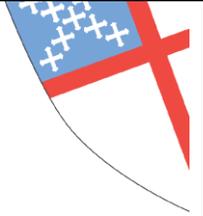




# The Comforter



The Newsletter of the Church of the Holy Comforter, Drexel Hill  
A congregation of the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania

March 2018

## Contributors to this issue of *The Comforter*

Thomas Eoyang, Jr.  
Barbara Irving  
Carole Moran Kunigonis  
Chris Stanley

## Calendar in Brief

☞  
**Sunday 4 March, 11:30a**  
Women of Holy Comforter,  
Piano Room

☞  
**Wednesdays**  
**7, 14, and 21 March 6:30p**  
Soup, Salad, and  
*The Agile Church*

☞  
**Sunday 18 March 8:30-9:45a**  
Pancake Breakfast,  
Upper Parish Hall

☞  
**Sunday 18 March to  
Sunday 22 April**  
Order forms available for  
Spring Wedgewood Gardens  
Plant Sale.  
Plant delivery: 5 May

☞  
**Tuesday 20 March, 7:15p**  
Vestry Meeting, Piano Room

☞  
**Week of 25 March**  
Holy Week Service schedule  
See page 4

## Is Holy Comforter a Missional Church?

I called the congregation of Holy Comforter to read a book together: Dwight Zscheile's *The Agile Church: Spirit-Led Innovation in an Uncertain Age*. When I introduced it, I mentioned that it fell into this quite large body of literature about church life that hammers away at the word "missional," a word that I have found difficult to explain simply and clearly.

Take a look at the following table:

### From Missionary to Missional

Spirituality focuses on my intimacy with God.	➔	Spirituality is our attentiveness to and participation in God's initiatives.
The church sends missionaries elsewhere—into other places	➔	Churches are sent by God to exhibit and proclaim the gospel in places where they live.
Church leaders create plans for outreach and recruit volunteers to help.	➔	Church leaders create an environment in which the people discern and participate in God's initiatives

Adapted from Mark Lau Branson and Juan F. Martinez, *Churches, Cultures & Leadership: A Practical Theology of Congregations and Ethnicities*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2011, p. 76.

Do any of the dichotomies described here resonate with you? Do you see yourself and your understanding of church somewhere along the spectrum between the left side and the right side of the table? Where do you think you stand on that spectrum? Where do you think Holy Comforter as a congregation stands? I've developed some early impressions about what I see at Holy Comforter in relation to these questions, and you might be pleasantly surprised to know what they are.

Please think about these questions in relation to your life and ministry at Holy Comforter. That is all I'll ask you to do for now. We will no doubt have many lively discussions on the topic. For me, seeing a church as a missional church is how I understand the most useful way to address the question, "What is God calling us to do, and to be?" And, I'm more convinced than ever that it is what God throughout the Scriptures, and through Jesus Christ the incarnate word, has always called the church to be.

**Thomas Eoyang**

## Feeding God's Hungry People

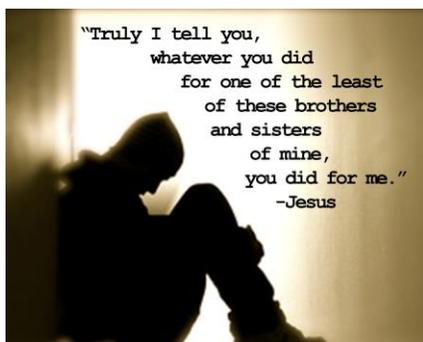
Liz Teres, our dedicated volunteer who chairs the Fellowship coffee hour after church on Sundays always has coffee, tea, and pastries for the parish to enjoy while socializing. She accepts donations from Panera Bread Co. on Saturday evenings of pastry, cookies and sometimes large cartons of day old bread and bagels. Panera wanted the donations to go to a shelter or other organization that helps the needy.

Bill and Carole Kunigonis delivered the 2 cartons to The Sojourner's Place in Wilmington Delaware. It is a shelter for homeless and indigent men and women (about 30-35 in number; for more information, see <http://sojournersplace.org/index.html>). Two men ran to the car to help unload as if it were the only food they had to eat -maybe it is. They are so grateful and said they accept any donations. We also brought a bag of non- perishables. Robyn, the lady in charge allowed her photo to be taken with the Sojourner's plaque inside the entrance area.



In Matthew we are told "When I was hungry you fed me, when I was thirsty you gave me drink, when I was naked you clothed me, when I was in prison you visited me. Whatever you do for the least of these my brethren, you do it for me"

**Carole Moran Kunigonis**

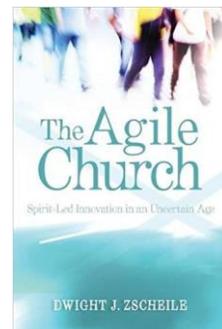


## Reflections on The Agile Church, Chapter 3

*"When God Gives Improbable People Impossible Tasks"*

I can really relate to this chapter, as, in retrospect, I once felt like an improbable person who had been given an impossible task.

I was Diocesan Refugee Coordinator for 13 years, 1987-2000. It was a U.S. government program, where Welfare supported incoming refugees financially for eight months while volunteer sponsors found housing, English lessons, and jobs for them. Knowing that I worked with foreign people, the Diocese had a tendency of contacting me whenever an issue came up involving a foreign person.



Once, a visiting Nigerian medical doctor, who was a member of the Anglican Church in Nigeria, but was visiting the U.S. to take some additional medical courses, contacted Bishop Bartlett. He told the Bishop that his family in Nigeria needed rescue. His wife, a rather outspoken person, had been imprisoned for speaking against the Muslim government. However, one of the prison guards was sympathetic to her ideas, and helped her to escape. It was then necessary for her family of 10 people to go into hiding. They spent several months living in friends' basements, changing homes frequently. That was when the father, the medical doctor, decided he needed to seek help, and came up with the idea of taking courses in the United States. Once here, he located and contacted our Bishop.

Not surprisingly, the Bishop called me. I told him that I worked with government-funded refugees, in an established program, but that Christians in Nigeria had not been given refugee status by our government. There would be no money for their transportation or resettlement. At the end of our conversation, I had somehow agreed to do the work, if the Diocese would pay for it. Talk about feeling like an improbable person who had just agreed to undertake an impossible task. The Bishop and I set up a Diocesan-wide program to raise money for the family.

Then God did an amazing thing. A retired man and his wife in Lansdowne had made plans to move south to be

*continued on page 3*

### **The Agile Church, Chapter 3 – continued**

with their younger family members, and they decided to DONATE THEIR HOUSE TO THE REFUGEE PROGRAM! It was one of those big older homes, typical of Lansdowne, with four bedrooms, just ample enough for a family of 10.

God did another important thing, helping us to secure asylum status for the father, which allowed him to bring his family here with a path toward green cards and citizenship. I remember driving all 10 of them to the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), our immigration office in Philadelphia, in my tiny Mitsubishi Mirage. Several children were squeezed into the hatch back. You can imagine what a picture it was to see all eleven of us emerge from that little car.

It was not always easy. A neighbor on their street, a member of Lansdowne Episcopal Church, accused me of trying to desegregate his then all-white street, by bringing in a black family. The Rector of that church set up a meeting between that neighbor and me for a face to face discussion. Although it was a tense situation, I was at least able to explain the background of the situation to the neighbor. Both good and bad things continued to happen on their street. Nearby neighbors were largely very friendly and supportive, but, on the down side, someone decided to fill the pipe leading up from their septic tank with debris.

In spite of everything, the family has done well. All the children finished college, including Haverford and Swarthmore Colleges. The oldest son had an unfortunate problem, the one tragic thing in their life here. The family recently moved to Ardmore.

I thank God for the opportunity to be part of the lives of this family and for helping “improbable” me through the “impossible task” of their rescue and resettlement in this country.

**Barbara Irving**



### **COME ONE, COME ALL FOR A DELICIOUS BREAKFAST AND GREAT FELLOWSHIP**

WHEN: Sunday March 18, 8:30-9:45AM

Once again we will enjoy a “Home Cooked Breakfast” by our Holy Comforter Chefs. Please bring your appetites and parishioners who have found it difficult to come out during the winter or bring friends, old and new.

In addition to the cooks, helpers are needed to shop, set up on Saturday morning, serve, and clean up (always important).

The breakfast is free. Voluntary contributions are welcome to help cover the cost of the food.

Please call me with what you want to do to contribute to this wonderful breakfast.

**Chris Stanley**  
610-259-8613

### **A Revamped Comforter Newsletter**

With this issue, *The Comforter* has a new look and is presented in the hope that it will reflect a renewed spirit of faith and joy in, for, and by the people of Church of the Holy Comforter. Thanks go to the contributors who so quickly responded with such interesting reflections and necessary reminders. If I’ve left anything out that was submitted, I apologize, and will be working with Carol to develop a submission tracking system. Some incomplete “features” are intended to be regular information postings, such as the latest budget update and information on ongoing property issues. I will be working with Gerry Doyle, Mimi Lyon, and Dan Knowles to develop a regular communication loop so that this information can be provided. The “Birthdays of the Month” will depend on whether the members of the parish wish to share that information with each other and on our revamped membership database. Finally, this is *your* newsletter, to communicate not just news and upcoming events, but the stories of your faith and your journey with God. It is meant not just as a vehicle of communication but also as a means of mutual learning and support. Let me know what you think! -TE



## Prayer Corner

### Church of the Holy Comforter Holy Week 2018 Service Schedule

25 Mar 2018 – *Palm Sunday*  
Holy Eucharist at 8:00AM and 10:00AM

28 Mar 2018 – *Holy Wednesday*  
10:00AM Healing Service/Eucharist

29 Mar 2018 – *Maundy Thursday*  
7:30PM Holy Eucharist with footwashing

30 Mar 2018 – *Good Friday*  
12:00PM Good Friday liturgy  
7:30PM Simple Evensong

31 Mar 2018 – *Holy Saturday*  
7:30PM Great Vigil of Easter

1 Apr 2018 – *Easter Sunday*  
Holy Eucharist at 8:00AM and 10:00AM

## A Holy Comforter Memorial to a Friend of Holy Comforter

Whenever I was at Holy Comforter doing yard work, or other outside chores, Paul, who lived in the neighborhood, only a few doors down from the church, would stop by to chat. We would talk about our families, about what I was doing that day, and always about Holy Comforter. He didn't go to Sunday Services, but occasionally would go to the Wednesday Healing Service. As I found out, he would sit on the bench on the corner and talk with anyone who stopped by. I looked forward to our conversations each time I would be at the church, and he became a friend. Last Fall, Gerry Doyle told me he had died, and the family wanted to repair the bench in his memory. The church ordered the new materials, and installed it in the late Fall, with the plaque. I still feel his presence when I pass the bench.



Anyone who has not seen the bench with the plaque, try sitting on it for a while, and you will feel the gift that Paul gave me, happiness, friendship. We are very much a part of this neighborhood.

**Chris Stanley**



## March Birthdays

5 Emma Woodhouse      19 Septimus Harding

*Please call the office, (610) 789-6754, if your birthday has not been included in the monthly listing*

A list of the work done on our church campus, with the expense incurred, during February 2018



### It's Always Something

WORK COMPLETED	ONGOING WORK
• [bulleted list] - \$300.00	[none reported]

Our monthly service contracts and utility bills for [month] (in some cases for two months) were:

Oil	\$ 10,403.42
Electric	\$ 128.94
Gas	\$ 0.00
Water/Sewer	\$ 696.55
Commercial Trash Pickup	\$ 177.13
Groundskeeping (includg snow)	
Pest Control	\$ 91.00
Copier	\$ 321.29
Phone & Wifi	\$ 368.09
Postage	\$ 0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	

Gerry Doyle, Carol Estornell, Dan Knowles, Mimi Lyon

	<b>Budget to Date</b>				Target for month of February 2018: 17%		
	Sunday Offerings	% of Budget	Total Revenue	% of Budget	Total Expenses	% of Budget	Net Revenue Less Expense – Surplus(Deficit)
	\$121,051	72%	\$200,005	79%	\$248,365	74%	(\$48,360)

# Church of the Holy Comforter

1000 Burmont Road  
Drexel Hill, PA 19026



*The Church of the Holy Comforter is a house of worship in The Episcopal Church, gathering in the love of Jesus Christ. As members of the Body of Christ, we at Church of the Holy Comforter are empowered by the Holy Spirit to carry out Our Lord's call to love God, love our neighbors, and share the Gospel through worship, prayer, mission, and the building of deep and lasting relationships in our community and the world.*

**SUNDAY SERVICES** 8:00AM Holy Eucharist  
10:00 AM Holy Eucharist  
**HOW TO REACH US** Parish Office hours: Tuesday through Thursday 9:30AM – 2:30PM  
Office phone: (610) 789-6754  
Website: www.comforterchurch.org  
E-mail: holycomforterdrexelhill@gmail.com

E-mail us – We'd love to hear from you!



**Priest in Charge**

The Rev. Dr. Thomas Eoyang, Jr.  
rector.holycomforterdrexelhill@gmail.com

**Rector's Warden**

William Schilling

**Secretary**

Steve Perrone

**Accounting Warden**

Dan Knowles

**Treasurer**

Jack Davis

**Parish Administrator**

Carol Estornell  
holycomforterdrexelhill@gmail.com

**Vestry Members**

Gerald Doyle, Sue Gelsomini, Dan Knowles,  
Wayne Lyon, Anita Impellizeri O'Brien, Steve Perrone,  
Barbara Powell, William Schilling, Sharon Yost



## Many Gifts, One Spirit 2018



Pledges are still coming in, so if you haven't pledged, it isn't too late.

We need everyone's support to carry out our mission!

*Thank you for your support!*



**To Church of the Holy Comforter, 1000 Burmont Road, Drexel Hill, PA 19026**

As a steward of God's gifts and in gratitude for all God's blessings and for the work of my Parish, Diocese, and National Church, in the year 2018 I intend to give Church of the Holy Comforter the amount listed below.

(Please fill in only one amount) \$\_\_\_\_\_ per week; \$\_\_\_\_\_ per month; \$\_\_\_\_\_ per year.

Date payments will start:\_\_\_\_\_

Signature:\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_

Name (please print):\_\_\_\_\_

Address:\_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip\_\_\_\_\_