

Volume 26, Issue 1  
Spring 2026

# CHRIST CHURCH



# The Parish News

## 2026 Holy Week & Easter

### Palm Sunday, March 29

8:00 am Mass

10:00 am Procession & Choral Mass

### Monday in Holy Week, March 30

10:00 am Mass

### Tuesday in Holy Week, March 31

6:30 pm Mass

### Wednesday in Holy Week, April 1

10:00 am Mass

### Maundy Thursday, April 2

10:00 am Morning Prayer

6:30 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

8:00 pm Midnight The Watch

### Good Friday, April 3

10:00 am Morning prayer

12:15 pm Noonday service & Stations of the Cross

6:30 pm Solemn Liturgy of Good Friday

### Holy Saturday, April 4

10:00 am Morning prayer

6:30 pm the Great Vigil of Easter

### Easter Day, April 5

8:00 am Mass of the Resurrection

10:00 am Choral Mass of the Resurrection



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Christ Church

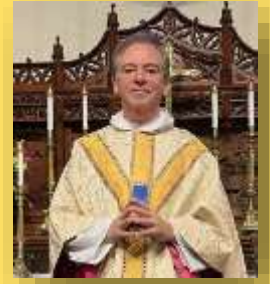
Woodbury, New Jersey

*A Parish in the Diocese of New Jersey*





## From the Rector



Dear Friends,

Passiontide, 2026

Holy Week and Easter are at the heart of the Christian faith. The death and resurrection of our Lord prove that sin and death are overcome. The symbolism of these events is deeply profound, but we must remember that these events actually happened in time and place and changed the world to its core and prove God's power, love, mercy and faithfulness to humanity.

The prophet Isaiah foretells of the suffering and sacrificial death of Jesus. ... *he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed* (53:5). Through His wounds, we are healed and reconciled to God. Christ's love and salvation are shown to us. Forgiveness, peace and eternal life are given to us. The Holy Spirit can anchor us in our personal anxieties and fears that we encounter every day. But during the liturgies of Holy Week and Easter we can bring all of ourselves- our anxiety, fears and our joys as we walk with Jesus to Jerusalem, to Gethsemane, to the Cross and to an empty tomb. Through the liturgies of Holy Week, we are given an opportunity to participate with Jesus in those final days of His life- days and events that changed the course of the world and can personally transform us in the here and now. If we open our heart to Him, we can come to a deeper understanding of our redemption and our present sufferings and come to know more fully the joy of the Resurrection.

There is much to be thankful here at Christ Church and there is much to have hope in. Please consider joining me and the rest of our parish as we are given the opportunity to worship together this Holy Week and Eastertide.

Through Christ's death and resurrection, life and our existence has changed at its core. No longer does evil have the final say. No longer are we faced with the decay of this life. Christ has ensured for all of creation, that death is conquered. He offers new and eternal life- a life that we can touch even now. This year, let us experience this Easter reality together!

God Bless you as you welcome the Risen Lord into your hearts.

*Christ has Died! Christ has Risen! Christ will come again! Let us rejoice and be glad in it!*

Father Civale





## From the Organist & Choir Director



Thank you all again for the warm welcome these past months, the time has really flown by now that Easter is nearly here! I have been pleased with the progress the choir has made thanks to all of their hard work and commitment, and of course, all of the enthusiastic singing from the congregation. Lent is full of musical riches, and I'm glad to hear you all participating heartily in hymns and mass parts. The choristers have likewise been working hard to prepare for the days on which they sing. Easter, much like Christmas, is another season full of too many great hymns to fit into too few weeks! There is a wealth of great hymnody which I look forward to leading you all through them as we move through Eastertide

Luke Stasiunas





## Office Updates



As we are heading into Spring we are very busy in the office. We are working on updating the parish directory to ensure we have all of our members current information on file. I am preparing all the things for Holy Week and Easter and looking forward to completing some of the other office projects that remain.

I have enjoyed the help of our office volunteers. Carol Hill and Helen Gwalthney have helped with proofreading the bulletin and newsletters. Susan Kabach has been very helpful with assisting with getting our mailings out. A big thank you to those individuals that have helped me keep the office running. A very special thank you to Father Civale for his continued guidance and grace as I have navigated through my first 6 months here. For me being able to work in an environment that I am immersed in God's word everyday is such a blessing and I know that I was placed here to keep me close to not only God's word but to be with like minded people. And for that I am extremely thankful.

I am looking forward to all of the exciting things that will be happening here in the next few months.

As we approach Easter, may the resurrection bring you hope and peace and may God's love fill your soul with joy.

Jacqueline Fahr





## From the Wardens



### **MEET YOUR VESTRY**

Many parishioners hear the word *vestry* but may not be fully familiar with what the vestry does or how it supports the life of our church. The vestry is the elected lay leadership of the parish, responsible for its temporal affairs and the faithful stewardship of its resources. It is made up of **wardens** and **vestry members**, all elected by the congregation to represent the parish and help guide its mission and ministries. Together with our **Parish Treasurer**, they work alongside Father Civale to ensure the life of the parish runs smoothly.

Vestry members also serve as stewards and fiduciaries of the parish, helping to ensure that the resources and ministries entrusted to our church are cared for responsibly and used to support God's work in our community.

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:**

#### **Tori Wishnick, Senior Warden**

As Senior Warden, Tori serves as the primary lay leader of the parish and works with Father Civale to support the overall life and mission of the church. If you ever have questions about the vestry or concerns about parish life, Tori is always happy to listen and help guide them to the appropriate place.

#### **Steve Lewis, Junior Warden**

Steve serves as Junior Warden and helps oversee the care and maintenance of our church property and facilities. If you notice something around the church that needs attention or would like to help with building projects or grounds work, please reach out.

#### **Mark Novalsky – Parish Treasurer**

Mark serves as Parish Treasurer, an appointed position that supports the vestry in overseeing the financial stewardship of the church. Working closely with the vestry, Mark helps prepare financial reports and ensures that parish resources are managed with care and transparency.

#### **Nathan Wishnick – Clerk**

In addition to serving on the vestry, Nathan serves as our Vestry Clerk. The Clerk maintains the minutes and records of vestry meetings and helps ensure that the important work and decisions of the vestry are properly documented.

One of the ways our vestry supports the life of the parish is by providing oversight and encouragement to key ministry areas, which we call *commissions*. If you have questions, ideas, or would like to get involved, these vestry members would be glad to hear from you.



## From the Wardens



### COMMISSIONS & LEADERS:

#### **Buildings & Grounds Commission - Jim Bathurst**

*Assisted by Steve Lewis*

The Buildings and Grounds Commission is in charge of the physical plant of the parish property ensuring that the church buildings and grounds are in good repair.

#### **Hospitality Commission - Maureen Carrigan**

*Assisted by Robertta Shomo*

The Hospitality Commission plans, promotes and oversees the social functions of our parish. This includes parish gatherings and other opportunities for extending hospitality to others. Both informal and scheduled activities fall under this commission's responsibility.

#### **Outreach & Mission Commission - Brandon Gorman**

*Assisted by Charles Lewis*

The Outreach and Mission Commission is concerned primarily with the work of meeting human needs and alleviating suffering, whether close to home or far away. Primary focus of this commission is to help and increase awareness of and involvement in mission and social concerns at the local, national and global level.

#### **Evangelism Commission - Charles Lewis**

*Assisted by Doreen Mills and Brandon Gorman*

The Evangelism Commission oversees all projects, events and activities that will encourage activity and membership within our parish and outside its doors. Evangelism can be defined as making the Presence and teaching of Christ known so that others may find and be found by Him.

#### **Stewardship Commission - Doreen Mills**

*Assisted by Jim Bathurst*

The Stewardship Commission not only directs the annual stewardship campaign, but also works to educate parishioners about the spirituality and responsibility of Christian stewardship and planned giving.

#### **Programs & Activities Commission - Robertta Shomo**

*Assisted by Maureen Carrigan*

The Programs and Activities Commission promotes and celebrates the opportunities for our parish and those who love our parish as being the Body of Christ in the City of Woodbury and its surrounding region.



## From the Wardens



The vestry does not carry out this work alone. These commissions depend on the gifts and participation of the whole parish. Vestry members serve as coordinators and advocates who help connect parishioners with opportunities to serve and grow in ministry.

We are grateful for those who have answered the call to serve on the vestry and for the many members of our parish whose dedication makes our ministries possible. If you ever have questions, ideas, or feel called to become more involved in one of these ministry areas, please don't hesitate to reach out to any member of the vestry.

### Lenten Soup Supper

A heartfelt "thank you" to all who contributed soups, breads and salads for our Wednesday night Lenten dinner on March 4<sup>th</sup>:

Kate & Matt Baldwin  
Maureen Carrigan  
Allene Ferrell  
Kim Henning  
Jackie Kennedy  
Jennifer Lewis  
Jean Lucas  
Nancy Reiter  
Cheryl Rheiner  
Gwen Simpson





## Buildings and Grounds

### Buildings and Grounds Spring Update

The Buildings and Grounds Committee continues to meet regularly to address the needs of our facilities and grounds. As you may expect, there are always projects that crop up unexpectedly that must be addressed in a timely manner. For instance, the expansion tank on the furnace under the Church began to fail and had to be replaced as soon as possible. This was completed through our HVAC contractor at a cost of \$4,410. Another example would be the replacement of two emergency exit signs and light fixtures in the sacristy area of the Church which were potential fire code violations. Additionally, there was a nonfunctioning light fixture in the nursery that would provide light should an emergency occur that was addressed. Both projects require the work of our electrical contractor, Deprima Electric, at a cost of \$1,100.

While we stay on top of the things that we cannot do the work ourselves, we continue to address the “small” items that if left unattended become key issues. Changing interior and exterior light bulbs, replacing damaged ceiling tiles, and repairing slip strips on our stairwell steps are just a few of the more obvious things we do. Thanks to Bernie Lasoski for fixing the back door to the Rectory; to Tara Mass for her quick response to resolve a plumbing issue in the lower assembly hall kitchen at no cost to the Church, and to Ed Ferrell for changing the light bulbs on the light posts across the front of the Church. Also, thank you to Ed Ferrell for cutting up a large tree limb that fell in the Rectory backyard and cutting back the wires that came down with the limb when it fell.

Finally, the Committee has been discussing the pressing issue of the number of major projects that need resolving. A plan has been established to address these “capital projects.” First, an initial meeting was held on February 24 with Father Civale, Bernie Lasoski, Jim Bathurst and Bill Gross, the general contractor from the Parish Hall renovation project, to review the listed projects and to assist us in getting the necessary cost estimates to do the projects. The next meeting of this group will be in late March. After the estimates are compiled, the Committee will review them and then make recommendations to the Vestry for their input before proceeding to a funding plan. After the final project plan is approved, there will be a booklet explaining the work to be done with photos demonstrating the need and the process to complete this work. If you have any questions about the project, please do not hesitate to contact Jim Bathurst, Bernie Lasoski, Ed Ferrell, or Father Civale.

The Buildings and Grounds Committee: Jim Bathurst, Steve Lewis, Ed Ferrell, Bernie Lasoski, Nathan Wishnick, Tara Mass, and Father Civale.

Submitted by: Jim Bathurst



## Lent at Christ Church

# 2026 Lent at Christ Church

### MASS SCHEDULE

SUNDAY 8:00 AM MASS  
SUNDAY 10:00 AM CHORAL MASS  
WEDNESDAY 10:00 AM MASS WITH HEALING  
THURSDAY 6:30 PM MASS



### MONDAY

8:00 PM BIBLE STUDY VIA ZOOM

### WEDNESDAY

6 PM - 6:45 PM ECUMENICAL LENTEN SERIES SUPPER  
6:45 PM - 7:30 PM LENTEN SERIES DISCUSSION  
MARCH 4, 11 & 18  
PEOPLE OF THE PASSION BY CATHY RANDALL



### FRIDAY

5:30 PM EVENING PRAYER  
WITH STATIONS OF THE CROSS  
FEB. 20, 27 MARCH 6, 13, 20, 27

HOLY HOUR & BENEDICTION  
MARCH 13 & 27 6:30 - 7:30 PM

### ACOLYTE RETREAT

SATURDAY, MARCH 28 9:30 - 11:30 AM

The Sacrament of Penance (Confession) and spiritual counsel are available by appointment. Please don't hesitate to reach out to Fr. Civale. (856) 845-0190



**Come Join Us...**



*Easter Vigil  
Reception*

**FEATURING A CHARCUTERIE  
GRAZING TABLE**

COME CELEBRATE THE JOY OF EASTER WITH  
FELLOWSHIP, FOOD, AND FUN! ALL ARE  
WELCOME!

**APRIL 4**

FOLLOWING THE  
GREAT VIGIL MASS

PARISH HALL





## **Spring Clean Up**

### **Spring Cleanup and Mulch Spreading**

**Saturday, March 21st, 2026**

**8:00 AM**

**Please arrive with any and all tools that you may have, especially rakes, shovels, gloves and wheel barrows.**

**Last time we did Mulch Spreading we had approximately 35 people show up to help and we'd LOVE to duplicate that!**

**With enough help we can be done between 10:00-11:00 AM.**

**All are welcome & strongly encouraged to help!**

**Bring a friend! Bring the family! Bring yourself!**

**This is an all hands on deck event!"**







## Red Cross Blood Drive

Save the date! June 3rd from 2-7 PM

The American Red Cross is always in need of blood, especially as the summer traveling season approaches. Christ Church has for many years hosted these blood drives to help address this need. Your donation could help save the life of an individual right here in our area. If you have never given blood and want to know more about the process please contact Mary Beth Bathurst. If you haven't given blood for many years, please reconsider as the greatest gift anyone can give is to give the gift of life!



The need is constant.  
The gratification is instant.  
Give blood.

 **American  
Red Cross**

**Christ Episcopal Church  
Blood Drive**  
52 Delaware Street,  
Woodbury, NJ 08096  
Parish Hall

**June 3, 2026  
2:00 pm – 7:00 pm**

Contact information: Jim & Mary Beth Bathurst,  
jim5001@verizon.net (609) 472-2812

redcrossblood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS



## Sunday School News



Our Sunday School program is buzzing with energy as we enter a special season of growth and learning. We are thrilled to announce that preparation for First Holy Communion has officially begun, with Darcie Sanchez leading the way as the teacher. Her guidance is helping our young students understand the significance of this milestone as they take these important steps in their faith journey.

The hallways are filled with anticipation as we all look forward to Easter. It is a joyous time of year for our community, and the students are busy learning about the stories and traditions that make this holiday so meaningful. To celebrate the start of Holy Week, we are planning an exciting large group activity for all the children on Palm Sunday, which promises to be a memorable morning of fellowship and fun.

We are also incredibly grateful for the dedicated educators who make our program so vibrant. Cindy Scales and Zach Ares-Deterding are truly amazing Sunday School teachers who bring passion and heart to their classrooms every single week. Their commitment to the children ensures that our school remains a warm, welcoming place to learn and grow together.

Michelle Schiffer





# Sunday School News



## Upcoming Sunday School Dates

April 5	No Sunday School — Easter Day
April 12	Sunday School in Session
April 19	Sunday School in Session
April 26	Sunday School in Session
May 3	Sunday School in Session
May 10	No Sunday School, Mother's Day
May 17	Sunday School in Session
May 24	No Sunday School, Memorial Day
May 31	No Sunday School, First Holy Communion & Reception
June 7	Sunday School Recognition Picnic





# ECW (Episcopal Church Women)

## ECW Winter Tea

ECW ladies and guests enjoyed another successful, warm and welcoming holiday gathering sharing tea, homemade goodies and fun. We were delighted Father Civale was able to join us. After lots of great conversation, we played games ending the tea on the happiest note. Please remember, all are welcome at ECW events.



## ECW Bake Sale

Excitement was in the air with all the delicious goodies being donated for this year's bake sale. The tables looked beautiful and treats yummy. Thank you to all those that participated in yet another successful bake





## ECW (Episcopal Church Women)

### United Thank Offering

The Lenten UTO donations of gratitude will be concluding in the month of May. Booklets, pamphlets, journal pages, and the boxes are still available upstairs in the parish hall on the table near the door. Your offering can be put in the box, or cash and checks also can be given as a donation.

In many Episcopal churches in the nation, if there is an Episcopal Church Women's group, a day in May is recognized for its ministry. Christ Church will be recognizing May 17, 2026 as ECW Sunday. You may recall that we planted a red rose bush and a white rose bush in the Jubilee Garden in previous years. Red and white are the chosen colors for the National ECW.

This year on May 17, we are inviting our parishioners to bring to church their UTO box or donation. These gifts will be carried to the altar during the offertory along with the usual collection plates.

Every coin counts! We are grateful for your generosity and participation in the UTO Lenten offering.





## ECW (Episcopal Church Women)



Come join us for an “enchanted” evening at our annual covered dish dinner. We have chosen a **“Once Upon A Time”** theme revisiting fairy tales and storybook land. Each table will feature a different story. Table captains have selected their stories and you can too by reserving your seat at a favorite table. Sign up sheets are available during coffee hour or you could contact our secretary, Marilyn McGeoch. Once a table is filled, you'll have to choose another so don't wait. It was hard to narrow the possibilities but we decided to have fun with *Cinderella*, *Snow White*, *Goldilocks and the 3 Bears*, *Alice in Wonderland*, *Beauty and the Beast*, and *Hansel and Gretel*.

To avoid a spell being cast on you, Save the Date:

**Annual ECW Covered Dish Dinner**

**Wednesday, May 20, 2026**

**6:00 PM**

**Upper Level Parish House**





## Brotherhood of St. Andrew

### The Brotherhood of Saint Andrew – Christ Church, Woodbury, NJ: Making Things Happen!

By: Steve Shomo

March 13, 2026

First and foremost, I want to extend a heartfelt THANK YOU to all of our parishioners and friends who so graciously donated coats and jackets over the holidays! And guess what? I'm not the only one who wants to thank all of you, but Libby Sellen of Jeanette's Closet, where all of the items were donated, hand wrote a beautiful card to Christ Church, which reads:

*“Dear Friends of Christ Episcopal Church,*

*Thank you for your loving contribution of blessed coats to Jeanette's Closet! We received 13 – 16 bags of coats of all sizes and we gave out 28 coats to shoppers in the 2 hours we were open! We are so blessed to have faithful Christian friends who support our mission!*

*“The weather outside was frightful” on Tuesday so we were pleased to have 38 shoppers visit our closet, a few for the first time.*

*God bless you and God bless Christ Church!*

*Libbey Sellen  
Jeanette's Closet”*

This is exactly the kind of ministry that the Brotherhood of Saint Andrew loves and will continue to support and organize! It's amazing what we, at Christ Church, or anywhere for that matter, can do when we get together and give to others, especially when it is in the name of the Lord!

Speaking of the holidays, we hope that everyone enjoyed the return of the Nativity Scene in the Jubilee Garden this past winter! A very special thank you goes out to Bryan Klugh, for acquiring the figures and Brandon Gorman and his grandfather for building the beautiful creche! We do have to make a few modifications, and due to the extreme weather we encountered these last few months, a few repairs as well, but we truly hope that the presentation brought just a little more cheer to you and the community during the holidays.

Now that we are strongly engaged in 2026, The Brotherhood is happy to announce that the annual Malvern Retreat, in January, was a great time and enjoyed by several members of the Brotherhood.

In February, on Super Bowl Sunday, we held our annual Chili and Pretzel Sale, in conjunction with ECW's always wonderful bake sale. We raised over \$350.00 in donations for the chili and pretzels and you can be certain we'll put it to good use as we continue to engage in projects, missions and other necessary activities throughout the year. A very special thank you to Steve Rash, Matt Baldwin, Bryan Klugh and Sam Buck for lending their chili cooking talents to the cause!



## Brotherhood of St. Andrew—Continued

Also in February, the Brotherhood assisted the Acolyte ministry in purchasing and cooking the sausage and pancakes for the annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. It was a huge success and the entire downstairs dining area was filled with people! A special thanks to Sherm Yeiter for lending his talents to getting the sausage prepared and cooked and Robertta Shomo, Rob Johnson, Steve Lewis and all of the Acolytes and parents (and grandparents) who make that ministry what it is. Everything was delicious!

For the spring, we are planning a “Food Challenge”, for which we hope to announce details in the next couple of weeks. This will be a wonderful way to help the needy during a “down time” in giving, when the holidays have passed and food is still highly needed by so many people!

We are also planning a humble, but beautiful Mother’s Day gift for all of the women in our parish! Yes, even if you aren’t a mother, you most certainly have or had a mother at one time, so you deserve something special too!

And to round out the programmatic year, we are already starting to plan our annual Parish Picnic in June! And last, but DEFINITELY not least, DON’T FORGET: This summer will be our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Wine Tasting event at the home of the ever so gracious Mike and Darcie Sanchez! Details, along with date and time will be announced this spring!

Thank you to everyone who helps and supports The Brotherhood of Saint Andrew – Christ Church, Woodbury, NJ. What we do, we do in the name of God! If you are interested, or know of someone who might be interested in joining The Brotherhood, please don’t hesitate to reach out to chapter director, Steve Shomo at [steve.shomo@yahoo.com](mailto:steve.shomo@yahoo.com) for more information on how to join! We are always looking for new members. It’s a great group of guys, ranging in age from college students, all the way up and into members in their 80s, so please don’t be shy about joining, no matter where you may be in your life. We will welcome you with open arms!





# Stewardship

## Designated Monthly Offerings

Following our stewardship campaigns in the past few years, the requests for boxes of offertory envelopes have decreased. More parishioners are now using the offering envelopes and the QR cards in the pews. Because of the newer methods of giving, many of our parishioners do not have special ministry envelopes. The vestry has decided to continue the designated offerings by assigning them to the months of the year. The designated monthly ministry information will be included in the Friday email and Sunday service sheets. If you have requested the box of offertory envelopes you may continue to use the special offering envelopes during the month to which it has been assigned. The revised schedule is below.

- January Outreach and Missions
- February Music Fund
- March/April Easter envelope mailed or  
Buildings & Grounds Maintenance
- May Diocesan Social Ministries (Global Goals Task Force)
- June Priest's Discretionary Fund
- July Seminarian Fund
- August Altar Guild
- September Sunday School
- October All Soul's
- November Thanksgiving
- December Christmas envelope mailed

Doreen Mills  
Stewardship





# Altar Guild

Altar Guild is getting ready for the most solemn and then the most joyous of events in the Christian calendar.

We honor Palm Sunday with the decorating of the Church using various palms throughout, and then during Holy Week we recognize all the pain and turmoil that Jesus encounters right up until his passing on the cross. And then for the Easter Vigil and Easter Morning there is great beauty and joy for his having risen from the tomb!

Each moment is captured by the Altar Guild in the preparing of the church. We are busy setting up for each step of the journey. Palms are ordered and carefully placed around the church by the AG members, the Altar of Repose will be adorned and ready for the “Watch” on Maundy Thursday, and candles and flowers will bring joy and beauty into the celebration of the Easter Vigil and Easter.

Much of this would not be possible without the Altar Guild working tirelessly throughout the Lenten season. Thank you to all of the dedicated and caring members of Christ Church Altar Guild!

Allene Ferrell

Altar Guild Directress





## Adult Bible Study

Our Adult Bible Study meets on Zoom every Monday at 8 PM. We have excellent discussions reflecting on the meaning of Scripture and hope you will join us! We will be spending the Winter and Spring of 2026 discussing the Gospel of Matthew, our Gospel for this liturgical year. We will be using the *N. T. Wright for Everyone Bible Study Guide*. We would love to have you be a part of our discussions! The Zoom meeting can be accessed at this link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86427635457>





## Acolytes

Our Acolytes are having an amazing year, and we couldn't be prouder of the growth they've shown. The commitment from this group of children and young adults has surpassed our expectations, and for that we thank them from the bottom of our hearts.

Last month we held our annual Shrove Tuesday dinner in partnership with the Brotherhood of St. Andrew and had a wonderful turnout. We received approximately \$500 in donations, which will go toward our spring cleanup this season. Events like this give our acolytes an opportunity to develop leadership skills while serving our community.

We are now well into the Lenten season, and Holy Week is just around the corner. This is a very busy time for the acolytes, as Holy Week includes three services leading up to Easter Sunday. We will hold our Spring Retreat for the acolytes on the morning of March 28. We'll begin with refreshments before heading into the church for training on what to expect during Holy Week, as each service requires something a little (or sometimes a lot) different from our typical Sunday services. Please make every effort to ensure you or your child can attend.

I'd also like to take a moment to thank our three graduating acolytes this year: Christopher Cranston, Miguel Sanchez, and Payton Sims. These young adults have served faithfully since 4th grade, working their way up from Torch to Crucifer and Thurifer. They are incredible servants of God and wonderful role models for our younger acolytes. Thank you, Chris, Miguel, and Payton, for your many years of dedication to the acolyte ministry, and best wishes in all your future endeavors!

On that note, we are always looking for new acolytes! Anyone in 4th grade and older (even young adults) is welcome to join this ministry. Acolytes typically serve about once or twice a month, and it's a great way to serve our Lord while building confidence and relationships with others. Some will tell you it may feel a little intimidating the first couple of times serving at the altar, but our acolytes are incredibly supportive and always ready to lend a helping hand when needed.

Please reach out to me if you, your child, or another relative are interested in serving as an acolyte. We hold several training retreats each year and are happy to provide one-on-one training for newcomers who join between those times.

We are grateful for your prayers and support as our acolytes continue their faithful work.

Robertta Shomo





# Youth Group

## Youth Group Update

The youth group has had a busy winter and an active spring ahead, with opportunities for service, learning, and time together as a community.

Just before Christmas, on December 21, several of our youth delivered poinsettias to homebound parishioners. The visits were simple but meaningful. Sharing a short conversation and a small Christmas gift helped remind all of us that our parish community extends beyond the walls of the church building.

Throughout the winter we have also continued our study of the Gospel of Mark. Like many groups working through Scripture together, the level of discussion has varied week to week, but recently the students have begun engaging more deeply with the text. As we move through Mark's fast-paced account of Jesus' ministry, the youth are beginning to ask thoughtful questions and reflect on how Jesus teaches through both his actions and his words.

The youth group is also organizing a Paint Night fundraiser for the parish on March 21. By the time you read this, the event will have already taken place, but as this newsletter went to print, we were expecting about 27 youth and adults to gather for an evening of painting, snacks, and fellowship under the instruction of local artist Wanda Carr. All proceeds will support youth group activities in the coming year.

We are also planning to once again travel to St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Glassboro to assist with the Kitchen of Hope food pantry – hopefully this April. We first visited in late winter/early spring 2025, and the youth really seemed to enjoy the experience. It gave them a chance to participate in hands-on service and see how neighboring churches support members of the wider community.

Looking ahead to May, the youth will gather for a lock-in at the church on the evening of May 2. Whenever the youth leaders ask the students what activity they most want to do, a lock-in is almost always the first request. We have finally agreed to give it a go, so prayers for the youth leaders are especially appreciated. The evening will include dinner, games, lessons, and prayer before lights out. The next morning the youth will join us for worship and then host coffee hour for the parish—sleepy smiles and plenty of coffee included.

Thank you for continuing to support and pray for the young people of our parish as they learn, serve, and grow together in faith.

In Christ,

Scott & Anna Carr, Brandon Gorman, and Sarah Cranston





## Coffee Hour

### Coffee Hour Hosts are needed....

We are in need of some volunteers to serve as Coffee Hour Hosts on many dates from now until the end of the year. The ministry is truly a labor of love. Thank you to all who have signed up to provide some snacks to those who choose to attend our Adult Forum which is held right after 10 AM Mass. Our turnout has been averaging 25-30 persons. It does not have to be elaborate - donut holes and cheese/crackers would suffice. Just a snack to carry us over to when Sunday School ends (noon) and we can all go home for lunch.

Please see Mary Beth or Jim Bathurst if you have any questions. There is a sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall.





# Greater Woodbury Cooperative Ministries

## Greater Woodbury Cooperative Ministries News

Thank you all for your dedication to this ministry. Bringing one item of food to church is a simple but powerful way to help our community. Between the main pantry and Colonial Manor, GWCM served 1,346 families (5,379 people) in January and February.

If you've ever wondered what happens to your food donations when they leave Christ Church, here are some of the logistics that go into running the GWCM main food pantry. A team of volunteers pick up what's called "food rescue" from WaWa, Heritages, Shop Rite bakery, Verchio's rolls, Costco, and Sprouts. Every person who comes to the pantry is greeted by the Welcome team who greets each person and assesses their needs and gets them registered. There are teams who put the boxes together, those who pack the boxes, those who haul out all the produce and meat, eggs, bread, rolls and desserts to be distributed. More teams distribute the items and volunteers or "cart pushers" who take food to the client's cars. Every person who comes to the pantry is greeted by the Welcome team who greets each person and assesses their needs and gets them registered. There is a recycling team who breaks down the cardboard from the cases of food we purchase, and a team who checks all the expiration dates of the donated food. It takes about 44 volunteers to keep the main food pantry running smoothly!

## Special Collections



### Laundry Detergent

The food pantry is currently collecting laundry detergent for the month of March. (No pods please)

### Undergarments

When money is tight undergarments become a luxury.

GWCM is collecting new bras to hand out to their clients for Mother's Day and new boxers/briefs to hand out for Father's Day. All sizes are welcome.

We will collect bras until April 26<sup>th</sup> and boxers/briefs until May 24<sup>th</sup>. There is a table in the back corner of Fellowship Hall for these special collections.

If you have any questions, please contact Darcie Sanchez at 856-906-8800

Information about online monetary donations and events can be found at [GWCM.org](http://GWCM.org)

# Lenten Retreat

On February 28, 2026 the church hosted a half-day retreat that focused on the three pillars of Lent—prayer, almsgiving, and fasting—and included time in prayer, Scripture through Lectio Divina, personal reflection, and group discussion. We hope that all that attended felt it was a meaningful opportunity to pause and enter more intentionally into the Lenten season. A very special thank you to Sarah Cranston for organizing this event and for all of the work she did to make this retreat a success.





## Book Corner by Sarah Cranston

### Reading Room

The books that called me these past few months took me on paths I didn't really expect to go. Maybe it was the cold weather and missing being outside that made me want to read about the wonder of the world, or maybe it's this weird almost-dystopian moment in history in which we find ourselves that made me want to reach back to a time that seems more grounded in the smell of the land. In any event, over the past few months, I found myself reaching for the earth, the stars, the heart, and yes, even the deep darkness which we sometimes choose over light, truth, and freedom. None of these books are what you'd call Christian, but they are unquestionably human, and because of that they offer us something of God's character. Specifically, his boundless creative nature and his apparent total and complete love of that which he creates, whether it's the sweet smell of grass in the sun, the unknown mysteries of quantum physics, the complexity of relationships, or the multitudes within the human imagination—I found him in these books.

So, here they are, in the same order in which they appeared in my life.

### Braiding Sweetgrass — Robin Wall Kimmerer

Robin Wall Kimmerer is both a botanist and Potawatomi, who in her book *Braiding Sweetgrass* introduces us not just to plants, but to their stories. The word “plant” seems too small for what she describes, as they and the humans who have interacted with them through the millennia have shaped each other's stories. It seems too obvious to say that our actions influence the lives of plants and animals—it's clear that we do, and the way we use these resources can have a detrimental effect. But what was surprising is that our actions—our correct need and use of these resources—can actually encourage their flourishing.

Relying on ancient myths, Kimmerer wants us to move past seeing the earth's abundance as simply a store of resources to be used; she wants us to recognize those resources as gifts that we receive with thanksgiving that manifest in our lives as a giving back. A recurring theme throughout the book is reciprocity—a give and take that seeks balance, requires humility, gives honor, and acknowledges the magnificence of the world. I can't think of a better definition of stewardship.

### The Grand Design — Stephen Hawking and Leonard Mlodinow

I'm not gonna lie—I probably understood only half of this book, and this was after more than a couple of YouTube videos about quantum mechanics—but Stephen Hawking's *The Grand Design* filled with absolute and total joy. For real. You might ask what a book by a well-known atheist is doing on this list. Maybe I missed the part where he explained away God—no doubt he claims to—but all Mr. Hawking managed to convince me of is that our little piece of real estate in this great big universe is just the beginning of our understanding of how God is. And that is really fun and totally wondrous.

Hawking and his co-author Leonard Mlodinow introduce readers to modern cosmology and the theories physicists use to describe the origins and structure of the universe. While the book approaches these questions from a scientific perspective, the scale and complexity of the cosmos it describes are just jaw-dropping—and how anyone can argue it comes from nothing is beyond me.

King David said it first: “*The heavens are telling the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.*” Psalm 19:1.



## Book Corner by Sarah Cranston—Continued

### **1984 — George Orwell**

George Orwell's *1984* left me feeling very sad. Spoiler alert—there's no happy ending here. The story takes place in a world where the government controls information, language, and even personal thought. The main character, Winston Smith, quietly rebels against this control—but his rebellion isn't political. It's about holding onto love, connection, and trust in a society determined to destroy them.

The government doesn't just demand obedience—it aims to break the human bonds that make us who we are. Winston's attempts at intimacy and friendship are crushed, and by the end, he is left fully under the state's control.

The reading is grim, but it reminds us why relationships matter so profoundly. They are at the core of who we are, and without them, freedom itself becomes impossible.

### **Atlas of the Heart — Brené Brown**

After Orwell, I was in need of a little love and hope. Enter Brené Brown with *Atlas of the Heart*. I “read” most of my books by listening to them, and Brené reads her own books—she is the best, by far. It's literally like she's sitting in the passenger seat with me on my way to work. She even re-reads paragraphs that are dense to help listeners grasp what she is saying.

For those of you who aren't familiar with Brené, she is a researcher and storyteller who has spent many years studying what it means to be human—things like vulnerability, courage, shame, and connection. *Atlas of the Heart* takes that research and maps out the language of our emotions so we can better understand ourselves and one another.

The heart of the book isn't just naming feelings; it's about cultivating meaningful connection. Brown argues we can only really connect with others to the extent that we know ourselves and can communicate what we are experiencing. True connection, she says, involves the courage to walk alongside others, the confidence grounded in self-awareness, and the skill of story stewardship—listening to others' stories without judgment and holding them with care.

In a world that is fractured and hurried, her work reminds us that connection is not accidental. It comes from understanding ourselves, naming our emotions, and offering others the space to be seen, heard, and valued.

### **Lenten Retreat - Walking Among the Pillars of Faith**

Absolutely — “prescient” works perfectly there. I wove that insight into the paragraph about the Beatitudes, keeping your teaching and reflective style intact:

### **Lenten Retreat: Walking the Pillars of Faith**

On February 28, ten of us gathered for a Lenten retreat, beginning our day in the Book of Common Prayer with Morning Prayer and then moving to reflection on John 15:1–17, using the practice of Lectio Divina.. We took the opportunity to slow down and listen to God, letting the words of Scripture speak to our hearts. The focus was on abiding in Christ, noticing what resonated in each of us, and approaching Lent with prayerful, intentional hearts. That image of the vine — of pruning, connection, and bearing fruit — stayed with us.

From there, we turned to the three pillars of Lent: prayer, almsgiving, and fasting. These practices are not simply tasks to complete; they are formative disciplines, meant to integrate the truth of who God is, who Jesus is, and what he came to do, into our daily lives. The Beatitudes are especially prescient: they show us that we are blessed when we are poor in spirit, when we hunger, when we thirst, and when we turn to God in our need. Fasting, almsgiving, and prayer are practices that cultivate these dispositions — helping us recognize our



## Book Corner by Sarah Cranston—Continued

Fasting confronts our hunger. It reminds us that we are creatures — dependent, limited, and not self-sufficient. That humility becomes the soil from which mercy and prayer grow. Almsgiving follows naturally: when we are aware of our own need and vulnerability, our hearts open to the needs of others. What we consume less of can become provision for someone else; mercy is the outward expression of humbled appetite.

Prayer anchors everything. It directs both our hunger and our compassion toward the Father who sees in secret. Without prayer, fasting becomes dieting, and almsgiving becomes philanthropy. Prayer keeps our practice rooted in relationship rather than performance.

Throughout the retreat, we reflected on our intentions for Lent, considering not only what we might do, but who we are becoming. The goal was clarity — clarity about how God may be inviting each of us to embody his kingdom in our own lives this season. Lent is ultimately about relationship: with God, with ourselves, and with others. Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving are tools that train us into those dispositions, helping us recognize and receive the kingdom of God when it draws near.

Above all, I am profoundly grateful to God for how I was changed through leading and participating in this retreat. I am also deeply thankful for the people who came, who opened themselves to scripture, to the practices, and to one another. Their willingness to engage, to be present, and to share in the process created a space where we could each dig a little deeper into ourselves, connect more fully with one another, and draw nearer to God. Engaging in retreats and practices like this doesn't just nourish our own spiritual lives; it gives us energy and clarity for the mission of Christ Church, helping us participate more fully in the growth of God's church and the advance of his kingdom. Experiencing Lent together in this way was both restful and deeply life-giving, and I feel blessed by the gift of this shared journey.





# Christmas Attic

## The Christmas Attic

Thank you to all parishioners and their relatives, friends, and neighbors who have generously supported our collection of Christmas items for our Christmas Attic Fundraiser to be held on Saturday, November 14, 2026. The boxed, bagged, and other assorted items are being stored in a lower-level classroom, with just a small path in the middle.

We have now completed Step 1! Step 2 will begin after Sunday School is no longer in session. Step 2 will be sorting the items to prepare for the Christmas Attic display tables. Sorting sessions will be held on Wednesday mornings following the healing mass. Coffee, tea, and morning snack will be available to the volunteers. Sorting sessions will also be scheduled at other times.

There will be an opportunity for everyone to participate. We can all begin to save everyday items such as shopping bags of all sizes, newspaper, and shrink wrap to be used at the check out tables. A detailed sign-up sheet with tasks “great and small” will also be available as we move closer to the event.

We are off to a good start! Thank you for your support and enthusiasm!

Doreen Mills, Coordinator



# Winter Photos



# Christmas Hanging of the Greens



# Celebration of the Child Bishop Evan Shomo



# Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

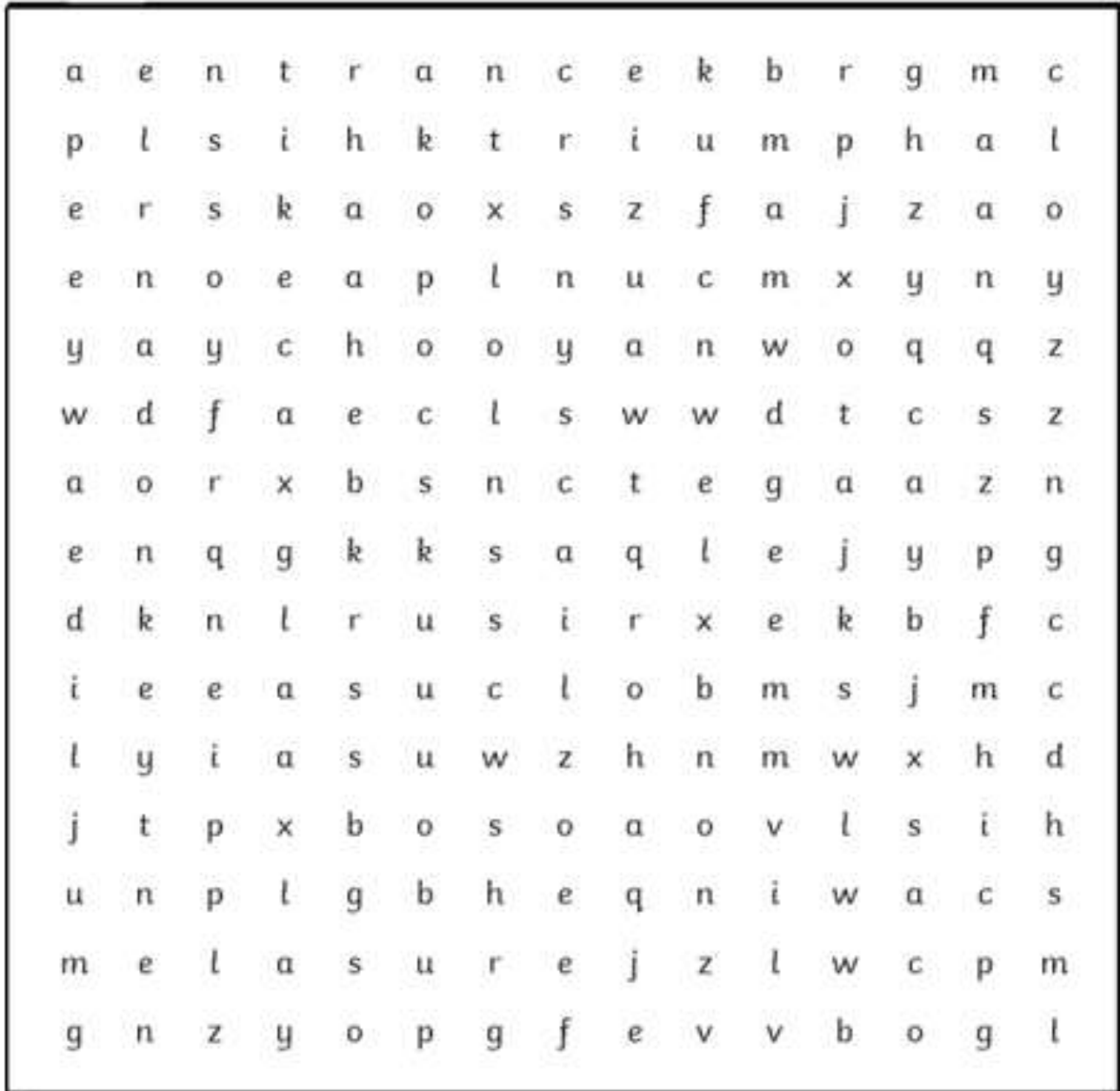


# Coloring Book Page



# Word Find

## Palm Sunday



Jesus

entrance

apostles

Hosanna

Holy Week

Sunday

donkey

palm branches

procession

Jerusalem

cloaks

triumphal

# April 2026 Those Who Serve

THOSE WHO SERVE April 2026	Maundy Thursday April 2 6:30 pm	Good Friday April 3 6:30 pm	Holy Saturday-Great Vigil April 4 6:30 pm	Easter Sunday April 5	Sunday April 12	Sunday April 19	Sunday April 26
Master of Ceremonies	Rob Johnson	Ed Ferrell	Scott Carr	Steve Lewis	Scott Carr	Jim Bathurst	Steve Lewis
Chalice/Acolyte 8:00am	N/A	N/A	N/A	Rob Johnson	Ed Ferrell	Bernie Lasoski	Rob Johnson
Reader 8:00am	N/A	N/A	N/A	Doreen Mills	Bernie Lasoski	Jack Ennis	Frank Gwalbuhry
Ushers 8:00am	Chris Piskun Nathan Wishnick	Mike Sanchez Mark Novalsky	Steve Shomo Charles Lewis	Mark Hendricks Brian Erasmus	Mark Hendricks	Mark Hendricks Steve Shomo	Mark Hendricks Mike Wiersky
Chalice 10:00am	Doreen Mills Rob Johnson	Ed Ferrell Jim Bathurst	Scott Carr Sarah Cranston	Doreen Mills Steve Lewis	Sarah Cranston Scott Carr	Ed Ferrell Jim Bathurst	Doreen Mills Steve Lewis
Acolytes 10:00am	Crucifier: Kaiflyn Johnson 1st Server: Riley Shomo 2nd Server: Rebecca Piskun Torches: Evan Shomo & Thomas Piskun Thurifier: Scott Cranston	1st Server: Joey Lyden 2nd Server: CeCe Lyden	Crucifier: Miguel Sanchez 1st Server: Maya Sanchez 2nd Server: Daphne Rhodes Torches: Annabella Scales & Joey Scales Thurifier: Peyton Sims	Crucifier: Brandon Gorman 1st Server: Scott Cranston 2nd Server: CeCe Lyden Torches: Rebecca Piskun & Petra Ares Thurifier: Chris Cranston	Crucifier: Joey Lyden 1st Server: Daphne Rhodes 2nd Server: Riley Shomo Torches: Evan Shomo & Thomas Piskun Thurifier: Scott Carr	Crucifier: Miguel Sanchez 1st Server: Maya Sanchez 2nd Server: CeCe Lyden Torches: Annabella Scales & Petra Ares Thurifier: Scott Cranston	Crucifier: Brandon Gorman 1st Server: Riley Shomo 2nd Server: Evan Shomo Torches: Rebecca Piskun & Thomas Piskun Thurifier: Chris Cranston
Acolyte Master	Robertta Shomo	Robertta Shomo	Robertta Shomo	Robertta Shomo	Robertta Shomo	Robertta Shomo	Robertta Shomo
Reader 10:00am	Emily Piskun	Mary Beth Bathurst	Charles Lewis	Jim Bathurst	Sarah Cranston	John Lyden	Robin Atkins
Intercessor 10:00am	Doreen Mills	Jim Bathurst	Darcie Sanchez	Mary Beth Bathurst	Cheryl Rheiner	Aimee Lyden	Doreen Mills
Ushers 10:00am	N/A	N/A	N/A	Steve Rash Dennis Sims	Mark Novalsky Chris Piskun	Mike Sanchez Nathan Wishnick	Steve Shomo Charles Lewis
Childcare	N/A	N/A	N/A	Jennifer Altbright	Jennifer Altbright	Jennifer Altbright	Jennifer Altbright
Notewriter	N/A	N/A	N/A	Marilyn McGeoch	Cheryl Rheiner	Gwen Simpson	Marilyn McGeoch
Vestry Counters	N/A	N/A	N/A	Team 4 Nathan Wishnick Doreen Mills Charles Lewis	Team 1 Jim Bathurst Mark Novalsky	Team 2 Tori Wishnick Maureen Carrigan	Team 3 Steve Lewis Robertta Shomo Brandon Gorman
Vestry Lock Up	N/A	N/A	N/A	Doreen Mills	Mark Novalsky Chris Piskun	Tori Wishnick	Robertta Shomo
Food Bank Delivery	N/A	N/A	N/A	Sue Velasquez	Doug & Carol Hill	Jim & Mary Beth Bathurst	Charles Lewis
Coffee Hour Host	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Jean Lucas & Jennifer Lewis	Jim & Mary Beth Bathurst	Leslie Teris & Marilyn McGeoch

## Mass Remembrances

**It's not too late to honor a loved one during this season of Lent.**

**Please reach out to the Parish Office and we would be more than happy to assist you.**



## Christ Church

62 Delaware Street,  
Woodbury, NJ 08096  
(856) 845-0190

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

*A Parish of the Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey  
and the worldwide Anglican Communion*

### Service Schedule

Sunday: 8:00 AM & 10:00 AM  
Wednesday: 10:00 AM Healing Mass  
Thursday: 6:30 PM Mass  
Friday: 5:30 PM Evening Prayer  
Sacrament of Penance (Confession)  
by appointment

### *Rector*

The Rev. Lawrence Civale

## Our Vestry

Wardens: Tori Wishnick & Steve Lewis

Treasurer: Mark Novalsky

Clerk: Nathan Wishnick

### Class of 2027

Jim Bathurst  
Charles Lewis

### Class of 2028

Brandon Gorman  
Robertta Shomo  
Nathan Wishnick

### Class of 2029

Maureen Carrigan  
Doreen Mills

