St. Edward's Episcopal Church Lancaster, PA

Scepter

November 2026

Reflection From the Rector's Desk

We can learn to notice a thought without automatically accepting it as the whole truth, and make room for a difficult feeling without letting it decide our next step. The question becomes, "With this feeling present, what can I do that reflects the person I want to be?"

We can leave church on Sunday with every intention of being more patient, more generous, more attentive to the people around us. And then a conversation catches us off guard. Someone questions our judgment. An old frustration returns. Before we've quite noticed what's happening, we're defending ourselves, withdrawing, or saying something we wish we could take back.

I suspect we all know something of that experience. We care about living faithfully, and yet there can be a considerable distance between the love we profess and the response available to us in a difficult moment. Learning to recognize what happens in that distance—and how we might respond with greater compassion—is part of the spiritual formation work we're doing together in our parish.

Through Friday Lunch & Learn, our Wednesday service of Meditation & Eucharist, and in group conversations about spirituality and community, we're giving this work time and attention. We're bringing our questions into relationship with our faith, and our faith into relationship with the experiences that shape our daily lives. There's something worth celebrating here: a community willing to look honestly at itself, remain teachable, and lean into our ever-becoming.

That willingness has deep roots in our Episcopal tradition. Richard Hooker, the sixteenth-century Anglican theologian, helped articulate the relationship among Scripture, tradition, and reason. The familiar "three-legged stool," a later image associated with his thought, reminds us that thoughtful inquiry belongs within the life of faith. We read Scripture, listen to the wisdom of those who came before us, and bring our capacities for reason and discernment to the living questions that keep us searching. This inheritance gives us room to ask how our understanding of God, and of ourselves, has developed over time. It also invites us to learn from other fields of study, to take seriously what they reveal about human experience, while considering how those insights might help us live more faithfully as members of Christ's Body.

At Friday Lunch & Learn, we're exploring these connections using my book, *Travel Like a Hero*, as a starting point. Religious studies, philosophy, and neuropsychology each offer something useful in that evolving conversation. Together, they help us examine the stories we carry, articulate what we truly value, and become better students of why our responses sometimes carry us away from those values.

Consider a story many of us have learned in one form or another: being capable means being able to manage on our

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- ***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***

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own. There may be much we appreciate about that inheritance. It may have encouraged perseverance and responsibility. But what happens when we need help? We might feel embarrassed by our limitations, reluctant to burden someone, or convinced that we should be handling things better. We may even judge another person for needing the support we won't allow ourselves to receive. Suddenly, we realize, a conviction that we've rarely examined is shaping how we relate to ourselves and our neighbors.

Religious studies helps us explore how stories like these acquire meaning and authority within our families, traditions, and communities. Philosophy encourages us to ask whether the life they lead us toward reflects what we actually value. And neuropsychology contributes to our understanding of how memory, emotion, and attention shape our reactions in real-life. These perspectives give us ways to pause over something familiar and ask, "What's happening here? What am I assuming? What else might be possible?" And that pause matters because recognizing a pattern gives us something to work with. We may begin to understand why receiving care feels uncomfortable, even while we believe deeply in caring for others. We may consider whether our faith's language of grace, belonging, and mutual dependence invites us to receive as well as give. And we may even approach that discovery with kindness, taking responsibility for the dispositions that binds us, without turning every limitation into another reason for self-criticism.

Of course, recognizing a pattern doesn't immediately loosen its hold. This is where the connection between learning and practice becomes especially meaningful for us. At our Wednesday service of Meditation & Eucharist, we bring ourselves into stillness, prayer, and worship. We notice the mind wandering, the conversation we're still replaying, the feeling we would rather avoid. Then we practice returning our attention, gently, to the present. If you've tried this, you know how often that return is needed. After all, each return offers us an opportunity to meet ourselves, once again, with patience.

My recent reading of Russ Harris's *The Happiness Trap* has helped me appreciate our work in spiritual formation in another way. Writing from a psychological perspective, Harris explores how easily we can become caught up in the struggle with our thoughts and feelings. We may spend considerable energy trying to push away anxiety, silence self-criticism, or convince ourselves that we shouldn't feel as we do. Sometimes we put off doing something that matters because we're waiting to feel more confident, more comfortable, or more certain. In the process, our efforts to manage our inner experience can begin to determine how we live.

Harris invites us to practice a different relationship with that experience. We can learn to notice a thought without automatically accepting it as the whole truth, and make room for a difficult feeling without letting it decide our next step. The question becomes, "With this feeling present, what can I do that reflects the person I want to be?" We might still feel vulnerable while asking for help, or defensive while choosing to listen. There's a freedom here that connects with what we're practicing together: as we become more attentive to our inner lives, we create room to respond with intention and compassion. Within our life of faith, that room gives us an opportunity to ask what love requires of us—and to act, even while we're still working through what we feel.

Returning to our example, saying inwardly: "I should be able to handle this myself" may feel like an instruction we have to obey. But saying instead: "I'm noticing the thought that I should be able to handle this myself" gives us a little room around it. The discomfort may remain. But we may stand to gain tremendous inner freedom by learning how to notice and name thoughts and feelings without having to simply obey them or struggle against them. Maybe, as Harris proposes, this is part of the path toward lasting well-being.

For me, this is a deeply useful connection to discipleship. Following Jesus involves learning how to respond faithfully while we're still anxious, defensive, uncertain, or afraid. We can ask, "What would love invite me to do here?" and take a step before all our feelings have settled. And our conversations certainly offer opportunities to practice that freedom together. We can listen when we feel the urge to interrupt. We can ask a question when we're tempted to assume. We can allow another person's experience to complicate our understanding. And over time, these ordinary choices can give substance to the meaning we seek in our lives. They can also make room for gratitude, because when we loosen our insistence on managing everything ourselves, we may become more able to recognize the care already surrounding us: someone's patience, a shared meal, an honest conversation, the grace of belonging. We can receive these gifts even amid unresolved tension and difficulty.

This is why I'm grateful for the work taking shape in our parish. We're giving sustained attention to the relationship between understanding and compassion, between what we say in worship and how we meet one another in the world. We're learning to recognize our patterns, receive grace, and practice the love we profess.

And so, if you haven't done so already, I hope you'll consider dropping in at a Friday Lunch & Learn or a Wednesday Meditation & Eucharist. You might also find a place to connect through a Zoom Bible Study or Lunch with the Chosen. We've got some wonderful resources available to us here at St. Edward's, each offering a way to grow in faith as we seek understanding. Together, we're learning to participate more fully in the life of God as we care for ourselves and extend that compassion to others.

With humble thanks for the courageous and faithful spirit of our community,

Rick+

Parish Office

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.

VESTRY

By The St. Edward's Vestry

As we enter the month of November, we open the month with a change in our Chronos, as we turn the clocks back one hour for Daylight Savings Time. And while the month ushers in this shift in time, it is unique in that it closes with a change in Kairos time with the season of Advent – a deep, sacred moment where God acts and transforms the present.

It seems fitting that for our parish, we have chosen the month of November as the beginning of our season of stewardship. Not only for the practicality of planning our church budget that supports our mission and ministry for the following year, but as a deeply spiritual discipline that gives us the opportunity to pause to remember that all we have—our time, our talents, our resources—are gifts from God. When we meet as a vestry each month we not only tackle the business aspects of caring for our church home, but we discuss, quite honestly, the importance of discerning our relationship to God, to one another, and to the world entrusted to our care. We understand that the call to stewardship is about relationship not as God's demand, but God's gift — a way of aligning our lives with divine generosity, and of learning what it means to give as freely as we have received. Stewardship is not solely about what we give; it is about how we live.

When Jesus tells his followers, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:21), he speaks not only of money, but of devotion. We all share in the joy of our ministry, through music, liturgy, outreach, or administration. And we give such abundance of time to fulfill important aspects of our mission. Stewardship asks us to recognize these gifts as channels of grace—ways through which God's love becomes tangible in the world.

And yet, as a vestry, we know that stewardship also involves our material resources. On a practical level it is important to be honest about the impact that inflation has, and will have, on all our operating costs in 2027. As much as we have been diligent in monitoring costs to hold steady in 2026, we are seeing our service contractors, insurance policies, and utilities hiking their rates and service fees by 13% – 30% across the board for 2027. And to speak honestly about money in the life of faith is to acknowledge that it carries power to do good, to heal, to support ministries that transform lives. It is vital to discern that when we make a financial pledge to our parish, we're not simply paying dues or covering costs; we're making a statement of faith. We're saying that the mission of the Church matters enough to us that we'll sustain it with what God has entrusted to us.

As we enter this season of stewardship, we are all invited to listen for how God may be calling us to give. May this be, for all of us, a season of gratitude, renewal, and faith. May we give joyfully, knowing that what we offer helps build a Church where love is made real—where all are welcomed, and Christ's presence is known.

With love and appreciation from your St. Edward's Vestry

Opportunities to Serve

There are always ways to take part in Christ's mission and ministry at St. Edward's. See page 10 for information about the cookie/craft sale and pages 12, 13, and 14 for FIA projects, including the Wrapped in Warmth (socks/hats/gloves) drive, Jesse Tree, and Turkey Drive.
Here are a few other ways to serve:
Enjoy singing? Join the choir! Singing lifts our hearts and voices while encouraging others to sing and pray aloud. Through service and shared harmony, the choir builds a loving spiritual community. Contact Blair Lord to learn more.
Serving at the altar as a Lector or Eucharistic Minister is spiritually meaningful. Both roles turn personal spiritual practice into a public offering, helping strengthen St. Edward's spiritual family. Contact Bob Mosebach to learn more.

Military News

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

Please advise Michelle Bentley in the Parish office or HJ_Miller@Outlook.com if any of these names should not remain on our list:

•Justin Carnahan
•Gordon Frankenfield
•Matt Fuhrman
•Jack Hawk
•Drew Johnson
•William Justice
•Anthony Koser
•Alex Kube
•John Lewis
•Richard Mutari
•David Peck
•Capt. Andrew Pfeiffer
•Morgan Prigmore
•Mike Spurr
•Clayton Tennies
•Connor Tennies
•Evan Westgate
•Seamas Whitesel
•1st Lt. Thomas Whitesel

Parishioners Outside the Pews

Beth Lynch on the chop saw during a nor'easter. The Guns to Gardens event was held at St. Thomas Episcopal Church Sept. 26th

October Sunset in Juniata County taken by Irene Achey

Westgates enjoyed October colors on Lake Underwood

Mary Snyder and Jodi Good overlooking Shock's Mill Bridge on the Susquehanna

Mac Miller steering a sailboat in Halifax Canada

Lynch's cats: Rain, Storm and Gusta Wind enjoying the fall air.

Jeri King looks over Qaqortoq, Greenland.

Gren in Battle Harbour

St James Anglican Church, Battle Harbour Labrador

Jeri and fall foliage in Labrador.

Gloria and Frank Kacinko recently toured the Baltics. Above: The Little Mermaid in Copenhagen, Denmark, and Frank at Town Hall Square in Riga, Latvia. Below: St. Peter's Church. Rostock, Germany, opened in 1351, and St. Mary's Church, Rostock, Germany. Astronomical Clock built in 1472 and still working

Arctic Animals

Pictures by Jeri King

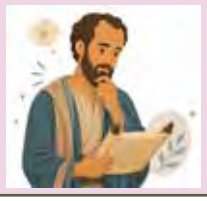
This Arctic fox found a pair of sunglasses that he was playing with

Polar bear on a cliff

Bible Quiz

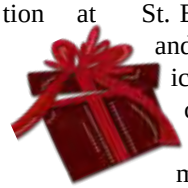
What did St. Paul teach about how people can recognize the existence of God?

A. They would have no understanding of God unless someone told them.
B. They could see evidence of God by observing creation.
C. God cannot be known in any way except through Jesus.



Answer: B (Romans 1:19-21)

By Meredith Aul



Krist Kindling, a beloved 37-year tradition at St. Edwards, survived Covid and changing demographics together with safety concerns in our church community and has managed to carry on is i n a new format since the decision to discontinue evening home deliveries in 2023. As many of you know, this tradition is an Advent activity that involves secret gift giving to and prayers for an assigned family each of the three weeks leading up to Christmas.

Since 2023 we have tried a couple of different versions of the activity, but we seem to have settled into giving a simple gift each week to our secret Krist Kindling partner. One part of this tradition that has not changed is a shared pot-luck soup and salad lunch where Krist Kindlers are revealed. What used to be a time to tell stories of our nighttime adventures became an opportunity to visit with one another over a shared lunch.

Last year someone proposed that we have a different theme each week using only "Items Purchased at a Grocery Store." It worked well! The idea is to help keep it simple and low key by limiting shopping at a place we all go to anyway.

Gifts are not meant to be expensive or burdensome, so a limit of $10 per week is recommended.

November 30-December 4 (pick up on Sunday, December 6) Theme: "Eats and Treats"

December 7-11 (pick up on Sunday, December 13) Theme: "Seasonal Sights and Smells"

December 14-18 (pick up on Sunday, December 20) Theme: "Hope, Peace, Joy, Love"

All gifts must be delivered to the church. You may do this anytime during the day or evening, Monday-Friday. (Not on Sunday mornings please!) Bins will be placed just outside the main doors of the church for you to place your gift. These will be taken into the church each morning and put in a secure place. Gifts will be placed on a table in the Parish Hall for pick-up Sunday mornings at coffee hour and after church.

We will gather in the parish hall for lunch on Saturday, January 17 for food and fellowship.

Watch for more details in the January Scepter.

Sign up to participate on the form below and place it in the Krist Kindling box in the narthex

You will receive the name of the person(s) you will be giving your gifts to during the week of November 15.

Name _____

Email _____

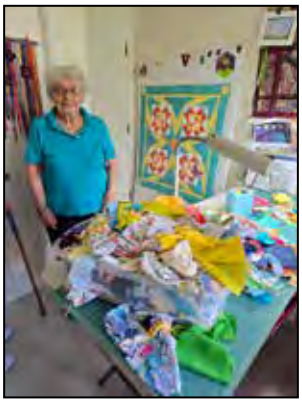
Names of participants in your family:

Ages of youth _____

Allergies _____

Needle Arts

Donna Holwager made this beautiful, colorful quilt for her niece



Barb O'Brien and her basket of pieces of fabric that she drew from to create this gorgeous original design for a quilt.

CARING STITCHES and the ministry of Gail Irons

By Donna Holwager

I opened a package shortly after my sur gery and found not only a beautiful hand knitted prayer shawl but two deeply moving prayers along with it. This was made extra special because it also contained, for me, the laughter, the prayers and the warmth of the Needle Arts group.

Many may not be aware of how faithfully and lovingly Gail Irons stitches this group together, week after week. She lets us know if someone's not able to be with us so we can pray (or cheer them on if they're on vacation); assures anyone who needs a ride can get one;

and champions every else's projects. Gail has a tender heart and unfailing generosity of spirit. I am so very thankful for this ministry of Saint Edwards; and for Gail and this wonderful team who assures anyone at Saint Edwards in need of a comforting prayer shawl will be touched, as I am, by this visible touch of God's love.

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

Members of this group, make items such as prayer shawls and baptism blankets, as well as hats and scarves to be donated to any in need . They also create quilted, embroidered and craft items for the Cookie/Craft sale, and the Basket Raffle

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.

Kathleen Spencer's Coverlet on Display

By Kathleen Spencer

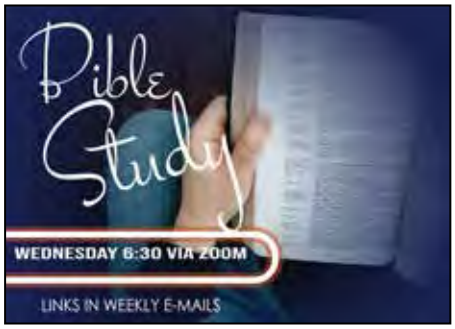
This is a photo of me taken at the new Thaddeus Stevens and Lydia Hamilton Smith Center for History and Democracy. Several weeks before the museum opened, I telephoned Robin Sarrat, the director of Lancaster History, and asked if she would like to have the coverlet for the textile collection in the museum's headquarters. I sent her a photograph and her response to me was, let's meet at the Stevens museum to see if it would work there. I was stunned. It turned out that it was a perfect fit.

The Thaddeus Stevens & Lydia Hamilton Smith Center is a new museum and education center by LancasterHistory, in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Find inspiration in the courageous struggle for freedom and equality in America through exhibits, immersive media experiences, and educational programs.

Thaddeus Stevens & Lydia Hamilton Smith Center for History and Democracy

According to A Checklist of American Coverlet Weavers, pp 70-71 published by Colonial Williamsburg in 1978, the coverlet was woven by Samuel Hippert who is included in the 1837 and 1838 tax lists in Elizabethtown.

Bible Study Led by Bob Mosebach



Author C.K. Robertson presents a well-researched, yet highly readable exploration of the Acts of the Apostles. Robertson is an alumnus of Virginia Tech, Virginia Theological Seminary, and Durham University, and for ten years has served as Distinguished Visiting Professor at The General Theological Seminary. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, and recently was named Honorary Canon in the Scottish Episcopal Church. Dr. Robertson and his family currently live in a town just outside New York City.

Our current session on Acts of the Apostles is finishing this intriguing book of the Bible. Keep an eye out for the next topic our Zoom group will explore. We warmly invite you to join us for this enriching and gentle journey through a fascinating book of the Bible. It's a wonderful chance to learn and grow together!

Lunch With the Chosen

Hosted by Blair Lord

October marked the return of our formation ministry, and what an opening! As explained before we viewed the first episode of season 5, we start with the Last Supper. It sounds ironic, yes. It also offers an opportunity to experience this iconic moment in Jesus's ministry in parceled segments and in the context of what unfolds in the days prior to the Last Supper. In juxtaposition to Jesus's assurances to his disciples about the joy that will follow sorrow, they (and we) witness the joy that precedes sorrow in the Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem. Right away, tensions stir, and Jesus prepares to agitate Jewish and Roman authorities along with the crowds, starting with a donkey's bridle that becomes part of a whip. Some people, like John and Mary Magdalene, sense the dark hour that will soon descend on their beloved teacher.

If this opening has you excited to watch and share in the discussion, our next viewing will be on November 1st, All Saints Sunday. Episode two, titled "House of Cards," builds up to the Cleansing of the Temple. While Jesus gets ready to make his stand, the disciples and other characters encounter the workings of the Temple in anticipation of Passover. Meanwhile, Caiaphas and Herod Antipas will meet to discuss Jesus's presence, actions, and what the consequences of them could be for everyone. Please join us in the parish hall at 11:45am after the service with bagged lunches.

The holidays will soon descend upon us, so mark your calendars for episode 3, "Woes," on December 6th. It will immediately follow the events of the last episode. You won't want to miss it!

The Chosen is available to watch on Amazon Prime. You can also watch it for free on the show's website (thechosen.tv) and app (available on FireTV, Apple TV, Roku, the Apple Store and the Google Play Store). The website and app also feature Extras that delve deeper into the stories and application of Scripture, such as the Aftershow and the Bible Roundtable.

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.

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

Before God, we are all equally wise and equally foolish.
—Attributed to Albert Einstein

ST. EDWARD'S STEWARDSHIP 2027

When St. Paul wrote to the Corinthians, he described the Church as a body with many members, each essential to the whole. "Now there are varieties of gifts," he said, "but the same Spirit" (1 Corinthians 12:4). This reminds us that no one person holds all that is needed. It's only together that we can embody the fullness of Christ's love and compassion. As such, offering our talents to the Church—whether through music, liturgy, outreach, or administration—is not about self-promotion or duty. It's about joy. It's about discovering the deep gladness that comes when our gifts meet the world's need, when we realize that the Spirit is working through our hands and voices to heal, to build, to bless.

A pledge is also a spiritual discipline. It helps us be intentional about how we order our lives and priorities. It invites us to make giving part of our rhythm of faith, just as we make time for prayer or worship. It helps ensure that our parish can plan faithfully, dream boldly, and respond compassionately to the needs within and beyond our walls. – Father Rick

As we enter the month of November let us thoughtfully and heartfully contemplate our upcoming stewardship campaign. Our "Stewardship Stories" kick-off on Sunday, November 29th with Father Rick speaking with us at our 8 AM and 10 AM services. We invite members of our parish to offer their stewardship stories at our services throughout Advent.

November 29th - December 20th Sunday Stewardship Stories

Be on the lookout in late November for your 2027 Stewardship Letter & Pledge Form

Fourth Advent December 20th Pledge Ingathering

We request your prayerful consideration for your 2027 pledge. We give our deepest thanks to you for your past giving.

ST. EDWARD'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

sainteds.org
717.898.6276
stedsoffice@comcast.net

St. Edward's
is hosting its annual

Cookie/Craft Sale

Saturday, December 5, 2026.

The 20 plus year fund raiser has been a consistent success from its inception bringing in close to $3000 a year. We can all do the math which emphasizes the importance of this event.

This year a few new twists will be added:

1.)The sale will not be exclusively cookies. We are looking for pie makers and specialty bread makers.

2.)The sale is open to candy and whimsical treats.

3.)All parishioners will be given access to flyers and coupons to distribute to fellow workers, neighbors and friends advertising the sale.

4.)Post orders will be available on select items for delivery later in December.

We are excited to continue this long tradition and once again bring the **Lancaster community to our beautiful campus**.

Coffee Hour

Pictures by Mary Snyder

We celebrated Clergy Appreciation Day on October 11 with cards and a cake

Fr. Rick chats with Julie Hoff and Kathy Spencer

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!

Freda Dombach, Gail and Richard Irons

It is always fun when Bob Mosebach takes a turn playing for coffee hour

Our Sunday coffee hour is a cornerstone of weekly fellowship. Every Sunday from 9 to 10 AM, everyone is welcome to gather as one community between services, and once a month, enjoy a performance by our fantastic Coffee House Band.
Join us for coffee hour, sign up to host, take part in our craft activities, or, if you're musically gifted, contact Randy Westgate about joining the Coffee House Band.

The squirrels Mary Snyder won at a coffee hour, on her mantle.

Scepter Recipe

Parmesan Crusted Chicken

Contributed By Meredith Aul Westgate

Ingredients

½ cup mayonnaise
¼ cup grated Parmesan cheese
4 boneless, skinless chicken breast halves (about 1 ¼ lb.)
4 tsp. Italian seasoned dry bread crumbs

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 425 deg.
2. Combine mayonnaise with cheese in a medium bowl. Arrange chicken on a baking sheet. Evenly top with mayonnaise mixture, then sprinkle bread crumbs
3. Bake for 20 minutes or until chicken is thoroughly cooked.

NOTE: If you have a recipe to share please send to HJ_Miller@outlook.com or text to (717)917-8716

Thank you for the 323 pounds of food items contributed to the pantry in June. WOW !! In June, the pantry served 539 children; 922 adults; 392 seniors… for a total 1,853 people served.
Fifty-four volunteers gave 682 hours to the pantry June.

Current requested items:

- Kids cereal (sugary)
- Bags of dried beans
- Peanut butter
- Boxed pasta
- Raisins
- Cookie mixes
- Canned tuna
- Canned chicken
- Canned fruits (all kinds)
- Canned soup (all kinds)
- Canned black beans
- Canned yams
- Canned beets
- We prefer NO glass containers.

ONGOING MINISTRIES:

Collection of food for the Hempfield Food Pantry, Rahim Family Donations, and donations for books for Prisoners in the narthex is ongoing.

UPCOMING MINISTRIES:

Turkey Drive-November 15-22nd, 2026
Jesse Tree-Mid-November thru early December
Wrapped in Warmth-Hat,Socks, Gloves and Hat Collection Nov 29-Dec 20
Soles for Souls-February 10 – March 21, 2027

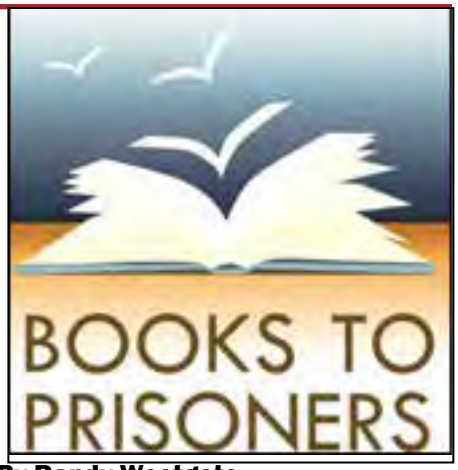
Feed My Starving Children-Late March 2027 TBA

Race Against Racism-April 24, 2027

Blood Drive-Spring 2027

Back To School Drive-July/August 2027

First Reformed Dinner Three Tuesdays during the year TBA



By Randy Westgate

Because of your amazing generosity we have been able to purchase another 32 books for prisoners at Lancaster County Prison. These books were requested by the chaplain's office to be provided to both male and female inmates. Books we purchased this time were:

When God Doesn't Fix It, by Laura Story, a Christian recording artist who writes of her husband's recovery and struggles after surgery for a brain tumor diagnosed shortly after their marriage.

My Jesus: from Heartache to Hope, by Anne Wilson.

Joni and Ken: An Untold Love Story, by Joni Eareckson Tada.

Battlefield of the Mind, by Joyce Meyer

Resue Story: Faith, Freedom, and Finding My Way Home, by Zack Williams, a recording artist who is in recovery from drug addiction, and whose latest popular song was recorded with Dolly Parton, by the way.

These books are an amazing blessing to our brothers and sisters in prison because of their past mistakes and poor decisions, many of which are the result of addiction, and will hopefully help them chart a new course for their lives.

The head chaplain at the prison, Katie Harnish, included this comment in a recent email to me, speaking about St. Edward's Books for Prisoners ministry:

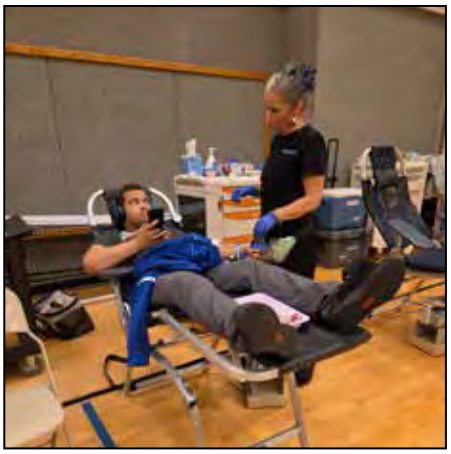
"Wow this is wonderful! What a generous church!" Indeed.

If you would like to contribute to this ministry, put a check in the offering plate with "Books for Prisoners" on the memo line.

Thanks, and blessings,

Blood Drive

Pictures by Beth Lynch



Beth and James Lynch donated blood at the recent Blood Drive.

By Meredith Aul

Our blood drive, held on October 13, jointly held with our neighbors at the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-Day Saints was a productive day, though did not get quite the turnout as previous drives. Nineteen donors came out to offer a precious pint of blood to help those in need. Of those, 15 were deemed eligible and helped to replenish the supply at Penn Medicine Lancaster General Health.

Emily Afutiti, our contact at the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-Day Saints, is wonderful to work with. She does a great job promoting the drive and coordinating volunteers. Michelle Bentley and Mac handle publicity for St. Edward's by putting notices in the bulletin and Scepter. Michelle also notifies the other Episcopal churches in Lancaster and the diocese. Beth Lynch arranged for publicity at St. Paul's Episcopal in Columbia and St. Luke's in Mt. Joy.

I'd like to thank those from St. Edward's who took the time to come out to donate: Beth and James Lynch, Art Hagan, Heather and Deborah Ennis, Blair Lord, Todd Barclay, and me. Also, many thanks to Mary Dorsey, Meredith and Blair Lord, Beth Lynch, and Mary Gibson, who joined me in welcoming donors in three shifts, 3-8 p.m. Collaborating with "the church across the street" is a wonderful initiative. Coordinating our efforts brings out more donors and is an excellent opportunity to develop a working partnership. We will be co-hosting again for the next drive on February 17, 2027 at the same location and on May 5, 2027 here at St. Edward's.

Todd Barclay donating.

Wrapped in Warmth

Nov 29-Dec 20

The winter hat, sock, gloves, and scarf collection will begin November 29th and run until December 20th. Men's, women's, and children sizes are welcome. New or gently used items can be donated.

Members of the Faith In Action ministry will distribute them January 5th at a First Reformed dinner.

Rahim Supplies

The sign-up sheet in the narthex for November-December for our collection of hygiene, paper products and cleaning supplies for the Rahim family. Please consider purchasing an item on the list for our monthly collections. 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, Mac and Cheese, Cooking oil, and bags of potatoes.

Car for the Rahim Family

"We engage the faith of our Lord, trusting that a God sufficiently sized is big enough for everybody who acts in love, who cares for one another, and looks out for one another." It is our hope these words encourage us to always consider the story of "new life." The metaphors live and breath as we work and if you find you, or someone you know, is in a position where they would consider selling their vehicle for a reasonable price, please connect with Father Rick for more details.

Annual 2024 Jesse Tree Project Begins Anew

Tis the season for shopping … and giving" is upon us as we welcome a St. Edward tradition of providing gifts for the foster children of COBYs.

Specific Details of our "Jesse Tree" project will be announced in the coming days For parishioners unfamiliar with this project, the St. Edward's Jesse Tree provides a peaceful spot under its branch for gifts that will be given to children in foster care to make Christmas a little brighter. Through COBYS Family Services we obtain a list of children in foster care, their ages, and their Christmas wishes. We don't take the place of Santa. Rather, we act as Santa's helpers by adding another gift or two for a child to open on Christmas morning.

The Jesse Tree is a unique Advent custom and the tradition traces back as far as the Middle Ages.

The earliest Jesse Trees were made of tapestries, carvings, and stained glass. These visual displays allowed uneducated people who could not read or write to learn about the Scriptures from the time of Creation until the birth of Jesus.

What Is a Jesse Tree?

The word advent means "arrival." Because Advent is a time to anticipate and prepare for the arrival of Christ at Christmas. The Jesse Tree represents the family tree, or genealogy, of Jesus Christ. It tells the story of God's salvation plan, beginning with creation and continuing through the Old Testament, to the coming of the Messiah.

The name "Jesse Tree" comes from Isaiah 11:1. "Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse, and a branch from his roots will bear fruit." (NASB) The verse refers to King David's father, Jesse, who is in the lineage of Jesus Christ. The "shoot" that grew from the "stem of Jesse," that is, the royal line of David, is Jesus Christ. Within your own family, you can make and add ornaments to a tree that represent the story of Jesus

How Can You Participate?

- First, you have two options: buy gifts for a child or make a monetary donation that will be used to purchase gifts. (Suggested amount to spend or donate: $50 to $60 per child)
- **You will choose the name of a child by selecting a "mitten" ornament from our tree. The ornament will identify items on the child's wish list. After you select the mitten ornament, you will remove the part of the mitten labeled as the "Participant" form**.
- **NEXT**, you are to complete the form and return it to the drop-box in the Narthex. (The form will allow you to indicate whether you are opting to attach a check for the "elves" of St. Edwards to purchase items on the child's wish list.)
- If you are buying gifts for a specific child, you are asked to bring your gifts to the church and place under our Jesse Tree by the assigned date.

When will this happen?

- The mitten ornaments for selection will be hanging on our tree from **November 8 to November 15.** (If you are unable to pick an actual ornament from the tree, please let me know and I will choose one for you.)
- **All monetary donations should be made by November 25**, if not sooner. Thanks!
- Gifts will be due **December 6**. We will then deliver the gifts to COBYs.

Questions?

Please direct questions to Leslie Arnold Larnold897@aol.com

Annual Turkey Drive

November 8-22

Donated turkeys residing in the freezer at the Food Pantry that was donated by the Caseys

The Annual Turkey Drive for the Hempfield Food Pantry will be held November 8–22. You can place your donated item in the church freezer anytime before it is delivered to the food pantry.

The only change this year is that they will also accept whole chickens.

"Over the last several drives, I used the voucher I earn at Weis/Giant to donate to the pan-try," said Beth Lynch. Weis, Giant, and Stauffers often run specials starting Nov. 1st.

Guess Who's Coming to Dinner

Mike Freshwater hosted the group at Ciro's. They had a private room and a great conversation. The group included: Gail and Dick Irons; Donna Ray; Mary Ann Franck and Sandra Klick; Mike Freshwater and Deann Buffington; and Faith Stoughton. Not pictured: Vanessa Helsel and Bonnie Stoughton.

By Linda Jones

A gastronomical delight with an Italian flair was experienced by twelve foodies who enjoyed pasta dishes, mussels, spaghetti and meatballs and other Italian favorites at the "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner" evening out at Lombardo's Restaurant in Lancaster on Saturday night, October 17, 2026. Included in the event were Art Hagan, Mark Espie (who loved his Cannoli), Linda Jones, acting hostess, Dan Sanders and the three Mary's: Mary Gibson, Mary Rettino (her Black Beauty bowed out of the invitation (not fond of Pasta Primavera) and Mary Dorsey (another dessert lover of cheesecake). Mac Miller joined Donna Skiles (a newbie to St. Ed's), Carl Cotnoir, and host couple, Vince and Barbara Czepukaitis. It was a joy to share good food, good conversation and Christian fellowship. Our blessing asked that our Lord and Savior guide our words and fill our hearts with gratitude, kindness and love for one another.

Pictures by Mac Miller

Donna Skiles and Mary Dorsey

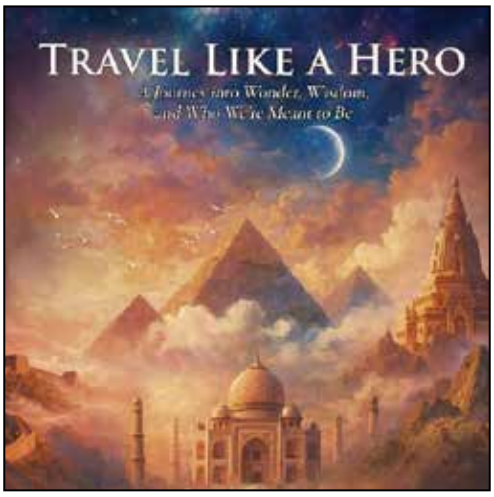
Carl Cotnoir, Barb and Vince Czepukaitis

By Rick Dombach

October's Guess Who's coming to Dinner for our group was at the Fireside Tavern in Strasburg. There were nine of us, some we knew and others not so much. After introductions and realizing thanks to livestream, we all did know each other more than we realized. Livestream was brought up as a great way to stay connected to St Edward's from afar, or as Fr Rick says your recliner. There was lively conversation throughout dinner and dessert.

Rick Dombach, Jay and Lori Miller, Freda Dombach, Karen Grant, Cindy DiStefano, Kathy Spencer, Sue and Joe Hurlbert

Mary Gibson, Mary Rettino, Linda Jones, Dan Sanders, Mark Espie and Art Hagan



LUNCH & LEARN
FRIDAYS
12 NOON – 1:30 PM

It is not too late to join us on the journey! We are currently on Chapter Six. Exploring this book presents amazing invitations that can give us insights into our lives and how they shape our way of being in the world as we travel our spiritual and faith journey while deepening our love for God in Christ.

Our lives are journeys that matter, as we navigate a path to heal, inspire, and bless others. Travel Like a Hero is, at its heart, an exploration of what it means to live thoughtfully and courageously in a complex world. We couldn't think of a better person as our guide than Father Rick!

A recent Lunch and Learn Zoom meeting. This is a convenient way for the group to meet.

Save the Date

Bishop Audrey's visit on November 8th

On Sunday, November 8th The Rt. Reverend Dr. Audrey Cady Scanlan, Bishop Diocesan of the Diocese of the Susquehanna, will be visiting St. Edward's!

We will have one service on that Sunday at 10 AM followed by a coffee hour and visit with the bishop. This is a wonderful opportunity to show our hospitality and the bishop welcomes conversation and Q&A with our parish.

Please mark your calendars - November 8th 10 AM! We invite you to come to church, in-person, on this special day that includes the renewal of baptismal vows.

And join us after the service for a special coffee hour spread!

Sunday
November 8

October Worship Services

Pictures by Mary Snyder

Service begins

Mary Rettino

Kiki Davis-Brugmann

Buddy Yeager

Gren King

The Gospel

Kathleen Spencer

Bob Mosebach

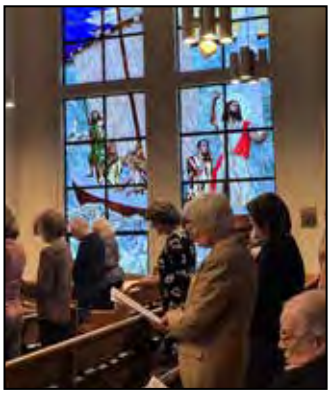
Beth Lynch

Worship SERVICES

Art Hagan

Jay and Lori Miller and Sally Lederer

The Eucharist



The Sermon

Curt and Mary Ann Franck's son visited the choir October 11th

Guest organists Donna Burkholder and Michael Groff

St. Edward's Episcopal Church

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Lancaster, PA 17601
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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

Parish Office Hours
Tuesday-Friday:
11AM – 4:00PM

Vestry

(Year term ends)

- Mike Freshwater(2027)
  Vestry Clerk
- Mary Gibson(2028)
- Junior Warden
- Julie Hoff (2029)
- Senior Warden
- Ethel Lawrence (2027)
- Bruce Lynch(2029)
- Susan Murray(2029)
- Donna Ray(2028)
- Dan Sanders(2028)
- Kathy Spencer (2027)

Worship Services

Sunday Services

8:00 a.m. (said)	Holy Eucharist Rite I
10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist Rite II

Wednesday

12 Noon:	Contemplative Eucharist and Meditation

WORSHIP WITH US ONLINE
https://sainteds.org/