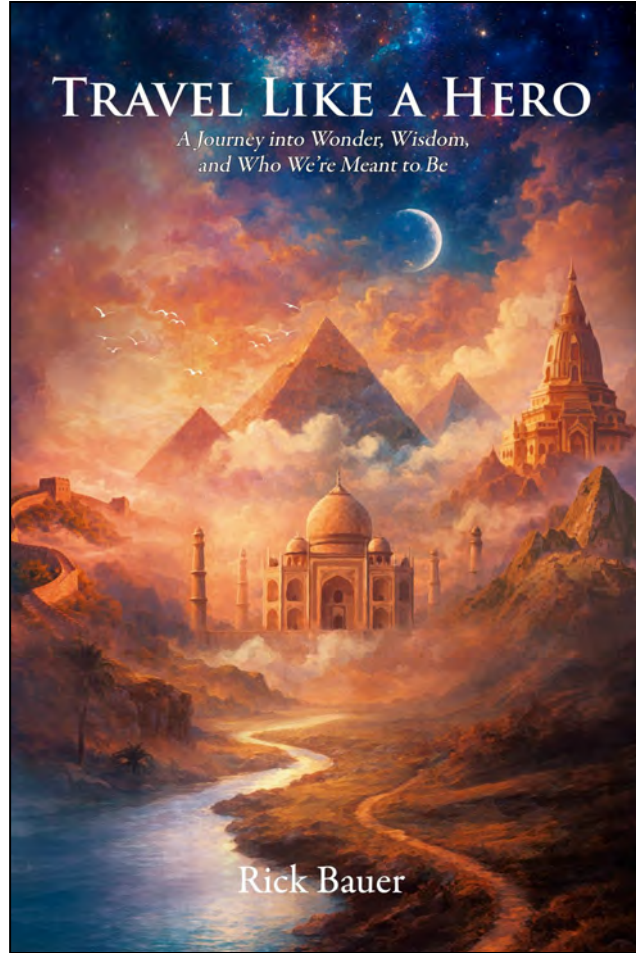




Reflection From the Rector's Desk

By The Rev. Dr. Richard C. Bauer



write a book at all. Like many of us, I carried questions rather than conclusions. Questions about meaning in midlife. Questions about faith after certainty. Questions about how to live well when the stories we inherited no longer function as maps but still whisper truth. I found myself wondering not only how to believe, but how to live—to inhabit faith, ethics, love, and responsibility in a world that feels increasingly fragmented and fast. This book is my attempt to live with those questions honestly.

The title may suggest adventure, and there are stories of travel woven throughout its pages—from Rome and Greece to India, Machu Picchu, and Barcelona—but the heart of the book isn't tourism. It's pilgrimage. Not pilgrimage as escape, but as engagement: with history, with wisdom traditions, and with the interior terrain of one's own becoming.

The organizing frame of *Travel Like a Hero* is the ancient pattern Joseph Campbell named the "hero's journey." You've likely encountered it before: the call, the threshold, the descent, the return. It's a mythic structure that shows up across cultures, religions, and centuries because it names something deeply human. We all undergo initi-

(Continued on page 2)

Over the past few years, many of you have heard me speak about travel—about standing beneath ancient arches, wandering through ruins and cathedrals, hiking mountains and walking city streets shaped by centuries of human longing. Those stories have never been about "seeing the world" for its own sake. They've always been about something quieter and more demanding: noticing how places change us when we let them, and how our lives are shaped by the journeys we're brave—or patient—enough to take. *Travel Like a Hero* grew out of that noticing. At first, I didn't intend to

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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

ations—whether we want to or not. We all face thresholds: grief, love, failure, vocation, illness, parenthood, loss. The question isn't whether our lives will change, but whether we will participate consciously in that change.

The hero's journey, as I explore it in the book, isn't about conquering dragons or achieving personal greatness. It's about moral and spiritual formation. It's about becoming the kind of person who can carry responsibility with humility, suffering with courage, and love without possession. In Christian language, it's about discipleship understood not as right belief alone, but as a way of being shaped over time.

One of the central tensions the book wrestles with is the integration of thinking and feeling. Many of us were trained—explicitly or implicitly—to separate reason from spirituality, intellect from devotion, doubt from faith. But the Christian tradition, at its best, never demanded that division. The same church that proclaims resurrection also gave birth to universities. The same tradition that honors mystical prayer also insists on ethical action and communal accountability.

In *Travel Like a Hero*, I try to hold those strands together. You'll encounter dialogue between theology and philosophy, between psychology and neuroscience, between Buddhist impermanence, Stoic resilience, and Christian love. Not to flatten their differences, but to let them inform one another. Faith, after all, isn't diminished by honest inquiry; it's refined by it.

Many of the stories in the book are deeply personal. I write about my father and about grief—not as something to “get over,” but as something that transforms the way love continues. I write about my sons and the questions I hope they'll carry forward rather than the answers I might be tempted to

hand them. I write about my years as a musician, about ambition and disappointment, about how easily identity can be tethered to recognition or success. I write about moments of spiritual awakening, and about the far more common seasons when God feels quieter, and faith must be practiced rather than felt. If there's a “boon” the hero returns with in these pages, it isn't certainty. It's orientation.

Throughout the book, each chapter ends with a wayfinding tool—practices rather than prescriptions. These include attention, discernment, imagination, and compassion; humble inquiry rather than rigid certainty; endurance rather than triumph; love practiced especially where it isn't returned. They're tools meant not to solve life, but to help us stay awake within it.

This isn't a book that asks readers to abandon their faith. Nor is it one that demands they adopt a particular theological posture. It assumes an intelligent, thoughtful readership—people who care about meaning, who value wisdom, who are willing to sit with complexity without rushing toward resolution. It's written for those who find themselves “spiritual but restless,” rooted yet questioning, faithful yet aware that life rarely unfolds according to script.

For those within the Episcopal tradition, I hope the book feels familiar in the best sense: sacramental in imagination, generous in scope, grounded in reason, and committed to the dignity of human conscience. It reflects a faith comfortable with paradox, convinced that love is stronger than fear, and committed to the belief that transformation is lifelong. I also hope it feels useful.

Many of us sense that something in our culture is shifting—that the old certainties no longer hold, that technology is outpacing wisdom, and that community is harder

to sustain. In such times, the task isn't to retreat into nostalgia or to grasp at novelty, but to return to formation: to ask again what kind of people we are becoming, and for whose sake.

Travel Like a Hero is, at its core, an invitation. An invitation to notice your own thresholds. To name your wounds honestly. To honor the teachers who have shaped you—whether they came as people, places, or seasons of trial. And ultimately, to return—to your ordinary life, to your commitments, to your relationships—bearing something that makes you more available to love.

If the book resonates, my hope is that it does so not because it confirms what you already believe, but because it accompanies you where belief alone is insufficient—where living wisely, gently, and courageously becomes the real work. Every life is a journey. The question is not whether we will travel, but how. And perhaps—together—we can learn to travel like heroes not by escaping the world, but by loving it more deeply, right where we are. I look forward to sharing this book with each of you in the months to come! With love,

Rick+



Parish Office Hours



Parish Office Hours

Tuesday- Friday: 11:00 – 4:00PM

Parish Administrator: Michelle Bentley

Scepter Production Staff

H. J. “Mac” Miller
hj_miller@outlook.com

Photos by:
Mary Snyder
starleo1328@yahoo.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 Bob Mosebach

Jan 18th was the next to last vestry meeting of my 3 year term as vestryman, and Jr Warden. The focus was on our budget for 2026, that will be offered for ratification at our Annual Meeting in March - and St Edward's financial situation in general. We have been most fortunate in recent years that we have not only kept our year end finances in the black, but we have accomplished some big-ticket items in the process: repaving our parking lot, refurbishing our memorial garden, narthex and rest rooms, repainting our parish hall, a stained glass window, a new organ, carpeting in the sanctuary to name a few. All of this and more has been accomplished under the direction and leadership of Fr Rick and our finance committee.

The stewardship of our parishioners, in its various forms, is the heart of our ability to remain alive and well. And at the heart of stewardship is our annual pledge drive, which this year did not meet its goal. Our regular pledgers, for the most part, increased their pledge, but that alone was

not enough, given that in our aging parish, we will, and have this year in particular, lost some of our more generous parishioners. But we live in a dynamic world that is constantly adjusting to changing circumstances.

It is essential to note that we have done extremely well in comparison to what we see happening in our own diocese and in the larger church. Unlike many, if not most parishes in our diocese, we have what now seems like a luxury of full-time clergy, without which I could not have made the above statements. And even that is not always enough to keep all the balls in the air as Fr Rick (and Michelle) will get stretched pretty thin from time to time. The reality is there is no standing still; if we are not advancing, we are falling behind.

Despite a close eye kept on our expenses, we are like many households, touch and go to stay above water. But while that is all true, it's not really about the money, necessary as it may be. Stewardship is often thought of in terms of time, talent, and treasure – things we give. But the much more important thing is what we receive in return. And to that we remind ourselves of why we are here in the first place. The answer is no doubt unique to each of us; but if asked, we should be able to answer that question easily because we had already determined the answer. I don't suppose we should be asked to put a dollar value on that, how could we put a price on what is essentially intangible. Remember our mission statement: St. Edward's is an inclusive community, building a spiritual home with open hearts and open minds, joyfully serving God and neighbor in Christ's love.

When so much of life is transactional – we pay something, we get something, church is not, or at least it shouldn't be. As it becomes available, please take a closer look than you might have otherwise at the proposed budget. See where the money comes from and where it goes. The better we understand our finances the better we will manage them.

Stewardship Recap



While our **2026 Stewardship Campaign** end date is February 1st, we encourage stewardship throughout all seasons for those who are new to St. Edward's or for those who are still discerning pledging. Our campaign achieved a respectable 83% towards our financial goal of \$314,000! We thank our community for their discernment in listening for how God may be calling you to give in support of the mission and ministry of St. Edward's. It is (still) our hope, throughout the year, that we can close the gap and achieve 100% of our goal.

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
- ★1st Lt. Thomas Whitesel



Church Family Outside the Pews



Peggy Hanzleman, taken at the Von Trapp family Lodge, checked cross country skiing off her bucket list



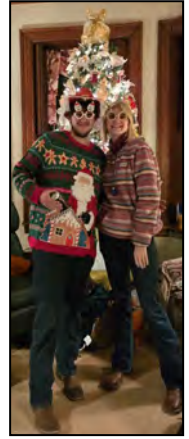
Mary and Jodi enjoy the snow. Can you spot the deer in the snow?



Westgate View



Freda and Rick Dombach and Granddaughters



Ugly Sweater winner Mac Miller's niece and friend



Westgates and friends in Philadelphia



Donohue Christmas Stockings



Jamie Alton and Family



Mac Miller and family



Irons' twins and their Christmas Stockings



Santa napkin and Christmas Cracker at dinner



Castles



James and Beth Lynch



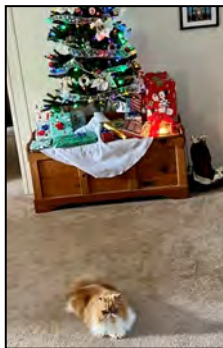
Rick Dombach work party



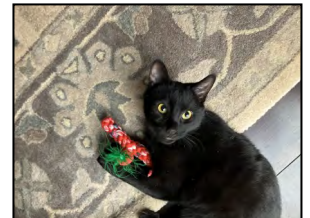
Harrison Kline is finishing his last year of his emergency medicine rotations as a student doctor. His current placement is at Allegheny General Hospital in Pittsburgh where he is getting training as a flight doctor. The attached photos are of him flying over the North Shore area of the city.



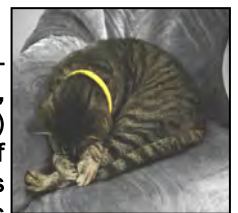
Rayelenn "won" a wonderfully creative basket of lovely art materials at our Silent Auction which she gave to her grandchildren Emma and Sadie for Christmas. Her kitchen table has become the center of a whirlwind of painting and cutting and glueing and drawing! The "Googly Eye Wavy Swirl" has so caught Rayelenn's imagination that she's framing it. Emma and a masterpiece, Rayelenn's Epiphany tree and the girls at the Christmas Eve service



Sally Lederer's Cindy Lou left the tree and gifts alone.



Iron's Gus playing with a toy from the cookie/craft sale



Mac Miller's cat, (GW's) opinion of Christmas chaos



Breneman's newest family member



Catherine Donohue and granddaughter, Athena, now age 4



Athena at one pound 13 oz.

LOVE IS Action!

Love isn't just a feeling — it's something we do! This simple activity reminds us that acts of love, big or small, can grow and bless others.

What you need:

- Construction paper (brown for the trunk, pinks and reds for hearts)
- Scissors
- Glue or tape
- Markers or crayons

What you do:

1. Cut a large tree trunk and branches out of brown paper and glue it onto a sheet of paper or poster board.
2. Use colorful paper to cut several hearts — these will be your "leaves."
3. On each heart, write loving actions like "share my toys," "pray for others," or "help clean up."
4. Glue the hearts onto the branches to create a full, love-filled tree.
5. Hang it somewhere visible as a reminder to put love into action every day!

"Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but, with actions and in truth."
- 1 John 3:18 (NIV)

PUZZLE

LOVE CODE BREAKER

Change some of the letters below to reveal this verse!

Change:	C's to L	Z's to H	P's to R
	J's to A	Q's to T	X's to E
	K's to O		

(The other letters stay the same.)

"L
C K V X Q Z X C K P D Y K U P
G K D W I Q Z J C C Y K U P
Z X J P Q J N D W I Q Z J C C
Y K U P S K U C J N D W I Q Z
J C C Y K U P M I N D J N D
W I Q Z J C C Y K U P
S O P X N G Q Z"

Mark 12:30

Answer: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your mind and with all your strength."



Bible Quiz

The New Testament uses several Greek words to describe love. Which of the following best represents the **selfless, sacrificial love** that God shows to humanity?

- A. Eros
- B. Phileo
- C. Agape
- D. Storge



Answers
INSIDE

Answer: C (See John 3:16 and 1 Corinthians 13)

Krist Kindling Lunch

Pictures by Meredith Aul, Rayelenn Casey and Mac Miller



The Krist Kindling soup-and-salad lunch took place on a snowy Saturday in mid January. The wintry weather set a cozy atmosphere for the gathering.

During lunch, members of the group had the opportunity to reveal the identities of those they had gifted. and shared interesting conversations along with lots of great soup and salads



Meredith Aul Westgate organizes this fun tradition



Beth Lynch



Debbie and Joe McGuigan and Rayelenn Casey



Deann Buffington and Freda Dombach,



Sharon Gromis and Mac Miller



Donna Ray and Mary Dorsey



Randy and Meredith



Mary Dorsey and Rick Dombach

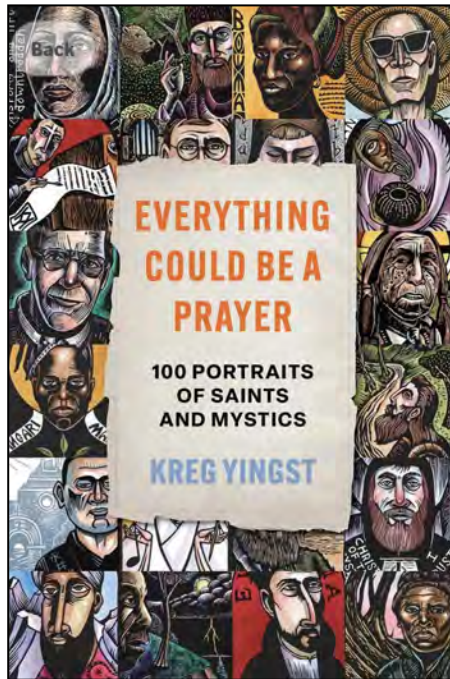


Deann Buffington, Beth and Bruce Lynch

Lunch and Learn



Beginning Friday, February 20th, we will hold a very special Lenten Lunch & Learn series with the book: *Everything Could Be A Prayer*. We will meet, via Zoom, on Fridays at 12 Noon and follow a reading guide to Saints and Mystics outlined for us in this beautiful art book. The readings are short and filled with history and insights that will inspire you! This is a wonderful Lenten discipline we can participate in, as a community. The book is available on Amazon. Each week we will cover the **reading guide for Lent saints** and discuss how their virtues and how they lived can guide our journeys in this modern world. What better way to travel through Lent than with each other, in reflection, and in discussion about the lives of this great cloud of witnesses showing us a way to how *Everything Could Be A Prayer*.



Book Insights from Amazon:

Pray and meditate along with mystics and saints through this luminous collection of more than one hundred block prints by artist Kreg Yingst, curator of the beloved Instagram account @psalmpayers.

Teresa of Ávila, Howard Thurman, Black Elk, Fannie Lou Hamer, Simon of Cyrene, and Jarena Lee: through radiant wood-block prints of these and other icons of the faith, artist Kreg Yingst ushers us into

God's presence. In *Everything Could Be a Prayer*, mystics who have communed with God and who worked for justice, mercy, and liberation come alive. Yingst carves images onto blocks of wood or linoleum and then inks and prints them on paper. The resplendent portraits of mystics and justice-seekers that result lead us into *visio divina*, or "sacred seeing." This form of ancient Christian prayer, in which one meditates on a work of art, moves us into sacred reflection and action.

Each mystic embodies a virtue or practice such as mercy, vulnerability, forgiveness, worship, and courage. From Brigid of Kildare we learn hospitality; from Ida B. Wells, truth. From Josephine Bakhita we learn freedom; from Takashi Nagai, trust. All point us toward Christ Pantocrator: ruler of all. Each print is paired with a scripture, a meditation on a life well lived, and a prayer. *Everything Could Be a Prayer*, complete with Lent and Advent reading guides, is a rich resource for private prayer and communal reflection.

Together with the saints we pray our way toward the resurrection. We pray along with Sandhu Sundar Singh: "You alone do I desire, and where you are, there is heaven." And with Mary of Egypt: "Blessed is God who cares for the salvation of all souls." With this great cloud of witnesses, we find kinship with Christ. We see anew, and we ask: What if everything could be a prayer?

Lent Madness



[From Lentmadness.org](https://www.lentmadness.org)

Lent Madness began in 2010 as the brainchild of the Rev. Tim Schenck. In seeking a fun, engaging way for people to learn about the men and women comprising the Church's Calendar of Saints, Tim came up with this unique Lenten devotion. Combining his love of sports with his passion for the lives of the saints

The format is straightforward: 32 saints are placed into a tournament-like single

elimination bracket. Each pairing remains open for a set period of time and people vote for their favorite saint. 16 saints make it to the Round of the Sainly Sixteen; eight advance to the Round of the Elate Eight; four make it to the Faithful Four; two to the Championship; and the winner is awarded the coveted Golden Halo. The first round consists of basic biographical information about each of the 32 saints. Things get a bit more interesting in the subsequent rounds as we offer quotes and quirks, explore legends, and even move into the area of saintly kitsch. If you're not sure about terminology, [check out our glossary](#). It's free!

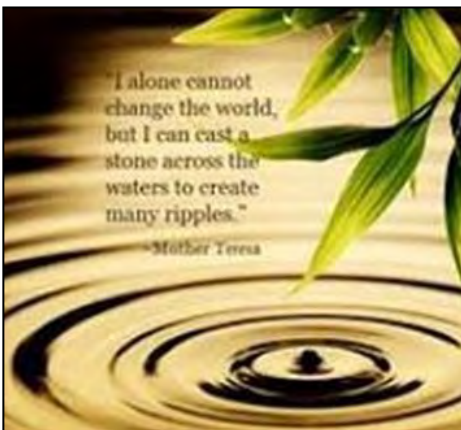
As Lent Madness continues to grow and evolve, what won't change is the essence of Lent Madness: allowing people to get to know some amazing people who have come before us in the faith and reminding one another that there's no reason for a

dreary Lenten discipline. If this helps people connect with the risen Christ during this season of penitence and renewal, and have a bit of fun in the process, then it continues to be worthwhile.

Matchup posts will begin the first week of Lent, on **Thursday, February 19**. We are looking forward to playing along with you!

As a reminder, or if you're new to this online devotion, here's how Lent Madness works: on the weekdays of Lent information is posted at www.lentmadness.org about two different saints. Each pairing remains open for 24 hours as participants read about and then vote to determine which saint moves on to the next round.

We hope you'll participate fully this Lent and vote with reckless abandon!



Eleanor



My name is Eleanor. I'm 81 years old. Every Thursday at 6:00 a.m., I wheel my blue recycling bin to the curb. For fourteen years, this has been my ritual—just me, the quiet streetlights, and the soft clatter of bottles in the dark. After my

husband passed, those early hours became my private space.

Until I noticed Mr. Henderson.

He lived three houses down, nearly 90 years old, his hands gnarled by arthritis. Every Thursday, I watched him struggle—dragging his bin inch by inch, leaning heavily on his cane. I stood at my window, coffee cooling in my hands, wondering whether I should offer help. But pride is delicate. My Arthur used to say, "Never lift a person's burden without asking, or you might break their spirit."

So I chose something quieter.

One frosty morning, before the sky began to lighten, I slipped outside and wheeled Mr. Henderson's bin to the curb while he slept. I said nothing. I left no sign. I simply went back inside.

That Thursday, I found a small folded note taped to my own bin handle. In careful, trembling handwriting, it read:

"The bin was lighter today. Thank you. — M. Henderson"

My throat tightened. I had been seen.

I kept doing it. Every week. And every week, another note appeared:

"My grandson visited. I told him about the angel who moves the bins."

"The magnolia by your gate is blooming—pink like my wife's favorite dress."

"You left your glove on the sidewalk. It's drying on my radiator."

One bitter January morning, I lifted my bin lid and found a small container of homemade soup. The note said:

"For your strength. Mine is in my hands today, not my feet."

Then one week, Mr. Henderson didn't answer his door. After three days, I called his daughter and learned he was in the hospital with pneumonia. That Thursday, despite my aching knees, I wheeled both bins to the curb. As I turned back, Mrs. Gable from across the street appeared beside me. She squeezed my arm and whispered, "I'll take his bin next week, Eleanor."

The following Tuesday, I opened my door to find my bin already waiting at the curb. A note was taped to the handle—from the teenager down the block:

"Saw you limping, Ms. Eleanor. My turn."

By the next Thursday, six bins stood neatly in a row. Notes fluttered in the morning breeze:

"For Mr. Henderson's return."

"My legs work today."

"You taught us to look up from our own chores."

When Mr. Henderson finally came home—frail but smiling—he found his bin at the curb. Inside, instead of recycling, was a quilt stitched by twelve neighbors. Each square carried a message:

"For sleepless nights."

"For stories we still want to hear."

"For when your hands need rest."

He cried. So did I.

I learned that kindness doesn't have to be loud or dramatic. Sometimes it's as small as moving a bin before dawn, trusting that someone will feel the weight lift before they ever know why.

The world doesn't change when we shout.

It changes when we notice the quiet burdens others carry—and choose to lift them.

Now it's your turn.



The Love God Desires

God's love is never meant to stop with us; it's meant to flow through us. When we love others, we reflect his very heart. As 1 John 4:12 (NIV) reminds us, "If we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us."

This is the true mark of a Christian — love that reaches beyond comfort zones, opinions and differences. Jesus said in John 13:35 (NIV), "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

The world is watching, not to see how loudly we profess our faith but how deeply we practice it. Every act of compassion, every gentle word and every moment of grace reveals something divine — God's love at work in us. The more we give that love away, the more it grows within us, mirroring the heart of Christ, who gave Himself for all.

So ask yourself: Does the world recognize you as his disciple by the way you love?

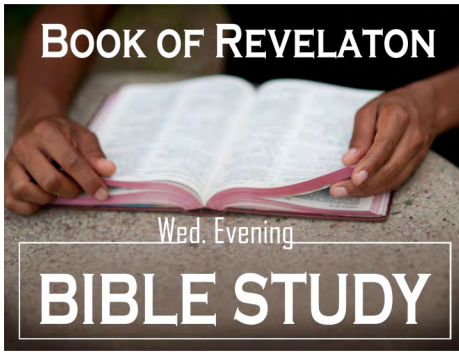
"Great opportunities to help others seldom come, but small ones surround us every day."

—Sally Koch



Wednesday Evening Bible Study

Coffee Hour



Roadmap, myth, or history? An accessible review of The Book of Revelation for today's audience.

Conversations with Scripture: Revelation

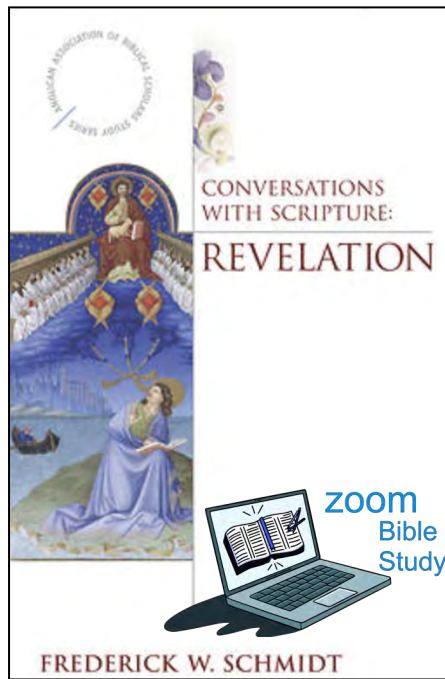


Frederick W Schmidt

is the first book in the Anglican Association of Biblical Scholar Study Series. Written in accessible language and sensitive to those who have little or no experience in reading the bible, each book in the series focuses on exploring the historical and critical background, as well as how

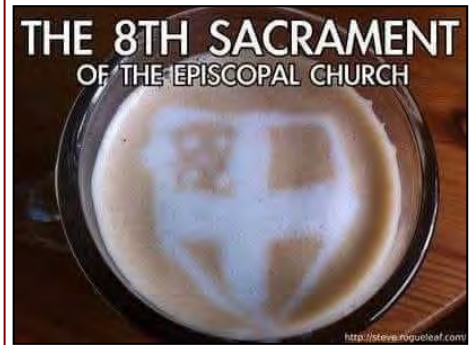
the biblical texts written centuries ago can still speak to readers today.

Frederick W. Schmidt, also the series editor, explores the approaches that have dominated the interpretation of John's Apocalypse and offers the reader an accessible means of understanding and eval-



uating them. With this grounding in hand, Schmidt explores how Revelation can shape our understanding of God, and nurture our spiritual lives in unexpected ways. Leaving behind "left-behind" theology, Schmidt offers instead an approach that allows this obscure, almost opaque text to speak to us anew about God, faith, hope, and justice.

Schmidt is an ordained Episcopal priest and holds a bachelor's degree from Asbury College, a master of divinity from Asbury Theological Seminary, and a doctor of philosophy from Oxford University, where his original academic work was in New Testament studies.



A great way to ease into ministry at St. Edward's is to sign up to host a coffee hour on any given Sunday! The sign-up sheet is always on the coffee service table. This is a fun way to meet your fellow parishioners and to serve a very vital element to our community - fellowship! Coffee hour hosts have lots of support, too. Our 8 o'clock parishioners make the coffee and set the service table for you. If you prefer to create your own table, we will just put out the basics and you can decorate and serve in your own style. Bring your favorite sweet, savory or anything in-between goodies by 8:50 AM to set out on the service table and you are set to go! We will also help you with the clean-up so you feel comfortable with navigating the kitchen. We hope you will give it a try! A good number to plan on serving (so you do not over purchase) is 30.



Snow Storm



"That was quite a bit of snow that fell on January 25th! Father Rick was able to get up on one of the roof sections to clear out the 5 foot drifts!"





JOIN US FOR OUR
LENTEN SILENT RETREAT
MARCH 25-28, 2026
**NEW THIS YEAR – BEGINS ON MARCH 25TH
THE WEEK BEFORE PALM SUNDAY

ST. EDWARD'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



HELD AT: MARIAWALD RETREAT CENTER IN READING, PA

A WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY TO REST & RENEW
AS WE TRAVEL TOWARDS THE END OF OUR LENTEN JOURNEY

REGISTRATION FORMS/DETAILS AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX

REGISTER BY FEBRUARY 22ND – SPACE IS LIMITED!

Malalay Rahim 's Essay

My name is Malalay, and I am the mother of the Rahim family. We came to the United States four years ago, but our journey here was not simply a move from one country to another-it was a journey through fear, heart-break, and impossible choices that no mother should ever have to make.

When the Afghan government collapsed, our lives changed overnight. Americans and those who had worked alongside them were suddenly marked and in danger. My husband had served with them for three and a half years, and because of that service, we were given a chance to escape. But that chance came with a devastating condition: only five members of our family were allowed to travel.

As a mother, I could not accept choosing which of my children deserved safety and which would be left behind. I brought all of my children to the airport, holding onto hope that mercy would be shown.

Instead, in the dark and terrifying hours of 2:00 a.m. in August 2022, three of my children were torn away from me just moments before our departure. I begged. I cried. I held onto my son, refusing to let him be left alone in chaos. After desperate pleading, they allowed my ten-year-old child to come with me. But I was forced to leave three of my children behind-in fear, in danger, and in a country collapsing under violence.

The airport was overwhelmed with desperate families, and inside, the American military had control. Gunfire echoed outside as the Taliban stood nearby. My heart shattered as I boarded the plane, knowing I was leaving parts of my soul behind.

For three long years, we lived separated. Every day was filled with fear. Every night was filled with tears and sleepless prayers. I lived with constant worry-wondering if my children were safe, if they had food, if they would survive. No mother ever forgets the pain of being separated from her children.

Through the compassion, determination, and tireless support of American friends and the welcome team, a miracle finally happened. My children were reunited with us in America. Our family was whole again. Although the pain of those lost years will forever remain in my heart, today we are finally together-and that alone is a blessing beyond words.

Since arriving here, my children have made incredible progress. They are not only surviving-they are thriving. As a family, we are finally at peace, filled with hope, dignity, and gratitude.

I am especially proud of my daughter. She lost three precious years of her education when the Taliban banned girls from attend-

ing school. She was in 11th grade, full of dreams and determination, when her classroom doors were suddenly closed and she was forced to stay inside the house. Watching her dreams pause was one of the most painful experiences of my life as a mother. Those years were filled with fear, uncertainty, and heartbreak.

After three long years, she finally came to the United States-and her life transformed. In a short time, she achieved what once seemed impossible. She earned her driver's license, a freedom denied to girls in Afghanistan. She passed her GED, an emotional milestone for our entire family. Today, she is continuing her education with the dream of becoming a doctor. She is studying hard, rebuilding her future, and proving that no force can silence a girl's ambition or intelligence. Alongside her studies, my daughter has taken another brave step forward-she has become an entrepreneur. With her own hands and determination, she earns a small amount of money to cover her personal needs. To some, this may seem minor. To us, it is a miracle.

She comes from a land where girls were silenced, where education was taken away, and where a woman's right to work did not exist. In that place, dreaming was dangerous. Here, every dollar she earns carries a meaning far greater than money. It is the sound of chains breaking, it is dignity, independence, and self-worth. Each small earning tells her, "You are capable. You are free. Your future belongs to you."

For a girl who once sat behind closed doors, forbidden from learning, this moment is nothing short of powerful. It is proof that when opportunity replaces oppression, a girl does not merely survive-she blooms.

As her mother, watching her stand on her own feet after everything that was taken from her brings tears to my eyes. It is not just income she is earning-it is freedom, confidence, and a voice the world tried to silence.

My eldest son's journey carries a pain and a beauty that words can barely hold. When I was forced to leave him behind, he was only 19 years old-still a boy in many ways, standing alone in fear and uncertainty. Today, he is 23, and he is rising.

Just one month after arriving in this country, he sat behind the wheel for the first time. In Afghanistan, he had never been allowed the simple freedom of driving. Now, he drives with confidence, owns his own car, and moves forward on roads that once felt impossible to reach. Every mile he drives is a reminder of how far he has come-from waiting and worrying, to choosing his own direction.

He studies computer science at Millersville

University, where he earned a scholarship, while working part-time at Amazon. He carries his responsibilities quietly, paying for his education, supporting himself, and building a life with dignity. Nothing was handed to him-every step was earned through perseverance, long nights, and unwavering determination.

As his mother, watching him grow into a strong, independent young man brings tears to my eyes. I see the boy I once feared for, now standing tall. He is no longer living in survival mode-he is living with purpose, confidence, and hope. And in his strength, I find healing for my own heart.

My youngest son, whom I was forced to leave behind in Afghanistan at just 14 years old, his name, Minebullah, is now 18 and thriving at McCaskey High School. He holds a driver's license and works one day a week at Immers international Language Center, balancing work and school with maturity and strength. Seeing him grow into a confident, hopeful young man heals parts of my heart that were once broken.

Even my younger children are excelling. One of my sons shines in mathematics, his name is Khtebullah, bringing home honor certificates month after month. Another has mastered English, his name is Tayabullah, he has passed all his ESL exams, and is preparing to move to a native English language and he will find a way to college soon. Each month, our children receive recognition for their achievements, and each certificate represents resilience, healing, and a future rebuilt.

As for me, I am also rebuilding my life. I am studying at the university, learning English, driving independently, and working toward becoming a midwife, so I can serve and support others with compassion-just as we were supported when we arrived here.

Our story is one of loss, separation, and pain-but it is also a story of resilience, courage, and hope. We are living proof that when families are given safety and opportunity, they rise. Today, we are no longer living in fear. We are living with purpose, gratitude, and dreams for the future.

Thank you for listening to our story.





Hempfield Food Pantry

Current items requested:

- Canned pineapple
- Canned spinach
- Canned beets
- Canned tomato paste
- Regular size smooth peanut butter
- Granola bars
- 1 lb. Bags dried beans
- Pancake syrup

NO corn, NO green beans

Please no glass jars

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 Monday and Wednesday from 10 am to 1 pm

"There is a net of love by which you can catch souls."
— Mother Teresa



ONGOING MINISTRIES:

Books for Prisoners
Hempfield Food Pantry
Collection areas are in the narthex

UPCOMING MINISTRIES:

Feb18– March 29	Soles4Souls
Mar. 5	Blood Drive
Mar 21-22	Feed Starving Children
Mar 25	Race Against Racism
April- May 4th	Annual Blood Drive
May 12	First Reformed Dinner
July-Aug.	School Supply Drive
Sep. 1	First Reformed Dinner
Nov	Turkey Drive
Nov-Dec	Jesse Tree
Nov-Dec	ALERT Sock Drive

Volunteers Needed At Hempfield Food Pantry

The Hempfield Food Pantry is looking for volunteers to help them at their bread line station on Monday and Wednesday distributions according to your availability. This would involve handing out the types of breads that each family would be entitled to plus being there as a welcoming face. The position of bread distributor will be in the mornings from probably 8:30 to noon and would include a lot of standing. If interested please contact: Diane Gerlach at dlsgerlach@comcast.net



A.L.E.R.T Collection

Items will be given out to those attending the First Reformed Dinner on January 27th.

Here are some numbers from the collection.

- 202 total
- 41 gloves
- 71 hats
- 89 pairs of socks



Rahim Family Collection

There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for the ongoing Rahim collection. Items needed are: Paper towels, tissues, toilet paper, shampoo, toothpaste, body wash, hand soap, laundry detergent, fabric softener, dish soap, dishwasher tablets, kitchen garbage bags, hand sanitizer.

Please leave donations in baskets under the counter in the Narthex.



LANCASTER GENERAL HEALTH

Community Blood Drive hosted by St. Edwards & The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

The Penn Medicine Lancaster General Health Blood Donor Center Team is hosting a community blood drive near you!

Our blood drives aid in supporting patients at Lancaster General Hospital, Women's and Babies Hospital and the Ann B. Barshinger Cancer Institute. We thank you for your support in helping to save Lancaster lives!

Requirements for Donation

- Must bring a valid form of ID
- Feel well and healthy at least 3 days before donation
- Age 16-79 and be at least 110 pounds
Age 16 must have parental consent.
- Hydrate well and eat a full meal at least 4 hours prior to donation

Donor Thank You Gift

As a thank you, all donors presenting will receive a short sleeve T-shirt (choice of maroon or tan).

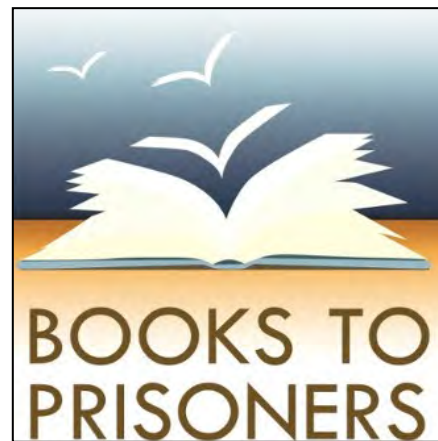
**March 5th (Thursday)
2:00pm – 7:00pm**

► LOCATION

St. Edward's Episcopal Church
2453 Harrisburg Pike
Lancaster, PA 17601

► APPOINTMENTS

To schedule an appointment, scan the QR code, call the Blood Donor Center Team at **717.544.0170, Option 1** or visit us online at PennMedicine.org/givebloodLGH



By Randy Westgate

Because of your generosity we were able in December to purchase more books for prisoners in Lancaster County prison. We purchased 4 copies of the Life Recovery Bible, a bible which links to the 12 steps of recovery for addiction to drugs, alcohol, and other personal issues. According to the chaplain's office at the prison, these bibles are given as a reward to prisoners who memorize 10 bible verses, and are well-loved: "We are always running low! These would be a big help to us!" The vast majority of prisoners there are dealing with addiction of one sort or another, and recovery is the key to reduce recidivism and allow a change of heart and a return to long term health and freedom for those who are incarcerated.

This year our annual blood drive will again be held jointly with our neighbors at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. It will take place in our parish hall on Thursday, March 5, 2-7 p.m. You must be ages 16-79 to donate. Sixteen year olds will need a signed parental consent. LGH will give donors maroon or tan short sleeve t-shirts as a thank you for participating.

Register for an available time slot by contacting the Blood Donor Center Team at 717-544-0170 or online LGHealth.org/giveblood or use the QR Code on the poster above.

I am looking for volunteers to assist for two hour shifts, 2-4 and 4- 6 and 6--closing (usually around 7:30). If you are available, please contact Meredith Aul by phone or text at 717-575-2119.

If you would like to contribute to this cause you may put a check in the offering plate and write "Books for Prisoners" on the memo line.

Many thanks!



SOLES 4 SOULS

St Edwards is once again working with St Johns collecting new and used shoes over lent. So rather than giving something up for Lent, let's give something.

When people lack the resources to get through today, it's difficult for them to

focus on tomorrow. Soles4Souls turns shoes into opportunities for education and employment so they can have a more hopeful future.

The collection will run from February 18th thru March 29th



Lent Begins

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner



By Bruce Lynch

All are invited to this year's Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner, which will be hosted by the Men's Spirituality Group on February 17 at 5:30 pm. Join us for this fun event which will kick off our Lenten journey with fellowship and a delicious feast of pancakes and sausage prepared for you by our talented chefs! Only bring yourselves, your appetites, and your friends and family members.

In order to give our planners a good idea of how much food to prepare, please use the attendance sign-up sheet that will be in the narthex beginning Sunday February 1 request a free will offering that evening. There will be baskets at our serving areas for collection. We look forward to seeing you there!



Februsry 18th 12 Noon
Holy Eucharist & the Imposition of Ashes

Jesse Tree Thank You

Annual Meeting

December 18, 2025

St. Edward's Episcopal Church
2453 Harrisburg Pk.
Lancaster, PA 17601

Dear Friends:

Thank you to the congregation for its in-kind sponsorship of Christmas gifts for 28 of our foster kids on 12/18/2025 to COBY'S Family Services. We appreciate having your congregation as a part of the COBY'S Community. Your support ensures that we can serve each child, family and individual who comes into our care.

- Your contribution is not just financial support, it is an act of love and faith in the potential of each individual we serve. Your donation helps provide:
 - Safe and loving homes for foster children
 - Forever homes for those in need of adoption
 - The tools and counseling necessary for families to thrive

Thank you for being a part of the solution. Government funding for social services only goes so far. With your assistance and that from your fellow neighbors, we can provide focused services, delivered with compassion, while treating people with respect and dignity. With this kind of care, we know there is a chance for reconciliation. For new beginnings. For hope.

Join us throughout the year to see everyday examples of the COBY'S Difference in action. You will find these examples on our website, social media, in our newsletter, *Fostering Hope*, and by joining us at one of our events. Your partnership and shared faith make our care possible. Together we are making a real difference.

Thank You,

Anne E. Stokes
Anne Stokes
Director of Development & Communications

Our sincere thanks to all at St. Ed's for making sure our kids are taken care of at Christmas time

COBY'S Impact Statistics: [QR Code]

COBY'S News & Stories: [QR Code]

Donor did not receive goods or services for this donation.

Phone: 717-456-6380 Fax: 717-456-3056 Website: www.cobys.org

SUNDAY
MARCH 15th
Worship & St. Edward's
Annual Meeting

SAVE the DATE!

Stay tuned
for times & details



Hosted by Blair Lord

Our January viewing of *The Chosen* gave us a "what-if" scenario in the episode "Dedication." Jesus and his disciples celebrate Hanukkah by

sharing the story of the Maccabees, praying, exchanging gifts, and having perilous confrontations with religious leaders. As they remember their people's history of resisting Hellenist assimilation, the disciples also wrestle with immediate concerns, like loss of loved ones and questions of what following Jesus means. His response to their problems challenges them. Perhaps these concerns distract from the bigger picture He is trying to reveal with his metaphors of sheep, sheep-gates, and shepherds.

For us viewers, the episode provided a ripe opportunity to learn more about the Jews during the Seleucid Empire and how that era shaped their scripture, their cultural identity, and the Messianic hope that consequently impacted Jesus's times. What rich historical goodies!

Come join us **February 1st** for the next episode! It's the second-to-last episode of season 4. The story of Lazarus will reach

its climax and lead us down the literal road to Jerusalem and the metaphorical road to Christ's passion.

You might know that March's episode will *also* be on the first of the month. Yes, that's **March 1st!** We hope you will join us then, too, for the last episode of season 4, "Humble."

If you want to continue watching *The Chosen* beyond our monthly luncheon, you can access it for free at thechosen.tv. You can download The Chosen App to your Amazon FireTV, Apple TV, or Roku, and on your phone from the Apple Store or Google Play Store. Additionally, the show is available on Amazon Prime.



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, guitar), scripture interspersed with short periods of silence? Join us as Br. David Rutledge or The Rev. Martha Harris lead worship.

Wednesday Noon

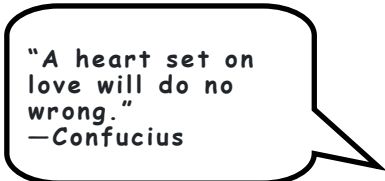


Looking for a meditative complement to Sunday services? Need a peaceful break mid-week? Join us for the Wednesday Noon Contemplative Eucharist and Meditation in the Parish Hall chapel. Each Wednesday, about 16-20 of us gather for reflection, meditation, and Eucharist, led by Father Rick. It truly is a refreshing reset to the week. For some, this is their weekly service they attend. We welcome donations to our free-will offering plate at this service.

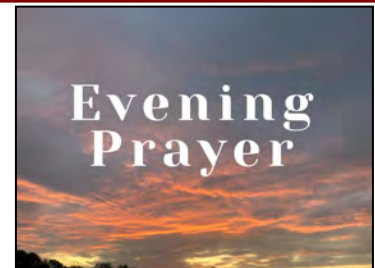


Saturday Men's Group: 2nd Saturday of the month from 8 AM -10 AM. **Join us for two hours of fellowship**, including Morning Prayer. Coffee and donuts will be served.

Next meeting Saturday, February 14th



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

Sunday Evening Prayer@ 7:00pm
Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 847 0061 4072

Passcode: SunEP



Buddy Yeager Receives 2025 Outstanding Veteran Award

By Mary Gibson

Buddy Yeager is the 2025 recipient of Northampton County's *Outstanding Veteran Award* for which he was specifically recognized for his active participation and community care for fellow veterans. The honor was presented by Northampton County executives in a ceremony during the annual fall county festival that recognizes outstanding local individuals and organizations whose service, leadership, and dedication strengthen their communities.

U.S. Congressman Ryan Mackenzie, on behalf of the people of the 7th Congressional District, sponsored the *Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition* for Buddy's service to country and community.

As a member of the U.S. Marine Corps, Buddy spent four years in active service and two years in the reserves. In both military and civilian life, the values of courage, honor, and commitment have been a hallmark of his character and responsibility to others.

Since leaving the Corps, Buddy has been active for over 20 years in several service organizations that provide social connections for veterans and their families, as well as advocacy and other support. As Captain of the Honor Guard in the American Legion Post of Lancaster, Buddy is called to coordinate military funeral honors for deceased veterans, and may perform flag-bearing and ceremonial duties at patriotic events when active military are not

available. As a Life Member of the Marine Corps League of Easton, Pennsylvania, Buddy is involved in programs for active, reserve, and retired marines as well as youth programs that focus on character building, leadership, and a lifestyle that is conducive to being productive members of society.

When asked what the award means to him, he responded with his usual grace saying he is deeply honored to have been recommended by his peers of the Easton detachment knowing that only one person each year is honored in this way. His wife, Elizabeth, family, and friends were thrilled at learning the news and are forever proud of Buddy's service and achievement.

Along with his wife, Elizabeth, Buddy is a long-time member of the St. Edward's community. Involved in many ministries over the years, Buddy currently is a member of the choir, ministry leader for the ushers, and often serves as a lector at the 10:00 am service.

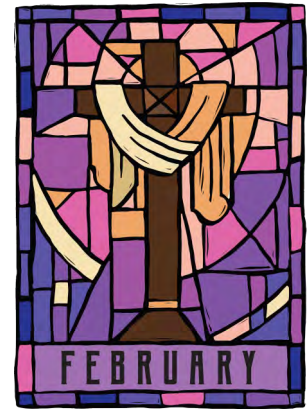
Thank you, Buddy, for your generous spirit and the uplifting service you provide to this parish, your community, and our American heroes! *Semper Fidelis!*



Mike Freshwater's Father's 100th



Former parishioners at Saint Edwards, Alison and Jaime, are now married and have families. This is the four Freshwater generations celebrating my dad's 100th birthday on December 23, in Tucson AZ.



Unified Diocese



After years of discernment, planning, and preparation, the legacy dioceses of Bethlehem and Central Pennsylvania have officially reunified to become The Episcopal Diocese of the Susquehanna. Together, we are one community of Episcopalians in 117 churches, loving God and neighbor in 39 counties across central and northeastern Pennsylvania. To help us get to know one another, here's an introduction to your diocesan leaders.

Moving forward, everything you'll need to know can be found on the new diocesan website, please [CLICK HERE](#)

January Services

Pictures by Mary Snyder and from Live Stream



One of many snowy Sundays



Christian and Ricky helped with Morning Prayer January 25th



8 AM Eucharist January 18th



Kiki Davi-Brugmann



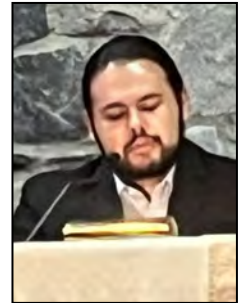
Blair Lord



Jamie Alton



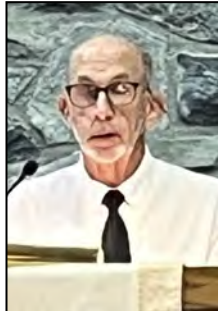
Cindy DiStefano



Seth Hake



Beth Lynch



Art Hagan



Sermon



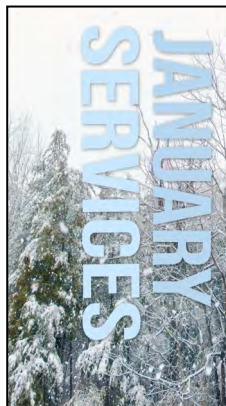
Fr. John Sivley



Karen Waddill and Choir



Fr. Rick and Beth Lynch



Snow Sunday music Beth and Blair



Snow Sunday Pianist Jamie Alton



**ST. EDWARD'S
EPISCOPAL
CHURCH**

2453 Harrisburg Pike

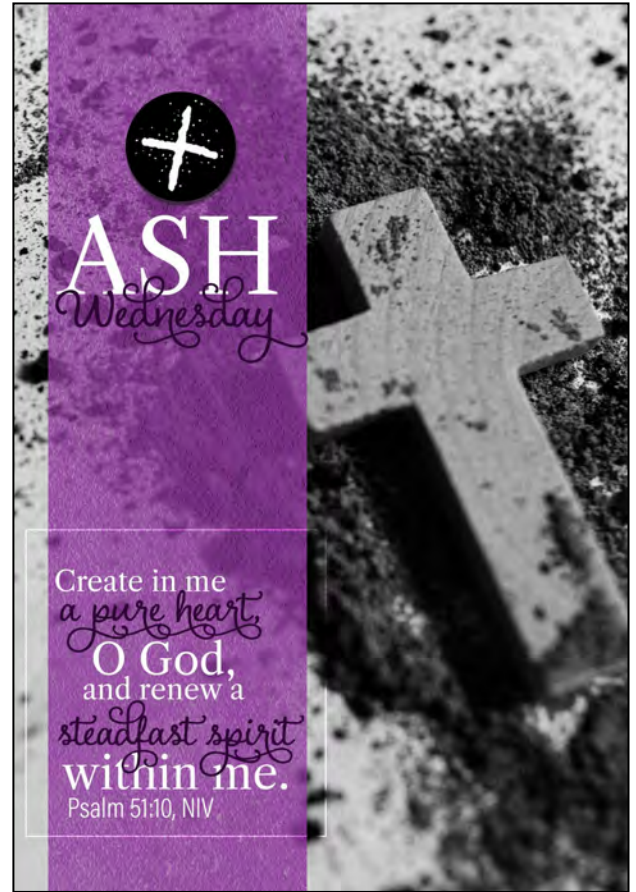
Lancaster, PA 17601

Phone 717-898-6276

Email: stedsoffice@comcast.net

www.sainteds.org

LOOK FOR US ON THE WEB!
www.sainteds.org



Staff

**The Rev. Dr. Rick Bauer,
Rector**

**Michelle Bentley, Parish
Administrator**

**Karen E. Waddill,
Director of Music**

Parish Office Hours

**Tuesday-Friday:
11AM – 4:00PM**

Vestry (year term ends)

- ✦ Mike Freshwater(2027)
Vestry Clerk
- ✦ Mary Gibson(2028)
- ✦ Ethel Lawrence (2027)
- ✦ Blair Lord (2026)
Vestry Clerk
- ✦ Jay Miller (2026)
Senior Warden
- ✦ Bob Mosebach (2026)
- ✦ Donna Ray(2028)
- ✦ Dan Sanders(2028)
- ✦ 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 and Meditation

