

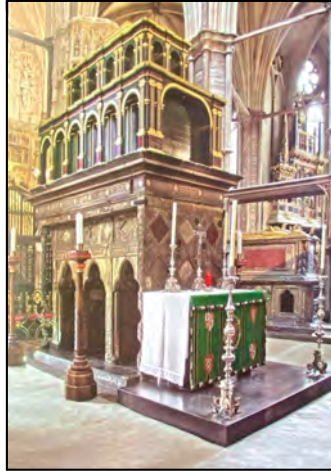


# Scepter



## Reflection From the Rector's Desk

By The Rev. Dr. Richard C. Bauer



### A Prayer to St. Edward

O Holy St. Edward, patron of our parish and devoted servant of Our Lady and England, guide the thoughts and deeds of your people at this time. May the life and work of our small community be pleasing to our heavenly Father, and may the love and service we offer here grow and extend to all mankind. Amen.

and his son Edward I. Beck left Whitechapel, Middlesex, England and set out for the new world. And in 1736, my 7th great-grandfather, Edward, was laid to rest in Solebury, Bucks, Pennsylvania.. With roots in British Colonial America (and Pennsylvania) stretching back three-hundred years, I was also able to discover that our family line could be traced to the reign of Henry VIII, and the foundation of the Church in England through my 13th great-grandfather, William Overton, Bishop of Coventry & Litchfield. As surprising as it was for me to discover, for five hundred years, members of my family line have been serving as clergy in the English church. Pretty wild!!

Now, claiming my own branch on this storied tree, it was a humbling honor for me to find myself back in an ancestral homeland, embracing the invitation to celebrate and solemnize the marital union of our own Ian and Miriam Bentley. Traveling to London with Ian and Miriam, her parents, and our own Michelle and Glen Bentley, the trip served as a tactile reminder for me of just how authentically our current church relationships can expand our personal experiences of family. Be-

*(Continued on page 2)*

Ushering in 2025, I've been blessed with a bit of 'historical reinvigoration' that has helped to expand my long-view for our collective senses of mission and ministry here at St. Edward's. Because fully immersed in a week on foot around my ancestral homeland, and the seat of our Anglican heritage, I tubed my way across London during Advent: absorbing art and architecture, worship and culture, music and family, with a brand-new set of eyes. And on the lookout for signs and symbols of our patron saint, there was something profoundly grounding in the opportunities for relating our forty-three years as a parish to the legacy of a king who lived and reigned a thousand years ago. And though I had been to England several time be-

fore, this was my first trip back as the rector of this church, my first trip back after having uncovered the full degree of my own, personal, English heritage.

I had always been aware that my mother, Victoria Beck, was English. But having lost her when I was nine, and having had no contact with any members of her side of my family tree, I grew up without any significant reference to half of my family's history. It wasn't until I underwent genetic testing and traced my heritage through Ancestry.com, just four years ago, that I came to truly realize how strong my ancestral ties were, to both Anglicanism, and to the story of Colonial America. But I've since come to know: that between 1650-1700, my 8th great-grandfather, Sir John J. Beck

### Inside this issue:

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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

cause it meant more to me than I can adequately express, with words, to preside over the vows that Ian and Miriam made in the sight of God, in the presence of friends and family. Somehow, I saw my own life from distance as I blessed their union, fully identifying with my priestly role, while stepping back to just “be”, taking in the unfolding of a beautiful new beginning for the Bentley family.

With these meditations on my heart, I made it a priority to spend my first free morning in London at the great church that our patron saint helped to set the foundations for, Westminster Abbey. In case you don't know much about the person our church derives its name from: St. Edward the Confessor was one of the last Anglo-Saxon kings of England, a figure whose legacy intertwines religious devotion and historical significance. His reign, from 1042 to 1066, is often characterized as peaceful, though it was marked by political complexities and power struggles among the English nobility. He strengthened the monarchy's ties with the Church and promoted ecclesiastical reform, but his lack of heirs led to succession disputes that ultimately paved the way for the Norman Conquest in 1066 by William the Conqueror. Edward died on January 5, 1066, and was buried in the newly completed Westminster Abbey.

The shrine of St. Edward the Confessor in Westminster Abbey then became a focal point of medieval pilgrimage. In 1163, King Henry II oversaw the translation of Edward's remains to a prominent place behind the high altar, signifying the king's devotion and hopes of divine favor. But during the English Reformation under King Henry VIII, Westminster Abbey was dissolved for a short time in 1540, and the shrine dismantled. Edward's relics were buried anonymously in the abbey. Howev-

er, during Queen Mary I's reign, efforts were made to restore Catholic practices and piety in England. In 1557, the shrine was reassembled, and Edward's bones were returned to their place of honor. Despite further religious upheavals, the shrine survived...and today, it remains a spiritual centerpiece of Westminster Abbey, attracting visitors and pilgrims alike.

But what many discover about the shrine when visiting, is that it's closed to the public. Accessible only by special permission, and not allowed to be photographed by curious onlookers, the mortal remains of Edward the Confessor are truly set apart. For while visitors can walk up to the tombs of Queen Elizabeth I, Henry VII, and the beloved Mary Queen of Scots, our patron saint resides at the mystical center of the Abbey, a “thin place”, where mystery and reverence separate the tourists from those who come to worship.

Given this, it was a grace laden experience for me to be invited to pray behind the high altar at Westminster Abbey. After befriending the priest on duty, Father Donald brought me back to the shrine where we recited the Litany for St. Edward together. Closing my eyes before the short service began, I felt the centuries of palpable prayer energy there, in the heart of that great English church. I also felt OUR connection to history, a tendril stretching from London to Lancaster. And I felt a blessed validation, a re-affirmation of my own call to the priesthood in our denomination, after a season of painstaking internal struggle. God's love was everywhere.

And so, I hope that this month's reflection might inspire all of us to better appreciate our roots in the rich tradition that we share here at St. Edward's. Because whether we're new to the Episcopal Church, or have connections to it that span it's five-

hundred-year story, we are drawn into narratives that are as ancient as we're willing to allow them to be. We share in Edward's legacy, church-builders in our own time. We share in the suffering, and the glory, of our Lord and teacher, Jesus. And we share in the gift of Creation, loved by the One who made us in his image. We are part of something...part of everything....

Rick+



St. Edward; the Confessor with a ring. The story goes that a poor pilgrim asked Edward for alms. Having nothing else, the king gave him a costly ring. Some time later another pilgrim brought the ring back to Edward with the message that the poor man had actually been St. John the Evangelist.

## 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  
hj\_miller@outlook.com

**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 Jay Miller



As we approach the Christmas season and in turn, the new year, it is often a time of reflection; a time to look back on the year that was and to look ahead and plan for the year that is to come. It has been a busy year for Saint Edwards. A year that we should all be proud of. We have accomplished so much thanks to the generosity of time, talent and treasure from each and every one of you and we hope to continue that trend and build on the accomplishments of 2024 as we approach and move into the year that will be 2025.

A few of the major building and grounds accomplishments are to be noted.

- Designed and installed new front glass doors (December 2023) after our final vestry meeting for the year
- Updated the main men's and ladies' restrooms
- Repainted the narthex
- Installed new flooring in the front

entry, narthex and bathrooms

- Installed new parking lot and parking lot lighting
- New parking lot landscaping
- Repainted the parish hall and renovated the existing flooring
- Window tinting of Sanctuary/Sacristy glass

The above are just the more major building and grounds accomplishments that took place. These are accomplishments you can see and visualize. Those less obvious, yet equally important accomplishments are as follows.

- We have expanded and grown our worship:
- Expanding worship opportunities and access through technology implementation
- Wednesday Contemplative Eucharist with average weekly attendance of 18
- Consistently reaching between 150-175 folks every week for our services
  - ◇ Empowering ministry leadership to actively engage people in these areas of formation:
  - ◇ Women's Spirituality Group
  - ◇ Widow's Group
  - ◇ Men's Spirituality Group
  - ◇ Lenten Silent Retreat at Mariawald
  - ◇ Bible Study
  - ◇ Lunch & Learn – 2024 Bible

Challenge along with our Wednesday Bible Study

- ◇ *The Chosen* – Viewing and discussion
- Coffee House Band continues to create a space for musicians to share their musical gifts at a coffee hour once per month promoting ministry and fellowship
- Our Faith In Action ministries continue to build on successes and expand in ways that allow us to reach out to the broader community, beyond our doors and within.
  - ◇ HAFP food collection, Turkey Drive, monetary support, on-site volunteers
  - ◇ First Reformed Partnership Homeless Community Meal
  - ◇ Feed My Starving Children MobilePacks (Global)
  - ◇ Jesse Tree Gift and Monetary Collection for COBYS Unit
  - ◇ Race Against Racism team participation
  - ◇ Blood Drive
  - ◇ Books for Prisoners
  - ◇ Prisoner Music Ministry
  - ◇ School/Backpack Drive for Hempfield Community
  - ◇ Soles for Souls Lenten Collection
  - ◇ PrideFest Booth
  - ◇ Community Trunk or Treat

(Continued on page 17)

## Military News

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

★Richard Mutari

Please advise Michelle Bentley in the Parish office or HJ Miller@ Outlook.com if these names should remain on our list:

- ★Justin Carnahan
- ★Brandon Fox
- ★Gordon Frankenfield
- ★Matt Fuhrman
- ★Jack Hawk

- ★Drew Johnson
- ★William Justice
- ★Anthony Koser
- ★Alex Kube
- ★John Lewis
- ★David Peck
- ★Capt. Andrew Pfeiffer
- ★Mike Spurr
- ★David Sternberg
- ★Clayton Tennes
- ★Connor Tennes
- ★Evan Westgate
- ★Seamas Whitesel
- ★1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Thomas Whitesel



# Thank You, Dorris Smith

By Buddy Yeager

Dorris Smith was a Greeter and an Usher, at the same time. I have been in charge of the Ushers, since 2005, and Dorris joined our team not long after that.

She was always willing to take someone's place, when needed and always there when an Usher was needed.

The Ushers do not only serve at Sunday services, but also events that require our services.

I'm going to miss Dorris Ushering, but the good news is that she told me she would be available to substitute if needed. Well low and behold she will be ushering twice during the next schedule.

Nothing like a short retirement, eh Dorris? Welcome back for at least 2 more times. Who knows what the future schedules will bring!

Buddy Yeager

Usher, Usher Scheduler, and Friend



Dorris greeting Ethel Lawrence during Covid.



## Pictures by Mary Snyder and Scepter files



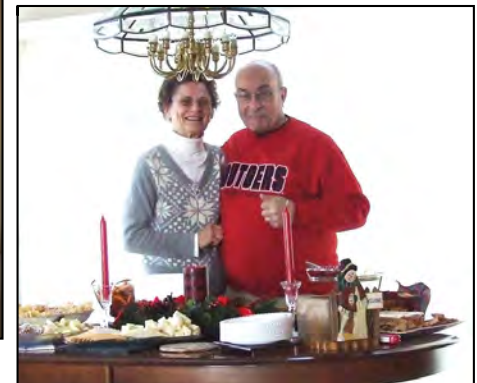
Dorris being thanked by Fr. Rick on her last Sunday as an usher.



Part of an usher's job is to present the collection



2004 Dorris checking out the Usher display with Liz Yeager



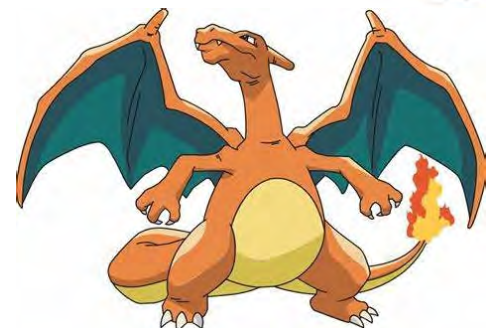
Dorris and Buddy Yeager at a Christmas fellowship

## Pokémon



Winter - Wednesdays  
January 22nd - March 26th

Spring - Wednesdays  
April 30th - May 18th





Freda and Rick Dombach welcoming their granddaughter!



Recent picture of Rick, granddaughter and Freda

## Roving Reporter Age 4 1/2



On page 17, see pictures that Emma Casey Stauffer (age 4 1/2) took Christmas Eve .

A Sunday school teacher asked her class, "What was Jesus' mother's name?" One child answered, "Mary." The teacher then asked, "Who knows what Jesus' father's name was?" A little kid said, "Verge." Confused, the teacher asked, "Where did you get that?" The kid said, "Well, you know they are always talking about Verge 'n' Mary."

## A HUGE CATCH

Make a catch of fish to show what happens when Jesus calls his first disciples.

**What you need:**

- Cardboard egg carton
- Acrylic paint
- Paintbrush
- Darning needle
- Fishing twine
- Scissors
- Googly eyes or buttons
- Glue

**What you do:**

1. From the egg carton, cut out the 12 cups. From the lid, cut out two fish tails.
2. On a protected surface, turn the cups upside down. Paint the outside of each cup and both sides of the tails. Let dry.
3. Thread the needle with an arm's length of twine. Tie a knot at the end.
4. Thread the needle through the end of the tail. Tie another knot an inch from the tail.
5. Thread the needle through one upside-down cup. Pull the twine through until the cup rests on the knot.
6. Continue tying knots an inch above each cup and threading on another cup until you've strung six cups. Tie a knot above the last cup and leave a long string to hang the fish. (You can make two fish with each egg carton.)
7. Add googly eyes or buttons to the last cup to make a face.

## PUZZLE

### FISHING DIRECTIONS

When fishermen obeyed Jesus and let down their nets, they caught so many fish that their boats began to sink! Simon Peter fell at Jesus' knees. What happened next?

Directions: Use the coordinate clues to locate the correct words and complete Luke 5:10-11 (NIV) below. The first number in each clue pair goes across, and the second number goes up.

9									
8	pulled			fish					
7					followed		show		
6	now			people		boats			
5									
4									
3	Jesus					everything		Simon	
2									
1									
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Then Jesus said to \_\_\_\_\_, "Don't be \_\_\_\_\_; from \_\_\_\_\_ on you will \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_." So they \_\_\_\_\_ their \_\_\_\_\_ up on \_\_\_\_\_ left \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ him.

Luke 5:10-11, NIV

Answers: Jesus, Simon, afraid, now, fish, people, pulled, boats, show, followed



## Bible Quiz

When 12-year-old Jesus stayed at the Jerusalem temple as Joseph and Mary started traveling home, after how many days did his parents find him?

- A. 1 day
- B. 2 days
- C. 3 days
- D. 7 days



Answers  
INSIDE

Answer: C (See Luke 2:46.)

# Holiday Moments



Sadie, Emma and Crèche



Emily Casey and Sadie and Emma Casey Stauffer visited Elaine Radcliffe at Christmas time and Elaine played some lovely piano for them, ending with Jingle Bells.



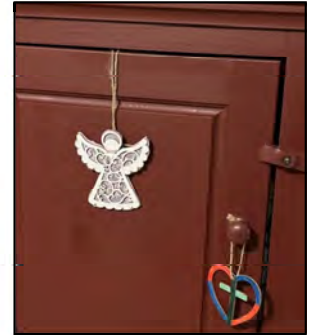
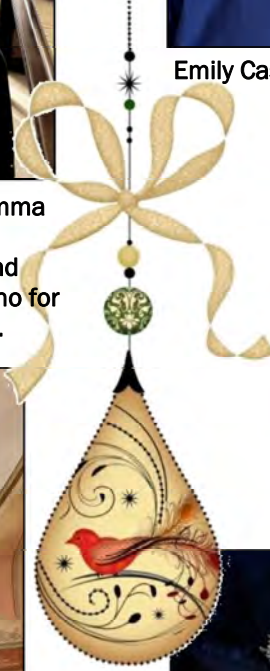
Emily Casey and Elaine Radcliffe



Mac Miller and the girls in the family went to a very funny play called Fruitcakes at The Playhouse at McConnellstown.



The Academy of Music, Philadelphia where Dick and Gail Irons went for the ballet



Gifts made at coffee hour for shut ins. Seen in Barb O'Brien's home.



Iron's daughter Heidi, husband Greg and son Noah at St. Edward's Christmas Eve



A scene from the Nutcracker ballet



A delightfully unexpected moose in the snow at Westgates

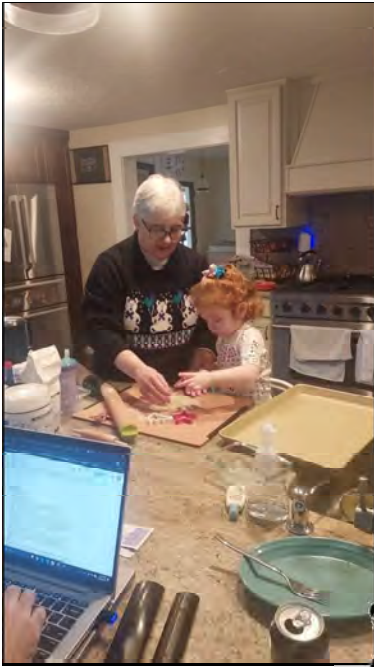


Donohue stockings



A child's awe at Christmas.

# Holiday Moments



Freda Dombach making cookies with granddaughter



Kline Clan



The Rahim family reunited!!!



Fr. Rick and Big Ben



Christmas lights



Athena Donohue Christmas Eve at St. David's Episcopal church. "Thanks for all the prayers for her over the past 3 years". Catherine



Ian and the Bentley Bus



Mary Snyder and Jodi Good



Karen Waddill on the road again



# Women's Spirituality Group



thoughtful prayer and discussion as we begin each month. There is something that is very simple and comforting about gathering at the start of each month, in simple prayer, meditation, and discussion that gives us the opportunity to look inward and express what is in our hearts and minds so that we can venture with a renewed sense of faith, mission, and ministry each month. Our gatherings do not exceed 90 minutes and we offer tea, coffee, and pastries. Join us in 2025. And, we are always looking for different voices to lead discussions. The Women's Spirituality Group is a great refreshment for the new year!

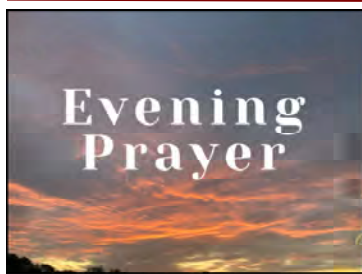
By Michelle Bentley

The Women's Group is very much looking forward to beginning our 2025 year with our first gathering on Saturday, February 1st at 10 AM in the lounge. For those of us who have participated in this group since its incep-

tion, it has been a most fruitful experience of fellowship, prayer, meditation, and discussion. For women who have thought about joining our group, but have yet to try it, I am here to encourage you to give it a try. What we hope for in 2025 is for a time of peaceful and



## Sunday 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

## Widow's Group



The Widow's Group will meet on Thursday February 6th at 10:AM at the church.

**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)

Include your news and announcements in the next Scepter.

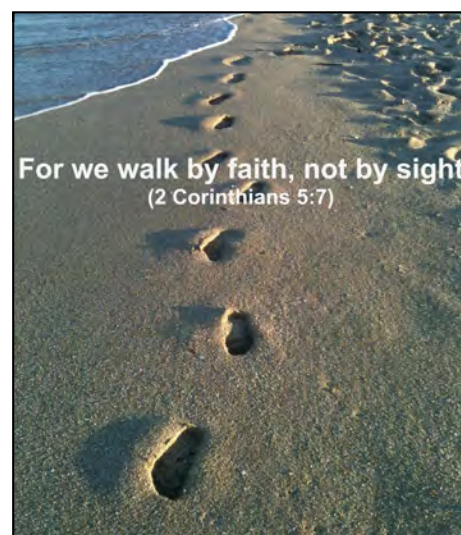
Due date for February will be:

**January 20th.**

Send articles and announcements to:



## 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 11th





# Cookie / Craft Sale Saturday December 7th

Pictures by Mary Snyder and Barb Jakiel



Waiting for the doors to open



Kevin Milligan, Sue Purdy, Donna Holwager, Gloria Kacinko, Jerry Hoff, Bev Achey, Michelle Bentley, Tina Shank, Julie Hoff, Mark Jakiel, Ginny Kloeping, Beth Lynch



Cookies and Confections



The variety of crafts gave customers lots to choose from



Customers making their choices



## By Mark Jakiel

On December 7<sup>th</sup> we had our 20<sup>th</sup> annual Christmas cookie sale and the past 3 years we added Christmas crafts.

After a little over 3 1/2 hours, we were sold out of cookies and closed the sale. We were able to make about \$4,400 of which \$2,400 was cookies and bake goods and \$2,000 for crafts. The sale opens with about 40 plus eagerly waiting people in line to buy. This is a truly festive event for St. Edward's. Thanks again for the amazing bakers and crafters to make the annual sale so successful for St. Edward's!



# Wedding Invitation



Our wedding will be a Quaker wedding ceremony, A Quaker ceremony is different from many other weddings in the Christian tradition. It begins with a welcome and a short introduction to the worship experience. Soon after, the couple enters together and sit with friends and family. Everyone sits in silence to settle and meditate until the couple feels it's time to say their vows. They then stand, hold hands, and each declare their vows. Then they sign a Quaker marriage certificate and sit down, while it is read aloud by a friend or relative. Everyone returns to silent reflection during which friends and family may stand and take turns speaking aloud, sharing their insights, memories, well wishes, or other reflections. After a certain period of time a designated person closes the meeting by turning to a neighbor and shaking hands. The meeting comes to an end as all participants greet their neighbors. As guests leave the wedding, they are invited to sign the marriage certificate as witnesses. The marriage certificate will be displayed in the newlyweds home as a treasured symbol of the community that supports them and an ongoing affirmation of their commitment to one another. For more information visit this youtube link: [What to Expect at a Quaker Wedding](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=18YfqzHGTP4&si=USwQyW5eQq20yuwG)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=18YfqzHGTP4&si=USwQyW5eQq20yuwG>

At 2:30PM we will have a blessing of our wedding by Fr. Rick at St. Edward's, followed by the reception. All are invited. See the invitation above for more details.

## Bob and Nancy Oliver's Grandson's Wedding



Matthew Oliver and Cathy Lewis



Bob Jr. Matt, Cathy, and Kim Oliver



Matt's Aunt and Uncle, Polly and Khoi Tennies



Matt's sister Nicole

### By Bob Oliver

The bride and groom are Cathy Lewis and Matthew Oliver. He is the grandson of Bob and Nancy Oliver and the son of Bob Jr. and Kim Oliver.

The wedding was performed in Asheville, NC at the Glassmine Falls overlook along the Blue Ridge parkway in the mountains of Western North Carolina, The mountain range in the background is the Blue Ridge Mountain.

It was held on September 21, 2024 the Saturday before hurricane Helena struck and just about wiped out Asheville. Cathy and Matt met while living in Greenville, NC and Asheville is where they went on their first date. They now live in Charlotte, NC.

Nancy and Bob did not attend the wedding in person. We had it streamed on our computer. Cathy's uncle, a Texas rancher performed the wedding. A good time was had by all.

# Ian and Miriam's Wedding

By Michelle Bentley

What an amazing and beautiful once-in-a-lifetime event for Glen, myself, and Miriam's parents – Glenn and Claire. Starting with the civil ceremony on Staten Island on Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, followed by a family luncheon and then off to London where we were surrounded by so much love and Happy Christmas spirit. As parents, we beam with pride at our children's flourishing, but it was quite a sight to behold to be a part of such a close-knit and loving group of young people who came from all parts of the world to celebrate the love, and deep bond of friendship and partnership, that Ian and Miriam share. And we were so blessed to have Father Rick travel with us to celebrate the *Blessing of a Civil Marriage* and to be such a support to our families. It was beautiful and such great fun!!! My blessing to Ian and Miriam, at the rehearsal dinner, came in the form of a poem by a young poet, Whitney Hanson, and it reads as follows:

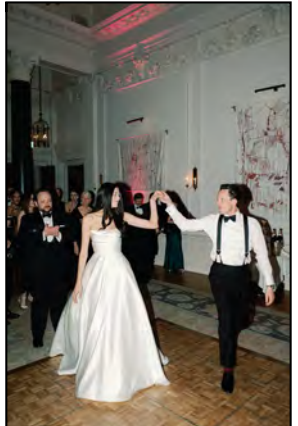
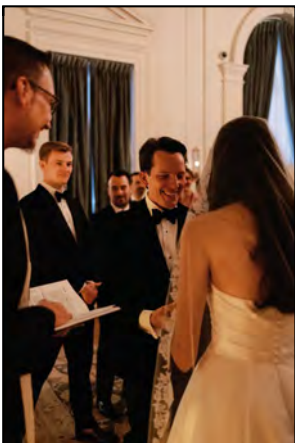
they say sometimes love starts with a spark  
and that might be true  
but if i were to wish you a love  
i wouldn't wish fire for you

you see fire is powerful  
it burns bright and then it's gone  
it's beautiful and warm  
but it doesn't last long

so instead of wishing you  
a love that burns  
i wish you a love like a river  
that twists and turns

it changes and flows  
it is powerful and free  
but it consistently finds its way  
back to the sea

and so like the water  
i hope your love is ever-growing ever-changing  
i hope your love is powerful and free  
and may you always find each other  
like the river finds the sea





JOIN US FOR OUR  
LENTEN SILENT RETREAT  
MARCH 5-8, 2025  
\*\*NEW THIS YEAR – BEGINS ON ASH WEDNESDAY



ST. EDWARD'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
HELD AT: MARIAWALD RETREAT CENTER IN READING, PA  
REGISTRATION FORMS/DETAILS WILL BE IN THE NARTHEX  
BEGINNING JANUARY 12<sup>TH</sup>  
REGISTER BY FEBRUARY 9<sup>TH</sup> – SPACE IS LIMITED!

# Needle Arts

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.



“Life’s most persistent and urgent question is, ‘What are you doing for others?’”  
 —Martin Luther King Jr.



Donna Holwager setting up the many handmade items for the sale



The collection of knitted items made by this group for the Cookie/Craft Sale



Sue Purdy setting up her beaded projects the day before the sale.



Gail Irons organizing a table of crafts this group made for the Cookie/Craft Sale

## Martin Luther King Day Monday January 20th



“I have a dream”

MLK on what really matters

Exactly two months before his assassination, Martin Luther King Jr. preached his

final sermon at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta. On February 4, 1968, the civil-rights icon spoke about how he wanted to be remembered at his funeral. He pre-

ferred that people recall not his education or achievements but that he “tried to give his life serving others” and “tried to love somebody.”

Adapting a 1952 homily by J. Wallace Hamilton, King decried the “drum major instinct — a desire to be out front, a desire to lead the parade.” Humans often want to be great and first, as evidenced by the disciples James and John requesting prime seats in paradise. But King urged listeners to focus on the “reordered priorities” of Jesus, who wants us to “be first in love.”

As Jesus showed, “everybody can serve,” King said. Your background or status doesn’t matter, as long as you have “a heart full of grace” and “a soul generated by love.”





## HEMPFIELD AREA FOOD PANTRY

Thanks to the entire congregation, we supplied the Hempfield Food Pantry with 295 pounds of food in November. That included the thirteen turkeys we delivered for Thanksgiving.

Their shelves are full of food from food drives during Nov/Dec so the list for December is very specific:

- Red Beets
- Alfredo Sauce
- Pancake Mix
- Syrup

The mission of the Hempfield Area Food Pantry is to show the underserved the gracious love of God by feeding the body, mind and soul of it's clients with dignity!

The pantry is open Mondays and Wednesdays from 10 am to 1 pm



Soles for Souls	March 5 – April 13
Feed My Starving Children	March 27-30
Race Against Racism	April 2025
Blood Drive	May 20

Collection of food for the Hempfield Food Pantry in the narthex is ongoing.

## Community Aid News

Community Aid has expanded the payouts to partner organizations for donated items!!! 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

## Do You Need A Ride To Sunday Worship?



If you have a long-ing to be at St. Ed's in person to worship on Sunday mornings, please contact the church office and a driver will pick you up.

If you are willing to add your name to the schedule to be a driver, please contact the parish office as well..

## ALERT Cold Weather Sock Collection



The collection of socks was organized by ALERT: All Lancaster Episcopal Response Team. The socks were distributed by First Reformed Church at their Community Breakfast on December 22nd.

A big thank you to everyone for helping our homeless brothers and sisters in need.

## Jesse Tree Project 2024



Gracious thanks to the parishioners who participated in this year's 2024 Jesse Tree project.

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

Of the nearly 50 children served by the agency, St Edward's ensured that at least half of the children in the foster services program received some special joy this season.



All smiles after dropping off the donated Jesse Tree gifts are Steven Nichols, COBYs Relations Manager, Leslie Arnold, coordinator of the project, and Julie Hoff, ever-loyal drop off driver.

Motivated by Christian faith, COBYs Family Services provides wrap-around services in foster care, adoption, counseling, family life education and permanency for children and families at risk in Lancaster County and the surrounding area. Family & Youth Services in Lancaster PA | COBYs

The young ones served by St. Edward's this year ranged in age from three months to 14 years, which included eight boys and 17 girls.

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.



Joey (nephew of parishioner)  
Saskita (niece of parishioner)

By Beth Lynch and Joyce Kamm

## A Beautiful Reunion From Afghanistan to Lancaster, PA In 2024

On December 23, on a cold wintery day, the three older children of Najibullah and Malalay Rahim arrived in Lancaster to join their family after a 3 ½ year separation. The family is reconnecting and helping Haseebullah (Haseeb), Moneebullah (Moneeb) and Muska adjust to their new home. A little side note: When the three walked into the house, they started laughing and said, "Little house". Truer words were never spoken! In Afghanistan they lived in a three-story house with concrete walls, marble floors, a kitchen on each floor and beautiful landscaping.. It is quite different now....but they are safe and together. That's the important thing.

A few from the original "Welcome Team" provided transportation to the Lancaster Airport to greet the new arrivals.. Beth Lynch transported Tayab, Khateeb and Sohaib to the airport. Najib, Malalay and Anfal came with Donna Esbenshade.

Interestingly the three oldest arrived at the airport before the rest of their family. They were driven by van from JFK Airport...New York to Lancaster. Malalay, Najib and Anfal were the last to arrive. Pictured below is their own very special "Welcome Team." Can you use your imagination to put yourself in this scene?



Waiting expectantly for mom, dad and Anfal are Tayab, Khateeb, Moneeb, Sohaib, Haseeb and Muska Rahim

Church World Services is once again involved and assisting with many aspects of this reunification. They secured the townhouse unit right next door to the Rahims and supplied bare minimum needs.

What we thought might be a heavy lift for St. Edward's to furnish another home, turned out to be almost non-existent. One Facebook Marketplace seller, who heard the story, recruited her neighborhood. They donated a sofa, love seat, recliner, chest of drawers, coffee table, comforters and a few more items. A true gift from God...all were members of the same church.

A person outside Saint Ed's bought two bunk beds. Four boys in one room will be quite interesting!

Someone within St. Ed's bought the oldest son a bed that he selected. Another provided an almost new bed for Muska. Church World Services was required to provide new mattresses and pillows .

**Still needed: A kitchen table and 5-6 chairs.**

There is also a Wish List on Amazon for some smaller items. One item on the list that might seem unnecessary is chair cushions. They were added because the Rahim boys always complain about the chair seats being cold. I guess when you are used to sitting on plush carpeted floors to eat your entire life, they would seem quite cold.

Please click on the link below

[https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2JTENITROBWM4/ref=nav\\_wishlist\\_lists\\_1](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2JTENITROBWM4/ref=nav_wishlist_lists_1)

Items purchased will be shipped directly to the Rahims. If you have Amazon prime, shipping is usually free. If you do not and want to avoid shipping costs, contact Joyce Kamm at kammjel@gmail.com.

Many of you have never met the Rahims. If you would like to meet the family, contact Joyce Kamm or Beth Lynch. We will introduce you. I know they would love to meet you!

## Rahim Family Collection

Starting in January the collection of hygiene, paper products and cleaning supplies will begin again.

Monthly needs are: paper towels, tissues, toilet paper, shampoo, toothpaste, body wash, hand soap, laundry detergent, laundry softener, dish soap, dishwasher tablets, kitchen garbage bags and hand sanitizer.

A sign-up list will be in the narthex.

**Pictures by Rayelenn Casey, Meredith Aul, Donna Esbenshade, Joyce Kamm**



Father and sons



First the tears of disbelief....



Then the embrace



A long-awaited group hug



Khateeb and Haseeb  
At first glance, Haseeb can be mistaken for his father. The resemblance is uncanny.



Sisters together again—Anfal and Muska



Father Rick and Najib. The smiles, the hands, say it all!



Brothers ...together again



Mother and daughter. What a resemblance!



## Nuggets .... for the Journey

### Some comforting and challenging words:

“It’s when the earth shakes and foundations crumble that our light is called to rise up. It’s when everything falls away and shakes us to the core and awakens all of our hidden ghosts, that we dig deeper to find once inaccessible strength. It’s in times when division is fierce that we must reach for each other and hold each other much, much tighter. Do not fall away now. This is the time to rise. Your light is being summoned. Your integrity is being tested, that it may stand more tall. Rise, and find the strength in your heart. Rise, and find the strength in each other. Burn through your devastation, Make it your fuel. Bring forth your light. Now is not the time to be afraid of the dark.”

— Chelan Harkin



**We Need To Be Angels  
For Each Other**

“To give each other strength and consolation. Because only when we fully realize that the Cup of Life is not only a Cup of Sorrow but also A Cup of Joy will we be able to drink it. —Henri J.M. Nouwen




## Taizé Worship



**Saint Luke Episcopal  
209 South Market St.  
Mount Joy, PA.  
The first Saturday of  
every month @ 5pm.**

Interested in experiencing meditative worship with candlelight, chanting with live musicians (harp, piano, flute, guitar), scripture interspersed with short periods of silence? Join us as Br. David Rutledge, Br. A. J. Robins or The Rev. Martha Harris lead worship.

Upcoming musicians:

January 4 - William Wright  
February 1 - Rick Bauer  
March 1 - Gretchen Thomas

## Roving Reporter Age 4



Emma Casey Stauffer, age 4 1/2, took these pictures, of her mother Elizabeth with Fr. Rick, her grandmother RAYELENN Sparks Casey and a pretty arrangement, just after the 7 PM service on Christmas Eve.. Good job Emma!!

## Vestry Cont'd

(Continued from page 3)

### ◇ Community Amos Herr Festival

In our general parish life we have many opportunities for our shared lives outside of weekly church services.

Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner fellowship gatherings outside of parish

Quarterly Potluck fellowship dinners in-house

Created “Family Wall” in narthex (end of 2023 into 2024)

Forging seminars that address the needs of our congregation – recent seminar in partnership with Samaritan Center addressed relevant topics on aging well, balancing caregiving responsibilities, and being prepared with actionable tools

*Sermon Talk* series developed as additional avenue of conversation and wondering with Father Rick and Randy Westgate

Fundraising: It is more than a “finance” obligation, it becomes a way of sharing parish life

Creating ways for our in-person parishioners to stay well-connected with our “at-home” population

As you can see from the information noted above, we are an active parish and a participating parish not just within the Saint Edward building and grounds, but also as a part of the local community. You can see that 2024 was a busy and fruitful year for our parish. As a vestry, we look forward to stewarding and steering Saint Edwards into a new year, a year that can and will be equally fulfilling for us all. We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy new year.





Hosted by Blair Lord

Happy New Year and Twelve Day of Christmas! We're delighted to start a new year of The Chosen with you as we

watch "Clean, Part 2."

If you missed or need a reminder of what happened in "Clean, Part 1," here are the essentials: the disciples have returned from their two-by-two missions with excitement, concern, and questions. Followers on the "home front" have concerns, too—Mary Magdalene, Tamar, and Zebedee are taking steps to get an oil-making business underway to help the ministry. Simon finds his relationship with his wife fracturing, and Jairus and Veronica are becoming desperate for help that for the moment seems out of reach. In our discussion, we reflected on how we connect with the divine through tangible connections, such as visiting the places where Jesus and those who knew him lived and traveled.

The next episode, "Clean, Part 2," will take place on January 5th. Since the previous episode ended on a cliffhanger, you might be eager to see its resolution and share in the discussion! Please join us in the parish hall at 11:45am with your lunch.

If you're looking ahead in your calendars, we will view the follow-up episode, "Intensity in Tent City," on February 2nd.

If you would like to catch up on seasons 1, 2, or 3, you can access The Chosen for free at [thechosen.tv](http://thechosen.tv)

You can also download The Chosen App to your Amazon FireTV, Apple TV, or Roku, and on your phone from the Apple Store or Google Play Store. It is available for streaming on Amazon Prime, Hulu, and Peacock.

Let me know if you have any questions. Thank you and have a merry rest of Christmas and New Year!

Best, Blair



Krist Kindlers! Please come to the Soup and Salad Lunch on Saturday, January 18 in the parish hall.

Doors open at 11:45 a.m. Please bring your own table service and a crock pot of soup, a salad, bread/rolls, or a dessert to share.

Beverages will be provided. With our goal of getting better acquainted, I plan to arrange seating so that you are seated next to or near the Krist Kindlers who wrote to you and the person or people to whom you sent messages.

With that in mind, please sign up on the sheet in the narthex by clearly writing the first and last names of everyone in your home who will be

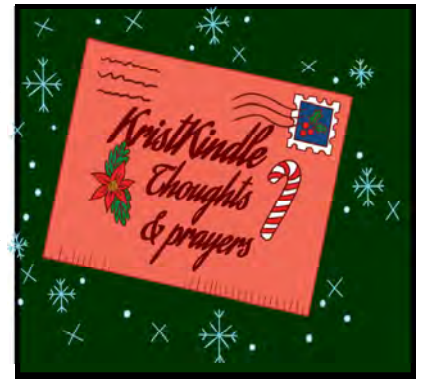
attending. It would also be appreciated if you could sign the sheet if you are unable to come, so I don't call you!

If you will not be in church on January 5 or 12 (or a weekday between those two Sundays), please call, text, or email me and let me know whether or not you plan to attend. I will make place cards for everyone!

I hope you all sent and received notes of expectation and inspiration during Advent and that you enjoyed Krist Kindling "the new way."

Meredith

717-575-2119



# 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS



Epiphany is January 6th commemorating the day the Magi arrived and completing the 12 days of Christmas



Christmas Eve the Wise men were on their way



Christmas Eve the Three Kings are missing from the crèche



# Coffee Hours

**Pictures by Mary Snyder**

One of the foundations of our weekly fellowship is our Sunday coffee hour. From 9 AM to 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.

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.



Coffee Hour Band



Always a good time to socialize

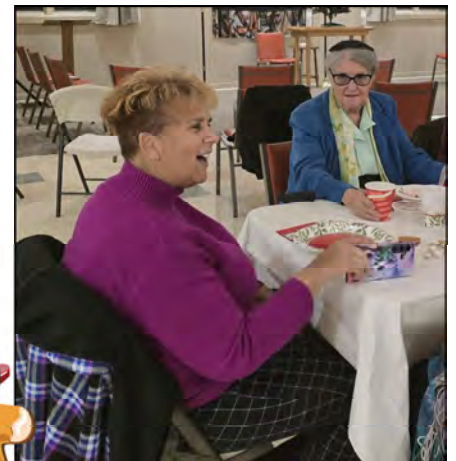
## Fellowship Potluck Wednesday December 18th



These meals are always fun for everyone



Potluck Supper



Ruthie Miller and Ruth Yovanovich



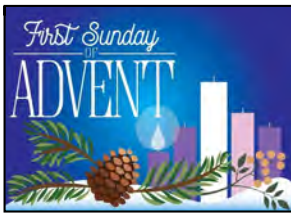
Sharon and Jeffrey Gromis and Buddy Yeager



Michelle Bentley and Meredith Westgate do a great job making these get togethers fun and festive.

# Services in December

Pictures by Mary Snyder



Jay Miller



Beth Hake



Jamie Alton



Fr. Rick the Eucharist



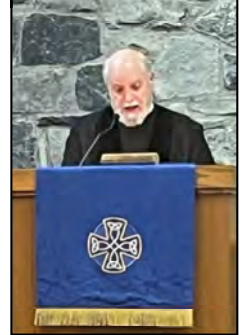
Vanessa Helsel



Seth Hake



Linda Jones



Bob Mosebach preaches



Bob Mosebach



Blair Lord



Jay Miller



Rev. Ellie Hart



Fr. Rick lights Advent candle, Jay Miller reads



Jeanne Mosebach



Fr. Rick and Jay Miller



Fr. Rick Sermon



Stewardship trees ready to be decorated



Kathleen Spencer



Beth Lynch



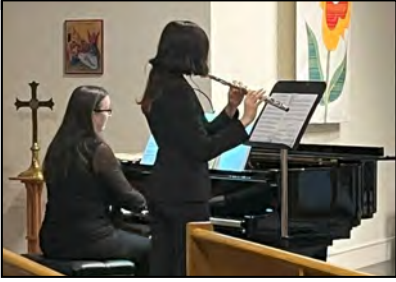
Mike Freshwater



Fr. Rick

# Christmas Eve

Pictures by Mary Snyder and Sue Purdy



Karen Waddill accompanies daughter, Jackson



Fr. Rick and Jay Miller



The Altar Guild does a beautiful job decorating the sanctuary



Choir



Sermon



Jamie Alton



Art Hagan (



Amy Yovanovich "O Holy Night"



Joyce Kamm and Bev Achey ushers



The Gospel





**ST. EDWARD'S  
EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH**

2453 Harrisburg Pike

Lancaster, PA 17601

Phone 717-898-6276

Email: [stedsoffice@comcast.net](mailto:stedsoffice@comcast.net)

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



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jR9FTCfoOG0&t=6s>



## 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)

- ✦ Mike Freshwater(2027)  
Vestry Clerk
- ✦ Richard Irons (2025)
- ✦ Ethel Lawrence (2027)
- ✦ Blair Lord (2026)  
Vestry Clerk
- ✦ Beth Lynch (2025)  
Senior Warden
- ✦ Jay Miller (2026)  
Junior Warden
- ✦ Bob Mosebach (2026)
- ✦ Mary Snyder (2025)
- ✦ Kathy Spencer (2027)

## 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/)

