



Christ Church Chronicles

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316 E. High St. Pottstown, PA 19464

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From the Rector

September! How time flies. Back to school, vacations at an end, colder weather is around the corner (for those who dislike the hot humid lazy days of summer this is not so bad), back to the grind of fall and preparation for the routines that befall every church. The two biggest are back to Sunday School (Education) and stewardship issues (budgets and year end).



It was said that as Christians we are in a constant state of becoming. Thus our life is a constant state of catechesis. We should look forward to the opportunity to expand our horizons in faith as we study and discuss. We will soon begin to hold opportunity to study together between worship and our children will have the opportunity to study and prepare themselves for their part in building the Kingdom of God in their time.

Then there is the stewardship issue. So many want to disregard the discussion. Well, I am not here to debate your commitment to our Lord's work here at Christ but I will challenge you to consider your willingness to grow your gift to our Lord as you grow into his grace. I am proud of the congregations' benevolence and willingness to be a generous and committed congregation in a world of faith communities holding back and ignoring the need that surrounds them. I believe, with your help Christ parish will become an even stronger witness to the glory of God. Our efforts through community social outreach (Robin's work along with many of our members involved with the spiritual/social ventures of the congregation), the congregations' willingness to walk by faith to help our brothers and sisters in faith (First Baptist) and the list goes on. I am excited about how this congregation is so much a proclamation of God's Word through your action. I praise God for you and your gifts to glorify his name.

So I guess I would like to encourage you to lift up your hands in willingness to involve yourself in the educational opportunities this fall and the opportunity through faith to increase your giving so God's work will be expanded and will become an even greater witness to God's grace.

I am your servant in Christ

Fr. Bill Rex†

What I Love About the Episcopal Church



Circumstances found me so far behind that I did not get my article written for this month's newsletter. However, here is something better. This is an extract of an article by Ben Irwin, a popular blogger, entitled *11 Things I Love About the Episcopal Church*.

1. The way the liturgy soaks into your being.

We are products of a culture that demands everything is new and fresh. We frown on repetition and ritual. But these ancient patterns have a way of soaking into your bones. The prayers and songs stay with me throughout the week in a way no sermon ever has.

2. The way the liturgy invites me to worship with my whole being, bridging the false divide between body and soul.

God made us whole persons. We are not disembodied souls stuffed into human shells. We should worship with our whole being. Our heart and soul and flesh should cry out together, as the Psalmist wrote.

3. The way it anchors my faith when no act of will on my part can.

When I struggle to believe, the rhythms and patterns and prayers of the liturgy are like an anchor. It's as if the rest of the community—those around me and those who came before me—are saying, "It's OK. We'll carry you through this part."

Faith is no longer dependent on me willing it into being.

4. The way it embraces orthodoxy without rigidity.

Anglicanism has long been known as the *via media*, the "middle way" between two traditions. Ours is a faith handed down from the apostles, but not one so fragile that it cannot cope with science, with new findings about the origins of the universe, ourselves, or whatever else we might discover.

5. How it makes room for those who've been burned out, worn out, or otherwise cast out.

The Episcopal Church is a refuge, a respite, a place where we can come as we are and learn to receive grace again.

6. The way you can simply *be*, if that's all you can do.

They seem to get that each person is

different—and, more importantly, that people are not commodities. (That said, if you hang around long enough, watch out. They might ask you to join the vestry when you least expect it.)

7. The way their worship can be deeply moving without resorting to emotional manipulation.

In contrast to the standard worship formula of so many churches, "the liturgy does not try to coerce everyone into the same emotional experience," as Jonathan Martin writes, "but in its corporate unity strangely creates space for us all to have a very personal experience of God."

8. How the "shared cup" matters more than "shared dogma."

I have spent a lot of my life trying to get my theology right. I've spent years believing all the "right things" in order that I might belong. So it was jarring when a good friend explained to me that the sermon (*the meat!*) was not the center of Anglican worship. It's the Eucharist, the common table around which we all gather.

We belong so that we might find a common faith together, not the other way around.

9. The way everyone is welcome as a full participant, even children.

The Episcopal Church is a place that nurtures those first small, occasionally faltering steps of faith—and welcomes the full participation of those who take them.

10. How it reminds me that I'm part of something bigger. I need to be reminded that my faith does not begin or end with me—that it's "something that you don't really own."

11. How at the altar, we're all the same. It's been said the ground is level at the foot of the cross. I don't think I've appreciated that quite as much anywhere as in the Episcopal Church.

Bob Gross
Rector's Warden

For the full text, see:

<https://benirwin.me/2015/01/22/11-things-about-the-episcopal-church/>

STREETWISE



Excitement was mounting among the homophile community that now belonged as members of Glide Memorial Methodist Church. Before becoming wrapped into the arms of an accepting, loving congregation, they had the tradition of an elegant New Year's Eve Ball held in the Castro District of San Francisco where LGBTQ persons enjoyed an uneasy neighborhood. But they experienced the police shutting down their dance, using unnecessary force, and arresting any who did not disburse instantaneously. Their hope this year was that the presence of the five Glide Methodist ministers, along with the entire Board of Directors of the Glide Foundation, would change the dynamics. The LGBTQ community believed that the very presence of the institutional church would legitimate the Ball and that the police would arrest no participants.

Besides the presence of the institutional church embodied by its clergy and its Board of Directors, a considerable number of publically renowned professionals, allied themselves with Glide by offering their service to the several ministries Glide offered to the homophile community. They agreed to "come out" as homosexuals. Revealing their sexual preferences put them at high-risk professionally.

The nonprofessional staff at Glide who did not identify themselves as homosexuals were ordered not to appear at the Ball. Obeying this order provided a troubling dilemma for us because we were all social justice activists. We were sympathetic to the cause.

Likewise the children and youth who identified as homosexuals and hung around Glide were informed that they would not be admitted to the Ball unless they could provide legal proof that they were 21 years of age. They lived without any forms of legal identification. Even though they knew that they would not be admitted, many of the older adolescents decided to mark their participation by showing up.

A few minutes before midnight, the police arrived and broke into the locked gymnasium where the Ball was progressing. The clergy, the Board members, and the professionals came forward acknowledging their civil disobedience and accepting their arrest. By plan, the remaining homophile community members left immediately and went to their homes. It was a clean act of civil disobedience, but the police felt provoked into violence until they realized the press had gained admittance. Then they stopped manhandling those they were arresting. Only the Glide Methodist ministers were booked.

For several months, I have been discussing the proposition that God changes the institutional church. Since this event, Glide Memorial Church has developed profoundly effective ministries to help the poor, the addicted, the homeless, the rejected, the disabled, and more. I am certain that it is God that changed the direction of this institutional church in San Francisco.

Consider this. Is it possible or probable that God seeks to change the institutional churches in Pottstown? Think about it. What do you see happening in the Borough and especially within Christ Church that supports this proposition?

Robin Robb, Deacon†

Boscov's Friends Helping Friends Shopping Passes are now on sale.

\$5 pass gets you 25% off your purchases on Tuesday October 18 (large items such as furniture are 10% off). Christ Church gets to keep the whole \$5 so why not get a jump-start on your holiday shopping!!

See Lisa Baro or stop in the office to purchase your passes.

Other Upcoming Fundraisers in October: Yankee Candle Sale and Sherry's Hodge Podge will be back by popular demand!



Collecting Items for Ditty Bags

A seafarer's life is filled with the excitement of world travel, but it also has times of loneliness and need of reaffirmation of caring. And, perhaps it's on Christmas morning when one important part of that need is answered in a bright red bag that was filled with donations from you.

The Christmas Ditty Bag that is given to the seafarers by SCI over the years is much more than a shiny red bag filled with items for personal use. The bag is an expression of love and appreciation to the many seafarers whose job requires them to leave friends and family in order to deliver the much needed goods here in the Ports of Philadelphia and South Jersey.



Photo: volunteers stuffing ditty bags.

What Is A Ditty Bag?

Traditionally, a bag in which seamen would keep personal items for everyday life. Since seafarers rarely have a chance to come ashore and shop, the Seamen's Church Institute and other seamen's centers provide them with "ditty bags" containing toiletries and similar items at Christmastime. We often get wonderful letters of thanks from crews half way around the world. SCI needs your help in order for us to accomplish our annual goal of giving 3,000 ditty bags to the seafarers who will visit our ports between Thanksgiving

We collect items all year round in order to be ready for the busy holiday season.

Ditty Bag Wish List

- Knitted Hats & Scarves (dark colors)*
- Razors
- Cans of Shave Cream (7-11oz. Can)
- Toothbrushes Toothpaste (4-6oz. Tubes)
- Combs
- Heavy Socks
- Work Gloves
- Deodorant Sticks
- Mini Sewing Kits
- Nail Clippers

Financial Contributions

Your financial contribution will help us to purchase the items in need. We will do the shopping for you!

**Hats and scarves are knitted or crocheted by volunteers but can be purchased*

Copyright © 2011-2012 Seamen's Church Institute of Philadelphia and South Jersey
 475 North 5th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19123-4005
 Phone 215.940.9900 | Fax 215.922.0737
 For more information <http://www.sciphiladelphia.org/>



Christ Church is collecting writing paper and pens. The deadline, to allow assembly and distribution of the ditty bags is 10 Nov. 2016.



**5th Annual
FUNDRAISING DINNER
AND CONCERT EVENT**



to benefit the... **POTTSTOWN Cluster**
OF RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES
Reconnecting Lives. Strengthening Families.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24TH, 2016
SUNNYBROOK BALLROOM, POTTSTOWN

5:00 - 6:00 PM COMPLIMENTARY WINE RECEPTION

6:00 - 10:00 PM DINNER & CONCERT EVENT WITH AUCTION

\$65/PERSON COCKTAIL ATTIRE OPTIONAL CASH BAR

To make your reservation, please return the enclosed response card with check made payable to "PCRC" or visit www.pottstowncluster.org.

PLEASE RSVP BY SEPTEMBER 17TH



GODY **VideoPlay** **MR. & MRS. RICK DHEIN**
Big Brothers Big Sisters
BEYONDSCHOOLWALLS **Southern Pennsylvania**

2016 EVENT SPONSORS

Search Committee

The Search Committee is currently writing a position description for our new Rector. Some of the categories are corporate worship, pastoral care, outreach, and many of the descriptors under each category from our Parish survey. This is our final step before we publish our Parish Profile and advertise our vacancy. Thank you for your prayers for our work! Send comments to search@christpottstown.com

Sue Furman

Parish Profile

A THANK YOU from the Parish

Our profile committee has just completed its work. The committee was formed a year ago to survey the congregation and hear its answers to the "four questions" about the Episcopal Church in the world, the Diocese, the community and our Parish. They faithfully contacted 169 people and collated and summarized 109 responses. That was their original charge. They then accepted the task of answering the 12 questions that the Diocese requires from Parishes seeking a Rector. Using the survey information and

working through many drafts and re-writes, a final product has been submitted to the Diocese. They then agreed to assist the Search committee with a revision to Christ Church's statement of Core Values. Their last chore has been the creation of a Parish ministry profile for the National website, and a "glossy" newsletter style version for search and for other purposes. These are now complete; the newsletter style will be published on our website and made available in print while the 12-Questions will be published on the PECUSA website as soon as we are ready to start accepting applications.

Their original purpose to survey the congregation, a project big enough itself, grew into many more tasks over several months, each of which was willingly accepted. Their faithfulness, dedication, and commitment to the life of Christ Church require that we thank them and give thanks for them.

Committee members: Bob Magee (chair), Bob Blye, Jean Davidheiser, Grace Hoover, Fr. Longstreth, Debbie Metz, Judy Shelly and Marge Yanalavage.



BUILDING COMMUNITY, MAKING FRIENDS, SHARING PEACE The Smoke Alarm Battery Project

The idea sprang up within the confirmation class when we were considering community service projects. “Let’s go visit our neighbors who live nearby the church and offer them free smoke alarm batteries.” We felt it would be a good way to build community connections, to help create a climate of friendship and peace in Pottstown, and to let the locals know that Christ Church is a safe haven for all.

Fire Chief, Richard Lengel, gave us his support and a few suggestions to share about fire safety. For example, if there is only one smoke alarm in the house, it should be placed in the bedroom area. Most serious injuries from household fires occur when people are asleep and unaware of a problem.

The American Red Cross provided assistance in the form of fire safety information to copy and distribute. We also learned that upon request the Red Cross would send a fire safety specialist to the homes in Pottstown to assess the need for alarms, provide alarms with ten-year batteries, and install them for no cost.

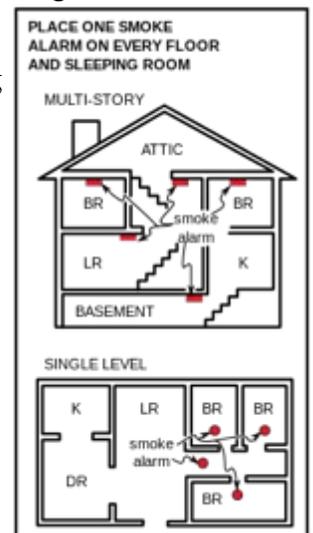
Ten volunteers set out from Christ Church on Saturday morning, August 20, with supplies of 9-volt batteries, packets of materials, and referral forms for American Red Cross services. We also took along postcards describing the weekly music program for youth that will be offered at the church beginning September 6. Enveloped in prayer, we went out not knowing how we might be received. Much to our surprise, all the people we met were quite friendly and receptive to our visits, and some were even quite chatty. Most residents seem to have smoke alarms installed, as well as up-to-date batteries. When no one answered the door, we left the information packets with a Christ Church business card.

We were well pleased with the results of our visits, feeling that God had blessed our efforts. We had divided into two teams of four and one of two persons. The latter visited 19 homes, spoke with 12 groups of people, and gave out 9 batteries. Another group went to 51 of the newer homes, spoke with 12 groups of people, and gave out 7 batteries. The third group went to 40 homes, spoke with 20 groups of people, and gave out 35 batteries.

During our visits when we explained the where the church was located, several residents responded with, “Oh, you’re the car show church!” We view this as positive recognition and an opening for building relationships. In all, the experience was encouraging, and we were blessed in meeting many of our neighbors. Another group of ten volunteers will be going to more homes on Saturday, August 27.

The Advocacy and Mission Committee hopes to continue building relationships with local residents through the music program and other initiatives, possibly holding free family movie nights next spring. We thank all who have participated in this adventure and we thank God for the opportunity to serve.

*Candace Woessner and Warren Holohan
Advocacy and Mission Co-Chairs*



September 11, 2016 Evensong Service Washington Memorial Chapel Valley Forge PA

4:00pm

On behalf of the Vestry and Clergy of Washington Memorial Chapel, I would like to invite you to participate in our Evensong in Remembrance of 9-11 on Sunday, September 11, 2016 at 4 p.m.. The service commemorates the 15th Anniversary of 9-11.



Bishop Daniel Gutierrez is the liturgist; Bishop Fred Borsch of the LA Diocese will be preaching. Members of the National Park Service and friends of the Valley Forge Park Alliance will be participating as well. The choir under the direction of Charles Grove, Organist & Choirmaster, and Doug Gevfert, our carillonneur, will provide music.

At the conclusion of the Evensong, we will recess to the lawn in front of the church with the members of the National Park Service. We will be giving thanks for their service, congratulate them on this their 100th Anniversary, and pray for their protection. Following that we will process to the grave of Louis Nacke II, the hero of Flight 93, who is buried in our churchyard. We will be laying a wreath at his grave. We will remember him, the victims of 9-11, their families, and First Responders.



There is a reception following the service in the Bishop White Garden.

The Rev. Karl Krueger, Ph.D.



Adult Forum Begins September 18

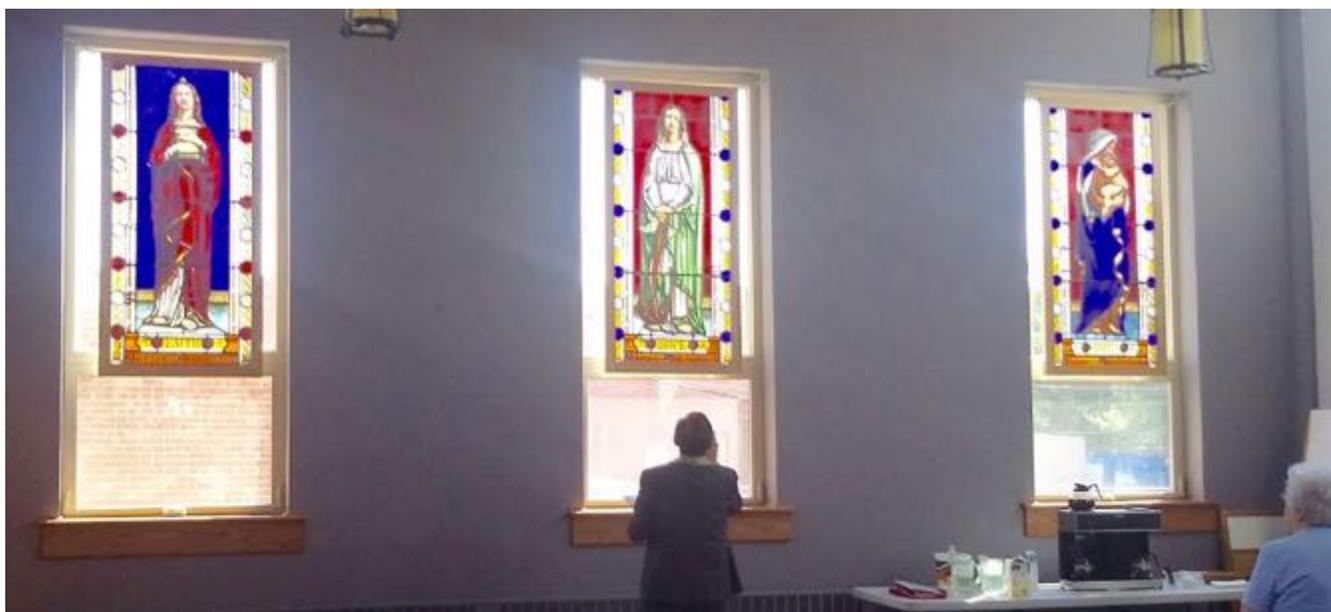
Witness/ Service/ Worship/ Stewardship/
Learning
Explore Our Ministries at Christ Church -
Through
Luke's accounts in the **Acts of the
Apostles**
Focus Our Discussions / Planning /
Celebrations through the Word of God

Pilgrimage

Bishop Daniel Gutierrez visited Christ Church as part of his Pilgrimage to visit all parishes in the Diocese in his first six months. He met with at least 30 (a large number considering the visit was on a Friday morning) of members and leaders of the parish.

While he was there, he blessed the Faith, Hope, and Charity windows, prayed individually for several members, and discussed his thoughts on the direction of the Diocese. As for his personal standards, he commented that he thought “a shepherd should smell like the sheep.”

We have him a Confirmation class apron, one of our cookbooks, and the parish profile.



Collect for the Election of a Rector

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on Christ Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall call our new rector, that we may receive from you a faithful pastor, who will care for the people of this congregation and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Crop Walk Coming Up

Sunday, 9 Oct. 1:30

Starting point 1st Presbyterian Church

750 N. Evans St.

(between Manor Care and

Catagnus Funeral Home)

Team Leaders Needed – Please see Bob Gross



Fund Raising With Redner's Tapes—How Does It Work



When you shop at Redner's, use your Redner's Pump Perks/ 1% Save-A-Tape card. Each time you purchase at Redner's your receipt will be designated as a 1% Save-A-Tape customer receipt. Turn in your tapes at church in the Redner's box. When we have enough tapes for a meaningful rebate, they will be turned in to a local Redner's manager. Please don't save them up; tapes over two years old become invalid. In about eight weeks we will receive a check for 1% of the total amount of the tapes submitted.

Note: you must swipe your card at the time of purchase or the tape will not be valid for the rebate.

Fund Raising With AmazonSmile How to Help With No Effort

Amazon will donate 0.5% of your purchases to Christ Church if you register your account as an AmazonSmile account. There is no change to your cost, and, except for the initial setup, no effort on your part.

How do you do it?

1. Instead of amazon.com, log in at smile.amazon.com, with your usual username and password.
2. On your first login, you should find "Select a Charity." Enter "Christ Episcopal Church" and scroll down a few lines to the one in Pottstown, PA.
3. Click "Select" and you're done. You can change the selection at any time.



From then on, go to smile.amazon.com and you will support the church with your purchases.



Don't forget your Giant Cards.

When you buy a Giant gift card at church, you get the whole value of your purchase, and Christ Church receives 5% of your cost. It does not expire and purchases with it earn Giant Rewards Points, which can be redeemed for gas or food discounts.

As an easy fund-raising mechanism, it's hard to beat. They are available from Debbie Metz between services.

