

THE CORNERSTONE

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind-- just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you-- so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. ([1 Corinthians 1: 4-9](#))

It is another cloudy day here. By the looks of it, according to [this chart](#), more than half of our days here in Central PA are overcast. I'm guessing that many of those overcast days occur in Wintertime. It is ironic then that the [Season of Epiphany](#) occurs at this time. Epiphany's gospel readings all offer miraculous moments such as Jesus' baptism, Jesus' presentation in The Temple, and The Transfiguration. On the other hand, Epiphany is coincidentally [Ordinary Time](#). Such time is ordinary given that it occurs outside of the church calendar's major seasons (Advent, Christmas-tide, Lent, Easter-tide). We live out our Christian faith and into Christ's baptism, life, death, and resurrection in our ordinary lives. Many such days are cloudy and unpredictable.



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

FOR ONCE YOU WERE
DARKNESS BUT NOW IN THE LORD YOU ARE LIGHT LIVE AS
CHILDREN OF LIGHT • FOR EVERYTHING THAT BECOMES
VISIBLE IS LIGHT THEREFORE IT SAYS • SLEEPER AWAKE!
RISE FROM THE DEAD AND CHRIST WILL SHINE ON YOU •

For Once You Were Darkness, Hazel Dolby, Copyright 2011, The Saint John's Bible, Saint John's University, Collegeville, Minnesota USA. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

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This New Year offers us many opportunities and challenges to contemplate and act upon with (extra)ordinary thoughts, words, and deeds. I think 2020 is a really keen time to consider how to be present to our lives with the best vision we can possess. (pun intended). It is an election year – fraught with deep political and sociological divisions. Humanity must choose whether we will adopt different ways of living on this planet and accept the consequences of continued climate change. We are eradicating hundreds of plants and animals.

Closer to home, Christ Memorial has its own set of decisions to make and act upon in the new decade. The parish is blessed with abundant financial and operational resources – much more so than most of the other churches in the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania. Yet, Sunday attendance and participation in Christian Education programs is generally stagnant. Christ Memorial possesses capacity to exercise authentic leadership in the diocese's [Shaped by Faith](#) initiatives. Does this church yearn to collaborate with nearby Episcopal and ecumenical partners to achieve optimal congregational vitality that is collaborative and mutually beneficial inside and outside of Christ Memorial's walls and

worship? Even closer in still – each of us should take time while we're cozy in our heated and well-lit homes to resolve what objectives we seek to establish for ourselves in the coming days and decade. How will we best balance the messiness and miraculous manner of being human beginning on Jan. 1, 2020?

I've spent a great deal of time while I've been with you studying and practicing [Cognitive Behavioral Therapy](#) (CBT). CBT provides practitioners techniques and tools for contending with and overcoming trauma and daily problem-solving. Simplistically a person considers and acts upon what internal and external factors and emotions trigger their thoughts and behaviors as well as the consequences of their behavioral reactions and responses. This work requires [emotional resilience](#).

I think about observing, analyzing, and intervening into such practices as striving to allow God to shine a bit of light onto my daily life. Spending time with these practices provides openness to experiencing mini-epiphanies. If you're interested in resolving to develop greater resilience, I encourage you to complete the VIA Institute on Character's



Figure 1 - Elements of Resilience - [Positive Psychology.com](#)

[Strengths Survey](#) during the first week of 2020. This assessment will offer you a clear perspective on what are your greatest virtues as well as areas of your life that you can apply these strengths to become more resilient and wholehearted. Similarly, I encourage everyone who is a friend or member of Christ Memorial to attend this year's annual meeting on Jan. 19, 2020. The church has many things to consider and act upon. Some things are simple like whether the second service should begin at 10 am or 10:30 am. Some things are more opportune such as contributing to the development of the parish's Year with The Saint John's Bible. Other things are more adventurous and illuminating, including developing a stronger understanding and support for Christ Memorial's engagement with Shaped by Faith processes.

My prayer for everyone at Christ Memorial is that 2020 will illumine a bright and daring path into the possibilities and pitfalls of the New Year and daring '20s. May God grant us creative aspirations. May Christ open our hearts, minds, and bodies to proclaim The Gospel. May the Holy Spirit nudge and nourish with God's breath and delightful Love. May we gain and express our gifts to shine through winter's clouds into the hearts of other people and the world around us.

Blessings along The Way, Jim

[Scott Gunn](#), Executive Director of [Forward Movement](#), reminds us that we are to [proclaim Epiphany](#)'s arrival nlt Jan. 6th. So here we go:



ear friends in Christ, the glory of the Lord has shone upon us, and shall ever be manifest among us, until the day of his return. Through the rhythms of times and seasons let us celebrate the mysteries of salvation. Let us recall the year's culmination, the Easter Triduum of the Lord: his last supper, his crucifixion, his burial, and his rising celebrated between the evening of the ninth day of April and the evening of the eleventh day of April. ...

...Likewise the pilgrim Church proclaims the passover of Christ in the feasts of the holy Mother of God, in the feasts of the Apostles and Saints, and in the commemoration of the faithful departed.

To Jesus Christ, who was, who is, and who is to come, Lord of time and history, be endless praise, for ever and ever. Amen.

You can read the rest of the Epiphany Proclamation [here](#).

Announcements and Upcoming Events:

Annual Meeting: We will have our Annual Congregational Meeting on **Sunday, January 19th**, following a single, **9:30 AM worship service**. The budget and committee reports will be presented. The Vestry also asks that all come prepared to offer stories about what the gaps are between what they desire at CMEC and what actually is going on. What can we do to make our congregation even better than it already is.

Committee Reports for the Annual Meeting are due to the office **no later than January 15th**, to allow time for copies to be prepared for the meeting.

We have a new Parish Administrator! Dorlisa Frank (D for short) will be starting Monday January 6th. She will be doing lots in the office, as well as the day-to-day bookkeeping tasks for the congregation. Please feel free to stop by and say hello Monday, Wednesday and Friday during the middle of the day to say hello and help her put names to faces.

Tea and Testament time will be **January 13th at 2:00 PM** at the Altenbach home.

The Way of the Rosary will be **January 22nd at 6:00pm** at the Altenbach home.

Birthdays in January	
1- Barbara Coates	16- Kayla Stayer
3- Debra Bleistein	17- Helen Linker
5- Erin Sidler	19- Deborah K. Williams
6- Jennifer Llewellyn	21- Rosanna Nunan
11- Jim Jenkins	26- Cotter Nunan
11- George Reabuck	28- Suni Koshy Thomas
13- Scotlyn Owens	



Would you be interested in making a new year's resolution in getting to know a bit of the Bible? Then join us and other Episcopalians – including our friends at St. Paul's Bloomsburg by becoming a member of the [Good Book Club](#). Each week, from Jan. 6th until Feb. 27th we'll learn more about the Gospel of John. You

have at least two options. You can study at 9am on Sunday mornings at CMEC. We'll use the Saint John's Bible as a special resource for our studies. You can also join in St. Paul's Adult Education classes on Monday or Tues. You can also read a bit of the gospel each day throughout [Epiphany Season](#). Your first step is to [sign up](#) and then show up on Jan. 5.

CMEC Vestry Meeting

November 10, 2019

Present: Father Jim, Dave Peterson, Erin Ryan, Kathy Sidler, Tom Dulskey, Jennifer Patterson and Scott from St. Pauls' (Bloomsburg)

Opening: Father Jim opened with prayer and reflection.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the October meeting on October 13th were previously distributed. Motion made by Kathy and seconded by Jen to accept minutes as submitted. Motion passed 5/0/0.

Reports:

1. Treasurer's Report:

a. Credit Cards- The cards with \$2,500 are currently being processed. One card will be provided to Michelle.

b. Giving- The pledge campaign was started this morning. Parishioners received statement and pledge card. Web/online giving is available. Doug has 50 envelopes to district should a parishioner request them.

c. Check Received- We received a check from Central Susquehanna Community Foundation, and it was deposited into our money market. The current total is \$275,000.

d. Profit and Loss- Doug reviewed the reason for the numbers on the fair share budget line (we did not give from last year) and we are well over on the maintenance and repair line because of the door project taking longer than anticipated.

e. Money Market- Father Jim suggested having a conversation about the money in the money market in January.

f. Bookkeeping- Jen may potentially quite her position. It was mentioned that she has trouble effectively communicating with other individuals. Father Jim will contact Lane who does the bookkeeping for St. Paul's (Bloomsburg)

1. Priest in Charge's Report:

g. Parish Life- Parish is healthy!

h. St. John's Bible and the Shape by Faith Work- The open house had others joining us from outside the parish. There were some "seeds planted" that may bear new fruit. The schedule for the St. John's Bible needs to get out of the church walls.

i. Services- Judy's service will occur next Tuesday at 7:00pm. Father Jim would like to have the Christmas services here at our sanctuary.

j. Diocesan Convention Update- The convention was all about the Shape by Faith initiative

Senior Warden:

Budget- Dave spent a lot of time working with Victor on the budget.

Saint Paul's/ Christ Memorial Update- blending vestries

Shaped by Faith- next meeting is the 24th at Lewisburg

Junior Warden :A written report was submitted as follows:

The following were accomplished:

- Church heat was regulated for the season.
- Wall air unit in office was serviced due to a water leak. New door was ordered for unit in community room.
- Orkin Pest Control contract was established due to a report of mouse droppings found in the sacristy, as well as follow-up after treatment for bugs found in church last year. Quarterly service began on 11/09/19 for the rectory and the church.
- Roof flashing above Pine Street door was repaired 11/2/19. The contractor also found and repaired loose flashing on the other side of the same gable. A final report will be sent to the church insurance company.
- Sound system microphones had been ordered since spring, but on backorder. A second face mike was picked up from Gelnett for All Saints Sunday, but it was discovered that we had no battery pack that fit with the mike. A technician from Gelnett came 11/9/19 to re-evaluate our equipment. We will be receiving new battery packs and lapel mikes; current hand-held mike is sufficient. All new equipment will comply with new FCC regulations.
- Replacement doors for 4 damaged rectory kitchen cabinet doors were ordered from Lewisburg Builders Supply.

Upcoming plans:

- Church and rectory gardens will be cleared and cleaned for fall by landscaper.
- Contract with Orkin for spring and fall exterior treatment. Ehrlich has already treated for this fall.
- Contractor will be called for repair of broken lantern lamp outside Market street doors, as well as broken anchor and light bulb outside Pine Street Stained glass window.
- Telephone conference with Lezzer Doors representative planned for 11/12/19 to further refine electronic door program.
- Replacement doors will be installed in rectory kitchen.
- Community room entrance to be cleaned out- searching for new location for all that is there.

- Evaluate contents of basement beyond diapers.
- Explore cost of refurbishing the west doors in the worship space (2020).
- Clean out grease trap in basement underneath kitchen.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle A. Walczak

1. Cemetery:

- No Written Report Submitted

2. Advertising:

- Money was spent for postcards, bookmarks and posters to advertise the St. John's Bible.

3. Mission and Outreach

- Mary is happy with the shoe box ministry. She will be getting cards from Weis and Walmart. It took about an hour to unload the Diaper Bank truck.

- Sunday School- What will it look like in the future???

Finance Committee

- No Written Report Submitted
- The vestry went through each line of the budget with the recommendation to increase salaries.

OLD BUSINESS:

1.Vestry and Warden Nominations

- Potential vestry members- Barb Rhodes, John Keller, Randy Jones???, Karen Jenkins???

NEW BUSINESS:

1.Blue Sunday

- Afternoon one Sunday have a time for individuals to come to a church that is quiet, and it can be whatever people want. Just sit with the people who show up????

2.Next Meeting: December 8th, 2019 @ 12:00 Noon

Respectfully Submitted by:

Tom Dulsky

January 2020						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 7:00 PM Penn Writers	2	3	4 10:00-12:00 Trains and Diaper Bank
5 8:00 AM Eucharist 9:00 AM Choir 10:00 AM Eucharist	6 7:00-9:00 PM Frosty Friends (Community Room)	7	8	9	10	11 10:00-12:00 Trains and Diaper Bank
12 8:00 AM Eucharist 9:00 AM Choir 10:00 AM Eucharist 2:00 PM Tea and Testament (Altenbach's)	13	14	15	16	17	18 10:00-12:00 Trains and Diaper Bank
19 9:30 AM Eucharist 11:00 Congregational Annual Meeting	20	21 6:00 PM Way of the Rosary (Altenbach's)	22	23	24	25 10:00-12:00 Trains and Diaper Bank
26 8:00 AM Eucharist 9:00 AM Choir 10:00 AM Eucharist	27	28	29	30	31	