

January 2024



ST. EDWARD'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

# Scepter



## Reflection From the Rector's Desk

By The Rev. Dr. Richard C. Bauer



“I hope that we’ll find occasion this month to experience breakthroughs of the Holy in our shared life here at St. Edward’s, feeding on Christ in our hearts with thanksgiving, and sharing the love that we discover there with those in need.”

Thinking about the invitation of Epiphany-tide, to open our hearts and our minds to experiences of the Holy in our midst, I’ve found myself pondering the weighty responsibility that comes with our serving as ambassadors of Christ. Because for those of us who believe that we’ve had a brush with God through the Incarnation of our Lord, there’s no escaping the pull of our scripture and tradition, beckoning us to share what we’ve apprehended of the sublime with those who have yet to be touched by it.

And yet, we likely sense that the society we’re living in doesn’t seem to prioritize the aspirational values of our Advent hope, peace, love, and joy. Instead, if we keep abreast of national and global events, it seems as if we’re under constant threat of being swept up in the currents of hopelessness, war, fear, and despair in the dominant tides of an incredibly cynical and divisive culture. As such, it’s easy for any of us to want to hide away in ‘compassion fatigue’ with the hope that we have left in us, tempted to

hunker down for existential winters once the Christmas lights come down. But we can seamlessly withdraw into ourselves, understandably snuggling the comforts of God’s promises in our peaceful isolation, without considering the myriad ways that we’re enlisted as disciples of Jesus to actively participate in lighting the darkness, in augmenting the power and presence of Epiphany for those without hope.

In the final two verses of Matthew’s Gospel, the risen Christ appears to his eleven disciples and tells them to “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you.” (Mt 28:19-20, NRSV) This final directive to his followers, placed on the lips of Jesus in Matthew’s account, reminds us of the crucial importance of sharing the good news of what has happened to humanity through the lived witness of our Lord. Counter-cultural from any worldly space and time, Jesus has taught us that we find our lives by losing them, that we don’t have to be afraid of anything that the wages of sin and death can throw at us. And though we may feel removed from the enterprise

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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

by time and culture, like the first disciples, we too are called to share this same message of hope, a teaching on how to mend in a broken world, desperately in need of good will and reconciling love.

Whether we like it or not, we're all called to be evangelists in 21<sup>st</sup> Century America. But it may be helpful for us to ponder what it might mean for us to evangelize, in light of our particular point of entry. Because on the surface, it may seem as if evangelism isn't something that we do as Episcopalians. We're not known for knocking on doors or for pamphleting windshields. But we are a people steeped in an identity that is rich in the balance of: Scripture, Reason, and Tradition. Ours is a kind of Christianity that welcomes dialogue and that holds space for contrasting points of view. Indeed, this speaks to why we aren't known for knocking on doors and handing out pamphlets. Collectively, we're not bound by any succinct statement of faith that we could even put on a pamphlet as Episcopalians! We are, instead, rooted in our tradition of Common Prayer, in liturgical expressions that speak to our understanding of faith, as a collective experience made manifest in our worship and ministry together.

In this manner, our sense of theology is very much embodied and Incarnational in nature. In our liturgy, we witness to the ways in which God has acted in human history through the life, death, and resurrection of Christ. We "do" theology through our liturgy. As famed liturgist Aidan Kavanagh suggests, our communal worship is a kind of 'social transaction with reality' that changes us over time, that slowly re-shapes us as an assembly and as individuals into people who more fully embody the Christian life. (On Liturgical Theology) Considering this, we may find that the opportunity to reflect on (and to verbalize) how our faith has evolved over time through worship together, provides us

with an effective and action-oriented way to evangelize. Because here at St. Edward's, we've come to embrace the notion that our faith is demonstrated through our actions, through how we live in the world. We've committed ourselves to "strive for justice and peace among all people" in our Baptismal Covenant, consigning ourselves to "proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ." (The Book of Common Prayer, 305). But do we ever pause to ask ourselves: "Am I doing what I can to make other people feel safe and cared about when they're around me?" "Do I convey the love of God in Christ through my manner of living, in my personhood?" "Is church making me a better person?" Because these questions may be essential for us if we're going to honor our Lord's call to spread the good news in a manner that transcends the shallow tropes of lip service that have soured so many around us to the institution of church.

But perhaps our Episcopal ethos provides us with an advantage here. Because the Incarnational nature of our faith, and the importance of our liturgy, truly speaks to just how 'active' we are in terms of our theology. In the same way that Anglican worship is thoroughly embodied, Anglican thought is mindfully engaged with the world. Throughout our history, diverse perspectives have come together to faithfully navigate social and doctrinal tensions with the purpose of bringing all things under the subjection of God's righteousness as revealed through his Son. As such, part of our evangelism actualizes, age to age, in our collective willingness to embrace the counter-cultural influence of God's love, speaking as ambassadors of Christ to worldly power. Evangelism as an act of faith reminds me of the influential work *Liberation Theology*, wherein Gustavo Gutierrez suggests to us that part of how we witness to the Gospel is, indeed, through our willingness to advocate for the

complete redemption of others from the injustices of this world. We're meant to speak for peace, called to recreate the world in the image of a loving and merciful God. Lifting up the value of our earthly existence, Gutierrez writes of this, that: "the salvation of the whole man is centered upon Christ the Liberator." (Liberation Theology, 83) This places the work of Christ in the context of a 'total social process' that holds we who hear and receive the Living Word accountable for reasserting our solidarity with the poor and the exploited, wherever they may be. In line with this way of thinking, we may find ourselves drawn into our memory of the Sermon on the Mount or the story of the Exodus where Moses led God's people out of slavery in Egypt, and consider the arc of the biblical narrative as a movement toward social justice. And if we find this point of view compelling, then we may find that as we 'do the truth', we inevitably evangelize as well.

I hope that we'll find occasion this month to experience breakthroughs of the Holy in our shared life here at St. Edward's, feeding on Christ in our hearts with thanksgiving, and sharing the love that we discover there with those in need. It's no easy thing to advocate for justice and peace when those in high places speak of exclusion and war. But Epiphany reminds us that we who are followers of Jesus must be willing to defy the darkness, and redirect the attention of all who are willing to see and to hear, toward the abundant life and light of a God who walks in and among us. And so, may we evangelize through our everyday acts of kindness. May we recognize the presence of God in those who hope and speak of peace. And may we have the courage to face the world without fear... after all, God is with us!!

**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 Karen Grant



In life, we are sometimes faced with loss, and the passing of a loved one can shake the very foundation of our being. The unshakable faith that once guided us through moments of joy and triumph is put to the ultimate test when we are confronted with the reality of death.

Yet, it is precisely during these moments that our faith, though tested, can become a beacon of hope and solace. It is a testament to the strength of the human spirit, a force that allows us to endure, to remember, and to honor the lives of those we have loved and lost.

Faith is the foundation upon which we build our strength. It is the unwavering belief that our loved ones have transcended this world and found peace in place that we believe has been prepared for us. It is the trust that they continue to watch over us, guiding us through the trials and tribulations of life with a love that knows no bounds.

It is in the death of two most precious souls in my life, that my faith became a source of comfort. St Edward's supports that faith and my church family sustains me through the darkest of days. The warm words and kindness of the congregation reminds me that though my loved ones may no longer walk beside me, their legacies endure in the memories I hold dear.

So, as so many of us mourn the loss of our beloved, let us draw strength from the faith that resides within us. Let us find solace in the knowledge that their spirit lives on, intertwined with our own, guiding us forward with an invisible hand and a love that transcends the boundaries of time and space.

Sisters and brothers let us lean in and on each other as a unified family. May our unshakable faith serve as a guiding light, illuminating a path toward healing and restoration. May our faith remind us that though we grieve, we are never truly alone.

Love one another,



Pictures by Mary Snyder



## Military News

Please **help** us update our list. Beginning with the February Scepter if you would like the names that are here to **remain** on the list please contact Mac Miller or the Parish office by January 20th.

- ★ 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
- ★ Mike Spurr
- ★ David Sternberg
- ★ Clayton Tennies
- ★ Connor Tennies
- ★ Allison Tomich
- ★ Evan Westgate
- ★ Seamas Whitesel
- ★ 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Thomas Whitesel







*Every picture tells a story!*

## By Michelle Bentley

The amazing gift the stained-glass window brings to our spiritual home is felt in the many, many stories we are beckoned to see, not just in the overall majesty of the window, but in the individual panes of glass. I am so fortunate to be able to see this window on many days, and at many times of the day. Hint: The late afternoon sun streaming through with glints of light on the water waves, the billowing sails, or the red sash on Jesus. Absolutely beautiful! But, on this particular day, on the threshold of Advent, my eye was drawn to the panel featured here, and in particular, the facial expressions and more specifically, the eyes. What was happening? What was the feeling? I see concern, compassion, and calm in a moment of incredible turbulence. The seas of life are turbulent. We do not always see our own expressions when faced with the sufferings we endure. And it is a beautiful thing to visit and sit with this amazing scene and get lost in it, perhaps to find ourselves, again. Come and see!



In October, Bishop Scanlan did her Friday video from St. Edward's as she and Fr. Rick discussed the window.

## New on YouTube



Father Rick and Randy Westgate launched a new series in December on our St. Edward's YouTube Channel - "Sermon Talk." This is a great opportunity to meditate on our teachings and to ponder the questions through our reflections and conversations. We are so lucky to have these spaces to explore.

## Pokémon League



### Winter 2024



Pokémon winter session is January 17th- 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 Pokémon in all forms. It provides crafts, trading, games, and socialization.





Four generations in the Donohue family



Iron's grandsons in Hershey



Randy Westgate "leafing" with grandchildren.



Geodes look plain on the outside but contain beautiful crystals. Create these "rocks" to show how God makes us new on the inside.

## What you need:

- Clean cardboard egg carton
- Scissors (and adult help)
- Epsom salt
- Plastic zippered bags (one per color of dye)
- Food coloring
- Glue
- Paintbrush



## What you do:

1. Cut out the tops and bottoms of all the egg compartments so you can make 6 ball shapes.
2. In each bag, put 3 tablespoons of Epsom salt and a drop or two of food coloring. Seal and shake to mix.
3. With the paintbrush, spread glue inside two egg-carton halves. Sprinkle a spoonful of Epsom salt into those halves. Then close and shake.
4. Open your homemade geode and shake out excess salt.
5. Optional: Preserve the crystals with a coat of clear-drying glue.



# HAPPY NEW YOU!

Changing the calendar each January is a reminder that God makes all things new.

Directions: Use the clues and the calendar code to complete 2 Corinthians 5:17, ESV.

## JANUARY 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	God	night	word	in	love	Jesus
glory	therefore	speak	give	light	Christ	a
saw	beginning	anyone	waters	help	is	many
he	again	through	earth	made	while	back
new	if	and	creation			

The second Monday \_\_\_\_\_

The last Monday \_\_\_\_

The 16th \_\_\_\_\_

One day before the 20th \_\_\_\_

The day before the first Friday \_\_\_\_

The last weekday of the second week \_\_\_\_\_

The day after the 20th \_\_\_\_

The day after 18th \_\_\_\_

The first day of the second weekend \_\_\_\_

The last Sunday \_\_\_\_

The last day of the month \_\_\_\_\_

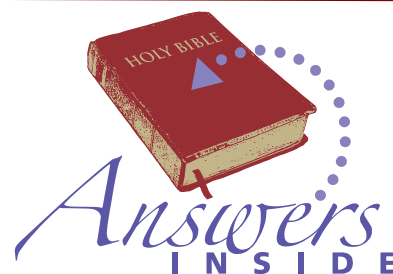
Answers: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.



## Bible Quiz

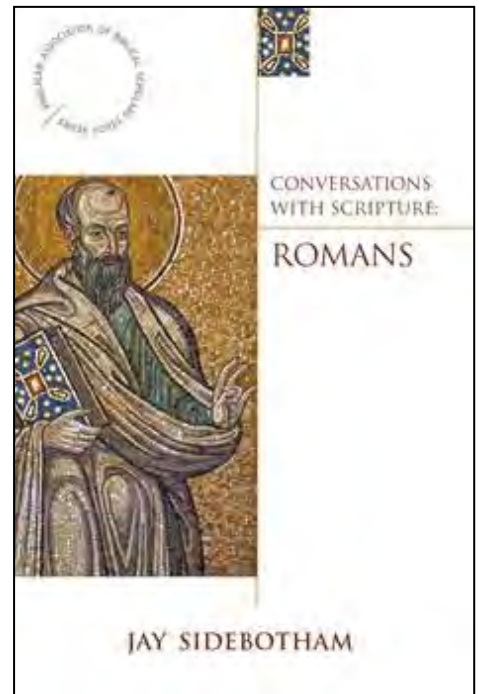
In the book of Judges, the warrior Barak would go to battle only if a certain female leader went with him. Who was she?

- A. Rebekah
- B. Jael
- C. Michal
- D. Deborah



Answer: D (See Judges 4:1-10.)





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 call 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](mailto:rcmosebach@comcast.net) or Leslie Arnold at: [larnold897@aol.com](mailto:larnold897@aol.com)

January



Cartoon by the Rev. Jay Sidebotham



# Cookie Craft Sale

Pictures by Mary Snyder



Cookies and Crafts were on display



Hard to make a decision



Filling boxes of cookies



Pictures of St. Ed's on note cards



Stocking Stuffers



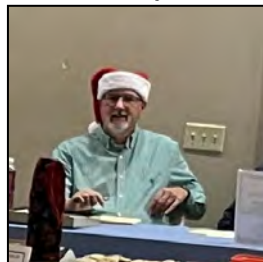
Hair scrungies and bookmarks



Ornaments and Dog Toys



Jewelry



Mark Jakiel collecting payment



Jerry Hoff



Every cookie was gone by 10:30

The 2023 event was a big success. A total of over \$3700 was raised!



Lots of cookies at 8 AM





# In Loving Memory Meg Zapata

**Contributed by Meredith Westgate**



More than 20 years ago, I worked in the Hempfield School District as an ESL aide. Hempfield actually paid for my ESL certification program at Millersville. Donna Goserud was head of the ESL

Department at the time and for many years after. She came to a staff meeting and presented a poem that had been distributed to the teachers at the high school from Meg Zapata. I didn't work at the high school and had never met Meg. Donna explained then that Meg had endured a difficult battle with cancer and was now doing better.

In the note Meg sent with the poem, she observed that Hempfield teachers and staff had said they'd like to "do something," but they didn't know how to help. She sent this poem to them for their kindness during her illness. She said that many did not realize that a card, a phone call, or a visit was "doing something." I kept this poem for years as a reminder not to discount the small things that can make a difference in someone's life.

Little did I know that, (fast forward about 15 years later), I would meet Meg. One day during Covid, Michelle mentioned to me that Meg Zapata had been attending our church online during Covid and had decided to make St. Edward's her church home. After weeks of wondering if it silly to call her and tell her that I had saved this poem for years without knowing her, I decided to do it. I called her one day and we had a nice conversation. She did not seem to think I was weird at all.

After I heard that Meg had passed away, I left a voicemail on Donna's phone and then sent her an email to ask if she remembered the poem, but she didn't call me back. I couldn't find the copy of the poem I kept, but I remembered the first line and easily found it online. I wanted to make sure this was exactly the right poem. A few days later, in what seemed like a "God moment," I was standing in line directly behind a woman at Cardtique and recognized Donna's voice as she spoke to the cashier. Donna lives in Landisville, but I hadn't run into her in at least five years. Both the phone number and email were outdated and she had not received either of my messages. She remembered Meg's poem and when I showed it to her on my phone, she said immediately, "That's it." She added, "That poem is so Meg."

In honor of Meg and as a reminder that the small kindnesses we do matter, I'd like to share the poem with you.



## Poem: As On Our Way We Go

by Maude V. Preston

There isn't much that I can do,  
but I can share my bread with you,  
and sometimes a sorrow too  
as on our way we go.

There isn't much that I can do,  
but I can sit an hour with you,  
and I can share a joke with you,  
and sometimes share reverses, too  
as on our way we go.

There isn't much that I can do,  
but I can share my flowers with you,  
and I can share my books with you,  
and sometimes share your burdens too  
as on our way we go.

There isn't much that I can do,  
but I can share my songs with you,  
and I can share my mirth with you,  
and sometimes come and laugh with you  
as on our way we go.

There isn't much that I can do,  
but I can share my hopes with you,  
and I can share my fears with you,  
and sometimes shed some tears with you  
as on our way we go.

There isn't much that I can do,  
but I can share my friends with you,  
and I can share my life with you,  
and I can share my Lord with you  
and oftentimes a prayer or two  
as on our way we go.

In honor of Meg Jenkins Zapata,  
May she rest in peace.



Beth Lynch helped Meg create this stepping stone. The words surrounding the butterflies are Transfiguration, Salvation, Resurrection and Baptism, Gavin and Gia.



Gia's Baptism



Gavin's Baptism



# 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.



Gail Irons, Mac Miller, and Donna Holwager at Knit Wits one Tuesday before Christmas.

## Widow's Group



Our **Widows Group** meets on the first Thursday of each month at 10 AM at the church. Next meeting Thursday, February 1st All widows are invited. Come to a place where sharing is caring.

**For more information contact:**  
Peggy Hanzelman: 717.390.4944  
[phanzelman@comcast.net](mailto:phanzelman@comcast.net) or:  
Ethel Lawrence: 717.314.8993  
[ethell748@gmail.com](mailto:ethell748@gmail.com)



We are so grateful for the God-given talents and generosity of spirit of these two quilting artisans - members of our parish family. This quilt will now grace our narthex each Advent Season. What a beautiful addition to the legacy of our spiritual home.

## 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](mailto:drutledge1225@gmail.com)

Sunday Evening Prayer@ 7:00pm  
Join Zoom Meeting

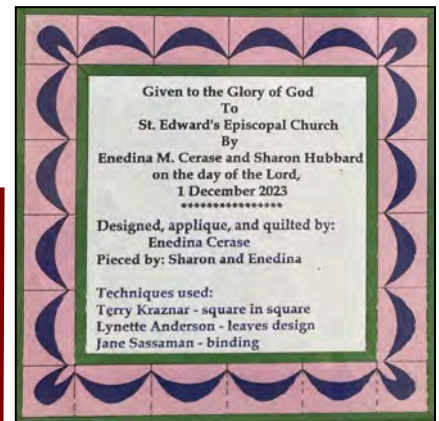
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84700614072>

Meeting ID: 847 0061 4072

**Passcode: SunEP**



Michelle Bentley, Sharon Hubbard, Dina Cerase and Fr. Rick



Beautiful Advent Quilt created by Dina Cerase and Sharon Hubbard



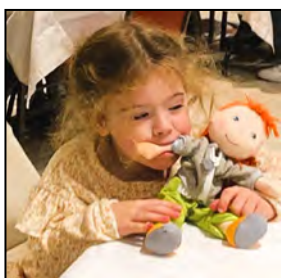


# Krist Kindling and Christmas Pot Luck

Pictures by Meredith Westgate and Mac Miller



Gifts ready for pick up the first three Sundays of Advent



Dessert?



Vince & Barb Czepukaitis



Rick and Sandy Ulmer



Emily Casey



Randy Westgate, Jay Miller and Fr. Rick played Christmas medley



Rick Dombach and Milligans



Bob Mosebach, Fred Cluck and Amy Yovanovich



Ruth Yovanovich



Guess who Kris Kindled you.



Freda Dombach



Joyce Kamm and Deb Fast



Jane and Bob Young



Meredith Westgate

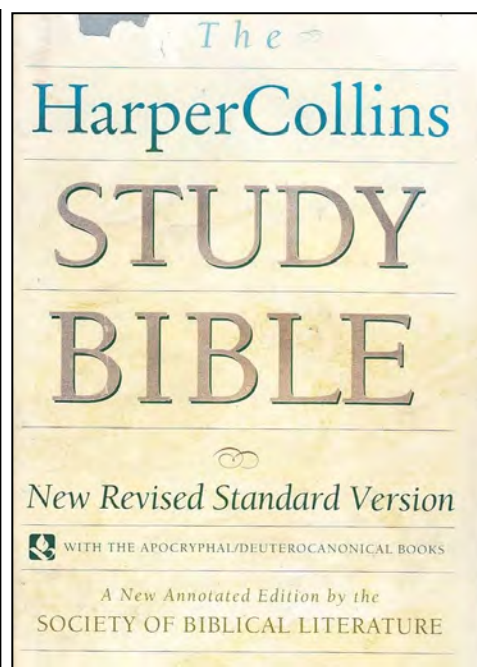


Jean Havens, Irene Achey, and Dorris Smith



Eric and Jackie Sandblade





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

*Fr. Rick*

**OUR NEW YEAR BIBLE CHALLENGE:** Gift yourself with The NRSV Harper Collins Study Bible for Christmas in preparation for our 2024 Lunch & Learn! We invite EVERYONE in our spiritual home to share in, and learn from, Father Rick's passion for sacred texts by engaging for 30 minutes per day in reading through the Bible, from cover-to-cover, from Genesis through Revelation, throughout 2024. We will encounter life-changing opportunities to discover so much about historical settings, original

sources that influenced and shaped these texts, and so much more as we hold intentional spaces for conversation, and so many questions! As Father Rick guides us, *"With the Spirit's help"* we will uncover new possibilities for what the Living Word has to say to us in the here and now. We hope you will join us! So much is waiting for us in 2024!

Copies of the reading plan will be available in the Narthex

## Straight Through the Bible Reading Plan January 2024

1-Jan	Genesis 1-3	14-Jan	Genesis 40:9-42:28	26-Jan	Exodus 28-29
2-Jan	Genesis 4-7	15-Jan	Genesis 42:29-45:15	27-Jan	Exodus 30-32
3-Jan	Genesis 8:1-11:9	16-Jan	Genesis 45:16-48:7	28-Jan	Exodus 33:1-35:29
4-Jan	Genesis 11:10-14:13	17-Jan	Genesis 48:8-50:26; Exodus 1	29-Jan	Exodus 35:30-37:2
5-Jan	Genesis 14:14-18:	18-Jan	Exodus 2:1-5:9	30-Jan	Exodus 38:1-40:16
7-Jan	Genesis 21:22-24:27	19-Jan	Exodus 5:10-8:15	31-Jan	Exodus 40:17-38; Leviticus 1-4
8-Jan	Genesis 24:28-26:35	20-Jan	Exodus 8:16-11:10	1-Feb	Leviticus 5-7
9-Jan	Genesis 27-29	21-Jan	Exodus 12:1-14:20	2-Feb	Leviticus 8:1-11:8
10-Jan	Genesis 30:1-31:42	22-Jan	Exodus 14:21-17:16	3-Feb	Leviticus 11:9-13:39
11-Jan	Genesis 31:43-34:31	23-Jan	Exodus 18:1-21:21	4-Feb	Leviticus 13:40-14:57
12-Jan	Genesis 35:1-37:24	24-Jan	Exodus 21:22-25:9	5-Feb	Leviticus 15:1-18:18
13-Jan	Genesis 37:25-40:8	25-Jan	Exodus 25:10-27:21		





JOIN US FOR OUR  
LENTEN SILENT RETREAT WITH 36 HOURS OF SILENCE  
FEBRUARY 15-17, 2024

ST. EDWARD'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
HELD AT: MARIAWALD RETREAT CENTER IN READING, PA

REGISTRATION FORMS ARE IN THE NARTHEX  
REGISTER BY JANUARY 31<sup>ST</sup> – SPACE IS LIMITED!





## Lunch with the Chosen



Hosted by Father Rick and Blair Lord

Happy New Year! We closed 2023 by taking a pause from season 2 of *The Chosen* to view two Christmas episodes: *The Shepherd* and *The Messengers*. *The Shepherd*, the “pilot” of the show, follows a young man whose lamb is rejected as a sacrifice. He then learns of the birth of the Lamb and gets to meet Him, even hold Him. *The Messengers* jumps between Mary and Joseph’s journey to Bethlehem and a future moment between a much older Mary and Mary Magdalene sometime after the resurrection. Our discussion afforded us time to reflect on some assumptions we make about the

Nativity—did Mary and Joseph really stay in a stable? Or a cave? Or a guest room in a relative’s house? We also marveled at the intersection of the mundane and the divine: the humble conditions of our human existence, the ethereal vision of angels announcing God’s arrival in those very conditions, and Emmanuel as a vulnerable infant.

On Epiphany Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, we will resume Season 2 with episode 4, “The Perfect Opportunity.” It will be the perfect opportunity to rejoin us from the Christmas break, or to join us for the first time! We will convene in the parish hall after the 10am service. Be sure to bring a bagged lunch.

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](http://new.thechosen.tv)
- [angel.com/watch/the-chosen](http://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.

## Women’s Spirituality Group

By Michelle Bentley

The Women’s Spirituality Group meets the first Saturday of each month. For 2024, our first meeting will be Saturday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10 AM in the lounge area.

Join us in 2024 for 90 minutes of Morning Prayer, reflection, discussion, and refreshments. We offer opportunities for group members to lead a portion of each session, which is a beautiful way to offer your spiritual gifts to other women in our community! In reflection of our 2023 group meetings, we have found a very prayerful, encouraging, and life-giving space that only requires one thing. . . for you to join us! It is a great way to begin each month!



## 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, January 13th at 8 AM

## 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](mailto: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.

“I do not at all understand the mystery of grace — only that it meets us where we are but does not leave us where it found us.”

—Anne Lamott

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](mailto:HJ_Miller@outlook.com)







Thank you for the 502 pounds of food items contributed to the pantry in November.

In November we served 623 children; 1,084 adults; 490 seniors, for a total of 2,197 people served. Eighteen new families were registered in November. Fifty four volunteers gave 711 hours in November.

For the month of January we are requesting:

Canned mixed fruit

Canned peaches

Canned pears

Canned mandarin oranges

Strawberry jelly (prefer no glass containers)

Grape jelly (prefer no glass containers)

Cereal



Picture by Mary Snyder



By Leslie Arnold

As we enter the season of Epiphany, when we are invited and encouraged to walk in the way of love, you are asked to remember the children who were served by our Jesse Tree project in December.

Through the generosity of the many parishioners who shopped for individual children along with those who made cash contributions, 25 COBYs foster children received a plethora of gifts. Along with items on each child's "wish list," all 25 also received Amazon gift cards at \$25 each.

While the number of youths served this year was significantly less than last year's total of 46, Donor Relations Manager at COBYs, Steve Nichols, said that the number of children currently served by COBYs has decreased from 2022, though he and the counselors do not believe that less children throughout the county are in need.

## Rahim Household Goods Collection

Our next delivery of household goods will be at the end of January. Below are the items requested

- Laundry Detergent (Preference Tide)
- Fabric Softener
- Shampoo
- Bar Soap
- Dish Soap
- Toothpaste Toothbrushes (adults and children)
- Toilet Paper
- Paper Towel
- All-purpose house cleaner
- Microfiber cleaning cloth

The young ones served by St. Edward's this year ranged in age from one month to 14 years, with four being one year or younger.

The children are given their gifts when their birth parents come to meet with them and their assigned COBYs counselor. During that time, the parents may opt to have their children open the gifts in that session or at a different time.

In most instances, these gifts are the only or the majority of items received by the children, since the birth parents are on a low fixed income, in rehabilitation, or even in prison. The aim of the COBYs program, which works in conjunction with the courts, is to eventually reunite the children with their birth parents on a permanent basis.

COBYs is a social services operation which relies on donations to provide the "extras" for the children served.

Thank you to all who helped to give joy to these young members of our community.

## 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.



## UPCOMING Events



**Shrove Tuesday, February 13**  
Time to be determined. If you would like to help cook pancakes, contact Beth Lynch.



**Feed My Starving Children—April 6 or 7**



**Race Against Racism—April 27**



**Blood Drive, Thursday, May 16**

## Community Aid News

Below is a list of items you can bring to Community Aid, mentioning they are for St. Edward's Episcopal Church (*Our Partner Number is 40036*). We will receive credit for quarterly payouts that assist our Faith-in-Action ministry. Community Aid has always accepted these items, but in the past, they did not give credit to partner organizations for electronics, toys, and household goods.

Clothing	Electronics
Shoes	Toys
Accessories	Household goods

## Prayers for those in Prison

### Prayer Opportunities Within St. Ed's

#### Prayers for incarcerated family or friends of our parishioners:

Joey (nephew of parishoner)  
Jeremy (friend of parishoner)  
Saskita (niece of parishoner)

#### Prayers for:

Father Rick, Chaplain & Music Ministry at Lancaster County Prison  
Randy Westgate, Music Ministry and Leader of Celebrate Recovery at LCP.

### Support For Prison Ministries, Brownstown

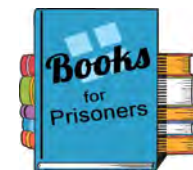
Please pray for this organization for whom Father Rick serves as a chaplain at Lancaster County Prison. They bring hope and encouragement to those within prison walls in Lancaster County and beyond. With offices in Brownstown, PA, Support for Prison Ministries is a growing inter-denominational ministry that contracts chaplain services to Lancaster Co. Prison (LCP) and Lancaster Co. Youth Intervention Center.

One specific request they have which we could keep in prayer is this:

"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



Books will be delivered to the prison sometime in January. If you are planning to donate, see the list of suggested books below. 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 book list can be found on top the bookcase in the narthex or you can purchase through the Amazon Wishlist at: [https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/K6N2OXW5AFVE?ref\\_=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/K6N2OXW5AFVE?ref_=wl_share)

#### Books Requested:

A Journey Through Grief, Loss, Hope And Recovery by Deb King  
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

#### A Prayer by Thomas Merton

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going.  
I do not see the road ahead of me.  
I cannot know for certain where it will end.  
Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so.

But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you.  
And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing.  
I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire  
And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it.

Therefore will I trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death.  
I will not fear,  
for you are ever with me,  
and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.



# Coffee Hour

Pictures by Mary Snyder



Time to visit



Joyce Kamm's craft



Beth Lynch provides crafts



Fellowship



Jane Young



Beth, Jane Young, Jackie Sandblade



Liz Yeager



Eric and Jackie Sandblade



Beth, Catherine Donohue, Irene Achey and Sue Bianco



Beth's button tree



Asher Westgate





# In Loving Memory of Muriel Elaine Grant

By Karen Grant



Muriel, a beloved daughter of Barbados, and a cherished member of the American community, passed away on Sunday November 26, 2023 at the age of 92. Born in Barbados on January 26, 1931, Muriel was a remarkable individual whose life was filled with love, passion, and a deep connection to family, travel, and the wonders of gardening.

Muriel emigrated to the United States in pursuit of new opportunities, and it was there that she found success in her career and built a life filled with joy and purpose. She was a dedicated and hardworking individual who made a lasting impact on the lives of her family members, earning the respect and admiration of colleagues and friends alike.

Above all, Muriel treasured her family and leaves behind a legacy of love and

devotion. Her kindness, wisdom, and unwavering support will forever be remembered by her grandchildren and extended family. Her warm and nurturing presence will be deeply missed, and her spirit will continue to live on in the hearts of all who knew her.

A passionate traveler, she found immense joy in exploring the world and immersing herself in new cultures and experiences. Whether it was the serene beaches of Barbados, the bustling streets of New York City, or the tranquil country sides of Europe, Muriel sought to embrace the beauty of diverse landscapes and forge lasting memories with those she held dear.

In addition to her love for travel, Muriel had a green thumb and found solace in the art of gardening. Her skillful hands nurtured vibrant blooms and thriving foliage, creating a haven of natural beauty that brought peace and tranquility to her homes. Her gardens were a reflection of her nurturing spirit and will continue to flourish as a living testament to her passion.

As we bid farewell to Muriel, let us remember the joy she brought into our lives, the wisdom she imparted, and the love she shared so generously. Though she may no longer walk beside us, her spirit will endure through the cherished memories we hold dear. May her journey beyond this life be as vibrant and beautiful as the gardens she so lovingly tended.

She is survived by her loving grandchildren, sisters, brother and countless nieces and nephews.

Rest in peace, dear Muriel. You will forever remain in our hearts, and your legacy will continue to inspire us all.



Muriel and Karen



# Sarum Blue Advent Vestments and Altar Hangings

Contributed by Rayelenn Casey



One of my Advent traditions is to send photos of the Sarum blue frontal and vestments to Juliet Hemingray, in Derbyshire, in England. Juliet is a beloved friend. And she was the maker of these beautiful pieces. Her woman-owned woman-staffed cottage industry is called Church Textiles. It began with Juliet at her sewing machine, and then a single helper, and now it is a thriving business with worldwide sales.

From the Facebook page of Juliet Hemingray Church Textiles

April 19, 2021 ·

HAPPY 30TH ANNIVERSARY LORD CAREY.



Today has a very big place in my heart. On April 19th 1991, Archbishop George Carey stepped out of Old Palace front door in Canterbury, into the cool but now dryer, sunny day. The rhinestones we had included on the design shot shards of light

around as he moved.

The cope design was based on the arches of the cathedral which were depicted as flames around the lower part of the cope. The Compass Rose design was inspired by one that was on the floor of the Cathedral. The hood of the cope shows hand couched letters taken from John's gospel chapter 8 verse 32. In Greek it translates as "The truth will set you free."

Flames radiate from the centre spreading out into the world - the Holy Spirit spreading it's wings and comforting people. George enabled the team to put our heads above the parapet after 11 years of working diligently on less high profile pieces. We all took part in making it including our babysitter.

It was a wonderful time to remember.

Our way of portraying peoples ideas has

continued and now we are in our 42nd year of bringing their ideas into being be them on very large or small pieces.

Now we can be proud that we have made pieces for several Archbishops - Desmond Tutu, Rowan Williams, Justin Welby and John Sentamu (in collaboration with Watts and Co.)

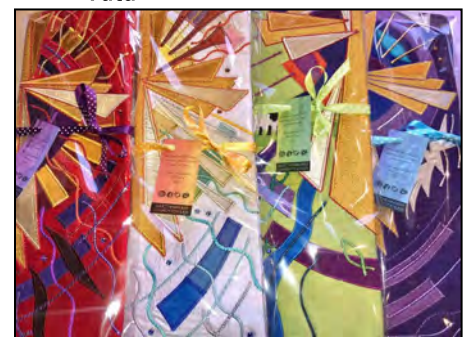
It has been the most incredible journey. The colour of my hair has now changed and also my physique!! However my passion for this work is not diminished. Thank Lord Carey for believing in us and giving us a higher profile than what we already had.



Detail of vestments made for George Carey Archbishop of Canterbury. The design was inspired by the Cathedral of Canterbury



Stole made for Desmond Tutu



This stunning set of contemporary stoles have just been completed.



# Chamber Singers Concert

Pictures by Raylenn Casey



Lancaster Chamber Singers presented their Christmas Program at St. Edward's Dec. 3rd.



Jack Esbenshade on the right is the husband of Donna Esbenshade (member of St. Ed's). He is a bass in LCS

## Recent Projects



The start of our Family Wall . Please bring in your photo and let's keep this growing!

### By Michelle Bentley

For our December vestry meeting, we gathered for a bountiful meal and conversation, focusing more on relationship and less on parish business. After a year of ministry, it is a beautiful thing to sit back, take a breath, and reflect on our ministry together and our spiritual journeys, here, at St. Edward's. BUT. . . lest you think your vestry is winding down for the year,

we wanted to share with you the fruits of our discernment and stewardship of the collective resources supported by YOU, our stewards, that we completed since our December 17<sup>th</sup> vestry meeting:



A new banner sign to invite people to our Christmas Eve services. Hospitality, Welcoming, Evangelism in our midst!



Carpets cleaned



Our Episcopal tradition of red doors, newly painted with thanks to Bob Mutari and Mike Freshwater, to complement our new exterior doors (page 3)



# December Services



Bob Mosebach lights Advent candle



Deborah Fast assists



The Gospel



The choir adds so much to the services



Wanda Stoltzfus preaches



The Sermon

## Worship SERVICES



Jamie Alton



Rayelenn in Sarum blue



Jay Miller



Fred Cluck and Nancy Mannion



Fourth Advent Candle



Recessional



See more about our Advent altar hangings and vestments on page 18



# Christmas Eve

Pictures by Mary Snyder, Mac Miller and Rayelenn Casey



Welcoming entrance



"Merry Christmas Friends"

## CHRISTMAS EVE



The choir was a central part of the service



Silent Night



Fr. Rick



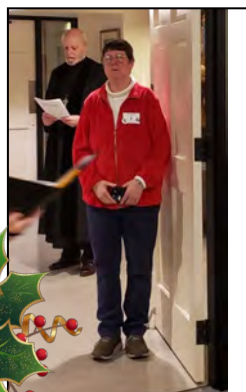
The altar was beautiful



O Holy Night by Amy Yovanovitch



The three kings are on the way



Mary Snyder usher and photographer



Checking the manger



Final greeting with the Holywags





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[www.sainteds.org](http://www.sainteds.org)

LOOK FOR US ON THE WEB!  
[www.sainteds.org](http://www.sainteds.org)

## 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

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

