

December 2021



Reflection From the Rector's Desk

By The Rev. Dr. Richard C. Bauer

On the evening of Tuesday November 9th, our parish administrator Michelle Bentley and vestryman Dr. Randy Westgate accompanied me for a very special dinner and program in celebration of the 30th Anniver-

addiction, combatting the stigma and the shame that so often accompany the topic, with a focus on recognizing addiction as a disease. I got involved with the GOAL Project as the Associate Rector at Saint James when I helped to found an Addiction and Recovery ministry

deaths in the United States, and Lancaster itself has seen a nearly 50% spike in overdose deaths in the past two years, the importance of such ministry in our local context has kept me mindfully aware of the ways in which congregations can play an incredibly important



“It seems to me that the behaviors we exhibit when engaged in our worst compulsions and addictions are often symptoms, like the visible tips of icebergs, whose greater mass resides in the distorted and the unloving narratives that we communicate about ourselves and about the world in which we live. **A bad story can kill us, but a good one can save us.**”

sary of the GOAL Project. GOAL (Global Outreach for Addiction Leadership and Learning) is an organization that prepares and supports faith groups in the community to address challenges of

in the parish to train a core of lay leaders to educate and advocate for healing in individuals and family members dealing with addiction. As Pennsylvania has the fourth highest number of overdose

role in advocacy, prevention, educational training, and recovery support efforts in combatting the disease of addiction.

(Continued on page 2)

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Special points of interest:

- *Worship services and Parish hours are on the back cover of the Scepter*
- *Staff and Vestry Members are listed on the back cover of the Scepter*

ST. EDWARD'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Scepter

Reflection

(Continued from page 1)

Invited to address the group gathered as the evening's keynote speaker, it was my honor and privilege to speak at GOAL's 30th Anniversary Celebration of the way addiction and recovery has underpinned my own life's journey, and how instrumental my Christian faith has been in my own healing and thriving, with God's help. I allowed myself to be vulnerable with the group gathered that evening, and I told them how my mother succumbed to serious depression, started using hard drugs, and left my dad and I when I was still a toddler. I shared that my father remarried a wounded woman whose deep pain manifested in an alcoholism that often left me physically bruised, welted and in fear; and that when I was six, my closest aunt was killed in a drunk driving accident; how in the following year, my mother died of a drug overdose. But I also opened up about my own struggles with substance abuse as a young man. I explained how, touring with rock bands in my twenties, I found myself in circles with folks who normalized heavy drinking and the use of recreational drugs; and how, in many ways, I adapted to my environment. My friends started to die. First it was my childhood buddy and first bandmate, loaded and jumping off a bridge in Seattle. Then it was my old drummer in Vegas, my guitarist on the streets of Miami...another three soon thereafter.

Reflecting in my address, I spoke of how I started getting truly sick and tired of being sick and tired all the time; and how in my exhaustion and my resignation, I started to hear the quiet voice of soul from within my own being again. It was then that I got into meditation, learned how to breathe, and rediscovered the loving and merciful God that had been with me all along. Looking

back, I realized that my own recovery took root when I began to let go of my commitment to being without hope, when I let go of my illusion of control; and how with the help of a caring companion, a person who held a safe enough space for me to have the time and the room that I needed to start working through the hurt that I had been carrying ever since I was a child, my life slowly but surely turned around.

In truth, even here in my mid-forties, I'm still something of that melancholy kid touched by grief and an angry hand. But I am also (and much more so) a child of God, touched by a mercy and a grace that has conveyed to me the undeniable truth of hope and new possibility that comes from letting go of one way of being to make room for something else. For all my desert wandering, I have come to experientially understand that *a light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it*. I want other people to experience and know this as well. Though anecdotal and hardly universal in its application, I shared something of my story that evening to express my heartfelt sense of empathy for those who have been wounded by the addictions of a loved one. I also stood with everyone who felt the profound shame, the loss of faith, and the internal sense of alienation that comes with substance abuse and addiction. While none of us can truly walk in the shoes of another, I do believe that everyone of us can be redeemed, resurrected through the power of the stories that we tell and that we believe to be true. It seems to me that the behaviors we exhibit when engaged in our worst compulsions and addictions are often symptoms, like the visible tips of icebergs, whose greater mass resides in the distorted and the unloving narratives that we communicate about ourselves and about the world in which we

live. **A bad story can kill us, but a good one can save us.**

There was something wonderfully empowering about sharing my own story to model the alleviation of shame and stigma around talking about addiction and recovery. The experience led me to wonder if, perhaps, such a ministry might find fertile soil here at St. Edward's. After all, there is an incredibly high likelihood that a great many of us have either struggled with addiction ourselves or carry wounds from the addictions of those we love. But how might we be able to use our gifts as a caring Christian community to address these problems? Could we be called to start an Addiction & Recovery Ministry of our very own here at St. Edward's? I would certainly like to know if there are folks among us who would be interested in sharing their light and love toward this end. Please know that my heart and mind are open to exploring the possibilities for us. In Christ's love,

Father Rick



Parish Office Hours

Parish Office Hours

Tuesday- Friday:
11:00 – 4:00PM

Parish Administrator
Michelle Bentley

Scepter

Production Staff:
H. J. "Mac" Miller



If you're the last person to leave the building following Sunday services or an event, please take the time to make sure all the lights are turned off (including the rest rooms) the thermostat is reset and the doors are locked.

Vestry

By Peggy J. Hanzelman



The vestry meeting for November began with our Sr. Warden, with all vestry members behind Fr. Rick, presenting him in gratitude with one of our handmade prayer shawls. She offered a prayer and each of the members offered a prayer in thanks for his leadership.

Beth Lynch offered to be the secretary for the vestry for the remaining four months of our terms.

Fr. Rick talked about the financial situation of the church. The finance committee is in the process of redoing the page for church expenditures, which should make it more easy to navigate, and understand the situation. Line items will be fine tuned where necessary. It will be a great addition we all agreed. Prior

to the introduction of the new page, someone from Finance committee will be present to discuss it with us.

We are currently running an operational deficit that accumulates over the course of our fiscal year. It is hopeful that during our upcoming Stewardship Campaign, congregants will increase their giving, allowing St. Edward's to continue to grow our ministry in all ways. During December, we will hear "Stewardship Stories" from committee members during Sunday services. It is our responsibility for stewarding the ministry, mission, and vision of our parish! We are doing things within our parish community, and in the wider community to show God's love. Let us continue to keep growing!

Fr. Rick, in order to be more business oriented, is beginning the MBA course by way of online, in January. He will be studying digital and physical models of generating monies through electronic technology. Good luck Fr. Rick....he says not to worry that it will be a two year venture.

We are most grateful that we have officially received the Deed to the land for the building and land on 2453 Harrisburg Pike, Lancaster dated November 15, 2021.

Beginning on the First Sunday in Advent we will receive the two elements of Communion. The altar guild has been very instrumental in obtaining the disposable cups....please do attend for this long awaited blessing.

During the Christmas season there will be Christmas Eve services at 6 pm and 8 pm. There will be one service on Sunday, December the 26th. Please watch for further information.

The budget for 2022 will not be available until January. The Finance committee must tally the pledges received and review the financial picture.

In closing....."God himself guarantees those who believe in him that they will be capable of doing even greater things than the ones he himself did," John 14:12

New Keys

St. Edward's has updated all of our exterior locks with a new key system.

If you had an old key, you may discard it. In the coming weeks, we will be contacting ministry leaders to convey how we will distribute keys to the church facility.

DECEMBER



Military News

Please keep in your prayers those close to us who are serving in the military.

- ★Dustin Burluson
- ★Justin Carnahan
- ★Brandon Fox
- ★Gordon Frankenfield
- ★Matt Fuhrman
- ★Jack Hawk
- ★Benjamin Jenkins
- ★Drew Johnson
- ★William Justice
- ★Anthony Koser
- ★Alex Kube
- ★John Lewis

- ★Richard Mutari
- ★David Peck
- ★Capt. Andrew Pfeiffer
- ★Rev. David J. Sparks
- ★Mike Spurr
- ★David Sternberg
- ★Clayton Tennies
- ★Connor Tennies
- ★Allison Tomich
- ★Evan Westgate
- ★Seamas Whitesel
- ★1st Lt. Thomas Whitesel



Coffee Hour Music and Crafts

Pictures by Mary Snyder



Peggy Hanzelman begins her ornament.



Button Angel Ornament



Parishioners work on Advent wreaths.



Gail Irons begins a cone ornament.



Beth Lynch organizes the craft coffee hours.



Finished Advent arrangements.



Jay Miller, Betty Simora, Mike Freshwater, Randy Westgate, and Rick Dombach . . . Created a coffee house atmosphere for coffee hour.

Holwagers Welcome Twins



Donna and Joe Holwager hold their grandbabies for the first time. Amari and Leo were born a week early by an emergent C section. Thanking God for such healthy babies after a difficult 3rd trimester!



SIMPLE SYMBOLS

Create personalized initial ornaments for family and friends.



What you need:

- Small twigs (various shapes and sizes)
- Hot glue
- Yarn
- Scissors
- Adult help

What you do:

1. After gathering twigs, arrange them to create uppercase letter shapes. Cross, bend and break twigs, as needed.
2. Glue "letters" together at the intersections.
3. Cut an arm-length of yarn and wind it around twigs to add color to each letter.
4. Create a loop of yarn and tie it to the top of the ornament for hanging.



What's in a name?
An angel told Joseph what to name Mary's baby. Solve the puzzle to discover the name's meaning.

Directions: Begin at the circled H below and follow the arrows. Circle every other letter, and then place them in order to complete Matthew 1:21.

"S_e w_ll __ve b ir__
to __ s_n, and __u a_e to
gi_e _i_ the __me J__us,
b_c_u__ he _ill s__e his
__op_e f_o_ t__ir s_n_."

MATTHEW 1:21, NIV

START HERE

A I N G F I P H S C I B E J H A

Answer: "She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 1:21, NIV



Bible Quiz

In Matthew's genealogy, which woman is not mentioned as Jesus' ancestor?

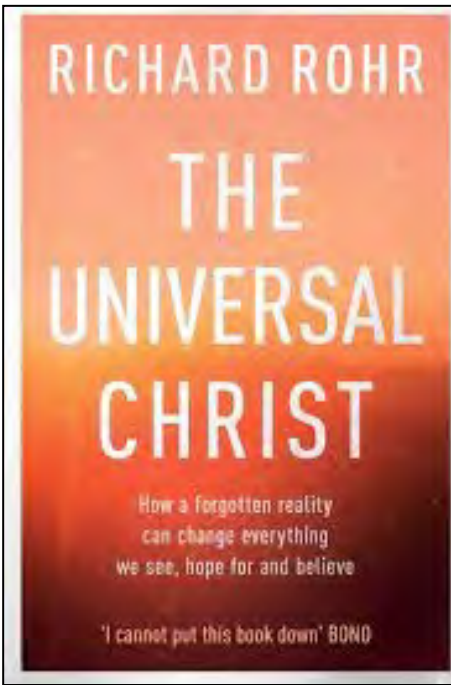
- A. Tamar
- B. Rahab
- C. Mary
- D. Ruth
- E. Sarah
- F. Bathsheba



Answers
INSIDE

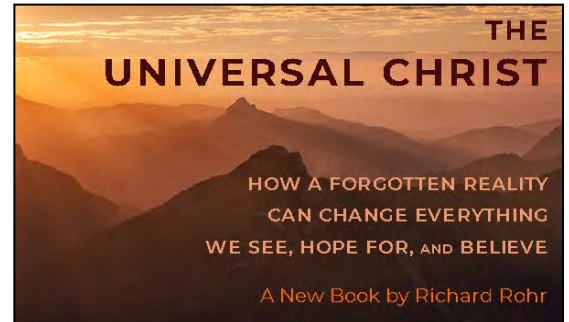
Answer: E (See Matthew 1:1-17.)

Lunch and Learn



Richard Rohr

Join Zoom Meeting
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85108370985?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85108370985?pwd=bWJLR2R0bTBHNvc3UzdqTmt4amVIUT09)
pwd=bWJLR2R0bTBHNvc3UzdqTmt4amVIU
T09
Meeting ID: 851 0837 0985
Passcode: 462230



Widow's Group

Our **Widows Group** meets on the first Thursday of each month at 10:00 AM at St. Edward's. Mark your calendars for the next meeting which is Thursday, January 6th. **For more information contact:**

Peggy Hanzelman:

717.390.4944

phanzelman@comcast.net or:

Ethel Lawrence:

717.314.8993

rose1@dejazzd.com



Bible Study



Stephen Cook



St. Edward's Episcopal Church Bible Study

Time: Wednesday Evening 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86252772937?pwd=RWVWNGVuQWh3NU9keWRXMWxFczg5UT09>

Meeting ID: 862 5277 2937

Passcode: 201150

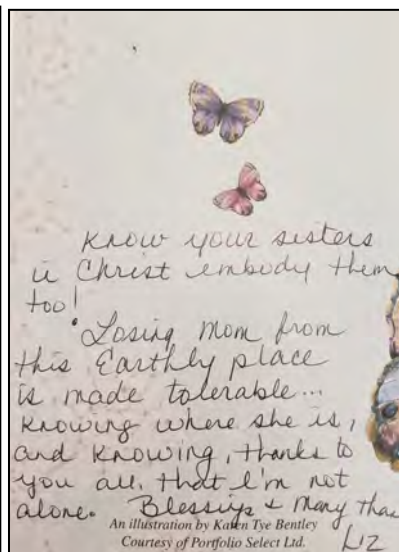
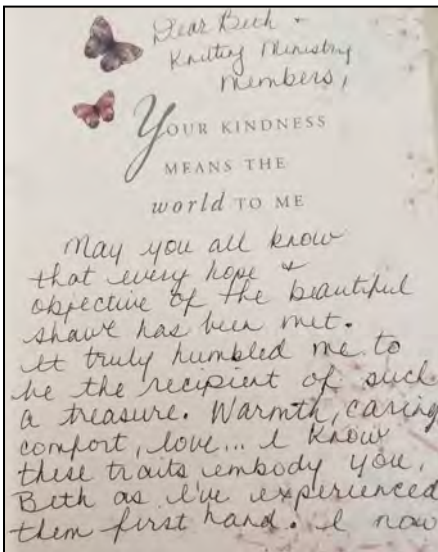
Men's Group



Saturday Men's Group: 2nd Saturday of each month **from 8 AM - 10 AM**. Join us at St. Edward's, in partnership with Saint James Episcopal Church, for two hours of fellowship, including Morning Prayer. Coffee and donuts will be served. Our next meeting is Saturday, December 11th.



Needle Arts Ministry



Beth Lynch forwarded this note from a recipient of a prayer shawl that she had given to her, in her time of sorrow at the loss of her mother.

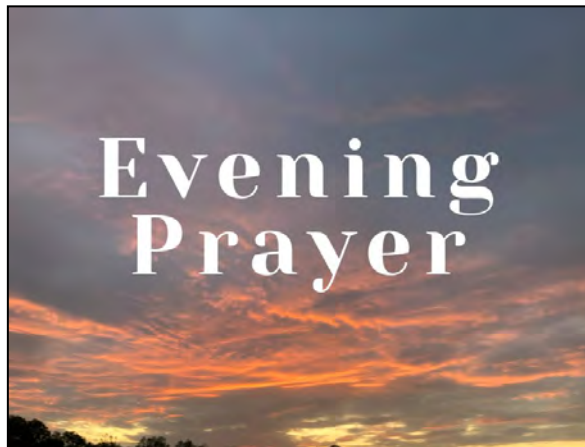
NOTE: A supply of prayer shawls is available to be given whenever needed.

The Knit Wits meet at 1PM each Tuesday in the lounge area. to work on any and all types of needle work.

All are invited to be a part of this enjoyable and productive group. Yarn, patterns and "expert assistance" are available, so you do not need to have a project started to join in the fun.



Friday and Sunday Evening Prayer



Trumpet Solo



Blessed Redeemer Harry Dixon Loes arr.
Gary Lanier Jamie Alton, Trumpet
November 21st. Christ the King Sunday.
Picture by Mary Snyder

Join us on **Fridays for Evening Prayer**, led by Patrick Ishler. *Join us for this contemplative time! No need for a prayer book or a Bible. The liturgy is displayed on the screen. Just bring yourself and breathe in the moment of this spiritual time together.*

FRIDAY EVENING PRAYER

Each Friday at 7:00 PM

Join us on Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86327105082>

Join Code: 863 2710 5082



Sunday Evening Prayer, at 7:00 PM:

We use the 1979 *Book of Common Prayer* and the readings for the Sunday Lectionary. It is a quiet service and a good way to end the weekend and prepare for the week to come. Anyone interested can send me an email to be put on an email distribution list: drutledge1225@gmail.com

Sunday Evening Prayer @ 7:00pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/95355083080>



By Beth Lynch

300 pounds of food items were delivered to the pantry on Monday, November 8!

We delivered 20 turkeys to the food pantry.



Some of the turkeys in Beth's trunk on their way to the food pantry.

- Cereal
- Mac/cheese
- Elbow macaroni
- Noodles
- Dried pinto beans
- Tomato paste
- 1 lb. rice



Exciting news! St. Edward's has been assigned a family of six from Afghanistan arriving in Lancaster on Dec. 2.

by St. Edward's Refugee Welcome Team

Following is the message we received from Andrew at CWS:

I hope you're doing well. I also hope you're about to have a great Thanksgiving, because I'm about to share some news with you we can all be thankful for...

We got notice today that there is a family of 6 who is set to arrive to Lancaster on Thursday 12/2 that I would like to pair your team up with. It is a family of 6 from Afghanistan. The family will be arriving at Harrisburg airport (time TBD). Initially, the family will be living in a host home (address TBD) until we can find them more permanent housing.

By Peg Reiley



IF ANYONE AT ST. EDWARD'S IS WILLING/ABLE TO BE A HOST HOME FOR A FAMILY THIS SIZE, PLEASE LET ME KNOW ASAP.

For now, here are the names and ages of the those in the family:

RAHIM, TAYABULLAH, Son, 12 years, 11/28/2009

RAHIM, NAJIBULLAH, Principal Applicant, 47 years, 10/10/1974

RAHIM, MALALAY, Wife, 41 years, 2/7/1980

RAHIM, SOHAIBULLAH, Son, 7 years, 4/22/201

RAHIM, ANFAL, Daughter, 2 years, 6/28/2019

RAHIM, KHATEEBULLAH, Unknown Relationship, 10 years, 6/14/2011

We'd like to ask the team to help stock the refrigerator and supply a welcome meal.

I think you all will be able to rally together to welcome this family. The most important thing right now is get them in a bed and well-fed. And then we can figure out long term strategy afterward.

Blessings and peace,

Andrew Mashas
Community and Faith-Based Engagement Specialist
Church World Service
308 East King St.
Lancaster, PA 17602



Feed My Starving Children will be 3/25/22 -3/27/22. I do not yet know the times, etc. It is possible that fewer spaces will be available due to COVID restrictions on social distancing, etc. I will forward information as soon as I find out more details. Of course, I will keep everyone posted on sign-ups, etc.

What Exactly are Stephen Ministers?

By Stephen Ministry

Pictures by Mary Snyder



On Sunday, November 21, the following people were commissioned as Stephen Ministers at St. Edward's. Kim Kline, Jeanne Mosebach, Bob Mosebach, Ethel Lawrence, Catherine Donohue, Kathy Spencer, Linda Bruce, Joyce Kamm, Peggy Hanzelman and Dina Ishler.

People often ask, "What exactly is a Stephen Minister?" Stephen Ministers are members of our congregation trained to provide one-to-one, Christ-centered care. They have a compassionate heart for those who are hurting, and they're equipped with caring ministry skills by your congregation's Stephen Leaders, Father Rick and Dina Ishler. A Stephen Minister typically has one care receiver at a time and meets with that person once a week to listen, care, pray, encourage, and offer emotional and spiritual support.

Another way to put it is that Stephen Ministers are the "After People".

Stephen Ministers are there:

... after the phone call you hoped you'd never get.

... after the funeral, when everyone has left and the emotions you've held at bay come crashing in on you.

... after the relationship falls apart and the bottom falls out of your life.

... after the doctor says, "I'm sorry, but there's nothing more we can do."

... after the nursing home director shakes your hand and says, "Welcome to your new home."

... after the last child honks the horn, waves, and drives away—and the house suddenly seems empty.

... after the gavel comes down, the handcuffs go on, and your loved one is led away.



Prayer is offered at beginning of commissioning service.

... after the baby arrives, demanding more of you than you ever dreamed possible.

... after you find a pink slip with your final paycheck.

... after your family and friends have heard your story one too many times, but you still need to talk it out.

Stephen Ministers are ready to come alongside you—or your friends, neighbors, coworkers, or relatives—and provide comfort and support for as long after as needed.

What about confidentiality? We hold you, the care receiver, in a place of safety. Your identity and everything shared is held in strictest confidence. No one will know your story. No one will know your name, not even the other Stephen Ministers. We are here to LISTEN. This caring relationship is meant to be a non-judgmental, accepting space where you are free to express your feelings, where you are free to be HEARD....a safe place to land when overcome by any life situation. We are caregivers, not cure givers. We know and trust that our God is the ultimate healer.

If you are interested in learning more about this ministry or would like to request a Stephen Minister, please contact our Parish Care Coordinator, Peggy Hanzelman at 717-390-4944 or

phanzelman@comcast.net



Fr. Rick presents the Stephen Ministers to the congregation.



PAYING IT FORWARD

From a story told at Knit Wits:

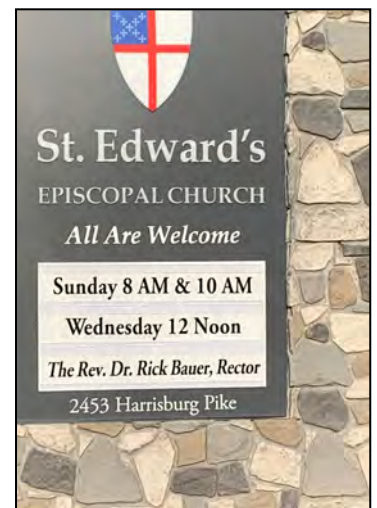
My daughter and I were shopping in Cape May. I was waiting outside and my daughter was in the shop choosing a few items. When she went to check out she discovered the shop was, cash only. Embarrassed, my daughter said to the clerk that she would need to go ask her mother for the cash. When she had borrowed \$20 from me and returned to pay for her purchases, the clerk informed her that the man who had been next in line had paid for my daughter's purchases. My daughter was upset, "But I have the money, she said." She came out of the shop, explained to me what had happened. Three men were working near by, my daughter gave the money to them and said they should use it towards their lunch.

GREAT IDEA....

Keep a "Blessing bag" in your car in case you see someone in need. You can make these up with items from the Dollar Tree such as gloves, thermal socks, beef sticks, crackers, candy bars, toothpaste, toothbrush, wipes, deodorant, snacks and other items that may help someone who is homeless or in a bad way. It is just a thoughtful, inspiring thing to do. Random acts of kind-



"Bless us, Lord, this Christmas, with quietness of mind; teach us to be patient and always to be kind."
—Helen Steiner Rice



Our new sign is installed and as you can see from the images above, it looks beautiful! It is amazing what this new signage has meant to our parish. Now that it is fully landscaped, with thanks to Mike Freshwater for his time and talent, it looks like it has always been there and enhances our church architecture! Our hearts are filled with such gratitude to Bev Hess, who underwrote this amazing project in memory of Stephen+ and her beloved husband, Larry.



FIRE IN THE GLEN – A CELTIC CHRISTMAS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19TH | 3:00 PM

**The St. Edward's Cultural Events Ministry invites you
to a very special holiday musical event!**

Fire in the Glen has been performing in south-central Pennsylvania since 1999, and they've been sharing **A Celtic Christmas** over the holidays for the last decade. The holiday-themed show blends traditional Scottish and Irish music with familiar Christmas melodies and some more obscure holiday tunes from England and Ireland. The band is an energetic trio featuring Tom Knapp on fiddle, bodhran and backing vocals; Amanda Wells on vocals, guitar and percussion; and Rod Nevin on vocals, Highland bagpipes, Scottish smallpipes, pennywhistles and ukulele.

A varied set list includes: What Child is This, The Devonshire Carol, God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen, Christmas in Killarney, The Snowflake Jig, Angels We Have Heard on High, Away in a Manger, Deck the Halls, Miss Fogarty's Christmas Cake, Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming, We Wish You a Merry Christmas, The Golden Carol of the Wisemen, It Came Upon a Midnight Clear, Joy to the World, Silent Night, O Holy Night and an assortment of traditional Celtic songs and tunes!

Join us on Sunday, December 19th at 3:00 PM and enjoy a wonderful afternoon of music & dance! We welcome donations to our cultural events series, via Paypal (found on our sainteds.org website – "Give to St. Edward's" button and on your St. Edward's YouTube Channel home page), or by sending a check to St. Edward's Episcopal Church. Your support allows us to continue our ministry of bringing cultural events to our wider community.

2453 Harrisburg Pike | Lancaster, PA 17601 | sainteds.org | info@sainteds.org | 717.898.6276

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP DURING ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

MANY OPPORTUNITIES
TO BE IN COMMUNITY
WITH YOUR FELLOW
PARISHIONERS

Join us in-person or tune into the
St. Edward's Episcopal Church,
Lancaster, PA YouTube Channel
for our Advent Services &
Christmas Eve Services



First Sunday of Advent – Fourth Sunday of

Advent: Join us each Sunday, for in-person worship: 8:00 AM – Rite I and 10:00 AM – Rite II. Our Rite II service is live streamed on our YouTube Channel.

December 24th 6:00 PM & 8:00 PM: Christmas Eve services at St. Edward's.

December 25th: Christmas Day message on our St. Edward's YouTube channel.

December 26th: One Service Sunday – 10:00 AM
Join us for coffee hour from 9:15 AM – 10:00 AM on this Sunday. Come and visit with your fellow parishioners and enjoy our beautiful spiritual home during our Christmastide.

Sign-up for Christmas Flowers "in memory of" or "in thanksgiving for" friends, family, and loved ones. Sign-up sheet will be in the narthex commencing December 5th.

December 19th

**Coffee House coffee hour
with the
St. Edward's guitar group**

**Join us for this special
coffee hour from
9 AM – 10 AM in our
parish hall.**



**ST. EDWARD'S
EPISCOPAL
CHURCH**

Visit us at sainted.org

New Members Ministry

By Nancy Mannion



Welcome to
Our Church

We want to thank Christine McLaughlin for her service on this committee and wish her and her family all the best as they settle into life in their new community. We miss you already!

The committee is very interested in hearing from you, the members of St. Edward's, on how we can improve welcoming visitors to our church. Each member of St. Edward's is a member of the New Member ministry – we all have a role to play in making others feel welcome. Specifically, we would like to know what creates a personalized experience for a visitor? How do we make people feel 'visible' here at St. Edward's? Very importantly, what do you get from church that

you do not get anywhere else in your life? How do we differentiate ourselves socially, spiritually as Christians? Please send your

comments and ideas Mary Snyder (starleo1328@yahoo.com) or Nancy Mannion (nbonalumi@comcast.net). If you prefer, we can discuss by phone if that is more convenient for you.

Very soon you will see a revised visitor welcome packet that will include a gift bag and information about all the ministries and worship activities at St. Edward's. Thank you to Michelle Bentley for coordinating this.

Our next outreach event takes place right here at St. Edward's! December 19 at 3 pm, we will be hosting a musical performance by "Fire in the Glen". Volunteers are needed to greet and usher guests. Please contact Nancy at nbonalumi@comcast.net if you can help. Thank you, Mary Snyder and Nancy



Christmas Flowers



Each year, at Christmastime, we offer parishioners to donate \$20 towards our Christmas flowers. It is a wonderful way to honor friends, family, and loved ones during this season. Not only does your donation allow us to keep our tradition of decorating our sanctuary and surrounding areas with fresh flowers during this beautiful season, but it also affords you the opportunity to have your remembrance printed in the Christmas Eve service bulletins.

We thank Ginny Kloeping and Nancy Oliver for their time and talent in sourcing our flowers for this year and in deco-

rating our sanctuary sobeautifully for this Christmastide season.

Your support, for our seasonal flowers, and for our altar flowers throughout the year, allow us to always have beautiful fresh flowers enhancing our worship experience, while remembering those whom we love.

There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex starting December 5th for Christmas flowers. And, there is a 2022 Altar Flower chart in the narthex for you to sign up for the upcoming year! Weekly arrangements are \$100/week. We encourage robust support for our flower ministry!



Help Wanted



By the Altar Guild -

Worship the Lord in the beauty of Holiness!

Preparing the altar area for worship each week is a sacred and spiritual experience currently administered by a devoted group of eleven people. At one time, the Altar Guild had as many as sixteen members.

We need more help!

Please consider joining this essential ministry! No experience is necessary. The Altar Guild provides training. We work in teams so there is always an experienced member as part of a team. The set-up times are flexible (Thursday, Friday, or Saturday) and are arranged between the members of a team. Each team is scheduled about once a month. With more members, it could be every five or six weeks.

We are open to men, women, and young people who are willing to make a commitment to this ministry. If you are interested in joining us or if you have questions, please contact Bev Hess, Julie Hoff, or notify the church office. We look forward to hearing from you!



Include your news and announcements in the next Scepter.

Due date for January will be:

December 20th.

Send articles and announcements to:

HJ_Miller@outlook.com

hj_miller@outlook.com



Patrick Ishler— Choir Director 2009-2021

Pictures by Mary Snyder



2009

From the October 2009 Scepter:

St. Edward's welcomes a new family and a new Choir Director

St. Edward's has a new Choir Director. Patrick Ishler and his family come to us from St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, York.

Patrick currently is the Choral Director and General Music teacher at North Salem Elementary School, Dover Area School District. Over his nearly twenty years professional music career he has directed the music programme in a number of church settings, and has extensive knowledge of the Anglican music tradition. Patrick's wife Dina is also a professional musician, and they have three very talented children: Faith, Thomas, and Carter. Please welcome them.



2009 Thomas, Faith and Carter



2009 choir rehearsal



2010 Christmas Eve recessional.



Caroling in 2011



2012



2013



2014



2015



2016

Patrick Ishler— Choir Director 2009-2021



2017 making crosses.



2018



2019 with Praise Band



2020 New Choir Vestments



2021 Throughout Covid Patrick provided our music.



Final Service as choir director November 2021



Patrick Dina Carter, Faith and Thomas April 2021

A Mother's Struggle - God's Faithfulness

This writing was prompted by our Lunch and Learn discussions from Richard Rohr's book, *The Universal Christ*. The words that kept welling up for me in one chapter were "Wait" and "Trust". I couldn't help but think that so much of my spiritual journey has been exactly that, waiting on the Lord, trusting in the Lord.

I have said many times that I know that "inner voice" and I pay attention to it. I call that voice Holy Spirit. I would like to share a story. After 20 years of being drug free, in 2014 my son relapsed big time at the age of 40. We had an incident that resulted in him saying he never wants to see or speak to me again in this lifetime and he was true his word.

For four years I didn't know where he was or how he was. I just knew he was caught up in addiction. This is NOT how I expected my mischievous, funny and lovable little boy's life to turn out. I struggled with worry and trying to release him into God's hands. And then God gave me this verse to hold on to. It is Exodus 14:13-14. Moses was talking to the Israelites but it was also God speaking to me. It said, "Stand firm. Don't fear. The Lord will fight for you. You have only to be still." Not long after, I had found out my son was homeless and living in his car. Everything within me wanted to protect him and bring him home. Everything within me knew I couldn't. He had to learn the lessons that were in this journey he had taken. I had to keep learning the lesson of "letting go and trusting God." So, "Stand Firm, Don't Fear, Be Still, Let God do the fighting for you" became my mantra.

Like many others, Christmas is not a particularly happy time...apart from Jesus....because we have lost so many or our families are broken. In 2017, I was missing Mike terriblyand I was crying out to God...will you please help me, I can hardly handle this? And he did. For one solid week that verse or something similar showed up in one form or another. I have it recorded in a journal. Now I share it with you.

Dec. 09, 2017 – I received a phone call from a friend informing me where Mike is living and she gave me his address. I was so relieved. I bought a Christmas card, an Amazon gift card, wrote a letter and was going to mail it but had a check in my spirit. Went to Bible Study and bounced it off the women. I received feedback but the one that resonated was, "I don't think you should do anything!" That's not what I wanted to hear but I knew it was right. So...I went back to my verse and keep standing in trust.

I felt so sad, I wanted to connect with him so badly, just wanted to see his face. But then Holy Spirit insight came. "The prodigal son's father did not go out looking for him, he waited and watched for his return." I said, "Okay, I hear that God."

Then another thought came, (Yes, I believe God speaks through our thoughts). "The pain of having him back in your life, may be more painful than this separation." "Okay, God. I hear you."

Dec. 11, 2017 – I went to Meditation at St. James. We spent the entire time chanting. Guess what the words were? "Don't be afraid. Take heart. Be still." Sound familiar? Only the "take heart" was different but it gave me hope.

But missing him was so intense. It had been four long years and I kept vacillating. As you will see, God was patient with me.

Dec. 12, 2017 – My thought. Maybe I could just ask Dawn to text him on Christmas and say, "Your mom says she loves you and misses you."

Dec. 13, 2017 – I was reading Richard Rohr's daily email meditation. At the very end of the reading it said, "Let it go, Let it be!!!" "Okay God. I hear you."

Dec. 14, 2017 – I decided to buy a picture of Jesus holding a lamb so I could look at it and visualize Mike in his arms. It would help me trust. I found two that I liked on Amazon and couldn't decide so left them in my shopping cart. That night, before bed, I was listening to music on YouTube. I clicked on a song and right before my eyes is the exact picture in my Amazon shopping cart. I said, "Thank you, God. I know you are here."

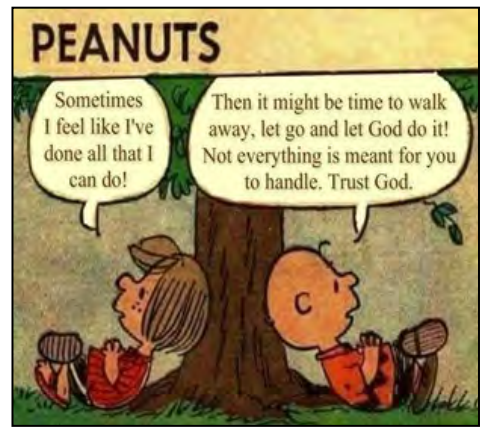
Dec. 15, 2017 – The day's reading was from Psalm 119. "You are blessed when you stay on course. Walk steadily on the path God revealed." "I hear you, God. I'm going to keep doing what you told me. Stand firm, don't fear, trust you with my son and be still. Don't ever walk off and leave me thought, God. (As if he would!) I need you. This is so tough."

Dec. 16, 2017 – On Facebook. A Peanuts cartoon shows up in my feed.

Lucy..."Sometimes I feel like I've done all that I can do!" Charlie..."Then it might be time to walk away, let go and let God do it!! Not everything is meant for you to handle. Trust God."

Dec. 17, 2017 – On Facebook. "You're going to make it. You and your family will be just fine. Just stand and let me fight this battle." -God

That was my last message.



Feb. 2018 – I wrote in my journal, "Give God the glory, Joyce. He was faithful, he got you through the Christmas season. He has told you in so many ways, "I've got this, Joyce." Now continue to be obedient and let it alone. If he's to come back to the family, it will happen in God's time. Just never stop praying."

I finally deleted the letter from my computer that I had wanted to send him with the Christmas card.

Mar. 2018 – Book of Common Prayer – "Be not disturbed by memories that come unbidden. Swiftly forgive and let Christ speak for you unspoken words. Unfinished conversation will be resolved in him. Be not disturbed."

So, this verse tells me to let Christ speak the unspoken words I may never get to say? That speaks of "Trust".

The LORD is my strength and shield. I trust him with all my heart. He helps me, and my heart is filled with joy. (Psalm 28:7, NLT)

Aug. 2018 – I was sitting in my office at St. James and I received a phone call telling me that Mike had been arrested and was facing up to 10 years in prison. I was stunned. All I could think was, "I never thought anything like this would happen. In ten years I will be in my 80's. I might not be alive." So I wanted to write a letter and leave it with my Will, telling him how much I loved him and why I needed to make the decision I did. I walked across the hall to Father Rick's office. I didn't know him very well, but I said something like, "May I talk to you. I need some help?" I explained the whole situation and he response was, "I think you need to send that letter now." That had never occurred to me. I was so resigned to the fact that I would never see Mike again and I had to trust him to God. Father Rick's father had just passed and he talked about how important closure is. So with some wise

Struggle Cont'd

words that I picked up from our conversation, I wrote that letter and mailed it. What happened?? Mike responded! After four long years, I had my son back. Our relationship has been restored. Thank you, Father Rick, for your shepherd's heart. I'm so glad you were there that day and will be forever grateful.. "Thank you, God. You are so beyond our comprehension, mysterious, awe-inspiring Creator of all things, and yet you also reveal yourself as personal. You say you shelter us under your wings, you lead us beside the still waters, you restore our souls, you are our shepherd, you even know the very number of hairs on our head and you love us with an everlasting love. You are also one on whom we can cast our cares and you respond so intimately. I am humbled."

Mike was sentenced to three years, not ten. "Thank you, God." He has 14 months to go. So I'm still in a waiting pattern. By the time he is released, I will have waited seven long years to actually have some quality time with him. I am so looking forward to that day. In the meantime, we email each other.

I would like to ask you to send Christmas cards to him to brighten his Christmas and let him know he is not alone.....also to keep him and his future in your prayers.

Mike's name is Gerald Michael. We have always called him Mike. The address has to be exactly as shown but cards inside can be addressed to Mike.



Mike

His address is:
Smart Communications / PA DOC
GERALD RINTZ - NS0955
SCI Phoenix
PO Box 33028
St. Petersburg, FL 33733

Thank you so much.
In gratitude,
Joyce Kamm

Stewardship



Catherine Donohue, vestry junior warden and stewardship committee member, speaks to the parish with her story of faith and stewardship.

We offer immense gratitude to our stewardship committee for their time, talent, and treasure in shepherding our 2022 stewardship campaign. In the next few days, you will be receiving your stewardship letter and pledge form. We invite you to reflect on your life at St. Edward's as you discern your pledge for 2022. And we invite you into conversation with each other, to share your stories of faith and in the ways St. Edward's has changed your life. It is through conversation, storytelling, sharing our experiences that we get to know each other better, deeper, and through that knowing we grow in so many ways. We will also have stewardship packets in our narthex for those who may be visitors to our spiritual home, but wish to explore giving to St. Edward's.



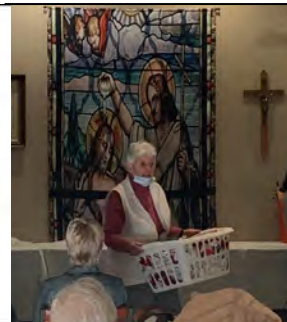
The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. - 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

Basket Raffle

Pictures by Mary Snyder



Baskets ready for drawing



June Klemm



Vestry helps Michelle draw winners.



Beth Lynch celebrates a winner.

Thank you to all who helped us have our most successful basket raffle yet! We raised \$5,125 with the help of our basket creators and all who purchase raffle tickets. Your generosity helps the ministry and mission of St. Edward's!



Fr. Rick's birthday added to the fun.



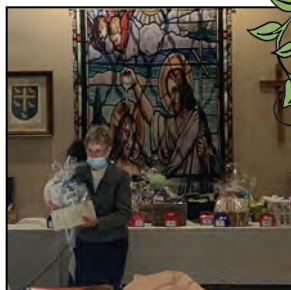
Herb Johnston



Fr. Rick wins "huggable basket"



Mac Miller, Irene and Bev Achey study the contents of a winning basket.



Janet Rumer



Tony Bianco collects his winner.

We Have a Family The Jesse Tree

(Continued from page 8)

+1.717.809.4257

Phone: Email: amashas@cwsglobal.org

Note from Team Leader:

We have enough furniture for our family of six. Once our family is here, we will update any needs that arise.

CWS The Welcoming Team

Orientations are complete and all paperwork has been submitted to Andrew at CWS. Welcome our team members!!

1. Arnold, Leslie
2. Aul, Meredith
3. Bauer, Father Rick
4. Buckbee, Candee
5. Donohue, Catherine
6. Fast, Deborah
7. Ishler, Dina
8. Kamm, Joyce
9. Lynch, Beth
10. Lynch, Bruce
11. Mamorium, Linda
12. Miller, Mac
13. Milligan, Ellen
14. Rutledge, David

Advent Tree

By Michelle Bentley



A lighted tree welcomes parishioners along the walk to the front doors to the sanctuary.



from *The Wired Word*

At St. Edward's we celebrate Christmas with a Jesse Tree, remembering how God sent Jesus to sprout life out of death and bring new hope and joy to the world.

If you are participating in the Jesse Tree project this year by shopping for a child, the following are the directions for delivering your gift:

After you have shopped, please do the following.:

1. Wrap your gifts and label with name of child.
2. Place all gifts in a bag
3. Attach the printed label to your bag.
4. Bring your gifts to the church no later than **December 10.**

Questions???

See Leslie Arnold or Beth Lynch



"To prepare our hearts for Christmas, we must cultivate the spirit of expectancy."
—Handel H. Brown

Last year, Israeli scientists harvested dates from seeds that had been dormant about 2,000 years. The seeds, recovered during archaeological digs, were nurtured in incubators and several thrived. One (named Methuselah!) became a 10-foot-tall palm tree.

Horticulturists joked about marketing "dates that Jesus ate," but there's another scriptural connection. Isaiah 11, a traditional Advent reading, prophesies: "A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots" (verse 1, NRSV). Jesus is the tender shoot that emerged from the humble peasant origins of Jesse, father of King David. From a dynasty that went dormant due to Israel's sins sprouted a mighty tree, who will someday usher in a reign of peace (see verses 6-7). —adapted

Krist Kindling

By Meredith Westgate



The four weeks of Advent are the four weeks for Krist Kindling. If you are participating, be on the look out for little surprises at your door, and don't rush to answer your door bell, so your Krist Kindling mate can keep their identity hidden until the dinner reveal. The tentative date for the dinner reveal is January 10. Hopefully, we can have an in-person event, if not in-person, we'll do a Zoom as we did last year.

Advent Calendar



Diocesan Digital Advent Calendar

The diocese has designed a 2021 digital Advent Calendar. The calendar will be composed of photos, prayers, and resources.

Every day in Advent, a new window will open online. We hope that this project will help us feel connected in this challenging season.

Beginning November 28, you will be able to visit this link to participate. Diocesan Digital Advent Calendar

<https://calendar.myadvent.net/?id=e7c67b1725cb5a51f469ae446ee01106>

For questions, please contact, Canon Guszick.

off the mark.com by Mark Parisi



UTO Boxes

Pictures by Mary Snyder



The UTO boxes were turned into turkeys at a coffee hour craft activity on Oct. 31st.



Leslie Arnold and Ellen Milligan work with Bella Van Aulen and her friend Hannah to complete turkeys



Bella and Hannah and the their finished boxes.

Fr. Rick received the filled boxes on Nov. 28th at the 10 AM service.

First Sunday of Advent

Pictures by Mac Miller



Bob Mosebach lights the first candle on the Advent Wreath at 8 AM

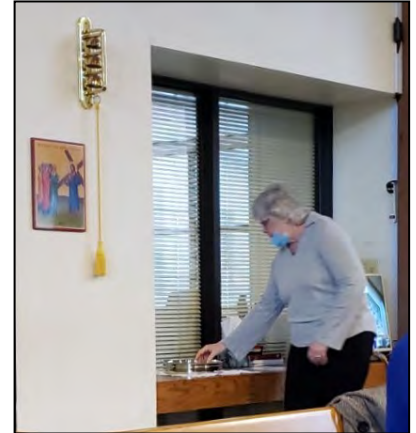


The Sarum blue hangings and vestments are in place for the Advent season.



Buddy and Liz Yeager light the candle at the 10 AM service

For the first time since Covid began, we have wine for the Eucharist. Individual cups of wine or juice are available in the back of the church. After receiving the bread, Catherine and Stephen Donohue take the wine. Gloria Kacinko takes a cup before returning to her pew.



CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2021

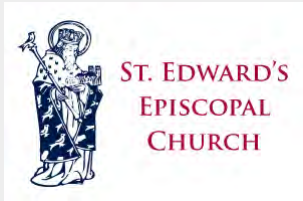


Christmas Eve - Festival Holy Eucharist with Choir
6:00 PM & 8:00 PM

Christmas Day
Join us via our St. Edward's YouTube channel for a special Christmas message and prayer

Sunday, December 26th
One Service Sunday - 10:00 AM

Join us for coffee hour from 9:15 AM - 10:00 AM on this Sunday. Come and visit with your fellow parishioners and enjoy our beautiful spiritual home during our Christmastide.



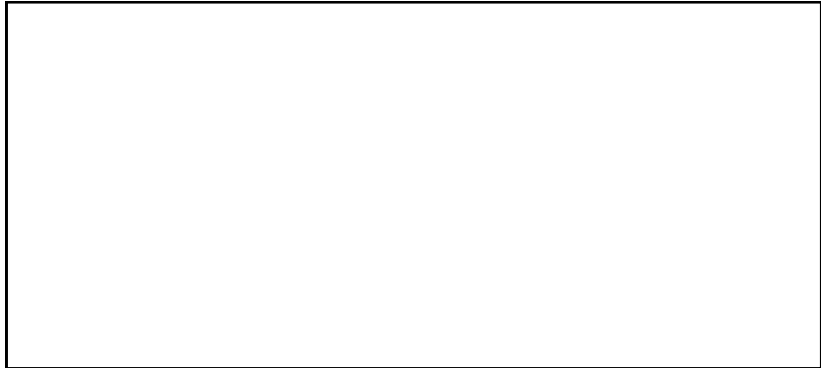
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www.sainteds.org



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Staff

The Rev. Dr. Rick Bauer,
Rector

Michelle Bentley, Parish
Administrative Assistant

Karen E. Waddill,
Parish Instrumentalist &
Director of Worship Music

Elizabeth Yeager, Nursery

Parish Office Hours

Tuesday-Friday:
11AM – 4:00PM

Vestry (year term ends)

- ✦ Catherine Donohue
(2023) Jr. Warden
- ✦ Karen Grant (2024)
- ✦ Peg Hanzelman (2024)
- ✦ Julie Hoff (2022) Sr.
Warden
- ✦ Ginny Kloepping
(2023)
- ✦ Beth Lynch (2023)
- ✦ Ellen Milligan (2022)
- ✦ Randy Westgate
(2024)

Worship Services

Sunday Services

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I (said)

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II

Wednesday

12 Noon: Contemplative Eucharist,
Meditation, and Healing Prayer

[HTTPS://SAINTEDS.ORG/](https://sainteds.org/)

