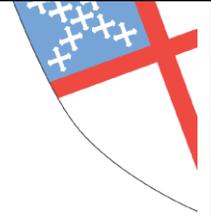




The Comforter



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

Summer 2018

Contributors to this issue of *The Comforter*

Fr. David Beresford
Thomas Eoyang
Carol Estornell
Barbara Irving
Carole Kunigonis
Barbara Swartz
Barbara Wilson

Calendar in Brief

Tue 19 June, 7:15PM

Vestry Meeting
(no Vestry Meeting in July or August)

Thu 19 July, 9:00AM--5:00PM

Mental Health First Aide Training, sponsored by Diocese

Mon 20 August

Submission deadline for September *Comforter*

Sat 15 September, 10:00AM – 3:00PM

Quiet Day, led by Fr. David Beresford

September, [date & time TBD]

RALLY DAY

The Summer Lull

I've been told not to look for some of you on summer Sundays because you'll be at the Jersey shore. It won't be as much fun with fewer people in the pews, but who am I to argue with long-standing Delaware Valley traditions? May the season provide rest and refreshment for all of us.

Several Holy Comforter activity areas naturally go into summer hiatus as well—the Choir, the Wednesday healing service (which continues through the Wednesdays in June) and the ministries and gatherings that the Women's Group oversees. The newsletter will also pause until the September issue (submission deadline: **Monday 20 August**). Having been with you exactly six months, I thought this would be an apt moment to share some of the impressions that have fostered my growing fondness for this congregation.

First and foremost, what I see is a competent, easy-going congregation, many of whose members are of long standing, who are truly fond of each other and genuinely care about each other. This is huge—especially if you are able to extend that fondness and caring to any newcomers who come through your doors—not just for Sunday worship, but for the many well-planned and well-executed events that are part of your yearly calendar. I haven't yet seen many examples of that aspect of your corporate personality at work, only because I haven't noticed very many newcomers.

Second, the ministries to the local community, largely run by the Women's Group, have impressed me with their consistency and their well-ordered execution. You know what you're about, you know why you've chosen the ministries you have, and you know how to mobilize one another to get done what you need to get done. With natural ease you make the connections between what you say, hear, pray, and do in worship on Sunday, and what you are called to do out in the world to bring about at least a glimpse of God's kingdom—"on earth as it is in heaven."

In the liturgical sphere, I believe there have been some misconceptions by those who only know you from the outside. Early on in my time with you, someone mentioned to me that you all might be seen as a Rite I church with all the assumptions one makes about what that means, but this person didn't think that perception was necessarily true. That has been how I've come to read you as well, and so I am feeling more confident about introducing other liturgical language approved by the Episcopal Church—not only from

Rite II, but from the supplement called *Enriching Our Worship*, a set of texts that have been available for use since 1998. What I plan as a gentle yearly rhythm of variation is not meant to make things unpredictable or inconsistent, but to expand our understanding of the mystery that we enact in the Eucharist, with different words highlighting different aspects of God's story, in which each of us in worship hears a resonance with our own story, our own journeys of faith.

These are just the thoughts I have room for in this issue of *The Comforter*, but they and many other thoughts I haven't set down point to a story of hope. Hope that with self-knowledge, commitment, and a joyful confidence in God's love, you—we together—can translate your basic spiritual well-being into a more assured state of material well-being for your life as a church. Let it be so.

Thomas Eoyang

Holy Comforter's Annual Tea

The parish hall was transformed into a lovely blue and white setting for the tea. Barbara Wilson our creative president, decorated with unusual teapots, flowers and an assortment of blue (her favorite color) family table linens. A few ladies wore hats for the occasion. The new white tablecloths looked great with fresh flowers on each table. Janet McKinley and Erin Sprague entertained the young girls



making crafts for Mother's Day gifts. Our pastor Thomas, gave a very insightful talk on "The Imperative for Diversity". He quoted Scripture with the passage from Leviticus. "When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you. You shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of



Egypt: I am the Lord your God." During the tea we elected officers to the Women's board for 2 years. We are so blessed to be able to continue this lovely and enjoyable tradition at Holy Comforter.

Carole Moran Kunigonis
Photographs by Barbara Swartz



Holy Comforter's Annual Tea, continued



Prayer Corner

◆ REMEMBER IN PRAYER ◆

For additions to our Prayer List, please see the Prayer List sign-up on the table in the Narthex (front door foyer) or email Carol at holycomforterdrexelhill@gmail.com

Jeanne Arriviello	Barbara Elefante	Charlie Morris
Barbie	Tom Entenmann	Kevin Murtaugh Sr.
Nancy Bigley	Carol Estornell	Viola Mxaku
Joe Blasioli	Christine Estornell	The Parker Family
Brian	Gen and Erica	Marie Pender
Carole Brown	David Glavis	Claire & Richard Piason
Henrietta Buck	Susan Hill	Helga Ponce de Leon
Don Cathcart	Grant Holland	Claudia Sarber
Chris	Howard Hunter	Sophia
Chrissy	Concetta Impellizeri	Judith Spross
Linda Clemons	Frank Iocana	Steve Strickland
Janet Clotek	Patricia Jones	Janet Szurek
Fred Davidson	Catherine Korwacki	Jerry Teres
Jack Davis	Fr Mark Kunigonis	Carol Thornhill
Denise	Matt LaRosa	Carol Wagner
Robert DeProfetis	Conrad & Lucille Martina	Harriet Wagner
James DeProfetis	Tom McKenna	Carol Xenakes
Donna Durbin	Maureen	Olivia Zappala

Updated for 06.10.18

IN MEMORIAM: Margaretta Turkington, Brian Gelsomini

Free Mental Health First Aide Training

July 19, 2018 9:00am – 5:00pm at St George St Barnabas (free parking)

Sponsored by the Department of Behavioral Health and hosted by the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania, the training is for those 18 and older. Topics covered include anxiety, depression, psychosis, and addictions. Food will be provided, as it is an all-day training. Certificates will be awarded at the end.

We are encouraging building relationships with people we serve and/or come through our doors; we also have an obligation to help break the stigma of mental illness. This is a topic that affects all communities.

Register at (also found on the diocese website):

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mental-health-first-aid-training-tickets-46361247740>

Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania



**Women of the Church of the Holy Comforter
Spring Fundraiser
Wedgewood Gardens Plant Sale**

Thank you to everyone who supported the Women of Holy Comforter Annual Spring Plant Sale. Our net proceeds of \$900+ will help fund our program expenses and local mission donations (Unity Center-Chester, Christ Lutheran Church-After School Program, Upper Darby Community Outreach Corporation and St. Agnes Catholic Church-Soup Kitchen).

A special thank you to those who joined me on May 12 for the plant delivery/sorting and planting to make our Church grounds look beautiful; Patty, Chris and Noah Baldwin, Joanne Christopher, Sue Gelsomini and Sharon Yost.

There is growing interest in having a "Home Garden Tour" this summer. Based on the level of interest, we will pick a date, enjoy the fruits of our labor and share lemonade and cookies in a few gardens. If you would like to share your garden with others, please contact Barbara Wilson.

Barbara Wilson



**Mother's Day Dinner
Monday, May 21
Mothers' Home**

Thank you to everyone who attended and/or contributed to the May 21 dinner at the Mothers' Home in Darby; Patty

Baldwin, Marion Boas, Rick Cassel, Joanne Christopher, Mary Sue Hidalgo, Barbara Irving, Carole Kunigonis, Barbara Powell, Janet Risica, Chris Stanley, Barbie Swartz and Barbara Wilson.

Barbara Wilson

Sunday Scripture Preview

Through July and August 2018, our epistle readings will come from Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians for the first half, and from the Letter to the Ephesians for the second half. As we grapple with these readings during Sunday worship, it might be useful to have a little background and context.

The second letter to the Corinthians is thought by scholars to be an edited patchwork of several letters because it seems to jump around abruptly from topic to topic. Though scholars differ as to how many fragments make up the letter we have, the commentary that I am following argues for basically two: chapters 1-9 and chapters 10-13, each

Continued on page 5

Angels: Messengers of Grace

Visit any church and the chances are that inside you will see angels, usually adorning the stained glass windows. Angels appear throughout the Bible, with evangelists and apostles making frequent reference to them. And today, talk of angels still finds its way into our conversation. Yet who are these mysterious messengers and ministers of God's grace? What role do they play in God's creation? Are they still relevant in our largely unspiritual world?

These questions and more will be addressed during a day retreat on Saturday, September 15, at Holy Comforter Church, Drexel Hill. Father David Beresford will lead a Quiet Day exploring the presence and purpose of angels, and how angels have touched the lives of ordinary people.

The day begins at 10am. We will assemble in the Piano Room for coffee and the first address will begin shortly after. Lunch will be at 12 noon. Attendees are asked to

bring their own lunch. The second address will be at 12:45. The day concludes with Holy Eucharist at 2.30pm. Attendees will be free to pray in the church or roam the grounds or neighborhood.

Please note that as this is a Quiet Day no talking will be permitted at any time during the day. The idea is to embrace the silence and enter into prayerful communion with God.

No charge for the day (suggested donation of \$10). For further information please contact Carol.

Church of the Holy Comforter
1000 Burmont Road
Drexel Hill, PA 19026
Tel. 610-789-6754

Father David Beresford
Rector, Church of the Redeemer, Springfield

Sunday Scripture Preview, *continued from page 4*

possibly made up of other assorted fragments. All but one of the readings we will hear are from the first section.

Some themes of the passages we will hear are the power of God working through us; persistence and confidence in proclaiming the gospel in the face of opposition; and encouraging generosity through the paradox of achieving (spiritual) riches by embracing poverty.

Most scholars believe Ephesians was written by someone other than Paul, citing the more florid writing style as one reason. The letter as a whole offers a vision of the universal church, calling for the reconciliation between Jew and Gentile. Several of the passages we will hear exhort us to virtuous behavior in the face of the cosmic forces of evil.

Thomas Eoyang



June Birthdays

5 Emma Woodhouse

13 Obadiah Slope

Please call or e-mail the office—(610) 789-6754, holycomforterdrexelhill@gmail.com—if your birthday has not been included in the monthly listing.

Here is a list of the work done on the Holy Comforter campus, with the expense incurred, during [month]



It's Always Something

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

Our property expenses for April 2018 year-to-date were:			Compare with 33%
	2018 BUDGET	2018 ACTUAL - YTD	% OF BUDGET - YTD
Property Improvements	3,500	0	0%
Bldg & Equipmt Maintnce	20,000	6,009	30%
Amortization	4,500	1,639	36%
Outside Maintenance	8,000	3,127	39%
Utilities	13,000	8,017	62%
Insurance	7,500	1,800	24%
Sub-Total	56,500	20,592	36%

	Budget to Date				Year-to-date target for April 2018: 33%		
	Sunday Offerings	% of Budget	Total Revenue	% of Budget	Total Expenses	% of Budget	Net Revenue Less Expense – Surplus(Deficit)
	46,094	38%	76,445	37%	79,442	31%	(\$2,997)

Property expenses and budget information from the Treasurer's Report prepared by Barbara Irving

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 _____