

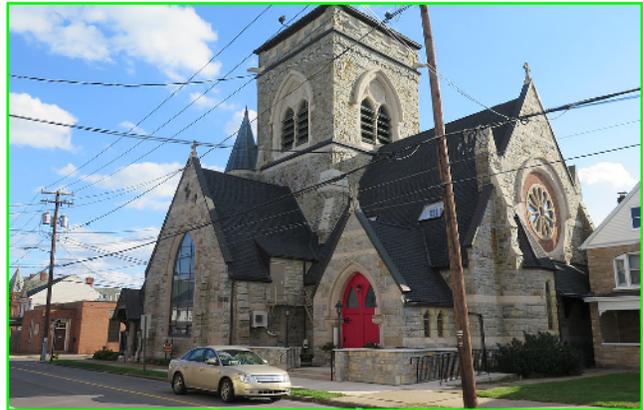
# THE CORNERSTONE

*10 "Whoever is faithful with little is also faithful with much, and the one who is dishonest with little is also dishonest with much. 11 If you haven't been faithful with worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? 12 If you haven't been faithful with someone else's property, who will give you your own? 13 No household servant can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be loyal to the one and have contempt for the other. (Luke 16: 10-12)*

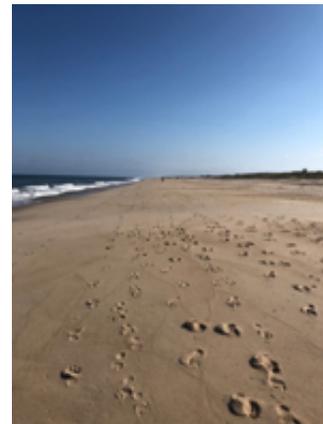
Howie and I got back today from five wonderful days on the Delaware and New Jersey beaches. I enjoy time by the Atlantic Ocean because it requires me to pay attention to what is happening right in front of me. When I pay attention, I see the most wonderfully simple things such as a tiny grey hermit crab scurrying out of its hole and heading across the beach. Looking into my spouse's beautifully green eyes over a candlelight birthday dinner is a treasured moment.

There were two moments that I'll share with you. The first one was before sunrise; I woke up early as I sometimes do. It was about 5:15 am when I walked out the door and across the street to Dewey Beach. There were a few clouds in the sky but much of the eastern sky was visible. [Betelgeuse](#) was shining like a fiery spike in Orion's shoulder. [Sirius](#) was as bright as always. The Seven Sisters ([Pleiades](#)) were huddled together lighting the way for sailors as they have done since Ancient Greek times. I became even more excited when a couple of meteorites zoomed across the sky. Slowly yet steadily, the stars dimmed as the earth and ocean tumbled over themselves to greet the sun on Delaware's eastern horizon. I did my best to hear the wind, smell the sand, see the spectacles of daybreak; all the while recalling that each of these coincidental moments is not the same as the one that preceded or followed it.

Howie and I took a ferry trip over to Cape May to see the sites and enjoy being on the Delaware Bay. We had some time to spare; so, by pure chance we decided to drive out to [Cape May](#)



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



*Footprints on ever-changing sand  
-photo by Howell Sasser*

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[State Park](#). We didn't realize that we were visiting one of the best places in the United States to observe raptors. It is a little early for many of these powerful birds to migrate further south. However, we did see an osprey or two, and a blue heron. They caught my attention as well as admiring the friendly community of birdwatchers who shared their expensive optical gear and kind wisdom.

Jesus reminds us to be faithful in little so as to learn to be faithful in much. He further guides us to pay attention to experiences that are eye-catching and mindboggling. Secular life requires us to be dedicated to matters at hand such as school, work, and other commitments. These tasks are essential and life offers a much broader scope for encountering God in and beyond mundane circumstances.

September brings us into a change of season. Nights slowly become longer and cooler. Birds begin migrating south as school buses move early in the morning from one house to the next.

Life inside, outside, and around Christ Memorial is changing too. You're going to hear more about matters such as Shaped by Faith and the Saint John's Bible. There will be surprising movements of God's Spirit and unexpected wonders when we pay attention to life happening around us. I invite all of us to recall which masters we serve with our lives and why we place our wealth where we do. God's presence is available on vacation beaches, meals with loved ones, and the simplicity of sensing our own breath on the sands of time.

Blessings along The Way, Jim

### **Diocese Family Day at Camp Mount Luther.**

Our family attended the Family Day at Camp Mount Luther that the diocese put together on August 24th. A great time was had by all! There was a great gathering activity, with a checklist of people to introduce, play-dough bible study, lunch, a ropes course and short hike, capped off with an informal worship service with some great camp songs.

The Cummings Family



## Announcements and Upcoming

**Vestry Meeting Sunday September 8th at 11:30pm.** All who are interested are invited to attend.

**Shaped by Faith Session #2.** The Diocese will be holding the 2nd Shaped by Faith workshop for the convocation on **Sunday September 22nd** at St. Pauls in Bloomsburg. If you are interested in this conversation about the changing nature of ‘church’ within the diocese, get in touch with Father Jim.

**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**.

**Tea and Testament** time will be **September 8th at 2:00 PM** at the Altenbach home.

**The Way of the Rosary** will be **September 17th at 6:00pm** at the Altenbach home.

<b>Birthdays in September</b>	<b>Anniversaries in September</b>
1- Thomas Kessler	4- Dave and Maryann Richards
2- Shawn Patterson	17- Mark and Ursula Kessler
8- Helen Swartz	18- Dave and Beverly Peterson
14- Kathy Sidler	
15- Becky Sutherland	
16- Lauren Bleistein	
20- Kathy Smith	
27- Hayden Patterson	
29- Emilie Koshy Thomas	

## **CMEC Vestry Meeting Minutes June 9, 2019**

**Present:** Father Jim, Dave Peterson, Erin Ryan, Michelle Walczak, Tom Dulsky, Jennifer Patterson

**Opening:** Father Jim opened with prayer and a Pentecost Gospel reading.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes from the May meeting on May 14<sup>th</sup> were previously distributed. Motion made by Erin and seconded by Dave to accept minutes as submitted. Motion passed 5/0/0.

### **Reports:**

#### **Rectors Report:**

Written Report is as follows:

##### Easter-Tide

Attendance slightly down from 2 previous years

Saint John's Bible

Weddings x 3 – One more to do.

Spring Convocation Meeting- here- 6/18 @ 6pm

Hospitality

Summer Opportunities

Flash Mob attendance throughout convocation.

We need people to sign up.

My inference is that the congregation system is “re-freezing.”

St. John's Bible may be a “battery” for new emphasis on Christian formation.

Other resources?

Summer lull +2 years in place.

Request from St. Paul's warden for another meeting between St. Paul's and CMEC.

How do churches best synergize with one another?

Interim Rector called

What issues exist in our neighborhoods and towns that we should be engaging with our Christian worship and presence?

Shaping our Faith program being rolled out in Oct./Nov.

Educational Opportunities

Fire and Ice- Peebles, OH – October – 19

Saint John's Bible "Deep Dive" July 19

Submitting Application for Cannon for Mission Development and Innovation

Interviewing as a finalist on June 12<sup>th</sup>.

**O Note: A decision was made to create cards that ask the congregation members if they prefer mass at 10am or 10:30am. The cards will be placed in the pews.**

**Senior Warden:**

Dave updated the vestry on his current health status.

Door Project complete- reprogramming seems to be working

Jeremiah Asper- red doors are going to be refurbished- down payment sent

Deal- windows in rectory attic

Microphones have been ordered for the rectory.

Flashing on the building- Jeff Fish \$7,500

Landscaping is underway

Found a Plumber- redid the plumbing in the kitchen rectory

**Cemetery:**

No Written Report Submitted

**Advertising:**

Ads in the newspaper are correct

No Written Report Submitted

Written report is as follows:

May Financial Highlights:

\* Pledged giving is well below where it should be this year. This is one of the reasons that I am trying to get people to register and begin giving through the Realm program, so that giving becomes automatic. I will continue to advocate using it during announcement time, and over the summer will start mirroring the counting process in it so that a record is started.

\* Our maintenance spending this year is well over budget, this was not unexpected, just something to be aware of.

Respectfully Submitted,

Doug Cummings

No Written Report Submitted

Note sent to Victor about getting together with cemetery trust.

Move the cemetery draw from 4 to 5 percent.

Michele will purchase bulk cleaning supplies from Sam's Club.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**St. Paul's/CMEC/Christ Church-Berwick/Mission Mt. Carmel Circle Visioning/Action Steps (Shaped by Faith)**

Meeting in July?

Shared Newsletter

Convocation Parish Administrator

**Youth Formation-**

Visit from St. James- Potomac, MD, Youth Group (June 22,23) – 4 adults, 12 kids

**A Year w/ The St. John's Bible**

Erin made a motion for a discussion to occur about the St. John's Bible. Seconded by Michelle.

It was strongly felt that we need to have a plan in place.

After much discussion, Erin made a motion to spend \$15,000 plus travel expenses upon the condition that a plan is created for its use and we will not receive it prior to a plan being in place. Seconded by Tom. Passed 5-0-0.

**Summer Worship Schedule-**

Flash Mobs at other Susquehanna Convocation Churches

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Convocational Spring Meeting- June 18<sup>th</sup>- 6pm**

**Next Meeting:** July 14th, 2019 @ 12:00 Noon

Respectfully Submitted by:

Tom Dulsky

September 2019						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:00 AM Eucharist 9:00 AM Christian Formation 10:30 AM Eucharist	2	3	4 7:00 PM Penn Writers	5	6	7 10:00-12:00 Trains and Diaper Bank
8 8:00 AM Eucharist 9:00 AM Christian Formation 9:30 AM Choir 10:30 AM Eucharist 11:30 Vestry 2:00 PM Tea and Testament	9 7:00-9:00 PM Frosty Friends (Community Room)	10	11	12	13	14 10:00-12:00 Trains and Diaper Bank
15 8:00 AM Eucharist 9:00 AM Christian Formation 10:30 AM Eucharist	16	17	18	19	20	21 10:00-12:00 Trains and Diaper Bank
22 8:00 AM Eucharist 9:00 AM Christian Formation 10:30 AM Eucharist 2:00-5:00 PM Shaped by Faith St. Pauls	23	24 6:00 PM Way of the Rosary (Altenbach's)	25	26	27	28 10:00-12:00 Trains and Diaper Bank
29 8:00 AM Eucharist 9:00 AM Christian Formation 10:30 AM Eucharist	30					