thoughts to consider in preparation.



- † Prayer is sitting in the silence until it silences us, choosing gratitude until we are grateful, and praising God until we ourselves are an act of praise. *Richard Rohr*
- † "Prayer is a surge of the heart, it is a simple look turned toward heaven, it is a cry of recognition and of love, embracing both trial and joy." *St. Therese of Lisieux*
- † "Whether we realize it or not, prayer is the encounter of God's thirst with ours. God thirsts that we may thirst for him." *St. Augustine*
- † "Pray as you can, not as you can't." *Dom Chapman*
- † "Prayer is the inner bath of love into which the soul plunges itself." *St. John Vianney*
- † "The whole reason why we pray is to be united into the vision and contemplation of God to whom we pray." *St. Julian of Norwich*
- † "Prayer is looking out from a different set of eyes, which are not comparing, competing, judging, labeling or analyzing, but receiving the moment in its present wholeness and unwholeness. That is what is meant by contemplation. *Richard Rohr*
- † "Prayer enlarges the heart until it is capable of Containing God's gift of himself". *Mother Theresa*
- † "Therefore, when you decide to undertake this work of prayer and feel by grace that you are called by God, lift up your heart to God with a meek stirring of Love." *Cloud of Unknowing*
- † *Mature prayer always breaks into gratitude. Richard Rohr*
- † "If the only prayer you ever say in your whole life is 'thank you' that would suffice." *Meister Eckhart*
- † "Prayer is nothing else than being on terms of friendship with God." *Teresa of Avila*
- † "A generous prayer is never presented in vain; the petition may be refused, but the petitioner is always, I believe, rewarded by some gracious visitation." *Robert Louis Stevenson*
- † "The wish to pray is a prayer in itself." *Georges Bernanos*
- † "Prayer is not asking. It is a longing of the soul." *Mahatma Gandhi*
- † "Don't pray when it rains if you don't pray when the sun shines." *Satchel Paige*
- † "Prayer, then, is a matter of our participating in the life of Jesus Christ." *Michael Casey*
- † "The value of persistent prayer is not that God will hear us, but that we will finally hear God." *William McGill*
- † "Give me faith, Lord, and let me help others find it." *Leo Tolstoy*

{continued}

(continued from page 9)

† "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." Matthew 5:44

† "Prayer should be the key of the day and the lock of the night." *George Herbert*

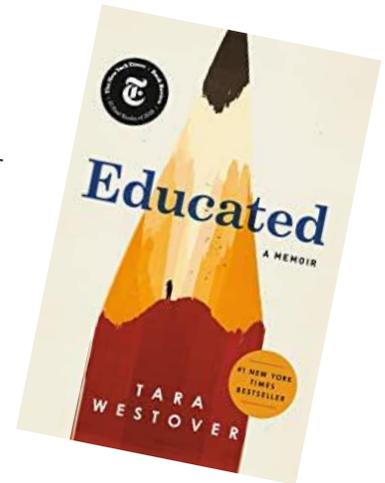
† "There is variation in our prayer because we look toward God from different vantage points. Our situation changes; we develop and are subjected to a range of external factors. Our situation can also change because we deliberately choose to seek further into the mystery of God." *Michael Casey*

+Philip

Spirited Readers Book Club:

Because the previously announced *Hillbilly Elegy* won't be available until the summer, our next book selection will be *Educated*, by Tara Westover. This memoir details Tara's childhood in the mountains of Idaho. Her survivalist-minded parents did not consider a "traditional" education to be valuable; yet, after one of her siblings entered college, she decided to pursue an education as well. Her quest took her to Harvard and, ultimately, Cambridge. Published in 2018, *Educated* became a national bestseller.

I have reserved the kit for February 1; **March 22nd** will be our next meeting (following the 10:00 service).



Suzanne Higgins

Mission Trip to Honduras in the Planning Stages for 2021

SAVE THE DATE On Sunday, **February 23rd**, immediately following the 10:00 service, Wes Jones from MDM Honduras will be visiting CHS to share information about a possible mission trip in the works for next year (spring-summer 2021). MDM Honduras is a faith-inspired community development program that strives to bring hope, healing, and empowerment to people in the community of San Matias, Honduras, by organizing volunteers to work in a variety of areas. From their website, www.mdmhonduras.org, "Each and every team brings laborers to be the hands, feet, and heart of Jesus." There is no age limit for this program; families and individuals are encouraged to come learn more on the 23rd. This trip offers a unique opportunity to connect with each other, and to connect with families from very different backgrounds that we might otherwise never meet. For more information, call or email Trish Simpson-Curtin at (908) 310-2782, simpsoncurtint@yahoo.com.



Pulse of the Parish

Gratitude:

For our youth group and their adult advisors, who bring us joy week after week with their Formation work and their enthusiastic participation in events outside the parish. Some of the photos on the Snapshot pages following reflect the wonderful results they achieve. Alleluia!

For our Music Director, Alex, and his extraordinary talent. His skill contributes an extra dimension to our worship week after week and encourages us all — choir and congregation alike — to sing our best for the glory of God. Having Alina Smirnova with us from Moscow for the Evensong Oratorio Service and at the Epiphany service January 5th, where she partnered with Alex on two lovely piano four hands pieces, was the icing on the cake.

In Memoriam:

Helen Birdsall, mother of Pat, November 2nd

Rev. Ernestine Winfrey, Executive Director of the Good News Home for Women, December 15th

*Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord, and light perpetual shine upon them.
May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, rest in peace.*

HOLD THE DATES

JANUARY 2020		MARCH	
16	Vestry Meeting 7:00 pm	7	Diocesan Convention
18	Mirota House Luncheon	22	Spirited Readers Book Club
18-26	SKIT ("Frozen Jr.")	ONGOING EVENTS	
26	Annual Meeting (single service at 9:00 am, lunch to follow)	First and Third Mondays, 4:00 pm, Culinary Angels, Second and Fourth Mondays, 10:00 am, Knit & Chat Tuesdays, 6:00 am, Bible Study at Spinning Wheel Diner Tuesdays, 7: 00 pm: Theology on Tap at Courtyard Marriott Wednesdays, 12:00 noon Holy Eucharist [Burton Chapel] Third Thursday, 7:00 pm Vestry Meeting except as noted Saturdays at 7:00 pm: Youth Bible Study	
FEBRUARY			
6	Keller Sacristy Dedication		
23	Mission Trip meeting		
24	Tartakovsky Recital NYC		
25	Shrove Tuesday		
26	Ash Wednesday		



Beyond Our Doors: Sharing the Wealth

Among my many New Year's resolutions, most probably doomed to fail, I admit, is to simplify. For instance, why do I have a closet full of business clothes when I retired six years ago? Arggh. Why are my bookshelves spilling out tomes that I will never read again? How many sets of china and silverware do I need?

There are lots of worthy organizations that serve the less fortunate among us and can use good, serviceable items for their clients. I'm sharing a few below in hopes that the very act of doing so will spur me on to get those contribution boxes filled and delivered! If you have other favorites, please share them.

North Hunterdon Thrift Shop (at Norton Church, 51 County Rte 635, Hampton)

<https://www.sentforothers.org/northhunterdonthrift>

Offers clothing, home goods, and more to people who want to stretch their budget or reduce waste and pollution. Now part of Clinton United Methodist Church, which was new information for me. A terrific place to browse.

Open Cupboard Food Pantry Thrift Shop, 37 Old Highway 22, Clinton

<http://www.opencupboardfoodpantry.org/ThriftShop.html>

Helps to support the Pantry through its sales of clothing, household items, books, jewelry, DVDs, VHS tapes and CDs. All proceeds from the thrift shop benefit the Pantry by defraying operating expenses and purchasing groceries as needed.

Hunterdon County Library 24th Annual Book Sale, South County Park Fairgrounds, Lambertville

<http://www.hclibrary.us/friends/booksale-info.htm#loc>

The book lover's dream. Held the last weekend of April each year (website has not yet been updated). I'm going to start gleaning my bookshelves now!

The Outreach Connection, 427 County Rd. 513 Califon

<https://theoutreachconnection.org/>

The thrift shop funds this organization's wide-ranging work with those less fortunate. Check out their website for examples of their many projects.

Note: Top O' th' Barn Thrift Shop, River Road, Califon, with which many of you are probably familiar, is currently closed for renovations and is not accepting donations. They'll be back!

Vicki Brooks

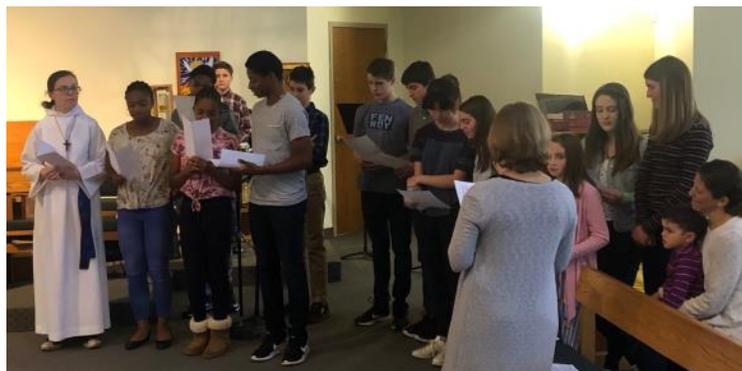
Snapshots



"This amazing group not only brought 11 hats, 74 scarves, 2 cowls, and too many toiletries and puzzle books to count; they also packed 300 ditty bags. □ Thank you Holy Spirit! We feel blessed □ to have your support! "—Seafarers' Church Institute, Port Newark (Christmas at Sea project), November 8. Eli Jones Photo



All Saint's Day—Confirmation and Reception with Bishop Chip presiding. Friday November 1st.



Youth Sunday November 24

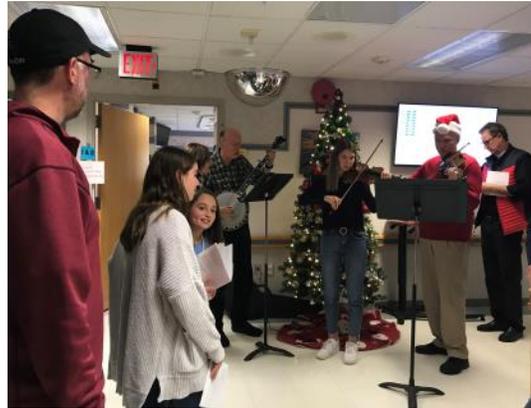


Pancake Stack, CHS Frisbee Team at Bonnie Brae Tournament November 3. Proceeds send Bonnie Brae residents to summer camp. Michelle Marlow photo.

Snapshots



First CHS Float: Clinton Holiday Parade, December 6
Jack Williams photo



Carolling at Independence Manor (or was it Hunterdon Medical Center?)
December 14th
Michelle Marlow photo



A traditional part of Advent for Y2Y is to knit blankets for Derek's Hugs, which distributes them to childrens' hospitals in honor of Derek Gaffis. Our Children's Formation completed 7 blankets. Michelle Marlow Photo



Above ((l & r) - 4 pm Christmas Eve: A Child's Christmas—worshipping through four stations of the shepherds: Here are stations 1 (fields/parish hall) and 2 (angels appear to the shepherds by the fire)

Church of the Holy Spirit — Vestry and Staff



Vestry:	Senior Warden	Cate Mattison		
	Junior Warden	Tracy MacGeorge		
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Webmaster Assistant	John Rollins	638-8693	jardigitalworks@gmail.com
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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>

3 Haytown Road, Lebanon, New Jersey 08833 908-236-6301

[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: churchholyspirit.org 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!

ShowKids Invitational Theatre (SKIT) Presents



Performances January 18—26, 2020

ShowKids Invitational Theatre (SKIT) is a non-profit repertory community theater group. Its objective in both show selection as well as casting is to provide productions featuring its young performers in the principal roles, surrounded by an experienced artistic and technical team to produce some of the best theater possible. Founded in 1986 to offer the children of Hunterdon County and its surrounding area an opportunity to experience the joys of theater and give the community professional quality theater productions, it has since blossomed into an organization that also provides families the opportunity to share quality time while providing an unending amount of wonderful memories. SKIT's young performers, ranging in age from 5 to 18, join SKIT based on a desire to perform in the theater and a willingness to give the dedication and self-discipline it requires. A number of CHS children and adults have been a part of SKIT and our Dove Hall hosts their rehearsals. If you've not attended one of the performances in the past, you are in for a treat. Frozen Jr. is a simpler version of the very popular Broadway musical adapted for children. All performances will take place at the Voorhees High School Auditorium, as follows:

Saturday January 18, 2:00 and 7:30 pm

Sunday January 19, at 2:00 pm

Saturday January 25 at 2:00 and 7:30 pm

Sunday, January 26 at 2:00 pm

For tickets and directions, log on to the SKIT website: <https://www.showkids.org/contact-us> or call the information line at (908) 963-4895. Alternately, you may want to email for further information about SKIT and its future programs: admin@showkids.org