

THE CORNERSTONE

He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." Simon answered, "Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets." ([Luke 5: 3-5](#))

I learned how to swim when I was a little boy. My mom took me to YMCA swimming classes. We started by paddling in a very safe, small wadding pool. Breath by breath, we graduated from the baby pool to bigger pools – only in the shallow end though. Mom handed me over the expert lifeguards. We practiced there with life preservers and lots of adult supervision. The next phase was to swim without the life preservers. By the end of the summer, I swam freestyle and the backstroke pretty good. I wasn't an expert by any means.

I don't know when I dove into the deep end and/or began swimming from the shallow end past the safety ropes into the deep end. Maybe I was teased into doing it. I remember swimming in the ocean for the first time. I didn't hesitate. I was excited to get into the water and go for it. I learned how to bogie board and body surf that summer. It was awesome! Looking back, I had to swim in all sorts of safer situations before I could truly enjoy plunging into deeper waters.

The lesson of Jesus directing his disciples to cast their nets into the water seems like a similar experience. They have been working for a long time and seem unprepared to cast into the deeper waters for another catch. There's one big difference though. They were expert fishermen. Peter and the others are not novices like I was when I was learning how to swim. Fishing is their livelihood. It must have seemed preposterous for a carpenter -rabbi to tell them how to fish. Nonetheless, they elect to put down their nets –



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



Spencer Watson - [Spanish Banks Beach - Canada](#)

Christ Memorial Episcopal Church
156 East Market Street
Danville, PA 17821
Office email: cmecdanville@ptd.net
Tel: 570-275-3903
Priest in Charge: Father Jim Strader-Sasser
Father Jim's email: cmecjim@ptd.net
Facebook: www.facebook.com/christmemorialepiscopal/



acting on their faith in the One who urges them to go further than they would on their own.

What's the outcome? They pull in a catch bigger than they could have anticipated. Their reward is so great that Peter becomes frightened. "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" ([Luke 5:8](#)). Jesus encourages them to set aside their fears. Get out of their boats and follow him into the world to proclaim the gospel. Talk about swimming around in life's really deep waters without life preservers or the

coziness of a sunny beach.

Yet, these are the waters that God beckons us as Christians into. Our call as disciples is not to simply swim around in the security of our homes, neighborhoods, and Sunday morning church services. Actually, those experiences can be turbulent waters. We don't know when an unexpected schedule change is going to happen. We can't control completely how our children, spouses, and neighbors are going to behave. Thus, we probably prefer the security that our church provides from each week's chaos. Established church rituals offer us a life preserver to keep us from drowning. Lack of change also prevents us from exploring the world around us as John, James, and Peter did. We have a lot more control in the boats of our worship lives than we do wandering around and trying something new.



[Clean Beach](#) - Erin McGee Ferrell

I sense that there's a willingness to swim into some deeper waters here at Christ Memorial. This community, with some divine encouragement and renewed faith is ready to swim past the safety ropes – maybe even dive into the deep end from the 10-meter diving platform. There are bogie boards of joys out there in the ocean of our lives. Lord knows that there are plenty of mission opportunities around to throw the parish's human and financial resources into this year.

The first step, or stroke if you will is to say yes when The Lord beckons. Surely- God knows our weaknesses and strengths. We don't have to learn how to swim in faithful waters without lifeguards. We have one another and The Word. The Holy Spirit doesn't demand perfection. Faith, Hope, and Love are more than enough to follow Christ Jesus out of the security of our lives into the deep and uncertain waters of the future. Let's take off our preservers and dive into an ocean of opportunities.

May we be attentive to God's presence around us and willing to walk believing in God's power and grace. Really, really extraordinary miracles happen when we claim our inheritance to seek God's will.

Blessings along The Way, Jim

Announcements and Upcoming Events:

LENT IS COMING! Which means that we will be needing to kick it off right, with a pancake supper on **Tuesday, March 5th from 6:00 pm** until the dishes are done. Pancakes, eggs, bacon, sausage, syrup, OJ, and of course, coffee will be available for one and all to enjoy. Bring your family, bring a friend, and we will use up all the fat in the house before the liturgical season of Lent is upon us.

Outreach Committee Meeting Open to all, please bring your ideas, suggestions, thoughts and prayers as we find ways to assist those in our community who are not as fortunate as we are. If you have questions, or would like to drop a suggestion off and can't be there, get in touch with Mary Altenbach.

The Sunday School is looking for assistance. There are too many children! While this is a wonderful problem, help is needed. If you can help out with this important ministry, either with the little ones in the Nursery or with the Elementary aged children in the classroom, please talk to **Susan Nunan** or **Father Jim**.

Diocesan Staff in Residence. Come and spend the day with us! Diocesan Staff will be In-Residence in the Susquehanna Convocation on **Wednesday, Feb. 27** at Christ Memorial Church, Danville. Come for Bible Study, Worship, an afternoon appointment or the whole day.

Schedule an appointment with any staff member to discuss ideas/topics/questions in areas of Communications, Finance, Congregational Development, Stevenson School for Ministry, Events and everything in between. Bishop Scanlan will also be available for appointments. All are welcome!

For an appointment, contact Carolyn Joy Patterson, cpatterson@diocesecpa.org

Church Administrator needed. With the departure of Jenn, we are in need a bit of help. It would be about one day of work per week (split in two if needed) to handle the administrative tasks that need to be done, from making the bulletins, to gathering and sorting the mail, to keeping the directory and mailboxes up to date. If you know somebody who is up to the job, have them contact **Father Jim** or **Dave Peterson**.

Tea and Testament time will be **February 3rd at 2:00 PM** at the Altenbach home.

The Way of the Rosary will be **February 19th at 6:00pm** at the Altenbach home.

Priest's Office Hours: Jim is usually in the office on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. However it is best to schedule an appointment with him if you seek dedicated time to talk. He's happy to meet at Boil Line, Old Forge, your home or elsewhere- just email him to set up a time together.

Birthdays in February	
2- Maryann Richards	15- Sophie Stobo
10- Julia Cummings	17- Allison Bleistein
13- Beverly Peterson	21- Janet Steele
14- Pamela Salwocki	23- Jennie Johnson

Circle Way Retreat Reflection:

I have attended one of the most exhilarating and passionate retreats in my life time. When I was invited to be part of the "Circling Around the Light," I felt I was being called to attend. The retreat served two purpose for me, 1-Learning who I am and getting back to the way our ancestors used to communicate in circles. Each of the presenters had brought their wisdom of what they learned and challenged each of us to be open, learn from them, then continue to pass on what we learned. In a circle, everyone is a leader.

Ken

Vestry Minutes for December 9, 2018

Christ Memorial Episcopal Church Vestry Meeting 9 December 2018

In Attendance : Father Jim, Becky Sutherland, David Peterson, Doug Cummings, Michelle Walczak, Greg Harvey, Mary Altenbach, Erin Ryan, Deb Noll, Victor Koons, Barbara Rhoades and Kathy Sidler.

Father Jim opened us with a circle prayer and check-in.

The Vestry opened with a presentation of the proposed 2019 Budget by Victor and Greg. Becky made a motion to accept the budget as presented. Michelle seconded. The budget was passed unanimously and will be presented to the Congregation at the Annual Meeting in January.

A bequest was made to the church by Samuel S. Miller Trust. Dave made a motion to accept the bequest as required by Fulton Bank. Barb seconded. The motion passed unanimously and was signed by the appropriate people.

At this point Victor and Greg left the meeting.

Dave made a motion to accept the minutes from the November Meeting. Deb seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Rector's Report: Pastoral Care requirements have been brisk.

Senior Warden's Report: The Bylaw's have been sent out to the congregation. There were two response that indicated spelling and punctuation that needed to be amended. The changes will be presented at the January Annual Meeting. We received a thank you note from Susan Nunan for funding her trip to Haiti. Dave will pass along the thanks to the Outreach committee.

Junior Warden's Report: A new toilet was installed in the Rectory. The dishwasher was repaired in the rectory. The thermostats have been reprogrammed throughout the church, please don't change them without talking to Michelle. Gray Builders has finished its portion of its work for the doors. We are awaiting Lezzer Doors returning to finish the project.

Upcoming: Work part to redo the brick walkway until spring. The new cabinet for the office is to be installed shortly. New doors for the rectory sink are on order. Weather-stripping for the rectory will be installed this week. Gray builders will be installing door sweeps shortly.

Advertising Committee: Father Jim has made some updates to the website and Facebook pages.

Missions and Outreach: Two weeks ago they met and decided how to allocate their remaining money from the 2018 budget.

Treasurers Report: Given the generous amount of money in the Money Market account, the Treasurer and the Finance committee needs to sit down in January to discuss how that money should be allocated. Otherwise finances are in very good condition.

Old Business:

2019 Vestry and Treasurer: Two new vestry members have been recruited. Doug will begin as treasurer in the new year, and the by-laws do not allow the Treasurer to serve on the Vestry and will be unable to serve in the new year. Father Jim will craft a note to the congregation about the state of the Vestry.

New Business:

Circling around the Light: Father Jim would like to engage with the convocation by putting a workshop/retreat together on February 1-2 for the convocation to engage with each other. The Diocese, our congregation and St. Paul's are putting together the money to pay for the speakers and meals. Online announcements have been made, and it will be put out to the congregation in the January Newsletter.

Annual Meeting: The Annual Meeting will be on January 20th following a single 10:00 worship.

Next Vestry Meeting: January 13, 2019 at 11:30.

Closing Circle and Prayer

February 2019						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Circle Way	2 Circle Way 10:00-12:00 Trains and Diaper Bank
3 8:00 AM Eucharist 9:00 AM Choir 10:00 AM Eucharist 2:00 PM Tea and Testament (Altenbach's)	4 7:00-9:00 PM Frosty Friends (Community Room)	5	6 7:00 PM Penn Writers	7	8	9 10:00-12:00 Trains and Diaper Bank
10 8:00 AM Eucharist 9:00 AM Choir 10:00 AM Eucharist 11:30 AM Vestry	11	12	13	14	15	16 10:00-12:00 Trains and Diaper Bank
17 8:00 AM Eucharist 9:00 AM Choir 10:00 AM Eucharist	18	19 6:00 PM Way of the Rosary (Altenbach's)	20	21	22	23 10:00-12:00 Trains and Diaper Bank
24 8:00 AM Eucharist 9:00 AM Choir 10:00 AM Eucharist	25	26	27 Diocesan Staff In-Residence 10:30-4:00	28		