Outreach Newsletters & Taking the Faith



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Choice Food and Resource Center News



This month, 383 households comprising 1421 individuals received food, sanitary supplies, diapers, training pants, and adult incontinence products through the Choice Food and Resource Center. We distributed 370 packages of sanitary supplies. One hundred ninety-eight babies were diapered, while 19 transitioned out of diapers into toilet training! In addition, 12 adults received incontinence products. A very generous contribution from a friend of the parish who volunteers underwrote a large number of baby wipes and toilet training supplies as well as sanitary supplies.

Mark McMahon, Doug Bonar, and Catherine Ambos continued volunteering on-site as registrars and "shoppers," assisting our guests as they selected the foods that would work best for their families.

Since Unity Square has been able to secure adequate supplies of diapers since mid-October from other sources, we have shifted our Packing Party operations to assist Elijah's Promise instead. In January 2026, our packing party will be January 18, the third Sunday. Our goal is to pack 500 sets of flatware each month. Come join the fun!

Catherine Ambos, Christ Church Coordinator
Choice Food and Resource Center @ Unity Square







In December, we distributed 47 Laundry Love cards which enabled laundry to be done for 168 individuals. Our budget lets us purchase 42 cards per month. We are still distributing the cards through food appointments at Unity Square, a session at Nuestra Sra. del Carmen church one Sunday a month after the last Sunday afternoon Mass, two days at Unity Square for guests who do not have food appointments, and through the outreach workers at Elijah's Promise and at Rutgers University Behavioral Health Care. Although this system gives our guests flexibility in doing laundry on their own schedule, the heart and soul of Laundry Love is the gathering in community and walking beside our neighbors as they do their wash. We are there to listen and to share resources. Our current model is not consistent with the Laundry Love's Facilitator's Handbook. Moreover, the lack of a regularly scheduled time and location means we are no longer on the Laundry Love nationwide map. This change from monthly in-person sessions at the Handy Street Laundromat was a prudent response to the ICE presence in New Brunswick early last year. Now, we will have to evaluate the current situation to see how/when we can return to in-person Laundry Love sessions. We can only give out 47 Laundry Love packets a month until the cushion we have from earlier in 2025, when we only had between 30 and 40 participants, runs out. Meeting in person means that you get Laundry Love only if you are one of the first 30 families who show up on the designated day. On the other hand, we will not have to track a total of nine (9!) sessions a month based on all the different times we currently distribute Laundry Love

So far, we are looking at the third Wednesday of each month, 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the Handy Street Laundromat. We need a team of six to eight people who can participate on a regular basis or act as subs when one of the regular volunteers is not available. A minimum of four people at each session would allow us to run both the "family" and "singles" wash sessions; a group of six to eight people would give everyone a turn helping out and assure that no one had to attend all 12 sessions in a year. If you think you are called to help out either a few months out of the year or on a regular basis, contact Catherine Ambos, msambos@gmail.com, or 732-718-2039. I can no longer carry the whole weight of managing New Brunswick Laundry Love @ Handy Street Laundromat. Please help keep this vital ministry going.

Catherine Ambos, Christ Church Coordinator
Laundry Love

JANUARY 18, 2026
SECOND SUNDAY
AFTER EPIPHANY

taking faith home

Faith is formed through trusted relationships.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	**John 1:29-42**	**Jesus, the Lamb of God**
Monday	**Isaiah 49:1-7**	**The servant's mission**
Tuesday	**1 Corinthians 1:1-9**	**Greetings to the Corinthians**
Wednesday	**John 1:43-51**	**Jesus calls Philip and Nathaniel**
Thursday	**Psalm 46**	**God is our mighty fortress**
Friday	**John 9:1-34**	**The man born blind receives his sight**
Saturday	**Psalm 40:1-11**	**Happy are they who trust the Lord**
Sunday	**Matthew 4:12-23**	**Jesus calls his first disciples**

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

He [Jesus] said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. **John 1:39 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:
Dear God, help me and all people to see Jesus the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:
Dear God, let me see in this meal a gift of love, part of your wondrous deeds that are so many they cannot be counted. Amen. (Psalm 40:5)

A Blessing to Give:
May God bless you with peace.

MILESTONES MINISTRY

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JANUARY 18, 2026

taking faith home

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Will You Come and Follow Me

WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What words would you use to describe someone with whom you have a trusted relationship?
- John the Baptist, Andrew, and Philip helped others see Jesus. How can trusted relationships help others see Jesus?

DEVOTIONS

Read: John 1:29-46.

Having a relationship with Jesus often involves a trusted relationship with others. John the Baptist twice tells people that Jesus is the Lamb of God. After the second announcement, two of John's disciples follow Jesus. They want a relationship to Jesus so they ask where he is staying. Jesus immediately invites them to where he is dwelling. The result is that Andrew (one of the two disciples of John) goes and gets his brother Simon (Cephas or Peter). Then Philip is brought into the inner circle of disciples. Interestingly, he is from the same hometown as Andrew and Peter. These were likely neighborhood boys who knew each other growing up and had a trusted relationship. Then Philip goes and gets his friend Nathaniel. Philip's invitation includes the same words Jesus used earlier: "Come and see" (vv. 39 and 46).

Discuss: We often see Jesus through others with whom we have a trusted relationship. Who has helped you see Jesus?

Pray: **Dear Jesus, may we help others to see you through our invitation, our care, and our living faith. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you invite someone to come and see Jesus?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

When John the Baptist saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!" While we cannot physically see Jesus, there are signs of his life all around us. Cut out the shape of a lamb from a large sheet of white paper. Talk or think about ways you have seen or experienced the presence of Jesus during the day. Write your thoughts on your lamb. Take a moment to read through them.

Pray: **Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace. Amen.**

MILESTONES MINISTRY

In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: **www.milestonesministry.org**

CHRIST CHURCH IN THE CITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK
a parish of the Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey
WORSHIPPING GOD, SERVING GOD'S PEOPLE

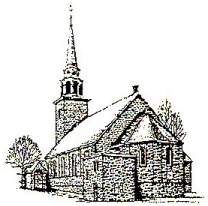
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PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

Christ Episcopal Church is a diverse and inclusive Christian community. We bear witness to the love and justice of Christ through worship, music, and service.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME HERE.

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The Reverend Daniel Scott Russell, *Interim Rector*
The Reverend Daphne Roberts, *Deacon*
Suzanne McDonald, *Music Director and Organist*
Brittney Girault, *Parish Administrator*
Elaine Winkler, *Bookkeeper*
Carlos Garcia, *Sexton*

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