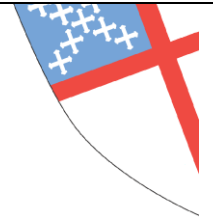




The Comforter



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

June 2019

Contributors to this issue of *The Comforter*

Chris Casey
& Roselle Hildawa
Thomas Eoyang
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Gail Morgan
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Warren Phillips
Barbara Wilson

The Parish Church as a Learning Community

In the May issue of *The Comforter*, I wrote: "An empowered, energetic congregation will be a *learning community*, and will consistently and persistently question what lies at the core of its life as a community." I am going to expand on this theme—one to which I will return often in this newsletter—by adapting some of my spoken remarks at the Annual Meeting of January 2019.

In all the reading I've done to try to learn my job, during both my stints as a seminary student, I've come to hold a concept of church as quintessentially a learning community. Some writers on business and organizations began in the 1990s to discuss the learning organization as a conceptual framework for understanding how organizations can become more effective. Some—like those applying these concepts to worship communities—have preferred to use the word "community" instead of "organization."

As a church, we are in a continual learning process. We learn about God and our relationship to God. We learn how to be kind, gentle, and Christ-like with each other. We learn how to pass on our faith to our children, and how to help them understand that faith is a way of living the full and joyful life of God's children on earth. We learn about the beauties of our worship traditions and about how to share them with others.

We also learn how to make our way in an uncertain world, how to see our faith as continually relevant in rapidly changing circumstances. We learn how to be church in this broken world—a puzzle that is never complete, never solved, but is nothing less than an unfolding mystery, an ongoing journey that takes us (we hope!) in the general direction of God's kingdom. We never quite arrive; we are always learning.

It is this sense of church as a learning organization that has led me to call people to come learn with me—not just in Adult Forum where we learn how our faith is enfolded in our daily lives—but also in some practical ways that bear on our survival and flourishing as this particular church.

Why use a buzzword such as "learning community" instead of what we more commonly call the place where learning happens, "school"? I can think of a few reasons.

- (1) School is where we go, sometimes unwillingly, to learn what other people tell us we have to learn. Church is where we come willingly (I hope!) to deepen our faith and relationship with God in Jesus Christ, and to learn what we need to do those things.
- (2) School is "over" at some point, when we graduate with a diploma or a degree signifying that we've mastered the body of knowledge that we expected to acquire. The curriculum for learning about and living into our Christian faith has no endpoint and no certificate of successful completion. The only evidence that we've been learning what we need to learn is "our selves, our souls and bodies"—the lives we live with the people we love and all the people with whom we share the planet.
- (3) Instead of a classroom where we are often learning competitively, trying to get a better grade than our classmates, in the church as learning *community*, we are learning together, supportively, mutually, building up our common life together in friendship and love.

Thomas

Calendar in Brief

Sun 9 Jun

Women of Holy Comforter
Meeting and Brunch
12noon, Barbara Wilson's
home in Springfield

Sun 16 Jun

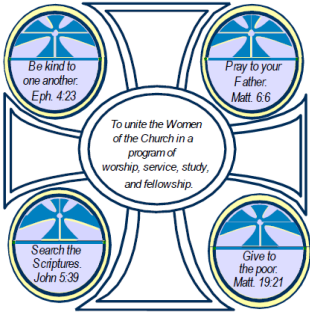
Special open Vestry meeting
with Confirmation Class
12noon
Upper Parish Hall
Regular June Vestry meeting
to follow in Piano Room

Wed 19 Jun

Burial Service for Barbara &
Donald Green

Sat 29 Jun

Carol Phillips Memorial
Service
10:00AM
Sanctuary



**Women of the Church of the Holy Comforter
June 9, 12 noon, Meeting and Brunch
Barbara Wilson's Home in Springfield**

All women are welcome to attend.
We will discuss:

- Rev. Melanie Lawrence-Caldwell's May 5 Remarks
- Plans for 2019-2020

Contact any of our Officers with questions:

Joanne Christopher, Barbara Irving, Allison Kerry,
Carole Kunigonis, Barbie Swartz and Barbara Wilson



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

With your support we raised \$900 toward
our \$1,275 annual budget.

Our budget funds:
Program expenses such as the Upper Darby High
School Encore Singers December concert and the
Annual Ladies' Tea

Outreach mission donations to
Upper Darby Community Outreach Corporation's
After-School Program,
Episcopal Community Services, The Darby Mission
and St. Agnes Catholic Church Day Room .

Thank you for your support!

Questions, contact Barbara Wilson

Thank You!
to all who contributed
to our special
**Mother's Day Dinner at
The Mothers' Home
on May 13.**

Special appreciation
was expressed for our
Valentine's Day \$200
cash donation which
bought 50 round trip
SEPTA key cards.



**May 13 Dinner
Contributors**

Joanne Christopher
Thomas Eoyang
Mary Sue Hidalgo
Edith Hoho
Barbara Irving
Janet McKinley
Barbara Powell
Barbie Swartz
Barbara Wilson

**Confirmation Class Presentation
Sunday 16 June**

One of the two culminating projects for the
confirmation class is to make a
presentation to



the Vestry to request Holy Comforter's support for a charitable
organization on which the class has agreed as a body. **All are invited to
attend this meeting, which will take place after the 10:00AM service on
Sunday 16 June in the Upper Parish Hall.**

The *Confirm not Conform* confirmation program is Christian curriculum
that encourages ethical decision-making on the part of each participant,
while simultaneously promoting group dialogue and community
building. It is not a memorization-based parroting of the "right answers"
of Christian faith, but an invitation to minds that are growing in moral
awareness to consider the actual workings of Christian faith in a complex
world.

As one would expect in a confirmation class in The Episcopal Church, we
looked at the creeds, the Baptismal Covenant, church history, and various
passages of Scripture, discussing what the words might mean in the
context of our lives today.

Of particular importance was an exercise where each person named those
things of most value to him or her. Out of these values each person
researched a cause that mattered, and the group settled on one cause.

TE

IN MEMORIAM



Carol Elizabeth Grainger Phillips
June 3, 1936—January 3, 2019

Report from your Property Team

A Special Thank You to Chris Stanley for
lending Holy Comforter her gardener and
lawn maintenance man to get our gardens
ready for planting. Kevin McGurk weeded,
edged and turned the soil over on the flower
beds on both the Bond Avenue and Burmont
Road sides. And then Barbara Irving
followed up with planting even more
flowers. Thank you. The flower beds look
marvelous.

continued on page 5

Memorial Service for Carol Phillips

On Saturday 29 June at 10:00 in the church Amy, Nancy and I invite you to attend a service of memorial of and thanksgiving for the life of our beloved wife and mother Carol Elizabeth Grainger Philips. Carol attended Holy Comforter for over fifty years. Arriving in the spring of 1966 she immediately volunteered to work at the semi-annual exchange and rummage sales and worked at them until they were discontinued. They were the chief money raising endeavors in those days. She would call every woman in the parish to ask her to donate or work at these sales.

She also worked at the first ever Christmas Bazaar and continued to do that until her Parkinson's made it impossible for her to continue to chair the boutique table.

She was for many years the choir mother for the junior choir. This meant she was there early to help the choir—especially the boys—to get dressed. She organized activities for the choir, such as trips to see the circus at the old Spectrum, or ice skating.

She was also the hospitality chairman of the Women's Group. She would laugh when some of the older ladies would tip her for her service.

Also, who can forget her Open House on the Sunday before Christmas. It wasn't Christmas until one had a glass of her eggnog, which she learned to make from her father.

If you are able, we invite you to attend this service to remember this remarkable lady. A lady in every sense of that word.

Warren Phillips



Rev. Melanie said a shelter for the homeless in Media contacted her to see if they could provide a dinner once a month. It was suggested that perhaps Holy Comforter could join with them to perform this much needed outreach ministry.

We had a lovely tea luncheon and enjoyed the very insightful presentation which gave us all FOOD FOR THOUGHT about the direction of HC and some possible outreach ministries.

Holy Comforter's Ladies Tea 2019

Barbara Wilson, our dynamic, creative president decorated the parish hall with fresh flowers and feminine touches appropriate for a lovely tea. This tradition, which has been enjoyed for many years at Holy Comforter, continues with Barbara's leadership and the assistance of the women's board. The women prepared and donated some culinary delights which everyone enjoyed. The young girls attended and seemed to enjoy the food and of course the desserts!

Our speaker was the Reverend Melanie Lawrence-Caldwell, the pastor of Collenbrook United Church in Drexel Hill. She shared her thoughts about what a "True welcome to the Church" looks like.

It was very helpful as some ideas (trying to get people on committees, or another church commitment when they have not yet joined the church) could be considered too assertive when meeting people for the first time. She stressed what an "extravagant welcome" encompasses. Her church hosts a free dinner the last Thursday of each month which serves 80-100 people. It also gives vouchers to food stores and SEPTA tokens, and arranges payment for prescriptions for indigent people. She suggested we could advertise on social media and local newspapers any activity that could welcome newcomers.

Liz Teres daughter-in-law, Jessica Cathcart said she felt welcomed to our church and its activities.



Carole Moran Kunigonis



Prayer Corner

◆ REMEMBER IN PRAYER ◆

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

- | | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Anne Abel | Janice Gardner | Michael |
| Edward Applegate | Eddy Gordon | Charlie Morris |
| Joanne Arriviello | Robert Hadley | Viola Mxaku |
| Kay Balabon | Linda Hellmig | Phillips family |
| Barbie | Howard Hunter | Claire & Richard Piason |
| Nancy Bigley | Connie Impellizeri | Ravi |
| Bradley family | Barbara Irving | Madelyn Rosenholm |
| Don Brett | Colleen Jett | Mark Schaller |
| Carole Brown | Allison Kerry-Evans | Steven Schollenberger |
| Henie and Bob Buck | Jim Knowles | Nancy Sheeran |
| Jackson Casinelli | Jim Lazarele | Chris Stanley |
| Don Cathcart | Myron Lee and family | Chris Stubly |
| Chris | Rita Lyon | Shirley Swanson |
| Jack Davis | Michelle M. | John Sweeney |
| Darlene Day | Anne Makim | Janet Szurek |
| Robert DiBenedetto | Lucille Martina | Jerry Teres |
| John C. Duby, MD | Katherine McGurk | Carole Thornhill |
| Barbara Elefante | Michelle McKenna | Betty Town |
| Gil Eubank | Tom McKenna | Erica V. |
| Falco | Will Meredith | John Zahner |
| Jayne Fitzgibbons | Gary Merson | Olivia Zappala |
| Gallagher family | | |

Updated for 06.02.19

IN MEMORIAM

Margaret Lee

Wedding of Roselle Hildawa and Chris Casey

*Church of the Holy Comforter
Saturday 4 May 2019*



Roselle is escorted by her mother, who traveled from the Philippines.



The Philippine tradition of connecting the couple with veil and cord.



Roselle and Chris, married and blessed, under the gaze of "The Communion of Saints" at Church of the Holy Comforter.



June Birthdays

5	Emma Woodhouse	19	Obadiah Slope
10	Trina O'Boyle		
		30	Bill Kunigonis

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 during May



It's Always Something


WORK COMPLETED	ONGOING WORK
• Inspection of fire suppression system in the kitchen	• Replace missing sections of church sign.
• Mulching of the flower beds	• Replace passive door lock on door to UPH
• Application of weed control in Columbarium	
• Fill added along Columbarium wall to redirect run-off from rain and snow melt	
• Purchase of lightweight hoses for Columbarium & front flower beds.	
• Installation of more ergonomic shut off valves	

Jim Gardner and Gail Morgan

Our expenses as of the end of April 2019 (33% of the year) were:

Personnel (68% of yearly budget)	\$ 47,487	29%
Programs (3%)	\$ 1,245	19%
Administration (2%)	\$ 1,695	26%
Property (23%)	\$ 15,496	31%
Diocese (4%)	\$ 3,150	30%
TOTAL	\$ 69,073	27%

Barbara Irving, Dan Knowles, Mimi Lyon, and Steve Perrone

	Budget to Date				Target for month of April 2019: 33%		
	Sunday Offerings	% of Budget	Total Revenue	% of Budget	Total Expenses	% of Budget	Net Revenue Less Expense – Surplus(Deficit)
	\$45,634	38%	\$104,015	52%	\$69,073	27%	\$34,942

Property Team Report, continued from page 2

Item One – Narthex Break-in

On a Wednesday morning just before the Healing service, a man forced open the Narthex doors that lead to the cloister. He approached and spoke with Thomas in the hallway and left through the doors to the UPH. That event has led to a re-evaluation of our security in the Narthex and other doors. Chris Baldwin is going to install slide bolts on both doors. The slide bolts will fasten both the header and sill edges of all four doors.

Item 2 – Winter damage to gutters and downspouts

Vestry has approved the cleaning and repair of the damaged and mis-aligned gutters and downspouts. The job has been awarded to Dave Ross Inc.

Pending – Repainting and caulking etc. to windows and siding

It has been years since we performed maintenance on our windows, doors and other exterior woodwork. We are getting estimates for sanding, repairing, caulking, priming, and painting on the church's windows, sills, and siding.

Jim Gardner and Gail Morgan

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

Senior Warden

Sue Gelsomini

Secretary

Steve Perrone

Accounting Warden

Dan Knowles

Treasurer

Steve Perrone, Mimi Lyon

Parish Administrator

Gail Morgan
holycomforterdrexelhill@gmail.com

Vestry Members

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



Many Gifts, One Spirit 2019



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 2019 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_____