



Scepter



Reflection From the Rector's Desk

By The Rev. Dr. Richard C. Bauer

In a casual conversation with my son Ricky, talking about the build-up in anticipation for Christmas in our house, he gifted me with an important reminder for those of us who feel called to pastoral care. Though my nine-year-old spoke to his excitement around presents and the “magic” of Christmas for a child, he expressed more concern to me over what it would feel like when the presents were unwrapped, when the festivities were over. He told me that it’s sad when the Christmas moment passes, that it’s depressing to think about the months of cold and the early setting of the sun that takes

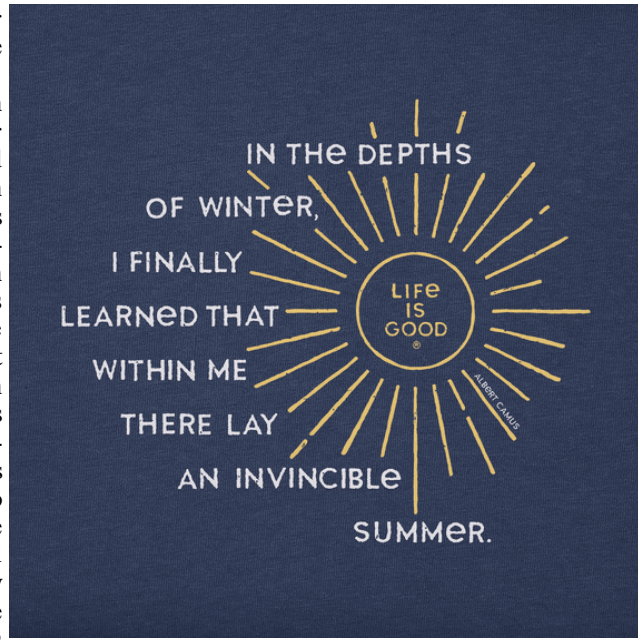
hold when the pretty lights come down. With an unfinished swimming pool in our backyard, empty until warmer weather invites plaster and water, there really is a tactile symbol that my boys can see around us, reminding them of the extended waiting about to set in when

the excitement of Christmas morning slips by. I wonder how many of us can relate to feeling of a bit of dread when we recognize that a season of darkness and cold stands between us and the Spring.

Even though Ricky lacks the theological language to express the multi-layered metaphors that we apply as a

others might be feeling in the heart of winter. It can be a real struggle for any of us to keep our heads up around this time of year as: low energy, weight gain, loss of motivation, and oversleeping commonly accompany the onset of SAD (seasonal affective disorder). Here in the winter, reduced levels of sunlight can disrupt our circadian

rhythms, the biological clocks that regulate our sleep-wake cycles; and decreases in important neurochemicals in our brains like serotonin and melatonin can seriously affect our moods. Even though the Feast of the Incarnation and the extended Christmas season may help to



people of faith around the stuff of warmth and cold, of darkness and of light, he does possess a gift for helping me to understand the immediate and the real. As a Christian, living in a community, I’m reminded by Ricky of the need to pay particular attention to how

extend our appreciation for the gift of Emmanuel in the liturgical rhythms of our church, each of us, also, inevitably engage in private battles that challenge our equanimity when the physical darkness sets in. To further augment our susceptibility

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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*

Reflection

(Continued from page 1)

bility to seasonal affective disorder, the ongoing disruption in our social gathering and the general anxiety levels of our socio-cultural context, lend a degree of depressive pull to this prolonged “COVID fog” in which we’re living. It’s a tough time for a great many of us.

Piecing these things together, it seems important to me that we look out for one another, with increased vigilance and attentiveness, right now. It may be a good time to adapt our personal practice in the social nicety of asking someone ‘how they’re doing’, to include our taking the time to actually listen to the authentic response that another person may have to the question. Because, although we’re seldom called in Christian community to solve the emotional difficulties of other people, we are invited to hold space for one another... to listen. It never ceases to amaze me just how much folks can feel relief from talking about difficulties, of just hearing their own voice out loud working through something, of knowing that another person has listened and cared about what they’re going through in life.

At St. Edward’s, we’re particularly blessed to have a sizable team of profoundly caring parishioners trained to listen well. AS SUCH, this winter, I hope that those of us who may find ourselves struggling will be willing to reach out to our church family for help and support. As the cold invites the darkness, we have opportunities to lean in toward the light in a powerful and new way here through the gifts of our Stephen Ministers. This one-on-one approach to pastoral care, with trained and supervised parishioners prepared to walk with those who are struggling, offers all of us an Incarnational way to embrace our identity

and our theology. In BOTH listening to one another AND in demonstrating the courage that it requires to share our vulnerabilities with another, we are invited to live into what we say about being members of a single body, about being disciples called to care for the whole in the spirit of that Ubuntu wisdom: “I am because we are.”

Yes, some of us may feel the presence of swimming pool-sized holes in our lives in the heart of winter, but we really can be here for one another. With God’s help, I trust that we WILL serve as light to one another when the sun sets, that we WILL continue to allow crisis to welcome us into new possibility and opportunity. In the words of my favorite author Albert Camus:

“My dear, In the midst of hate, I found there was, within me, an invincible love. In the midst of tears, I found there was, within me, an invincible smile. In the midst of chaos, I found there was, within me, an invincible calm. I realized, through it all, that...In the midst of winter, I found there was within me, an invincible summer. And that makes me happy. For it says that no matter how hard the world pushes against me, within me, there’s something stronger—something better, pushing right back.”

Father Rick



Menorah Lighting



Several members from St. Edward’s went to the Interfaith gathering at Penn Square November 28th for the Menorah lighting after the menorah was accidentally damaged the day before: Fr. Rick, Randy and Meredith Westgate, Nancy Mannion, Fred Cluck, Joyce Kamm, Rayelenn Casey, Mary Snyder, and Jodi Good were in the crowd.

Get down on your knees before your Master.

It’s the only way you’ll get on your feet.

James 4:10, Message Bible

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.

By Julie Hoff



The December vestry meeting took place on the fourth Sunday of Advent amidst a flurry of events that day! The worship service focused on the Incarnation and Mary's, "Yes". Stewardship testimonies were presented as we marked our stewardship ingathering. A Christmas sing along coffee house was held during coffee hour between the services. "Fire in the Glen" presented a concert of Celtic music in the afternoon. How fitting that the Advent virtue being lifted up this day was love, as it was so warmly felt throughout all these activities!

Our two-hour meeting began at noon. As a bit of a Christmas celebration (and to keep us going through a long day) we had a light lunch, and conducted our

discussions in a reflective, relaxed, and collegial mood. Father Rick framed his report around the Advent virtues of hope, peace, joy, and love. He spoke of how hope led us to innovate and experiment during the uncertainties of Covid; how peace has guided our interactions; how we experienced joy through our 40th Anniversary celebration; and how love has been expressed through memorial giving, The Jesse Tree Project, and most recently, in the welcome to the United States put forth for the Rahim family from Afghanistan. He expressed his gratitude for everyone's effort.

The financial report and update on the finance committee were given by Father Rick. Our finances continue to be closely monitored as we presently have a deficit in the operating statement. When the final stewardship drive results are known, the finance committee will construct next year's budget and make recommendations for 2022.

Under administrative items, it was announced that completion of the annual parochial report for the diocese will be completed in January. Snowplowing arrangements were agreed upon and it was reported that a kitchen plumbing problem is awaiting a part.

As part of the warden's report, it was shared that the Diocesan Shaped by Faith program is coming to an end in February. This initiative was begun in 2020 to help parishes examine their vitality and explore structural and programmatic collaboration. Although the group will no longer meet, the Diocese is

underwriting \$500,000 per year for five years to fund collaborative projects between churches. A grant application process is being developed for this.

Another topic was the timetable for the ongoing revision and ratification of our internal policies and procedures. When St. Edward's officially became a corporate entity this fall, we were advised by legal counsel to adopt the standard corporate bylaws of the state and restructure what we have called our bylaws into a set of internal policies and procedures which will guide our parish operation. A subcommittee will meet in January to discuss input from vestry regarding a preliminary draft.

Our final discussion centered on needs of our Afghan family. The most needed item right now is a car. It is hoped that someone might be able to donate a car they are no longer using. The welcome committee has been working extremely hard helping to get the Rahim family settled in their new home.

As we look ahead to 2022, I would like to extend thanks and gratitude to Father Rick for his spirituality, vision, and leadership! Credit also goes to Michelle Bentley, our devoted parish administrator, whose tireless efforts on behalf of this congregation cannot be overstated. Finally, to each member of this congregation, gratitude is given for the gifts of your time, talent, and treasure to further God's mission. It is an exciting time to be a member of the St. Edward's family! Happy New Year!

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

By Michelle Bentley and Pictures by Meredith Westgate



Welcome to 2022! One of the beautiful ways St. Edward's builds strong community is with our coffee hours, which we offer between 9 AM – 10 AM on Sundays. These have always been a great time to get to know one another, and for many, this is an important social aspect of their week. In 2021 we introduced the "coffee house" concept for the 3rd Sunday of each month. Wow! We have been so blessed by such talented musicians in our midst who are willing to share their love of music and talent with all of us. The forming of this "coffee house guitar group" has expanded and it is an important ministry and fellowship moment, in its own right, to have them gather during each month to bond together in setting their musical program and rehearse.

Another important part of our coffee hour ministry is to have hosts each Sunday. We hope you might consider being a host one Sunday in 2022. There is always a clipboard sign-up in the passthrough window and you can connect with the parish office for details about hosting. It is simple and fun!

We encourage all our parishioners, and visitors, to enjoy coffee with us on Sundays – a great place to meet your fellow parishioners and a wonderful starting point for ministry at St. Edward's!



Jay Miller and Bob Mosebach



Betty Simora,, Randy Westgate, Mike Freshwater, and Rick Dombach led a Christmas sing along.

Krist Kindling Reveal

By Meredith Westgate

Hello secret messengers!

The **non-dinner** will take place on Sunday, January 9th at 6:30 PM, via Zoom. I hope you will all carve out some space on your calendar to share your stories and play a game or two. Of course it is most enjoyable if all parties are present. Bring your own coffee and dessert!

St. Edward's Episcopal Church Zoom

Topic: Krist Kindling Reveal

Time: Jan 9, 2022 06:30 PM Eastern Time

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84209932984?pwd=UzNkTi8xZUdGRXJBSTBsNGxnR2pCZz09>

Meeting ID: 842 0993 2984

Passcode: 146721

One tap mobile

+19292056099,,84209932984#,,,,*14672

1# US (New York)

+13017158592,,84209932984#,,,,*14672

1# US (Washington DC)



Pictures by Mary Snyder



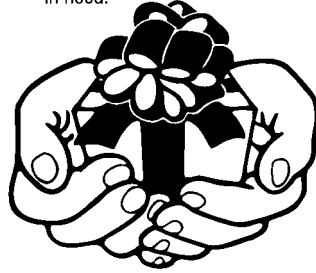
Children join Fr. Rick as they say a prayer over the Jesse Tree gifts.



Christian Bauer enjoying Turkey Day dinner.

Golden GIVING

Live out Jesus' golden rule by preparing gift bags for people in need.



What you need:

- Gallon-size zip bags
- New socks
- Hand warmers
- Bus fare or tokens
- Bottled water
- Nonperishable food
- Toiletries and first-aid items
- Paper and markers

What you do:

1. Gather supplies, using the ideas above. Fill bags to make care packages.
2. Write notes or draw pictures for recipients, placing one in each bag.
3. Zip bags and keep them in a vehicle to distribute. Or deliver them right away to people in need (or to sick or homebound people, nursing home residents, a homeless shelter and so on).
4. Pray that God will use your gifts to help and encourage each recipient.



A measure of love

Jesus says one golden rule sums up the law.

Directions: Match the word parts from the ruler to the incomplete words in the first three Bible verses. Then add the bolded letters (in order) to Matthew 7:12 to complete that verse.

Do not seek **re**_____ or bear a grudge against anyone among your _____ople, but **love** your **neig**_____ as yourself.

LEVITICUS 19:18, NIV

Learn to do right; seek jus____. Defend the _____pressed. Take up the cause of the _____less; plead the _____e of the widow.

ISAIAH 1:17, NIV

He has shown **you**, O mortal, what is go____. ...

To act **justly** and to love me____ and to walk _____ly with your God.

MICAH 6:8, NIV

_____	father _____
_____	pe_____
_____	_____venge
_____	_____od
_____	_____rcy
_____	op_____
_____	_____hbor
_____	humb_____
_____	cas_____
_____	_____tice

So in _____ything, do to ot _____ what you would _____ve them d _____ to you, for this s _____ms up the _____w and the Proph _____s.

MATTHEW 7:12, NIV

Answer: revenge, people, neighbor, others, have, do, sums, Law, Prophets
humbly, everything, others, have, do, sums, Law, Prophets



Bible Quiz

After Sarah died, Abraham remarried. What was his second wife's name?

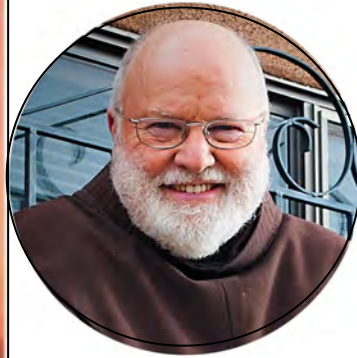
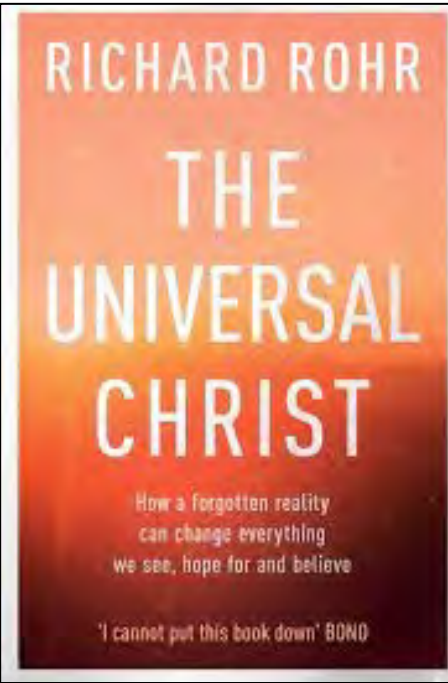
- A. Miriam
- B. Keturah
- C. Bathsheba
- D. Tamar



Answers
INSIDE

Answer: B (See Genesis 25:1.)

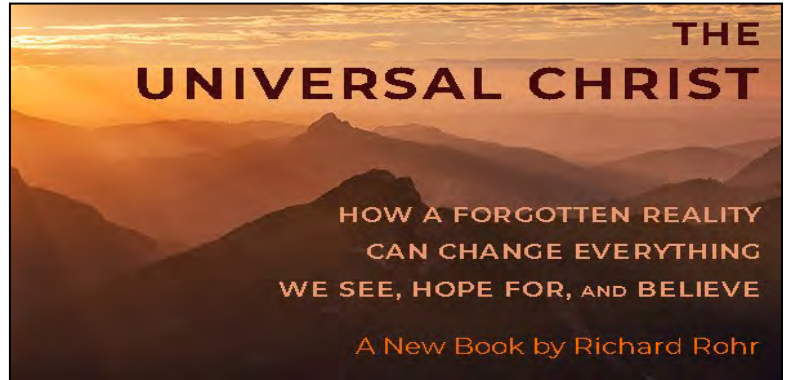
Lunch and Learn



Richard Rohr

Join us each Friday at 12 noon, via Zoom, as we explore a wide variety of texts over the course of each year. Each session is led by Bob Mosebach and Father Rick and spur very heartfelt and meaningful conversations amongst participants.

Join Zoom Meeting
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85108370985?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85108370985?pwd=bWJLR2R0bTBHNVc3UzdqTmt4amVIUT09)
Meeting ID: 851 0837 0985
Passcode: 462230



Widows 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:

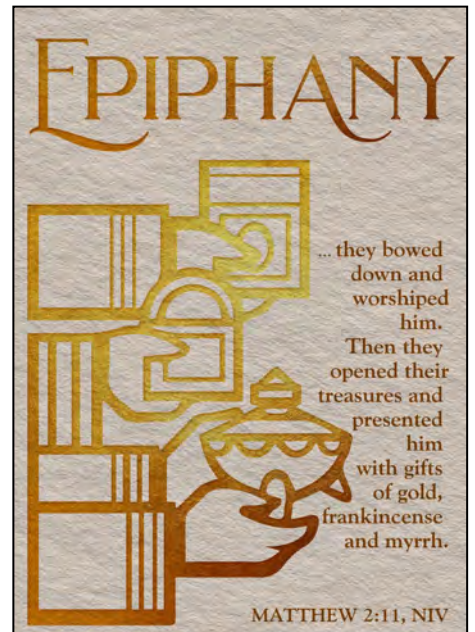
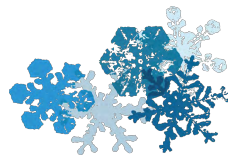
717.390.4944

phanzelman@comcast.net or:

Ethel Lawrence:

717.314.8993

rose1@dejazzd.com



January 6th



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, January 8th.





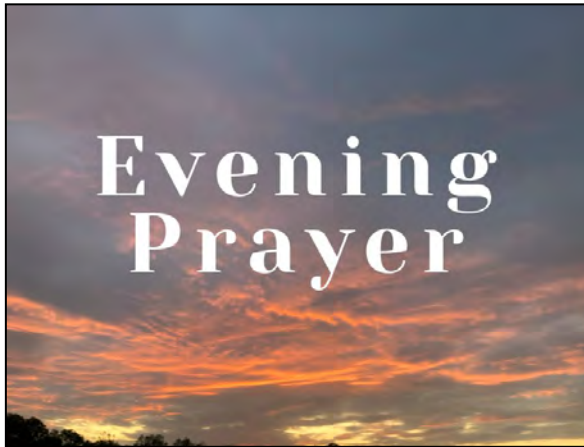
Knit Wits

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



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

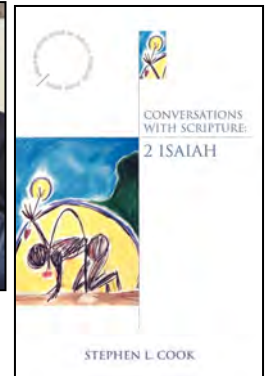
Sunday Evening Prayer @ 7:00pm

Join Zoom Meeting

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



Stephen Cook



St. Edward's Episcopal Church Bible Study

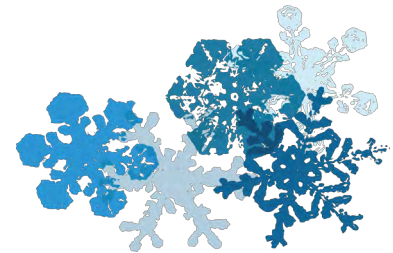
Time: Wednesday Evening 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86252772937?pwd=RWVWNGVuQWh3NU9keWRXMTMwFczg5UT09>

RXMWxFczg5UT09

Meeting ID: 862 5277 2937



Picture by Mary Snyder





By Beth Lynch

Items requested for January:

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



Books are still being collected for prisoners.

By Joyce Kamm St. Edward's Refugee Welcome Team

IMPORTANT: For the safety of the children still in Afghanistan please DO NOT reprint this article or share any photos on social media.

Meet the Rahim Family - From Tent Cities to a Home

The Rahim family fled the Taliban with three sons and a daughter, ages 2, 7, 10 and 12. Sadly, Najibullah and Malalay had to leave three children behind; two sons and a daughter, ages 14, 17, 19. There was a limit to how many they could bring with them. Their three children in Afghanistan are living with Malalay's mother. The bright spot in this scenario is that they video chat every day and can send pictures back and forth. They are looking forward to the day they can be reunited. As you may know the family is Muslim. When Malalay learned my son was in prison, she said, "We have the same God. I pray for your son." Obviously I said, "Yes, we have the same God. I pray for your children as well." May we all hold this family in prayer... that they will be reunited as soon as possible.



After fleeing Afghanistan, the family had to live in a tent city in Germany for 45 days. They then made their way to New Mexico where they lived another 45 days in the same situation. December 2 they arrived in Lancaster to a temporary stay in an Airbnb...an actual roof over their heads. December 15 they moved into their first somewhat permanent home. It has been rented for 6 months by CWS. It is very small for 6 people but it is home for now.

This has been a "whirlwind" journey. I



1609A Chadwick Circle, Lancaster, PA

would like to thank EVERYONE who worked so tirelessly to turn a house into a home. We went beyond...deciding at the last minute to spackle and paint as much of the home as we could. The owners of the building gave their approval and supplied the paint. On set-up day, people were still painting as furniture was moved in. But I think this extra push was worth the effort. It made the home look so fresh and clean.

Some comments from team members during this whole process:

After receiving a hug from one of the boys --"Their appreciation melts my heart."

"We are blessed. Our team turned a shack into a house in 3 days!"

Building friendships. "I love the fact that this project has helped this family but that I also have you in my life now."



By Peg Reiley



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.

Faith in Action

There are so many people to thank:

Welcome Team - Leslie Arnold, Meredith Aul Westgate, Father Rick Bauer, Candee Buckbee, Catherine Donohue, Deborah Fast, Dina Ishler, Herb Johnston, Joyce Kamm, Beth Lynch, Bruce Lynch, Linda Mamorium, Mac Miller, Ellen Milligan, David Rutledge and Marsha Shirk.

Thanks to Donna Esbenshade who didn't quite make the Welcome Team officially because there wasn't enough time to process paperwork before leaving for Florida, but still a great help in grocery shopping, finding a high chair for Anfal shopping, and donating a stroller.

Our Moving Crew - David Rutledge, Bill Deegan, Beth Lynch, Steve Donohue, Bruce Lynch, Nancy Mannion and Fred Cluck

Our Transportation Crew - Comprised of almost the entire team. Special thanks to Herb Johnston who has tirelessly transported before leaving for Florida. It is a custom that only men can transport Mr. Rahim. Although he has been willing to "bend the rules" during this initial phase, when absolutely necessary, we will honor their custom going forward. Thank you also to David Rutledge. We only had two men on the team approved to drive so they are valued. Bruce Lynch has now joined the Transportation Team. Bruce and David are becoming our official Grocery Store crew.

Cleaning and Painting Crew: Marsha Shirk, David Rutledge, Leslie Arnold, Deborah Fast, Candee Buckbee

Zion UMC, Myerstown - donated a Roku TV.

Team Members - donated bedroom furniture, living room furniture, dining table and chairs, ironing board, sheets, bedspreads and many other household supplies requested by CWS.

Eleventh Hour Requests- Thank you to Father Rick and Brother David who showed up to create a three-car caravan that moved all their belongings and some food at 8pm the night before move-in and Catherine Donohue who answered a last minute call to help transport the family to their new home at 7:45am.

A local doctor who donated money toward the purchase of a washer and dryer.

Mark Jakiel and James Lynch (non-members of the Welcome Team) who showed up to help load and unload furniture on move-in day.

Thank you to a friend-of-a-friend who gave us access to her storage unit and told

us to take anything we want. One treasure in Malalay's eyes was a set of dinnerware for 12. Her reaction when she saw the dishes was to hug them close and say "My dream, my dream". You can see the gratitude in her eyes.



Beth Lynch - our star packer and U-Haul driver.

A Parishioner who donated money to start a working fund for the Rahim family which has been a huge help. One item purchased was a toddler bed. As you can see Anfal loves it.



Malalay Rahim—our wonderful hostess who will always have a cup of tea ready for you and, quite often, an invitation to a lovely dinner.



Joyce, Malalay and Brother David



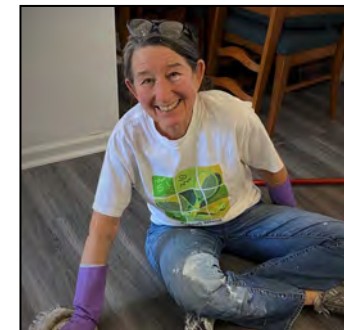
Tayabullah, Khateebullah, Sohaibullah & Anfal



Father Najibullah



Deborah Fast



Marsha Shirk



Meredith and Beth



In a school setting a friendship bench may also be known as a buddy bench, and is a special place in a school playground where a child can go when they want someone to talk to. Friendship benches may be distinctively different from other seating in the school and may be specially designed by an artist or with the help of the children themselves. They are rainbow-colored and were originally created by C.R Plastics, a Canadian company that creates recycled plastic outdoor furniture. Such benches are situated in open and well-traveled areas of the school so that any child using the bench will be noticed quickly.

When a child feels the need for a friend to talk to, he or she can show this by using the friendship bench. Other children and staff will recognize this as a sign that some help, support or comfort is needed and will come to talk with the child.

The friendship bench is a means by which a child can seek support without the need to rationalize their feelings or to seek out a particular member of staff or special friend. Because the bench is in the day-to-day environment of the school it can be used at any time and for any reason—from seemingly trivial matters to more serious concerns—and encourages children to ask for help when they are troubled.



"Remember there's no such thing as a small act of kindness. Every act creates a ripple with no logical end." - Scott Adams



1931-2021

"Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world."

"Don't raise your voice, improve your argument."

"Forgiving is not forgetting; its actually remembering--remembering and not using your right to hit back. Its a second chance for a new beginning. And the remembering part is particularly important. Especially if you dont want to repeat what happened."

"We may be surprised at the people we find in heaven. God has a soft spot for sinners. His standards are quite low."

"Differences are not intended to separate, to alienate. We are different precisely in order to realize our need of one another."

"When we see others as the enemy, we risk becoming what we hate. When we oppress others, we end up oppressing ourselves. All of our humanity is dependent upon recognizing the humanity in others."

"We are made for goodness. We are made for love. We are made for friendliness. We are made for togetherness. We are made for all of the beautiful things that you and I know. We are made to tell the world that there are no outsiders. All are welcome: black, white, red, yellow, rich, poor, educated, not educated, male, female, gay, straight, all, all, all. We all belong to this family, this human family, God's family."

"There comes a point where we need to stop just pulling people out of the river- We need to go upstream and find out why they're falling in."

"In the end what matters is not how good we are but how good God is. Not how much we love Him but how much He loves us. And God loves us whoever we are, whatever we've done or failed to do, whatever we believe or can't."

FAITH IN ACTION

Hempfield Area Food Bank: We support this mission via tangible food items requested monthly by HAFP, as well as monetary donations, from parishioners. The pantry serves, on average, 120 families. The majority of families visit the pantry every week. Clients may visit the pantry once a week, either Monday or Wednesday.

Jesse Tree Christmas Gift Giving program: Each December, we are assigned families through a variety of local organizations that serve underprivileged families, and families at risk, in Lancaster County and the surrounding area. Our goal is to provide Christmas cheer to the children in these families.

St. Edward's Refugee Welcome Team: In partnership with Church World Services, we have a 16-member Welcome Team that shepherds a refugee family in their new life in the United States. We are happy to welcome the Rahim family from Afghanistan – husband, wife and 4 children. We support them in a variety of ways, including tangible items and monetary donations to facilitate specific requests.

Books for Prisoners: A book donation program, in partnership with St. John's, Lancaster, in support of our incarcerated brothers and sisters. Books of meditation and prayer.

Soles for Souls: Shoe collection during the Lenten season in partnership with St. John's, Lancaster.

School Supply Drive: August-September program in support of families in need of essential school supplies and backpacks in our Hempfield school district.

Feed My Starving Children: Lancaster County Feed My Starving Children MobilePack. St. Edward's participants create Mobilepacks of nourishment at this yearly event, in service to those in our wider global community who are most in need in Somalia and Uganda.

Pastoral Ministries: Stephen Ministry, KnitWits needle arts (prayer shawls).

Central Pennsylvania Blood Drive: Hosting and donating life-saving supplies to our community.

Race Against Racism: Participation in yearly 5K walk, working in unity to raise awareness and forge a better understanding of racial injustice and inequality.



ST. EDWARD'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

PRAYER & SPIRITUAL FORMATION MEETINGS VIA ZOOM & IN-PERSON

Wednesday Evening Bible Study: 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM: A weekly study group reading a variety of texts. Zoom invite in your weekly emails. For questions, please contact Bob Mosebach at rcmosebach@comcast.net or Leslie Arnold at larnold897@aol.com

Thursday St. Edward's Widows Group: 1st Thursday of each month at 10:00 AM at St. Edward's We invite women of St. Edward's, as well as friends that you may know who may benefit from such a group, to gather in-person. Gaining confidence and support from each other while honoring confidentiality and positive support with the hope of developing new and enduring friendships is the mission of the group.

For more information:

Peggy Hanzelman: **717.390.4944**phanzelman@comcast.net

Ethel Lawrence: **717.314.8993**rose1@dejazzd.com

Friday Lunch & Learn: Fridays, from 12 Noon – 1 PM, via Zoom. Join Father Rick and Bob Mosebach as we explore a wide range of texts. Zoom invite is in our weekly emails.

Friday Evening Prayer at 7:00 PM: This is a wonderful way to peacefully end our week and is led by Patrick Ishler. **Join us on Zoom:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86327105082>
Join Code: 863 2710 5082

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.

Saturday Men's Group: 2nd Saturday of each month from 8 AM - 10 AM: Join us at St. Edward's, in the parish hall, in partnership with Saint James Episcopal Church, for two hours of fellowship, including Morning Prayer. Coffee and donuts will be served.

Sunday Evening Prayer at 7:00 PM: Send Br. David Rutledge an email to be put on an email distribution list: drutledge1225@gmail.com

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/95355083080> **Meeting ID: 953 5508 3080**



ST. EDWARD'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

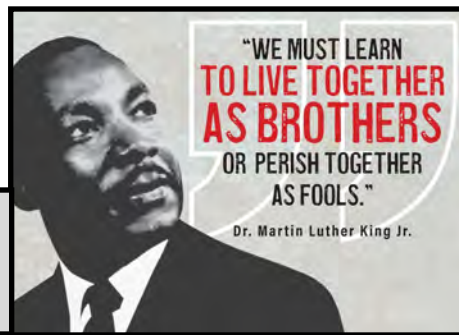
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New Members Ministry



Through the generous donation by a fellow parishioner, St. Edward's now has wonderful new Welcome packets in our pews and entrance spaces, as well as New Member Welcome bags with essential information about St. Edward's and The Episcopal Church. We are very excited to launch our robust New Member Ministry efforts in 2022 and we encourage fellow parishioners to join our team. Please contact Nancy Mannion or Mary Snyder to learn more about this important ministry. We can all be in ministry with new members, offering a smile, a greeting, a tour of our lovely church, an invitation to join each other at a

coffee hour or event. Let's grow our community together!



Martin Luther King Day 2022

January 17th

UTO Boxes

By Ellen Milligan

So, I took the UTO collection to Lanco FCU this morning and our total is: (drumroll) \$193. 96!



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!

 **JANUARY** 2022

Include your news and announcements in the next Scepter.
Due date for February will be:

January 20th.

Send articles and announcements to:
HJ_Miller@outlook.com
hj_miller@outlook.com



The New Organ

Article and Pictures by Rayelenn Casey

Twice in my life at St Edward's I have been unexpectedly privileged to be in the church when a new organ was brought in. The first time, there was no organ, and a "new to us" but very old organ was acquired; we were thrilled to have it join the piano in helping us give voice to our worship. This time, I happened to be in the church when we let go of that well-worn organ, now many years older, diminished and unreliable, and we accepted a brand new anonymously-donated and gratefully-welcomed organ.

Truth be told, as spiritual beings we are always being challenged to let go of the past and invited to embrace what can be new, even exhilaratingly new, in our lives. Not for the sake of mere modernizing, or fancying up, or just out of a conviction that "new" must undeniably mean "better" -- but because sometimes something that has been long dear to us has lost its ability genuinely to satisfy our needs, to speak for us, to help us give full voice to our truth, to sing our best song. Moving on calls out our best selves.

There was something of a sense of cleansing as the piano movers emptied what had been a crowded space. There was, amazingly, a lot of room there. The big old organ, that long high bench, the tall bulky grey box that housed the electronic gizmos that made the organ sing, once removed, left a sense of spaciousness that we may not have realized we hadn't been experiencing. The wide-open emptiness of the space, bathed in the late-afternoon sun, acutely highlighted accumulated layers of dust and dirt, a handful of long-dead bugs, and a few screws and bolts that had worked themselves out of the woodwork. It called for cleansing so clearly that Fr. Rick hurried to locate the push broom and went straight in to tidy and sweep. That expansive openness, and cleaning out the cobwebs, were somehow in themselves satisfying, even exhilarating.

But the goal was not to empty the space. The goal was to empty the space *so that* it could be filled with something better that would contribute to our spiritual growth.

In his Advent II sermon just a couple of days before, Father Rick made mention of "dumping the mug." He actually mimed the action from the pulpit! Listening and watching, I imagined that mug being half-full of tepid stale water. Our instinct is to dump it out, and we do. But we don't "dump the mug" in order to have an empty mug. We empty it *so that* it can be filled, refilled.

St. Edward's emptied the space on the Memorial Garden side of the church *so that* we could fill it with a new organ that somehow, I envision, will help us as we commit ourselves to singing a new song here.

I was in the church that day to talk to Fr. Rick about clearing some of my own interior spiritual spaces of things I once held dear that are now diminished, that no longer satisfy or enrich. I need to jettison some old ways of thinking and some worn-out beliefs in order to make room for what God is doing in my life now. Right there in the rector's office I was sweeping away some dust and bolts and old bugs. I was dumping the mug. I was being emptied *so that* I could be filled, refilled. I was being made new.

OK, yes -- sometimes we find change hard. We've all experienced that; some things just seem very hard to let go. We want to hold on to the familiar, ease along with the people or things or beliefs we've long known and loved. I'm guessing that some folks in the church are finding some of the changes here difficult. I've felt it too. Being away from Saint Edward's for 2 1/2 years, I returned to find a new rector, a new style of preaching, new programs, nearly half the congregation made up of people I don't know, masks, and yes -- a new carpet! Change can be jarring, unsettling, especially if we truly loved the way things were.

But change can also be so life-giving and spirit-opening for us in this place. We've discovered that there is in fact a lot of room here, an expansive spacious openness of spirit that perhaps we didn't know we had. We have new opportunities for relationships at St. Edward's, and wonderful new ways of being community. We are enjoying a joyous facelift of our worship space -- new banners and carpet and baptismal font, an updated outdoor sign of welcome, and a beautiful stained glass window coming! We are now blessed with a marvelous organ and are broadening our ways of making music. We have rich opportunities for learning and teaching, and refreshed liturgy and preaching. There are so many new ways now to reach out to "be light" in our community.

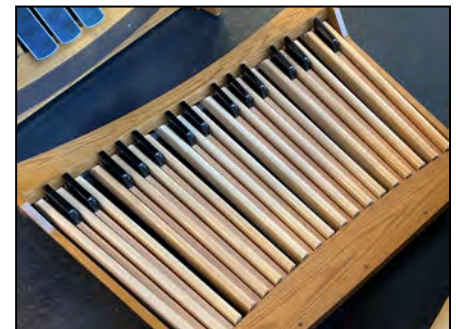
What we have, to my view, is new and abundant life at St. Edward's, and I'm grateful and glad, and glad to be part of it.

Yes, sometimes change can seem hard, but just as when Jesus called "Ephaphtha" -- Be Opened -- to the deaf man, I believe God is urging us to be open -- to open our

eyes to behold and see that all things are being made new, to open our minds to the preaching and teaching with which we are blessed, to open our hearts to all the people in our midst new and old, to look beyond where we've been, to "dump the mug" *so that* it can be filled with a refreshing new supply of the water of life.

It's no disrespect to the good of the past to revel in the new and good present and plan for a new and good future. We can remember with fondness how we've "lived and moved and had our being" here at St. Edward's for a couple of decades, while at the same time joyfully embrace where we are now and the opportunities we have now for fellowship and building one another up and offering love and solace and strength to our community.

I hope you join me in both the fond remembering and in the moving forward with joy and commitment into who we are, and who we can be in the days to come. Our best selves are being called out.



The New Organ



On December 7-8 our new organ was delivered and installed!



Maybe a little more to the left. . no, to the right. . .



Careful and slow to make it all be just right!



Father Rick was instrumental in coordinating the removal of the old organ and cleaning the space.



We couldn't be in better hands than to have Father Rick's keen eye, as a professional musician, making sure everything is just right.



Let the music begin!

Annual Cookie Sale

Pictures by Meredith Westgate and Michelle Bentley



Mark Jakiel and Kevin Milligan take money



Mark Jakiel, Jerry Hoff and crafts



Lots of cookies and lots of customers.



Knit wits crafts many made by Irene Achey



Gloria Kacinko's snowmen



Freda Dombach and Ethel Lawrence



Barb Jakiel and Tina Shank



The variety of cookies was impressive.



What a wonderfully successful Christmas and Craft sale we had in 2021. It was a beautiful day filled with the joy of the season. Not only did we break a record in money raised – over \$3,300, but the spirit and volunteerism supporting this event was true *Faith in Action*. From the crafts persons making such unique gifts, to the bakers creating an abundant selection of confections; to our volunteers who set-up and cleaned up the event, and to Mark and Barb Jakiel, who have faithfully led this fund-raising event for over 17 years!



Pre-Lenten Silent Retreat



We currently have 8 rooms available. All rooms are private rooms with individual bath. You can share a room if you wish. The cost is \$150 per person. (Financial assistance is available.)

Each room has two full sized beds.

Included in the cost are 2 dinners, 2 breakfasts, 2 lunches, snacks and drinks. Also, each room will have bed sheets, blankets, pillows, pillowcases and towels.

Mariawald is a beautiful place with lots of woods and walking trails. The building where we will have the retreat has many “nooks and crannies” where you can read, meditate, and pray. Take advantage of all that is available to you. Please **plan on arriving between 3:00pm and no later than around 5:30pm on Thursday, February 24.** (Other arrival times can be by arrangement). Our first meal together is at 6:00 pm.

This is a *self-directed* retreat. Our goal is to give *you* the space and time to listen deeply in silence. Being in silence for 36 hours will give you plenty of opportunity for self-exploration and rest. Naps are encouraged! There will be time before the silence begins and at the end for discussion and sharing if you like. Once the silence begins, the house (both inside and out) will be in silence, including mealtimes.

Please contact the parish office if you are interested and Michelle will get you a registration packet.

February 24-26, 2022

Saint Edward’s Episcopal Church

Held at: **Mariawald Retreat Center** 1094 Welsh Road, Reading, PA 17607

With 36 hours of Silence

Led by Fr. Rick Bauer (Saint Edward’s) & Br. David Rutledge (Community of Francis and Clare)

Stewardship Speakers in December

Pictures by Mary Snyder



Nancy Mannion on the 2nd Sunday in Advent.



Jamie Alton spoke after the Peace on the 3rd Sunday of Advent.



Ethel Lawrence –spoke at the end of the service on the 4th Sunday in Advent–That way she got a standing ovation when she finished.

Fire in the Glen

Pictures by Meredith Westgate and Michelle Bentley



This energetic band has been pleasing crowds since 1999. Now in its tenth incarnation, Fire in the Glen has a blend of the new and the familiar.

Band founder, fiddler and bodhranist Tom Knapp is joined onstage by Amanda Wells on guitar, percussion and vocals, and Rod Nevin on Highland bagpipes, Scottish small pipes, pennywhistle, ukulele and vocals, for a lively show!

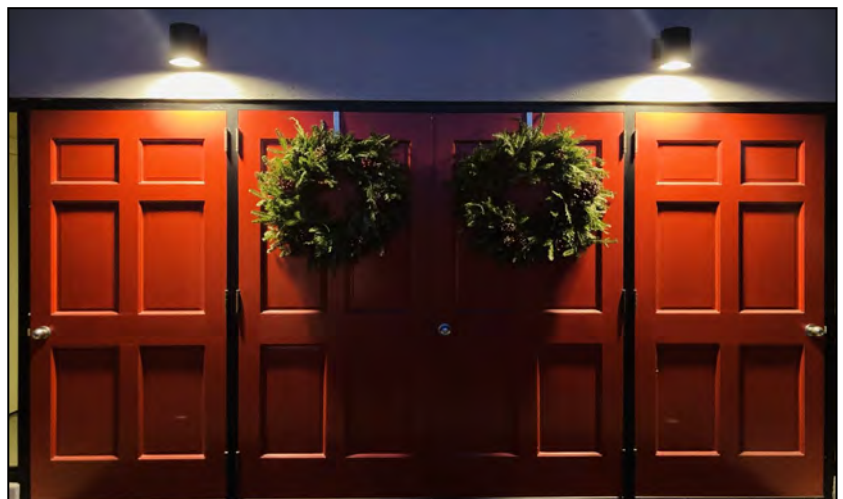


Entrance Decorated for Christmas

Pictures by Meredith Westgate and Michelle Bentley



Nancy Oliver puts the finishing touches on the decorative planters that flank the front doors.



The red front doors welcome all.

Opportunities to Serve at St. Edward's in 2022

By Michelle Bentley



In each Monday email, we focus on the various “gifts” we experience in life. It is our hope that this encourages you to consider what gifts you may have to offer in service to the ministry, mission, and vision of St. Edward’s. We have a wonderful exercise, which is a spiritual gifts inventory, that can assist individuals to get to know themselves in ways that can direct them to an area of ministry that would be fulfilling for them. This is found on our website, on our Adult Spiritual Formation page.

As we enter 2022, perhaps you may consider serving in ministry at St. Edward’s.

Recognizing, and then giving, your spiritual gifts are vital to the successful mission and ministry of a parish. The Body of Christ is made up of many members. As Christians, we are all ministers of the church and we all possess unique gifts, given by the Spirit, that allow us to carry out the Great Commission. Below is a

listing of ministry opportunities. Please contact the parish office with any questions you may have! It is our goal to assist you in finding a ministry opportunity that you will find joy in. We will also connect you with the ministry leader.

- Adult Spiritual Formation
- Altar Guild
- Choir
- Coffee Hour
- Communications
- Cultural Events
- Faith In Action
- Fellowship
- Finance Committee
- Fundraising Committee
- Historian
- Knit Wits (needle arts)
- Lector
- Lay Eucharistic Minister
- Memorial Garden
- New Member Ministry
- Pastoral Care/Stephen Ministry
- Property/Building Committee

- Special Events Committee
- Stewardship Committee
- Sunday School
- Usher
- Vestry

We also encourage you to get to know the Five Marks of Mission. The Five Marks of Mission are an important statement on mission. They express the Anglican Communion’s common commitment to, and understanding of, God’s holistic and integral mission. The mission of the Church is the mission of Christ.

1. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
2. To teach, baptize and nurture new believers
3. To respond to human need by loving service
4. To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation
5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth

Sundays in Advent



HOPE – Buddy and Liz Yeager



JOY– Mary Snyder and Jodi Good



LOVE–Dina and Patrick Ishler



PEACE– Nancy Mannion and Fred Cluck



Christmas Services

Pictures by Rayelenn Casey, Meredith Westgate and Mac Miller



Fr. Rick gives sermon



Karen Waddill accompanies Tonna Dieter on Violin



The choir added so much at the 8 PM service.



Eucharist at 6 PM.



Fr. Rick and Bob Mosebach at 8 PM service.



Sadie pointing to a "star"



Still is the Night Joseph M. Martin with STILL, STILL, STILL, traditional Austrian melody Beth Hake and Seth Hake, vocalists at 6 PM

Christmas Services



Christmas poinsettias decorate the altar.



Tonna Dieter and Jamie Alton at 8 PM



Dina Ishler 8PM



Jamie Alton, tenor 8PM



Patrick Ishler 8 PM



Sadie and Elizabeth Casey Stauffer enjoying the 6PM service.



Fr. Rick reads the Gospel.



Fr. Rick's Christmas morning message.



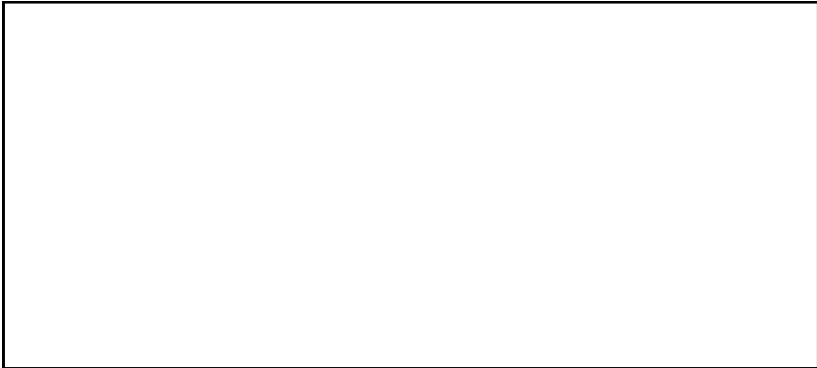
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Staff

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/)

