

December 2023



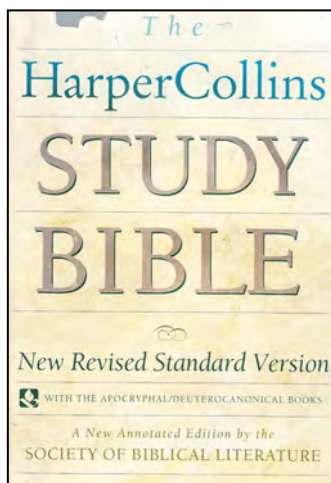
ST. EDWARD'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Scepter



Reflection From the Rector's Desk

By The Rev. Dr. Richard C. Bauer



“I humbly ask each of you to take the ‘Bible Challenge’ with me this coming year. From January 1st through December 31st of 2024, our parish will engage the daily discipline of reading through the Bible from cover-to-cover, from Genesis through Revelation.

In the circles I keep, I often find myself in conversations around things that draw folks to the Episcopal Church. Given the rich *Tradition* that undergirds our worship, many people find home in this denomination due to the ritual rhythms that order our services. Indeed, as a church of “common prayer”, a hallmark of the Episcopal ethos manifests in the way that the liturgy seems to have a living logic of its own that makes its way into our bones. Internalizing our liturgy can be like running our thumbs up the vertebrae of our spines, where the order of service that we engage roots us in an experiential center with interlocking elements that lend functional form to the whole. We gather, praise the divine, read and ponder sacred texts, offer up inter-

cessions, confess our shortcomings, exchange peace, retell the mythic narrative of our union with God, symbolically internalize our connection through Holy Communion, and we go back into the world in thanksgiving, as ambassadors of a loving and merciful teacher. In a universe where so little is under our control, it can feel like a gift of respite for us to experience an hour in church that’s largely predictable.

Another element of the Episcopal Church that people routinely mention (as drawing them in), is our full embrace of *Reason*. None of us are asked to leave our brains at home when we come to church, trusting that our sincere struggles to find meaning and purpose in life invite a nuanced balance between the internal and

external forces that shape us. In our *Tradition*, we strive to walk in a “way of love” that compels us to reflect deeply upon the lived witness of Jesus Christ as we navigate tensions that frequently tempt us toward less noble responses: to the people we meet, and to the circumstances that unfold along our journeys. As a pillar of our Episcopal ethos, *Reason* beckons us to embrace a ‘faith-seeking-understanding’ that orders our lives, just as our worship is itself, ordered. This means that our shared religious life functions as a context through which we actively commit ourselves to maintain hope for ourselves and for our world, that we acknowledge how the contents of our thoughts and motivations inform our lived experiences, and that we humble ourselves in the knowledge that we each have growing to do as Spirit-enlivened beings.

But while folks often site two of the three legs upon which the Episcopal Church stands, when discussing the things that draw them to the denomination, I seldom hear mention of the third. Certainly, we find ample room for approaching a life of faith in our church with reflective sincerity and intellectual honesty, while sharing together in ancient tradi-

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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

tions that link us with the ritual experiences of our ancestors in Christ. But what IS our church's relationship with *Scripture*? To a large extent, all Christians are "people of the Book" and everything that we do stems from principles and narratives found in our sacred texts. But we are not a "Bible Church" in terms of currently accepted meaning in our wider culture. Because in the balance of our reasoned tradition, we do not teach any literal interpretations of *Scripture* that calcify evolving understandings of the natural world or that divorce ancient writings from the bounds of their historical contexts. Episcopalians are not biblical fundamentalists. And yet, we're adamant in our expression that "all things necessary for salvation" can be uncovered through the exercise of reading, marking, and inwardly digesting the holy books that articulate our shared sacred narrative.

When I think about my own relationship with the Bible, I'm incredibly thankful to have found my place as a follower of Jesus in the Anglican/Episcopal ethos. Raised in an eclectic balance of biblical fundamentalism and Roman Catholic dogma, I spent my childhood attending Pentecostal and Baptist churches with my stepmother on Sundays, while living day-to-day in an extended family of devout Catholics. Growing up, I heard many sermons that sought to bitterly defend literal interpretations of the Bible. God was routinely presented to me as an exacting celestial parent not to be trifled with if I didn't want to go to Hell. I was taught that Jesus people went to heaven and that everyone else was fundamentally, dead-wrong about existence. I observed the embodied shame of Catholic guilt over issues of sexual identity and expression, the supremacy of the Church over matters of forgiveness and reconciliation, and a moral malaise that

deferred the sufferings of this life to the payoff of a paradise awaiting in another. By the time I had entered my early adulthood, I didn't think that I would ever bother with organized Christianity again. But the time I spent absorbing a spectrum of Christian expressions also inspired a number of profound religious experiences for me growing up. In moments, I had tapped into things that felt incredibly profound, inclusive, and good, beneath the surface noises of a weaponized Bible and an all-powerful Church. I thought, there had to be a middle way!

And so it was, that I cared enough about the glimpses I caught of a deeper spirituality to begin graduate studies in Religion after college. I still remember my first class, the seminar in sacred texts that exposed me to the principal holy books of the world's major living religious traditions. There, in a program with Jewish and Muslim colleagues, instructed by experts in Christian Studies, Buddhism and Hinduism, the size of my understanding of 'God' grew exponentially. I remember the "eureka" moment that came for me when I discovered the battery of tools available to scholars for learning how to read holy books, the way that my own religious upbringing could be redeemed and revitalized through the invitation to apprehend spiritual "truth" through storytelling that had nothing to do with fact. And in my own walk with the holy, it was life changing for me to embrace the Bible anew with what I had learned, as a collection of sacred narratives about higher living that didn't need to correlate with literal factuality in order for it to hold ultimate meaning. What began as a mystical pull to investigate the faith of my upbringing truly transformed my life; leading me to complete three advanced degrees across the disciplines of religion, theology, and ministry; discovering my

vocation as a spiritual teacher, pastor, and Episcopal Priest.

In 2024, I'd like to share some of what I've learned, some of my passion for sacred texts with everyone here at St. Edward's. Part call to action, part personal plea, here in this Advent season of anticipation: *I humbly ask each of you to take the "Bible Challenge" with me this coming year. From January 1st through December 31st of 2024, our parish will engage the daily discipline of reading through the Bible from cover-to-cover, from Genesis through Revelation.* While this may sound like a daunting task, it only requires our willingness to set aside thirty minutes per day to sit with our Bibles and read them. Then, each week, we'll use our *Friday Lunch and Learn* program as a forum for discussing what we're discovering together. We'll have chances to talk about our thoughts and feelings, but we'll also have life-changing opportunities to learn about the historical backgrounds of each book in the Bible, about the original sources that influenced and shaped the texts, and about the larger arc of what we call "salvation history" from out of the first-century blending of Jewish and Greco-Roman cultures. Equipped with the gifts of our tradition and our reason, we'll be holding intentional space as a congregation for uncovering ways to better embrace Scripture this year. With the Spirit's help, we'll be discovering new possibilities for what the Living Word has to say to us in the here and now. So, please put an **NRSV Harper Collins Study Bible** on your Christmas wish list this December and let's join together as a spiritual family in our embrace of Scripture. Welcome to the Bible Challenge friends! In Christ,

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

Mary Snyder

Joyce Kamm



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 Blair Lord



It's that time of year where we find ourselves barreling into November and December, hardly even a moment to brace ourselves for the whirling, thrilling plunge. Another way to think of it comes from my mom's best friend: "Thanksgiving is the midterm, and Christmas is the final exam."

In a way, St. Edward's is heading into "midterms" with the start of our annual Stewardship Campaign, the call to discern, pledge, and share why we continue to love and support this parish. During the November vestry meeting on Sunday the 19th, Jay Miller and Blair Lord accepted the invitation to share their stewardship and ministry experiences during the 10am services on December 10th and December 17th respectively.

Financially, we're excited to see our budget in the black and a few of the projects on the "wish list" make headway. The new front doors have received a permit, and installation will occur in the second week of December. The installation will lead to painting the inside doors the same red hue

as the current front doors, although the sides of the doors facing the narthex will remain white. We'll next clean the carpet in the sanctuary for the Advent and Christmas seasons. There are options on the table for contractors to take care of our parking lot and winter-weather maintenance. The vestry will keep a running list of other building concerns to address, such as lighting and space renovations, as opportunities arise.

We've wrapped up the Turkey Drive and ALERT collection. Upcoming parish events include the Jesse Tree Project (gift deadline December 4th), the Craft and Cookie Sale on Saturday, December 9th, and Krist Kindling, which begins the week before Advent 1 (November 27th to December 3rd) and culminates in the dinner on Wednesday, December 20th, where gift givers will be revealed. Then, of course, come the Christmas Eve services and Christmas Day message. The choir will sing at both the 4:30pm and 7:00pm services. Refreshments will be provided for the choir in between.

As we embark on this invigorating and sometimes daunting period, we are called to remember that we are here for each other as a community, as the hands and feet of Christ in the world. In whatever ways we are impacted by changes outside our parish, such as the likely reunification of the dioceses of Central Pennsylvania and Bethlehem in the next two years, we are committed to tending our vineyard. We're incredibly grateful to new members who have already jumped into pledging and for veterans who find ways to expand our church's capacity to care and love. Thank you especially for supporting the Rahims, including providing household supplies, helping to bring the rest of their family to the U.S., and finding a new home that can

accommodate their needs.

Please feel free to reach out to us with any questions or concerns. Have a blessed and joyful holiday season!

In the Narthex



Information and sign-up sheets for a variety of ministries and activities make it simple to volunteer.



Day by Day booklets, prayer pockets, and consecrated wafers are available for your use.

Military News

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

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| ★ Justin Carnahan | ★ Richard Mutari |
| ★ Brandon Fox | ★ David Peck |
| ★ Gordon Frankenfield | ★ Capt. Andrew Pfeiffer |
| ★ Matt Fuhrman | ★ Mike Spurr |
| ★ Jack Hawk | ★ David Sternberg |
| ★ Benjamin Jenkins | ★ Clayton Tennes |
| ★ Drew Johnson | ★ Connor Tennes |
| ★ William Justice | ★ Allison Tomich |
| ★ Anthony Koser | ★ Evan Westgate |
| ★ Alex Kube | ★ Seamas Whitesel |
| ★ John Lewis | ★ 1 st Lt. Thomas Whitesel |



Breneman Baptism



Father Rick begins the sacrament of Holy Baptism at our Rite II service



Bob Mosebach assists Father Rick at the Baptismal Font



The baptism took place on Feast of All Saints Sunday.



Father Rick baptizes Scarlett. Christian looks on.



Angela Breneman holds Cheyenne



Scarlett is sealed with the Holy Spirit in Baptism.



The Breneman family and friends



Sadie



Aaron, Cheyenne, and Scarlett
Breneman Trunk or Treating

Pokémon League



Winter 2024

Pokémon winter session
is January 5 - March 13th.

Wednesday Nights 6:30 – 8 p.m.

For more information you may call
Beth Lynch @ 336-707-0140

The league provides a safe and free
space for kids and teens to play Poké-
mon in all forms. It provides crafts,
trading, games, and socialization.



LIGHT-UP BOX

Christmas lights remind us that Jesus shines in the darkness. Here's a fun way to play with holiday lights.

What you need:

- A strand of Christmas lights
- A large clear plastic container and lid
- Green tissue paper
- Colorful beads

What you do:

1. Plug in the lights and place them in the container.
2. Put on the lid. (If the lid isn't transparent, flip the box over.)
3. Play with your light box, using these ideas as starters:
 - Cut tissue paper into triangles and arrange them in a tree shape. Decorate the tree with colorful beads.
 - Use the light box for tracing. Place a picture on it, with a clean sheet of paper on top. Then trace the drawing.
 - Use magnet tiles to build designs atop the light box.

Try building a 3-D Christmas tree!

PUZZLE

SIMEON'S SIGHT

When Joseph and Mary brought baby Jesus to the temple, they heard a special prophecy from Simeon.

Directions: Using the star key, write the words in the correct spaces to complete Luke 2:30-32, NIV.

"For my _____ have seen your _____, which you have prepared in the sight of all _____: a _____ for revelation to the _____, and the _____ of your people _____."

Luke 2:30-32, NIV

Answers: eyes, salvation, nations, light, Gentiles, glory, Israel



Bible Quiz

Elizabeth, an older relative of Mary the mother of Jesus, was miraculously pregnant at the same time as Mary. What was the name of Elizabeth's husband?

- A. Aaron
- B. Zechariah
- C. Joseph
- D. Simeon

Answer: B (See Luke 1:5, 39-41.)



Answers
INSIDE

Answer: B (See Luke 1:5, 39-41.)

A Letter and a Story from Muska Rahim

Contributed via Meredith Westgate

From Muska Rahim



To the people of St. Edward's,

First of all, I am very thankful to Father Rick for allowing me to write this letter and making my words reach you, and I'm extremely grateful to Becky, Meredith and Randy who are doing almost everything that they are able to, and a special thanks to all those people who have supported my family from their first day in America.

I'm Muska Rahim, daughter of Najibullah Rahim. My two brothers (Haseebullah Rahim and Munibullah Rahim) and I are in Afghanistan, far away from our family. We have been waiting already for two years for the American government to one day fulfill its promises!

I am already having different types of health problems from the stressful situation that we are in here. I can't sleep all night. I have been spending my nights thinking about my family and our family's future for almost two years. No school, no education, nothing for life, can't go outside, no security, and no family with me that can give me certitude. I can say that living in Afghanistan is worse than being in a prison.

When my family left Afghanistan in August 2021, some of us were not allowed to go with our parents, so me and my two brothers were left behind in Afghanistan. Can you imagine parents having to make a decision like that? And three teenagers who are watching their parents and siblings leave? I always think, aren't Afghans humans? Don't you think that they also deserve to be with their families, to have a secure future, to have promises kept and to have the right to live their lives the way they want? I ask you to think of me as an American girl who has faced all these difficulties and is still going through these situations and one day she will die of all these problems. I have a lot to say, some questions to ask, and so many things to worry about, but I will not take more of your time.

I have total trust in humanity, in a relation between all human beings, and I truly believe that you will feel my pain. I request that you support the Afghan Adjustment Act. This act will provide a path to permanent residency and ultimately to citizenship and family reunification for those Afghans who served the American military as interpreters, as my father did. If you could contact your Congressmen about the 2023 Afghan Adjustment Act, (S. 2327 and H.R. 4627) and tell them to please support it and encourage other friends and family members in other states to do the same, I would be very thankful to you, and I'm sure all Afghans would be, as well.

Thank you so much.

Muska Rahim



Following is Muska's story. Some may know that I have been "tutoring" her for several months now -- I put tutoring in quotes, because her English is very good and really, we have become friends that meet and talk. After we tired of English grammar, we moved on to American poetry which was a lot of fun, and now we're reading and discussing American short stories. A few weeks ago, I chose O. Henry's story, "The Gift of the Magi." You probably read this in middle or high school: the story of Della who cut her gorgeous hair to buy a watch for her beloved husband Jim. Jim sold the watch that was his pride and joy, to buy beautiful tortoise shell combs for Della's hair. I asked Muska if she had ever given or received a gift that was very important to her. She told me this story, which I thought encapsulated the plight of her family's separation. I asked her to write it down. With her permission, I am sharing her story.

Meredith

There was one day, one extremely beautiful day in my past, in which my father came back from his office and carrying two pens which had my father's name written on them. My father gifted one to me and kept one for himself. After some days I went shopping and I saw a penholder which matched that pen so I bought that and gifted that to my father.

We were happy, united family, but after a few years the Taliban took over our country, our Afghanistan. My family had to leave Afghanistan because my father worked with American military as a doctor. My father was trying to rescue himself and our family, so on August 23rd we had to leave our house and go to Kabul. I took my pen and put it in my mother's purse...

When we arrived to Kabul, the interpreter (the only person through whom American send their messages in that time) said to my father, "you, your wife and four of your children can go to America and rest of your children will remain here in Afghanistan" It was a hard decision that none of us were able to make: all of us were trying to have all of our family together in America to live together or stay here in Afghanistan to die together. We were really worried because if my dad remained in Afghanistan, no one knows that what the Taliban would have done to him, so we couldn't make that decision.

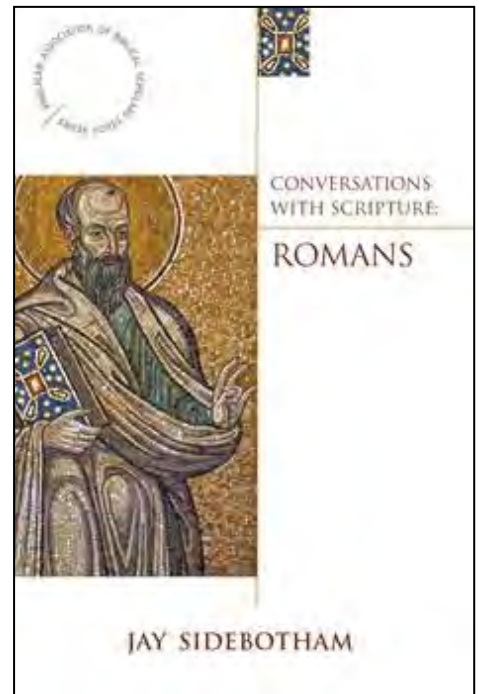
I can't remember what happened, but three of us, me, Muneebullah, and Haseebullah stayed in Afghanistan, and the rest of our family left Afghanistan to go to America. My mom took her purse that had my pen with her. My brothers and I came back to our house and I found there that pen holder that I had gifted to my father, so the gift that I gave my father is back with me and the gift my father gave me is back to him. I'm still waiting with that pen holder until one day I will be able to gift it once again to my Habibi, to my Hero, to my dad.

Muska Najib



December

Wednesday Evening Bible Study Series—"Romans"



Our St. Edward's Wednesday night Bible study offers an in-depth look, in this case at Romans. Our approach to Bible study has been to use the 'Conversations with Scripture' series as a guide through the topic. We travel at our own pace with the intention to delve into the scripture, recognizing its social-historical meaning for its initial hearers, as well as its modern-day readers. Please join us on our spiritual journey. Bob Mosebach



Jay Sidebotham

Jay Sidebotham, an Episcopal priest, serves as director of Renewal Works, a ministry of Forward Movement. Renewal-Works seeks to build cultures of discipleship in Episcopal congregations through a singular focus on spiritual growth. Jay has served in parish ministry in New York,

Chicago, North Carolina, DC, and Rhode Island. He also does a lot of church cartoons, because there is so much material.

This book guides readers into conversation with Paul's letter to the Romans. The author helps readers listen to what that letter said to the people to whom it was written and to hear what it says to us today. Readers will bring their own reflections, personal concerns, and questions to the table as we let this letter challenge us with meaning-letting it read the reader. The thesis of this book is that the letter has demonstrated transforming power to renew lives and the church through a focus on worship; a rigorous assessment of the human condition, especially the failure of human religiosity; a claim of transforming power in the ongoing life of Christ; an

expansive vision of who is included in God's life and love; a ll to practical application and proclamation of the gospel.

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

Advent



Cartoon by the Rev. Jay Sidebotham

Trunk or Treat

Pictures by Meredith Westgate, Gail Irons, Beth Lynch, Rayelenn Casey and Mac Miller



It was a beautiful fall evening



With even a lovely moon



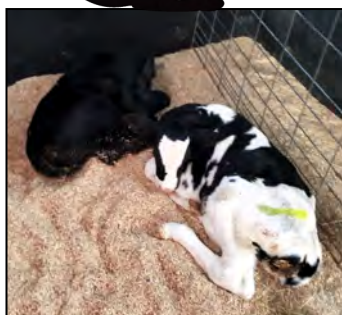
Jay and Lori Miller



Mike Freshwater



Mark Jakiel "treating"



And real cows in the petting barn



Fr. Rick, Ricky and Christian



Angela Breneman and her dog in a cow costume



Jamie Alton



Rayelenn Casey



A rideable chicken

Trunk or Treat



Fun in the parish hall



Joe McCabe and Clark Kent



Asher Westgate



It was a perfectly spooky night



Jakiels



The Pokémon theme was in full force!



A walking traffic cone



Freda and Rick Dombach



Beth and Seth Hake

Needle Arts Ministry

The Needle Arts Ministry meets Tuesday at 1 PM in the lounge area.

Members of this group, plus volunteer crafters, work all year to create a variety of items for the cookie/craft sale. They also make items such as prayer shawls and baptism blankets, as well as hats and scarves to be donated to any in need.

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.

Remember, everyone's always welcome to pop up at a Needle Arts meeting on Tuesdays at 1 PM in the lounge. No reservations required-just bring your sense of humor with 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



One Tuesday the group was shown how to make these "beachy" ornaments.



Kathy Flowers explains how to make the ornaments to Donna



Gloria Kacinko and Gail Irons



Irene Achey helps Ethel Lawrence learn how to knit

Widow's Group



Our **Widows Group** meets on the first Thursday of each month at 10 AM at the church. Next meeting Thursday, December 7th. All widows are invited. Come to a place where sharing is caring.

For more information contact:

Peggy Hanzelman: 717.390.4944

phanzelman@comcast.net or:

Ethel Lawrence: 717.314.8993

ethell748@gmail.com



Ripples of Kindness



Many of you know that our long-time parishioner, Rayelenn Casey, is a professional sign language interpreter with 44 years of experience at this work. In years past, she interpreted for every service at St Edward's, because at that time we had a Deaf parishioner who with her husband and family worshipped here faithfully.



Rayelenn Casey at Trunk or Treat

Our Trunk or Treat Halloween 2023 celebration was really fun and colourful. Many fancifully-dressed children happily received bagsful of tasty candy and wishes for a Happy Halloween from church members in more than 20 decorated cars and trucks.

The numbers were a bit down from last year and after the event some expressed uncertainty that the effort was "worth it." Should we do it again next year? Were the dollars and hours spent worth the investment?

The important thing to remember is that we shouldn't always measure the value of our church's work and outreach -- or of our lives -- by some algorithm of numbers and bottom line of time and money. Our outreach to the community can be deemed worthy and "successful" if we have done our best to offer the joy of our love to each other and to those whom we invite to our church campus. It is worthwhile if those who come feel an invitation to joy. Worthwhile -- if even only one person experiences the welcome, feels the love.

And so this is what happened on that pleasant October evening in St. Edward's church parking lot.

A family with a Deaf child attended the event. The little boy was dressed as Batman. The family moved through the whole event with no one ever realising that the child was not able to access the many words of welcome that were offered him. When they went to Rayelenn's car, she too welcomed and greeted the child and commented on his awesome costume, having no idea that he could not hear, that he was not receiving her happy welcome. They passed on to the next car, and that's when Rayelenn saw the mother signing to the little boy in the Batman costume. Rayelenn called out to her, and they came back. She began chatting with the child in American Sign Language, asking him first if he wanted more candy and then telling him how awesome his Batman costume was. They talked about what his favourite candy was. He replied to her, but he was very hesitant. Just shy? No. His father said to Rayelenn: "You know what it is? He's hesitant right now because this NEVER happens to him. He never goes ANYWHERE and finds a random person who can just chat with him. He only talks to people in planned and institutional settings like school. So he's a bit overwhelmed. In a good way! Thank you so much for what you've done for him -- for our whole family -- tonight. Make sure everyone here at your church knows how grateful we are. Tonight was about far more than candy."

We none of us have any idea when people come our way what their stories are. We can't see their loneliness just by looking. And we may never know the impact a simple act of lovingkindness, a brief moment of true communication and connection, may have on any of their lives. We can't know what that child, that family, will take away from their little visit to St. Edward's -- nor any of the many other children and families who visited us that night.

So the numbers may have been somewhat fewer than last year -- but those who attended -- no matter how many -- all were offered the "right hand of fellowship." All were offered joy and welcome and goodwill and kindness. We can't know or predict what effect our welcome might have had on little Batman, nor his family, nor any of the others who came our way that night as we shared love with them. "They'll know we are Christians by our love." And that's often enough -- or at least a good start.



thank you!

To the People of St. Edward's,
We would like to thank Fr. Rick and all the people of St. Edward's who offered us comfort and sympathy during a very difficult time. We thank you also for the beautiful flowers that always give peace to the soul. St. Edward's is a very special place and we are blessed to be a part of it. Thank you.
Mary Ann + Curt Frank

Cynthia Bell!!
Bob & Lisa Zant
Thank you for blessing us!!
Candace
Carol Sampson
Thank you thank you! Ina & Schlegel
Martha Cohen - What a blessing
Thank you!
Thank you for the additions to our choir. Johnson St. Sandra - Blessings
Dear St. Edward's beloveds ~
We are so very grateful for this gift of vestments - we are all so excited to use them, and I am promising you they will be well-loved and used. We are so grateful to you! With love
Dina + St. Matthews

St. Edward's donated all of our old choir vestments—adults and children to Dina's parish, St. Matthews.

In preparation for our 2024 Stewardship Campaign, Mr. Bowie stopped by to express his thoughts:

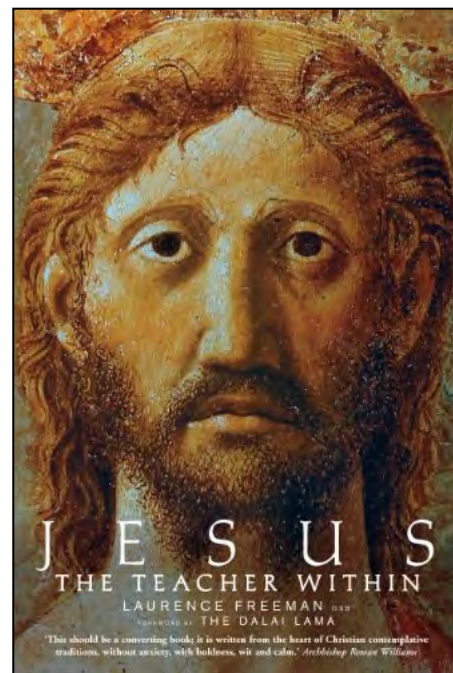
"After a year of attending St. Edward's, I have experienced a welcoming parish. People have shown such kindness to me in these last few weeks with my headgear! I would like to become a pledging member!" Could you help me fill out my pledge form?"



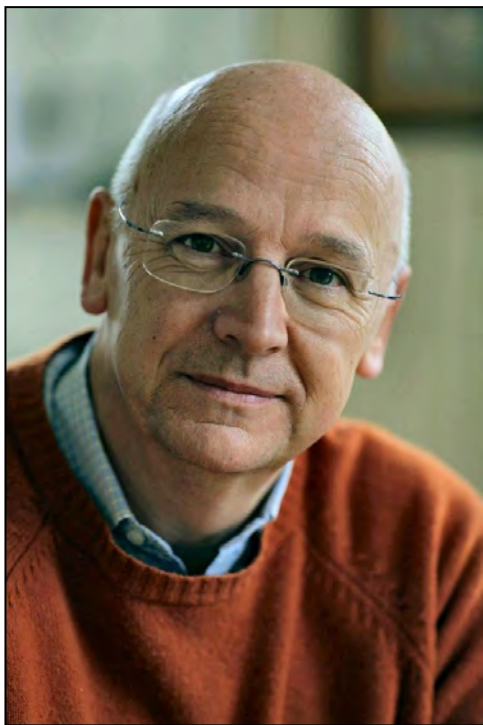
Lunch and Learn Fridays at Noon



Our fall *Lunch and Learn* season, which began on September 8, begins at 12 Noon. A zoom link will be in the Monday, email message. We are very excited to introduce the book, *Jesus the Teacher Within* by Laurence Freeman. We hope you will join Bob Mosebach and Father Rick as we journey into the person of Jesus, and the essential unity and simplicity at the heart of Jesus' teachings.



From Amazon: Embarking on this journey of rediscovery, this book takes as its starting point a question that Jesus himself asked his disciples, 'Who do you say I am?' For the many Christians who have never taken this question seriously, Laurence Freeman explores this question in the light of some of the big issues of religious understanding: the historical reality of Jesus, the experiential reading of the Scriptures, personal conversion, the inner journey.



Laurence Freeman

Laurence Freeman is a Benedictine monk of the Congregation of Monte Oliveto Maggiore in the Abbey of S Maria del Pilastrello, Lendinara Italy. With Irish and English roots, Laurence Freeman was educated by the Benedictines and studied English Literature at New College, Oxford University. Before entering monastic life, he worked with the United Nations in New York, in Banking and Journalism.



The Dalai Lama and Fr. Laurence Freeman





<p>1</p> <p>December</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>Advent 1 3</p> <p>Luke 21:25-36. How do the symbols of the Advent season help you understand the story of Jesus?</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Isaiah 58. How does this reading challenge you to think about feasts and festivals differently?</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Matthew 4:18-22. How do these verses from Matthew inspire you to read Scripture with new eyes?</p>
<p>6</p> <p>Pray along with the Collect for Advent 1, found on page 211 of <i>The Book of Common Prayer</i>.</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Call or write a letter to a family member with whom you would like to have a closer relationship.</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Ask God to open your heart and eyes to ways you can promote reconciliation and healing in your community.</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Read Luke 1:45. Share your faith story with one new person this week.</p>	<p>Advent 2 10</p> <p>Read Luke 3:1-6. How does the story of John the Baptist fill your heart with hope?</p>
<p>11</p> <p>Turn your heart and mind toward giving thanks for this time of reflection, refreshment, and renewal.</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Psalms 100. Take some time to just sit outside and let the air wash over you, taking away the stress and worry of the moment.</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Pray along with the Collect for Advent 2, found on page 211 of <i>The Book of Common Prayer</i></p>	<p>14</p> <p>Discern if there is a special blessing or gift you can share with your church, a local ministry, or with your community.</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Set aside 30 minutes to spend in silence with your best friend today. pray for each other and to say thanks for the time of rest.</p>
<p>16</p> <p>Put your phone on airplane mode and leave it in a dresser drawer for an hour or two.</p>	<p>Advent 3 17</p> <p>Make a commitment to ask one of your all-stars to come to church with you in the next month.</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Luke 1:59-80. If you lost the power to speak for nine months like Zechariah did, what would be your first word of praise?</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Do you have amends or apologies you need to make? Do your best, with God's help, to make those changes.</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Pray along with the Collect for Advent 3, found on page 212 in <i>The Book of Common Prayer</i></p>
<p>21</p> <p>Gabriel helped Mary to understand her part in God's story. Who has shared an important lesson or their presence with you this week? Thank them today with a call or note.</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Go out into your neighborhood today. Where is God at work? Ask God to show you how you can celebrate that good work</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Have a conversation with someone you might not normally visit with today.</p>	<p>Advent 4 24</p> <p>Take a nap and thank God for the gift of Jesus and for peace at Christmas.</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Take some time out to rest with Baby Jesus and marvel in the wonder of a fresh, new, tiny, precious start.</p>



STEWARDSHIP
A Way of Life

ST. EDWARD'S STEWARDSHIP 2024

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)

"We, who are here now, will play an instrumental role, with God's help, in providing for the financial resources required to care for what we have been building together. I trust that the Spirit has a wonderful plan for our parish, a plan for its thriving." – Father Rick

As we begin our new liturgical church year with the season of Advent, let us thoughtfully and heartfully contemplate our upcoming stewardship campaign. Our "Stewardship Stories" kick-off on Sunday, December 3rd with Father Rick speaking with us at our 8 AM and 10 AM services. During the December 10th and December 17th Sunday services in Advent, we will hear from members of our parish family at both services. Please join us to listen to their witness of faith and our shared parish life.

**December 3rd -
December 17th Sunday
Stewardship Stories
from our St. Edward's
Parish Family**

**Be on the lookout in
early December for your
2024 Stewardship
Letter & Pledge Form**

**Third Advent December
17th Pledge Ingathering**

**We request your
prayerful
consideration for your
2024 pledge. We give
our deepest thanks to
you for your past
giving.**



**ST. EDWARD'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

**sainteds.org
717.898.6276
stedsoffice@comcast.net**

**ST. EDWARD'S
COOKIE & CRAFT SALE**

**SATURDAY
DECEMBER 9TH
8 AM**



ST. EDWARD'S COOKIE & CRAFT SALE

JOIN US IN MAKING THIS THE BEST COOKIE & CRAFT SALE EVER!!! INVITE YOUR FRIENDS & FAMILY!!!

THE CRAFTS ARE ABUNDANT, BUT WE ALWAYS WELCOME MORE TO SELL!! THINK WOODWORKING, CARD-MAKING, JEWELRY ARTISANS. AND...WE NEED COOKIES!!! THIS SEASONAL FUNDRAISER IS A GREAT SUCCESS BECAUSE OF THE BAKING & CRAFT CREATIVITY OF ALL OF YOU!!

THERE IS STILL TIME TO SIGN UP IN THE NARTHEX FOR DONATING CRAFTS, BAKING, VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE SETUP ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8TH, AND TO VOLUNTEER ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9TH AT 7:30 AM.



Let all that you do be done in love.

1 Corinthians 16:14

December 3rd 3:00 PM

Lancaster Chamber Singers Holiday concert.

Tickets can be purchased on their website.

December 3rd – December 17th

St. Edward's Stewardship Campaign

Stewardship Stories at the 8 AM & 10 AM

worship, mailing of pledge forms.

Ingathering on December 17th.

November 27th – December 17th

Krist Kindling at St. Edward's.

December 9th 8 AM

Christmas Cookie & Craft Sale – Set-up on

Friday, December 8th. Sign up for volunteer activities, baking, and craft-making!

December 10th

Jesse Tree Project Gifts due. Place in sanctuary.

December 20th 5:30 PM

Holiday Party/potluck supper/Krist Kindling

Reveal. ALL are welcome for this Christmas Season event!

December 24th 9:00 AM

Fourth Advent – Morning Prayer service



December 24th 4:30 PM & 7:00 PM

Christmas Eve Services

with our St. Edward's Choir

December 25th

Christmas message from Father Rick via the St. Edward's YouTube channel

Lunch with the Chosen



Hosted by Father Rick and Blair Lord

While November's episode of *The Chosen*, season 2 episode 3

"Matthew 4:24" was one of the show's shorter episodes, it packed quite a punch. The story took a pause to almost literally sit with the disciples who have joined Jesus so far in his ministry in Samaria. As the Scripture cited in the episode's title tells us, crowds from Syria as well as Samaria flock to Jesus to be healed. In the meantime, the disciples raise questions among one another about what their journey alongside the Messiah actually means. Their wonderings launched a fantastic discussion among us, the audience, about our own questions of who we say Jesus is and who we are in relationship with one another. Do we, like Simon Peter and Matthew, find ourselves trapped by anger or guilt? Are we, like Mary Magdalene, trying to trust in the One whom "we can't be holy without" while grappling with past trauma? Amid these wonderings, we also marveled at Jesus's humanity, both his

gentleness and vulnerability, and the wonderful portrayal of Mother Mary as she reflected on her son's birth and what it means for her to be his mother now that he's grown and out in the world fulfilling his Father's will.

For Sunday, December 3rd (first Sunday in Advent), we're going to take a break from Season 2 for a special viewing of two Christmas-themed episodes: *The Shepherd* (the show's pilot) and *The Messengers* (produced after season 2). While both episodes focus on the Nativity narrative, they each explore a couple new angles to the story. You don't need to have seen the show beforehand to join in and watch with us. We will meet at 11:45am in the parish hall. Dessert will be provided.

If you would like to catch up on all of season 1 or part of season 2, you can access *The Chosen* for free at these links:

new.thechosen.tv

angel.com/watch/the-chosen

You can also download The Chosen App or the Angel Studios App to your Amazon FireTV, Apple TV, or Roku, and on your phone from the Apple Store or Google Play Store.

Stephen Ministry



Our **Stephen Ministry** program is a confidential and prayerful resource to support those in need during the challenging times we encounter in our personal lives.

If you could benefit from the confidential, one-to-one care of a Stephen Minister, please contact our Pastor Care Coordinator, Peggy Hanzelman at phanzelman@comcast or 717-390-4944. There are brochures in our narthex and in our sanctuary pews. Our Stephen Ministers are also identified by special name tags at our Sunday worship.



Brochures are available in the Parish Hall and also in the sanctuary pews.

Krist Kindling



Krist Kindling 2023 is in full swing!!! The bins are secured by our front doors for your drop-off as per your instructions during the weekdays.



On Sunday morning, you will find your gift on the table in the parish hall! We wish all a peaceful, prayerful, and fun Krist Kindling!

Women's Spirituality Group

By Michelle Bentley

The Women's Spirituality Group will next meet in 2024! Start the new year by joining us on Saturday, January 6th for Morning Prayer, reflection, and light refreshments of body, mind, and spirit! We will meet at 10 AM in the lounge area.



"People will accept your ideas much more readily if you tell them Benjamin Franklin said it first."

—David H. Comins

Men's Group



Saturday Men's Group: 2nd Saturday of the month from 8 AM -10 AM. **Join us for two hours of fellowship**, including Morning Prayer. Coffee and donuts will be served. **Next meeting** Saturday, December 16th at 8 AM



*In September the pantry served:
500 children
839 adults
413 seniors
For a total of 1725 people served!
13 new families were registered
42 volunteers donated 547 hours.*

*For the 3rd Quarter of 2023,
St. Edward' donated \$1,500.
Thank you to all!*

For the month of December, we will be taking a hiatus from collecting food for HAFP! They are fully stocked for the rest of 2023! Thank you to all who contributed much-needed funds and dry goods to benefit this worthy ministry.



Contributed by Donna Esbenshade

Donna and Jack Esbenshade spent time volunteering at the HAFP this fall and reported that it was a fulfilling experience! Donna noted that they are still seeking volunteers to help them on a weekly or monthly basis. Tasks include, set up, weigh donations, stock shelves, packer, repackage food, greeter, or assisting with paperwork. Volunteers are needed Mondays or Wednesdays once a week, once a month, twice a month. They are also seeking volunteers to pick up bread at Weis, Stoney Battery/ Columbia on Mondays, Wednesday, Thursdays, or Saturdays. Pick up no later than 8:30 AM.





Bruce Lynch delivering turkeys to the



Millie receiving the turkeys. We donated 15 turkeys to the Food Panty on November 13th. Close to 200 pounds!



Reminder: 2023 Jesse Tree Gifts Due Dec. 10



Questions? Contact Leslie Arnold
Larnold897@aol.com

Happy 14th Birthday Tayab



Tayab is anxiously waiting for his dad to light the candles so he can blow them out. Unfortunately the photographer missed the finale!!

An Interesting Tidbit....In Afghanistan individual birthdays are not celebrated. In fact, they don't even remember their birthdays. At a random time of the year they would just have a big birthday party for everyone....with cake, balloons and other decorations.

Their first year here, I celebrated every birthday with cake and ice cream. I didn't carry on the practice in the second year...but Malalay and Najib do...with excitement. They've truly become "Americanized"!

Tutors Needed For The Rahim Boys



The boys are excelling in school but there is a need for tutoring in writing and vocabulary. Two adults are needed for one-on-one ratio. Lessons are provided (no preparation necessary) Background clearances and the Safeguarding God's Children training must be in place. Please contact Meredith Aul at 717-585-2119 if you are interested in helping with **tutoring at the church** one hour weekly starting in January, probably through the rest of this school year.

Rahim Household Good Collection

For the month of December we will be taking a hiatus from our Rahim family Household Goods ingathering. Stay tuned for a new list beginning in January!

Another Goal Accomplished!!

By Joyce Kamm

Malalay Rahim had three goals when she arrived in the U.S. The highest priority, of course, was to find a way to be reunited with her three children that were left behind in Afghanistan. Her second goal was to learn to speak English well. I remember her first words to me were, "I need communication....so I can learn English." We have been communicating ever since. She attends ESL classes faithfully. She even takes Medical Terminology classes with Dr. Weber so she can return to midwifery someday in the future. Prior to coming to the U.S. she had never driven a vehicle of any kind. That was her third goal. As you might remember, she passed the written part of the driver's exam and received her permit quite some time ago. A few weeks ago she passed her driver's test and the van has now become "**her**" vehicle. Congratulations, Malalay!

I Went To Jail

By Joyce Kamm

November 3, Linda Mamourian (St. Luke's) and I went to a prison reentry simulation sponsored by the Lancaster County Reentry Coalition. All who came were assigned roles. Linda and I wanted to stay together so we were assigned as a family for the day. I was the mother, Linda was my 11-year-old daughter and a doll represented my 2-year-old daughter. I was a single mother who was shoplifting to make ends meet, ended up being arrested and sent to jail. My children went into foster care. I owe \$1000 in fines. That's the background. The scenario is based on a true story.

So as my story begins, meet the Young Family. I am 27 and a single mom. I have already been released from jail, have obtained a part-time job and I have a one-room apartment. My rent is \$600 a month. My children are wonderful but my 11-year-old deeply resents me because she ended up in foster care when I was incarcerated.

Week One - The very first thing I need to do is obtain an I.D. I would have had one when I got my part-time job but it was required for the purpose of this exercise. I don't have a car so I need to rely on public transportation. I have five transportation passes. I am going to use one to apply for my I.D. today.

Mission accomplished, except I need to wait a week for them to process it. My next stop is to the Mental Health Clinic because I am bi-polar and I really need my meds to help me stabilize and think clearly. There is so much to do. I need to be as stable as possible. I arrived only to hear I don't have enough money to pay for the meds. Transportation voucher wasted.

She suggested I go next door to sell my plasma. Thankfully I can walk there so I took her suggestion. They wouldn't take my blood because I don't have I.D. I'm out of time for today. My "ride" is picking me up for work. Tomorrow is another day.

Day 2— I think I will go to the pawn shop and see if I can get enough money for my meds. I have a chainsaw to pawn!!! (Props given to me). She also required an I.D. Dead end again. There goes another transportation voucher! This is getting scary... so many hoops to jump through and I'm getting tired. She recommends I go to Community Aid and ask for assistance. It was fruitless, once again I need I.D. Basically, I can do NOTHING this week. So I end Week One feeling quite discouraged, mentally drained as well as physically exhausted from hauling that darn chainsaw around! What's a single mom doing with a chainsaw anyway!

Week 2—Things are getting worse. I learned from Week One that it is essential

to have that I.D. for everything so this is first on my agenda. Another Transportation voucher used. One left. I need \$125 for rent this week. Because there is so much to catch up on today, I'm leaving my children with my mom.... or so I thought. (The instructor found Linda and her sister sitting in the chair...which represented our home...and asked why the kids were alone. Linda told her our grandmother was watching us. The instructor looked around and said, "Where is your grandmother?") I just left them alone for what I thought would be ten minutes because my mother was supposed to be there at 10:00. I couldn't miss my bus. Unfortunately, her driver had a flat tire and she was late. Because no grandmother was in sight, she took my children to Children and Youth. All I can think of is how angry my daughter will be having already ended up in foster care when I was incarcerated.

I think I will use my last transportation voucher to go to Human Resources and pick up my paycheck. Fortunately, there is a church across the street. I'm praying they will help me because I don't know how I'm going to get back home. I was blessed. She gave me transportation passes to get to the Manheim Ministerium, which is a ministry that helps with food, rent and other assistance and transportation vouchers that will enable me to get to the bank and to Children and Youth. She also gave me \$80 to pick up my two children. So now that I have transportation, I need to head to the bank and cash my paycheck. Finally I will be able to get some things done. As I stand here waiting impatiently in the line outside the bank, someone comes up to me, shoves a gun in my face and demanded my money. There went my \$80 cash. On top of that, the bank closed before I got to cash my check. Now my children need to stay in Children and Youth another day. So ends week two. Oh, yes, I never made it to work that day because of the robbery.

Week Three - I went to work only to discover I lost my job because I didn't show up last Friday and because I have been taking time off to try and fulfill all these re-entry requirements.

Evidently there is no compassion or leeway for ex-prisoners....or for being robbed. I was also just told I am being evicted immediately because I didn't pay my rent. When it rains, it pours!!!

I need to head to the Job Center but before I do that, I want to stop once again at the Blood Bank to sell my plasma....I need money for transportation. It was fruitless. I was rejected because I am anemic. I am so discouraged because I am rather desperate for those meds next door

I really need emotional stability. This is all too much to handle. It might be better to be back in prison. This is too much responsibility for one person to handle....but I'm not a quitter. I'm trudging on. Maybe tomorrow will be a better day,

I still have last week's uncashed paycheck but it's not enough to cover my rent so I'm heading to the Job Center to apply for another job. Maybe at a temp agency so I can get to work ASAP. Thankfully they have a part time job for \$125. That will cover my rent. I think things might be falling in place. I feel hopeful.

Week Four—Since I am once again employed part time, my job is not in jeopardy....if I schedule my time right. I think the wise plan for today is to go to Human Resources and get my paycheck. Then I'm going to the bank to cash both checks. My kids are my highest priority so I need to find a new place to live or see if my landlord will take me back as a renter. So I have now cashed my checks and I'm heading straight to the Housing Unit to pay my past due rent, which now includes late fees I'm sure! I hope I have enough to cover everything. Here I am waiting in another line. These lines are endless. All of a sudden a volunteer comes up to me with a "Life Happens" sign. It said I lost my wallet. Now EVERYTHING is gone. My money, my I.D., food vouchers. I have to start all over like it is Week One. I don't think I can do this anymore. I'm exhausted.

The only thing I have left is one transportation voucher in my pocket. I guess I will use it to take myself to a homeless shelter.

BUT THEN, a cop comes up to me and arrests me for drug possession. I said, "I don't have any drugs on me!!" I was quite indignant. By this time during the simulation, it was all becoming quite real. He pulled some out of the hoodie on my sweatshirt. I said, "You planted that there!" He said, "You can't prove that."....and off to jail this single mother went...once again.

I was right. It is easier to stay in jail. At least I have a bed, food and my meds. But my babies, what about my babies? Maybe, just maybe, there is a church that will partner with me and help me navigate all this. I think I heard the name of St. Edward's somewhere. I wonder.....



By Joyce Kamm

On Sunday, November 5, at 7:00am, I arrived at the prison in Collegeville to bring my son home. Home being a half-way house.

So far, things are going fairly smoothly with Mike's reentry. Nothing like my horror story. I'm very relieved. One thing I find disturbing is a policy the sober house enforces. Everyone has to leave the house at 9:00am and are not allowed back till 4:00pm. So they walk the streets of Lancaster!! In addition, even though they pay rent, no meals are provided. Just a roof over their head at night. There are 14 men living there at \$620 a month. That equals a monthly income of \$8,680! Quite a profitable business for someone...or so it seems. If anyone still have an addiction problem, or it was the reason they were incarcerated in the first place, this seems like a set-up for reoccurrence. I just trust God that all will be well with Mike. The good news is that I can pick him up in Lancaster after I'm finished with work and spend part of the day with him...when it fits my schedule. I treasure the time with him.

He can leave the Sober Living Home when he has another place to go. **Please join me in praying** that a rental opportunity will become available to him. Even when one can afford to pay rent, it's difficult to find a landlord who will rent to someone with a prison record.

So, I ended my previous story with, "I wonder...."

The answer is, "Yes, St. Edward's does come alongside ex-prisoners." Thank you to the parishioner who is taking time to practice guitar with Mike.... something he learned to play while in prison. Gratitude abounds".

Thank you also to everyone who prayed for and sent cards to Mike while incarcerated. It's been a long five years. I am so very grateful for each and every one of you.

**REJOICE
ALWAYS,
PRAY
CONTINUALLY,
GIVE THANKS
IN ALL
CIRCUMSTANCES.**

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, NIV



Prayer Opportunities Within St. Ed's

Prayers for family or friends of our parishioners:

Joey (nephew), Jeremy (friend) and Saskita (niece). Please contact us if you have someone in your life who is incarcerated. We will add them to our prayer list. **If they would like to receive cards or letters,** please contact Bruce Lynch or Catherine Donohue.

Prayers for Father Rick and Randy Westgate as they minister at LCP. Prayers for Celebrate Recovery at LCP.

Support For Prison Ministries, Brownstown

Bringing hope and encouragement to those within prison walls in Lancaster County and beyond. Support for Prison Ministries, with offices in Brownstown, PA, is a growing inter-denominational ministry that contracts chaplain services to Lancaster Co. Prison (LCP) and Lancaster Co. Youth Intervention Center

Prayer Requests from Support for Prison Ministries

Pray for the Youth Intervention Center – pray for our chaplains and the church programs that go on there.

Also, Christmas time and Youth Incarceration is not a way a child should spend Christmas. Appreciation for the officials of YIC and public officials that do their best to have limited youth incarcerated over this time.

Pray for an inmate who is trying to restore his relationship with his daughter. That God could heal the brokenness of the past and mend hurts.

Pray for children with parents incarcerated

Please pray for the children who are without one of their parents this Christmas. Many are at a financial disadvantage to begin with. Please pray there could be a way of hope for these young people during Christmas.

Pray for an inmate - who is working on a home plan and asking for prayer that it will be approved. It is important for them to get into a secure environment and having a place to go is often a struggle to find for those that may not have had a home before arrest.

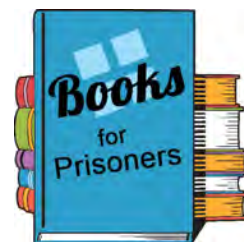
Pray for chaplain's as we relate not only to the needs of inmates but also the needs of officers and staff at LCP.

Pray for prison inmates at Christmas time Christmas and incarceration is one of the lowest times of a prisoner's life while being separated from family. Pray that the Spirit of God would minister to and give the inmate a hope of a better life.

Pray for churches - that have desires to help persons coming out of prison. Ask that God would give them the means and abilities to set up programs to help get them jobs and set up productively in society. Also, to give them a family concept through their church.

Books For Prisoners

It's that time again! Below are some suggested books that are very popular and have been worn down to one or none. The prison is especially full



come the colder months so it would be a tremendous gift if we can get several copies of each. Gently used are appreciated too!

Spanish editions welcomed. Please drop donated books off in the church narthex. Money is also welcomed. If you donate money, please note "Books for Prisoners" on the memo line. Thank you!

The Amazon Wishlist can be found at: https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/K6N2OXW5AFVE?ref_=wl_share

Books Requested:

A Journey Through Grief, Loss, Hope And Recovery by Deb King
Chicken Soup for the Prisoner's Soul
God's Prescription for Addiction by Nick Elliott

The Jesus Revolution by Greg Laurie
Healing Neen -Tonier Cain
Save Me from Myself: How I Found God, Quit Korn, Kicked Drugs, and Lived to Tell My Story – Brian Welch
Washed by Blood: Lessons from My Time with Korn and My Journey to Christ – Brian Welch
The Big Hustle by Jim Walberg

Coffee Hour

Pictures by Mary Snyder



Our Coffee House Band
always delivers great music!



Seth and Beth
Hake



Mike Freshwater
on guitar



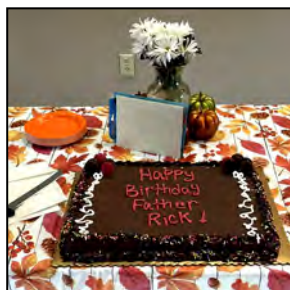
Betty Simora



Join Us for
COFFEE HOURS



Rick's Birthday Cake!!!



Beth Lynch with Jean and Kim
Havens



Richard Irons helps Gail with the
Advent crafts



Rick Dombach and Sue Purdy



A table of Advent crafters!



Irene Achey and Sharon Gromis

One of the foundations of our weekly fellowship is our Sunday coffee hour. From 9 AM – 10 AM each Sunday, we offer folks a chance to gather, as one community, between the services, as well as the space we hold for our fantastic Coffee House Band to perform, and have us participate in a wide range of music. Join us at a coffee hour, sign up to serve as a coffee hour host, participate in our craft activities, or, if you hold musical gifts, contact Randy Westgate about joining the Coffee House Band.

The Visitor

By Beth Lynch

You arrived at my door
When a child was born.
I need you more
Than one can mourn.

A visit from you
Meant all was well.
Memories and laughter for two
Spending time together like a pearl in a shell.

The time came when visits fade
Though my heart aches for you.
A visit cannot be made
Except in my memories too.

Once in awhile I see a glimmer
That our visits are true
When I look in the mirror
And I see you.



Mom with James



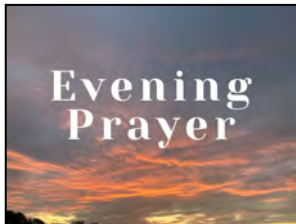
Beth, Mom and Nancy



The Family



Evening Prayer



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:

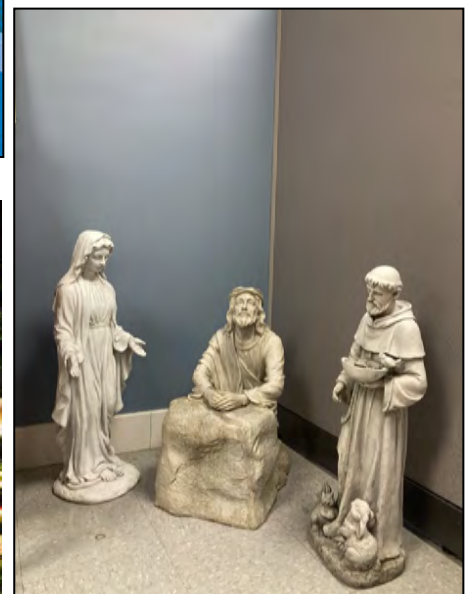
drutledge1225@gmail.com

Sunday Evening Prayer@ 7:00pm
Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84700614072>

Meeting ID: 847 0061 4072

Passcode: SunEP



Contrary to any wondering if Mary, Jesus, and St. Francis go south to wait out the harsh winter months. . .they have decided to nestle in a cozy corner in our spiritual home and will be contemplating, in silence, the journeys through Advent, Christmas, and all of the days ahead in 2024.

Guess Who's Coming to Dinner

Pictures by Meredith Westgate

By all accounts, the Fall "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner" dinner was a success. Five hosts welcomed 41 guests to their homes on the evening of November 4. I can't speak for every home, but at mine, six guests arrived about the same time and greeted each other in the driveway. Some had known each other for years; others met for the first time. As we gathered in the kitchen over drinks and an appetizer, we were chatting away like old friends.

I chose an icebreaker called "A Penny for Your Thoughts," to start us off at the dinner table. For this game, each person draws a penny from a dish and shares something about themselves during that year. It turned out to be a great way to learn about each other. Beth Lynch's 1976 penny took her back to her 8th grade graduation from St. Bonaventure School in Glenshaw, Pa. on the north side of Pittsburgh, and started 9th grade the next September at Vincentian High School. (In 1980, Randy and I moved to Glenshaw and literally lived a stone's throw from St. Bonaventure School). Bruce drew a 1963 penny. A kindergartner then, he recalled

being sick at home in Indiana, PA, watching a western on TV. The show was interrupted by Walter Cronkite announcing the assassination of John F. Kennedy.

Sue Purdy finished her associates degree from HACC in 1975 and drove across country to Vallejo, CA where Phil was in nuclear power school in the navy. They were married on Friday, June 13. Sue said, "No superstitions about the date, although a few interesting things happened." Phil's Dad shared a birthday with their wedding day.

Linda Jones was delighted to find the year 1991 on her penny. That was the year she met her husband Harry and began a 12 year commute traversing the Pennsylvania turnpike between Pittsburgh, where Linda taught Kindergarten and Harry lived on a farm in Honeybrook. The couple figured they subsidized one entire toll booth in fees for use of the turnpike! Linda retired in 2002, which meant no more weekend commutes when she moved to Honeybrook. The twenty years they shared were, she said, her happiest years.

Julie and I both got 1984 pennies. Julie was a stay-at-home Mom with a preschooler and a second grader. She had left her teaching career at Manheim Township to be a full-time Mom and later returned to teaching third grade at Centerville Elementary School in Hempfield. My son Adam was born in March of that year. I was at home too, caring for a two-year old and a new baby.

Randy could not think of anything that happened in 2003 and I was no help, until Julie asked, "When did you get Rosie?" Wow – that was 2003! Our Rosie was born in Nanjing, China in 2001, but our journey to China was postponed several times due to the SAARS epidemic. So that was a pretty big year for us after all: a daughter and a trip to China!

At our home, the evening can be summed up like this: We had a wonderful meal with delicious contributions from the guests, excellent company, and new and deepened friendships.



Randy Westgate, Julie Hoff, Bruce and Beth Lynch



Meredith Westgate and Linda Jones



Sue and Phil Purdy



Esbenshade's table

Guess Who's Coming to Dinner

Pictures by Jamie Alton, Donna Esbenshade, and Mike Freshwater



Joe and Lynn McCabe, Kathy Spencer, Doris Smith, Ethel Lawrence, Jamie Alton

A delightful evening of fellowship!

"We had a very nice time. The dishes folks brought were wonderful. It was a very good way to get to know each other on a very personal level. Every one seemed very comfortable and we had a few laughs. As their host, I am very thankful for all the help everyone gave to me and to each other. I am very proud of the wonderful people of our church family." Ethel Lawrence

"This was a great way to put names with faces and get to know each other a little better. We enjoyed the wine and the conversation." Donna Esbenshade



Bob and Jeanne Mosebach, Deborah and Menno Fast



Rayelenn Casey, Jack Esbenshade, Ed and Jeanne Neff and Peggy Hanzelman.



Deann Buffington, Jan and Bill Deegan, Sandra Klick, Freda and Rick Dombach, Susan Clough



Susan Clough, Mike Freshwater, Deann Buffington, Jan and Bill Deegan, Sandra Klick, Freda Dombach

We had an enjoyable evening, getting to know each other. There were some of us who did not know each other and some that did. One of our guests is an Amish tour bus driver and had many interesting funny stories to tell. One of our guests, a retired school teacher, knew Freda and I from high school, but we did not have her. She did have Freda's brother. I put together instructions to get to our house and only had one guest call for help. It was also nice to know we were not the only St Edwards folks to live in this part of the county. Appetizers and conversation made for an enjoyable time till dinner was ready. The last guest left around 9:15pm, all truly had a good time. The only thing left was loading the dishwasher. -Rick Dombach

Guess Who is Coming to Dinner

Picture by Mary Snyder and Mac Miller



Mary Snyder, Mark Espie, Sue and Joe Hurlburt, Joyce Kamm, Mac Miller, Irene Achey and Dan Sanders



Irene Achey and Dan Sanders



Mary Snyder and Mark Espie



Sue and Joe Hurlburt

Everyone enjoyed Dan's appetizers

This group had some special talents. Sue Hurlburt has played the flute since she was 10, still plays every day and was in the Penn State Blue band with Elaine Radcliffe. Irene won a Junior Theater award for acting when she was in school in Edinburgh and Mary Snyder had a poem published when she was in 9th grade.

JOHN REYNOLDS JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL LANCASTER, PA. MARY SNYDER

*Dream on child
The world is so wild
With your dreams you escape Dream on child
One day you will find There is no more time For your dreaming
One day you will face the world You may not like it
But you must face the world.*



Joe Hurlburt has skied all over the US and in Switzerland, Mark Espie has traveled even further--always by train. Joyce Kamm and Mac Miller both know how to milk cows and Dan Sanders is a fantastic chef who provided a delicious appetizer that we had before and after dinner. Joyce had to leave early as she was scheduled to get her son from prison early the next morning. Joyce's account of a simulated vs the actual experience of the difficulties facing former convicts as they try to return to life outside of prison is a must read on page 19.

It was an interesting and totally enjoyable evening!

November Services

Pictures by Mary Snyder



Fr. Rick preaches



Wanda Stoltzfus



Fr. Rick sermon



Bob Mosebach



Kiki Davis



Jamie Alton



Jeanne Mosebach



Linda Jones



Beth Hake



Seth Hake



Nancy Mannion



Joe McCabe



Jay Miller, Donna Esbenschade, Dorris Smith



Announcements



Gospel



Bob Mosebach, Susan Murray, Sally Lederer



Joe McCabe, Fred Cluck, Nancy Mannion



Eucharist



Guest Organist Donna Burkholder

Worship
SERVICES



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Staff

The Rev. Dr. Rick Bauer,
Rector

Michelle Bentley, Parish
Administrative Assistant

Karen E. Waddill,
Director of Worship Music

Parish Office Hours

Tuesday-Friday:
11AM – 4:00PM

Vestry (year term ends)

- ✦ Karen Grant (2024)
- ✦ Peggy Hanzelman (2024)
- ✦ Richard Irons (2025)
- ✦ Blair Lord (2026)
- ✦ Beth Lynch (2025)
- ✦ Jay Miller (2026)
- ✦ Bob Mosebach (2026)
- ✦ Mary Snyder (2025)
Jr. Warden
- ✦ Randy Westgate,
Sr. Warden (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

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