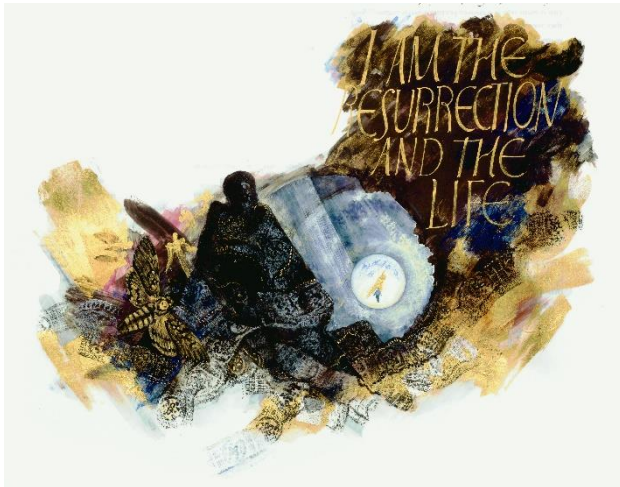


THE CORNERSTONE



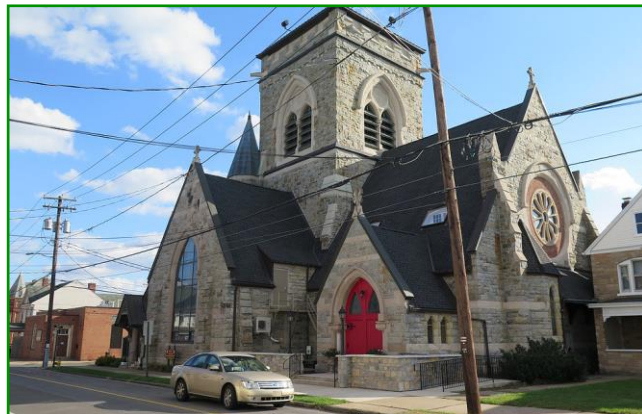
Raising of Lazarus, Donald Jackson, Copyright 2002, The Saint John's Bible, Saint John's University, Collegeville, Minnesota USA. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go." (John 11: 40-44)

There is probably nothing as sad and frightening as not being able to help a friend or family member who is gravely ill or dying. Some of my hardest days and nights as a seminarian happened in such moments when I was accomplishing my Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) training at Johns Hopkins.

Many of you who are engaged in medical professions and are consequently very familiar with life's joys, hazards, uncertainties, illogical occurrences, miracles, and tragedies. You witness(ed) passages from life to death, joy to sadness happening in a single moment, or during a chronic lifetime. CPE was eye-opening beyond belief for me. I'd never seen someone in an emergency room suffering from a gunshot wound. I'd certainly never prayed for such a person suffering such pain. I'd never baptized a prematurely born baby who was conceived without a completely formed heart. The surgeon was a devout Roman Catholic who cried as I was baptizing the child. Neither will I forget walking down the hallway morning after morning with a father who was grieving his young son's battle with cancer. He wondered why God would allow such an illness to happen to his son. Those were some anguishing cups of coffee – often consumed in shared sadness and tears. Many doctors, nurses, hospital staff, and (student) chaplains abided with the family when that young child died.

There were quite a few such occasions the pediatric oncology unit just as there were wonderful hours spent with other children surviving in their struggles with



"The same stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone."
Psalm 118:22

in

cancer. There was one boy who didn't have a clue who I was as a chaplain who loved kicking my butt playing Donkey Kong. Such moments in ministry remind me that only God can provide resurrection. The rest of us are bound to be merciful, helpful, and gracious to the extent our humanity allows.

The Season of Lent and our subsequent Holy Week offer us the reminders that life is fragile, precious, and share a universe of moments to contemplate and act upon how we as Christians live in the world. Brene' Brown writes that "the (human) arena, particularly in dark and hard moments when we're trying to be really brave, can be confusing and overwhelming." (Brown, Dare to Lead, p.185). Jesus the Christ, especially in the Gospel of John, is really brave, knows exactly who he is, who God the Father is, and that neither life nor death can break the eternal bounds they share with Lazarus, members of the Beloved, Community, and the Trinity they exist in.

Lent also offers opportunities for each and all of us to spend awe-full (awful), contemplative, studious time at home and here at Christ Memorial. The Saint John's Bible sits on its stand throughout the week as well as on Sundays. You can come, turn its pages and pray about the Raising of Lazarus with hopes for your own resurrected life in the here and now as well as the then and there. You may light candles and recall your beloved friends and family members who have crossed over. You may join with others in walking the Stations of The Cross or meeting neighbors who come to receive diapers and other necessities. What choice(s) will you make to do what you can to offer life to another person, be she or he a family member, dear friend, or stranger? Lent is our season for such repentance, deliverance, and forgiveness.

Blessings along The Way, Jim

*When we have
the courage
to walk into
our story and
own it, we get
to write the
ending.*

AND WHEN WE DON'T OWN OUR STORIES OF
FAILURE, SETBACKS, AND HURT—THEY OWN US.



Announcements and Upcoming Events:



The Season of Lent is one of The Church's Oldest observations. Historical documents suggest that the initial Lenten fasts were rather short and varied from location to location. Irenaeus of Lyons (in Gaul) and Tertullian (in North Africa) wrote that a preparatory fast before Holy Week lasted one or two days, or forty hours—memorializing what they believed to be the exact duration of Christ's time in the tomb. (Russo, 2013). Bishops at The

Council of Nicea in 325 CE (AD) discussed a 40 Day-long season of fasting and penance. (Olson, March 2020). Church leaders subsequently lengthened the Lenten season as the Christian faith became accepted throughout the Roman Empire. Bishops, priests, and deacons determined it was necessary to make up for waning zeal of established Christian communities as well as to offer a longer period of instruction for the increasing numbers of pilgrims and spiritual seekers seeking to be baptized at Easter (Russo, 2013). The more things change, the more they will hopefully remain the same.

Presently, Christians in the western Church observe the 40 days of Lent from Ash Wednesday through Holy Saturday, omitting Sundays. The last three days of Lent are the sacred Triduum of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday. Lent still offers sacred time for adult candidates to prepare for their baptisms. It would be awesome to celebrate a baptism as part of our convocational Easter Vigil in April! And, Christians around the world, in Danville, and here at Christ Memorial are invited "to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word" (BCP, p. 265).

5 Lenten Practices (Now through Easter – April 15):

What does it mean to be a member of Christ Memorial Episcopal Church? Well, according to the Episcopal Church's Book of Common Prayer, a baptized Christian is a member of The Church and Christ's body. As such, the laity, "the people" are "to represent Christ and his Church; to bear witness to him wherever they may be; and, according to the gifts given them, to carry on Christ's work of reconciliation in the world; and to take their place in the life, worship, and governance of the Church" (BCP, p. 855).

Those definitions may seem lofty. Pastor Adam Hamilton of The United Methodist Church of The Resurrection in Leawood, KS offered recently some more specific objectives for members of thriving, Christ-Centered congregations. He lays out the following five metrics for becoming a member at Church of The Resurrection:

- 1- **Worship.** - Faithful Members attend a weekly worship service more than 80% of the time. (Note the average Episcopalian worships just more than once a month).
- 2- **Prayer/Biblical Study** – Faithful members spend intentional time in scripture each day. They read their bibles and/or receive a daily scriptural reflection for contemplation, integration, and thanksgiving. (Here's an invite to read daily the Diocese of Central PA's Lenten Reflections).
- 3- **Giving** – Faithful members of a Christian congregation are stewards of their spiritual community. The biblical standard for tithing is 10% of a person's income. Members of Church of the Resurrection receive a "giving" card when they join the congregation. They then select a % of their income they intend to give on a routine basis (weekly, monthly, quarterly, etc.).
- 4- **Serving** – Faithful members serve within and well as outside of their congregation. They are readers, eucharistic ministers, teachers, sing in the choir, ushers. Every member has talents to offer within worship and other church programs. And every member should volunteer in outreach activities. Those include spending time with homebound members, assisting the Diaper Bank, volunteering at Jubilee Kitchen, etc.
- 5- **Sharing** – Faithful members share their faith with people around them. This may be through acts of kindness. This may be offering prayer for a stranger, friend, or family member. In vocal as well as demonstrative ways, a faithful member communicates Christ's compassion and salvation. She or he also articulates why her or his faith community is important.

Jesus commands his disciples to be doers of The Word, and not hearers only. The season of Lent harkens all of us to seek repentance, sacrifice our selfishness for the betterment of our neighbors, and to share in Christ's mission of reconciliation and justice. Hamilton's and The Church of The Resurrection's membership guidelines offer benchmarks for faith. Which one will you commit to claiming this month?



Safeguarding God's Children Initial and Renewal Training (Emphasis on New Commonwealth Laws regarding who must take such training and mandatory reporting procedures. (Now Scheduled for later in April))

We are a very fortunate and blessed church community to have so many children and youth who are our members and/or participate and benefit from programs and activities such as serving as acolytes, visiting and supporting the Diaper Bank, and having fun at the Saturday Trains program. Our responsibility as this Episcopal parish is to do everything that we can to protect and nurture these young people.

Updated and more strident Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Keep Kids Safe laws as well as Diocese of Central PA Prevention and Response policies require that all volunteers, paid employees, clergy, and contracted vendors/assistants who directly interface with and/or supervise children must undergo and be current with the Episcopal Church's and The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's protective and reporting guidelines for preventing sexual and child abuse in our congregation. No individual who has a civil or criminal record of child sexual abuse OR who has admitted to prior child sexual abuse OR who is known to have a paraphiliac diagnosis (for example, of pedophilia, exhibitionism, or voyeurism) OR who is known to have been a perpetrator of sexual misconduct shall be permitted to interact with minors at any church sponsored or church related activity on or off the church property.

Persons required to accomplish the necessary background checks and associated training include:

NOTE: Members who participated in Safeguarding God's Children training last year do not need to accomplish the training. However, please provide your background materials to Dee or Deb Stayer as quickly as possible.

(A) All clergy whether stipendiary, non-stipendiary, or otherwise, canonically resident or not, who are engaged in ministry or service to the church.

(B) All paid personnel (including all church employees), whether employed in areas of ministry or other kinds of services by the diocese, its congregations, schools, or other agencies, including all relevant individuals who have keys to a church's physical facilities.

(C) Those individuals who contract their services to the diocese, its congregations, schools, or other agencies, including all relevant individuals who have keys to a church's physical facilities.

(D) All volunteers, including any person who offers him or herself for a church related service, or who assists with or performs a service, whether they have been selected or assigned to do so, including all relevant individuals who have keys to a church's physical facilities. Volunteers include but are not limited to members of Vestries, Advisory Boards, Commissions, Committees, Boards of Directors, Sunday School Teachers, Nursery Workers, Youth Workers, Lay Eucharistic Visitors, and all individuals who supervise

children and youth ministries.

(E) All interns, persons in the ordination process (postulants, candidates, etc.), and other persons serving in field education assignments, including all relevant individuals who have keys to a church's physical facilities.

Anyone at Christ Memorial and/or someone such as the people who volunteer to support the Diaper Bank and/or Saturday trains program are responsible for complying with these rules and laws. Such volunteers, members, and friends of Christ Memorial must obtain the following information **ASAP**:

PENNSYLVANIA CHILD ABUSE HISTORY CLEARANCE FROM THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES - This is a certification from the Department of Human Services as to whether the applicant is named in the State-wide database as the alleged perpetrator in a pending child abuse investigation or as the perpetrator of a founded report or an indicated report. <http://keepkidssafe.pa.gov/resources/clearances/index.htm> (free online application for volunteers)

STATE POLICE CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD CHECK - This is a report of criminal history record information from the Pennsylvania State Police or a statement from the Pennsylvania State Police that the State Police central repository contains no such information relating to that person. Volunteers can get a new records check here.

FEDERAL CRIMINAL HISTORY BACKGROUND CHECK FROM THE FBI (fingerprinting - \$22.60 FOR VOLUNTEERS – **talk with Jim** if the cost of the check is a hindrance for volunteering) - The applicant shall submit a full set of fingerprints to the Pennsylvania State Police for the purpose of a record check, and the Pennsylvania State Police or its authorized agent shall submit the fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for the purpose of verifying the identity of the applicant and obtaining a current record of any criminal arrests and/or convictions.

NOTE: Volunteers who are not required to obtain the FBI Clearance because they are applying for an unpaid position and have been a continuous resident of Pennsylvania for the past 10 years must swear or affirm in writing that they are not disqualified from service based upon a conviction of an offense under §6344.

SAFE GUARDING GOD'S CHILDREN Clergy and certain categories of laity are also required to complete Safeguarding God's Children training as mandated by General Convention and by the Diocese:

The Child Protective Services Law specifies that any individual who comes into contact with children (meaning minors, i.e., all children and youth) in the course of his or her work or professional practice is a mandated reporter of child abuse. **Non-paid and voluntary personnel are also mandated reporters if they come into contact with children (meaning minors, i.e., all children and youth) during the course of their volunteer work.** Therefore, pursuant to the Pennsylvania Code, church personnel volunteering for/with or employed for/with a child care service, a school, or a program, activity, or service responsible for a child's/children's welfare OR having direct contact with children and/or youth are **MANDATED REPORTERS** for suspected child abuse. A mandated reporter must make a report of suspected child abuse if they have reasonable cause to suspect that a child is a victim of child abuse under any of the following circumstances:

- They have contact with the child as part of work or through a regularly scheduled program activity or service OR
- They are responsible for the child or work for an agency that is directly responsible for the child OR
- Someone makes a specific disclosure to the mandated reporter and the child is identifiable. This includes children that the mandated reporter may not know through their work or volunteer position OR
- A person 14 years old or older makes a disclosure that he/she has committed child abuse. This includes children that the mandated reporter may not know through their work or volunteer position.
- The child does NOT have to come before the mandated reporter in order for the mandated reporter to make a report of suspected child abuse.

NOTE: Mandated reporters must not try to determine whether abuse has happened. They are not investigators and should not ask questions about what happened, who did it, and so forth beyond reaching the threshold of reasonable cause to suspect that the child has been abused.

This is a large deal of information to process and act upon. The vestry will be discussing this matter in earnest at its Feb.9 meeting. Church members are welcome, as always, to attend that portion or all of the meeting. Please contact Jim, Debbie Stayer, or Susan Nunan if you have questions or need further information.

Upcoming Lenten Events:

Lenten Book Study – Tiny Habits



- Anchor Moments
- New Tiny Behaviors
- Immediate Celebration

Wanna give something up for Lent and/or replace it with something transformational. Here's an opportunity learn how. Order your Tiny Habits book (and get a free toolkit if you order soon)! Come to the first gathering on Sunday March 1st @ 9:00 am or Wednesday March 4th following Stations of the Cross (~ 6:00 pm)

Spirituality Circle: We will continue our "Spiritual Enlightenment Meditation Circle". It begins at 6pm and lasts for about an hour. Bring a pillow or a mat for comfort or come and sit on a chair or in the pews. We are circling in the choir pews located near the Altar.

And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed. - Mark 1:35

Ken Altenbach

Times and dates Tea and Testament The Way of the Rosary will be announced at a latter time.

Birthdays in March	
1- Susan Nunan	24- Mary Altenbach
6- Jen Kessler	24- Helen Deskie
13- Emily Latishaw	27- Jamie Sidler
14- Robin Kessler	
23- Bob Bomboy	

Vestry Meeting Minutes January 19, 2020

Present: Dave Peterson, Erin Ryan, Kathy Sidler, Jen Patterson, Michelle Walczak, Barb Rhoades, Doug Cummings and Tom Dulsky

Opening: Father Jim called the meeting to order and opened with Prayer.

Motion: Dave made a motion to have Michelle Walczak remain as Junior Warden and for myself (Tom Dulsky) to remain as the Clerk of the Vestry. Barb seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0-0.

Joint Vestry Retreat: This retreat will occur on February 15th from 10:00am- 5pm. It will be held at St. Paul's and the meeting will include the members from our vestry and St. Paul's vestry.

Circle Around the Lights: Father Jim will be hosting this event at Christ Memorial. It will be held on January 31st and February 1st at 4:00pm.

Closing: Father Jim ended the meeting with a closing prayer.

Next Meeting: February 9th, 2020 at 11:45 am

Respectfully Submitted by:

Tom Dulsky

March 2020						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:00 AM Eucharist 9:00 AM Choir 9:00 AM Tiny Habits 10:00 AM Eucharist	2 7:00-9:00 PM Frosty Friends (Community Room)	3	4 5:30 – Stations of The Cross 6:15 – Tiny Habits 7:00 PM Penn Writers	5 6:00 PM Spirituality Circle	6	7 10:00-12:00 Trains and Diaper Bank
8 Spring Forward – Daylight Savings Time 8:00 AM Eucharist 9:00 AM Choir 9:00 AM Tiny Habits 10:00 AM Eucharist 11:15 AM Share the Love Food Drive – Community Room 11:15 AM Vestry Meeting	9	10 6:00 PM Spirituality Circle	11 5:30 – Stations of The Cross 6:15 – Tiny Habits	12	13	14 10:00-12:00 Trains and Diaper Bank
15 8:00 AM Eucharist 9:00 AM Choir 9:00 AM Tiny Habits 10:00 AM Eucharist 11:15 Community Service Organization Presentation – Community Room	16	17	18 5:30 – Stations of The Cross 6:15 – Tiny Habits	19 6:00 PM Spirituality Circle	20	21 10:00-12:00 Trains and Diaper Bank 1:00 – 4:00 Safeguarding God's Children
22 8:00 AM Eucharist 9:00 AM Choir 9:00 AM Tiny Habits 10:00 AM Eucharist	23	24 6:00 PM Spirituality Circle	25 5:30 – Stations of The Cross 6:15 – Tiny Habits	26	27	28 10:00-12:00 Trains and Diaper Bank

March 2020						
29 8:00 AM Eucharist 9:00 AM Choir 9:00 AM Tiny Habits 10:00 AM Eucharist	30	31				