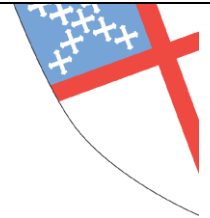




The Comforter



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

September 2019

Contributors to this issue of *The Comforter*

Thomas Eoyang
Jim Gardner
Barbara Irving
Dan Knowles
Gail Morgan
Steve Perrone
Barbara Wilson

What I Read This Summer

For a long time now I've felt some distress that I don't read as regularly or as much as I used to. And yet I've continued to set myself more and more reading projects and goals—it is an absurd, can't-win situation.

This summer, though, during the silent retreat I took in late July at the Jesuit Center for Spiritual Growth in Wernersville, I made some progress in reversing this trend. I was greatly helped by my spiritual director during the retreat, who showed up at our second meeting with a stack of books she thought I'd be interested in, given what I'd said at the introductory meeting. I'd also brought some related books with me that I intended to finish during the week, including Henri Nouwen's *Spiritual Direction*, which I thought would be appropriate for this occasion. (All books mentioned are listed in a bibliography on page 4.)

The books the spiritual director suggested gave shape and insight to the discernment I was engaged in that week, and still am engaged in as I write this. They reconnected me to the Ignatian form of spirituality that I first learned about in seminary, as I was engaged in another discernment—about whether to become a priest. One book had the bluntly applicable title, *What's Your Decision?* and was written in a practical no-nonsense way that I appreciated.

During one of our sessions, I apologized to the spiritual director for also spending time on a book on African-American history that I was determined to finish off during this week away from work: *Slavery by Another Name* is a searing, meticulously researched account of the cruel re-enslavement of black Americans in the South following the dismantling of Reconstruction. It's a chapter of American history that I never learned in high school, and that yet affects my day-to-day life a lot more than the Boston Tea Party or the Valley Forge winter.

Finishing this book was a further step in one of my reading programs, the theme of which is racism and African-American oppression. The previous (also painful) book I completed in this program was *The Warmth of Other Suns*, about the migration of black people from the South to the slightly more hospitable North during the first half of the twentieth century. My next book will be *Just Mercy*, by a prominent present-day activist. My goal is to read so deeply into this literature that I won't have any more excuses for standing by and not doing my part to end racial injustice in the United States.

To my surprise, the spiritual director challenged my apology that I was not reading only books about spirituality and discernment. She said that she could tell that reflecting on issues of justice and injustice was core to my spiritual being. I wasn't quite sure what she meant, but then found these statements in the introduction to the book with which I am continuing my encounter with Ignatian spirituality, *Finding God in Each Moment: The Practice of Discernment in Every Day Life*: "At the heart of this book is our suggestion that our growth in justice will occur as we make our way with discerning hearts through the

continued on page 4

Calendar in Brief

Sunday 8 September

11:30AM, Piano Room
Women's Group Planning

Sunday 13 September

RALLY DAY!

Sunday 6 October

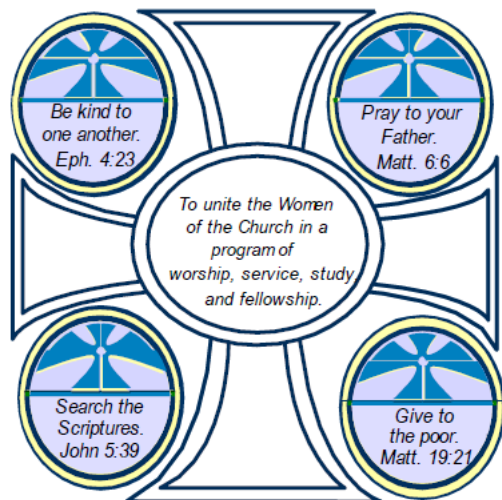
11:30AM, Piano Room
Women's Group Planning

Sunday 13 October

BISHOP'S VISITATION

Sunday 3 November

11:30AM, Piano Room
Women's Group Planning



Women of Church of the Holy Comforter

Upcoming Planning Meetings:

September 8, October 6, November 3

11:30 am, Piano Room

All women are welcome to attend.

Contact Officers with questions and ideas:

Joanne Christopher, Barbara Irving, Allison Kerry,

Carole Kunigonis, Barbie Swartz and Barbara

Wilson

Parish Profile Completed!

Church of the Holy Comforter
Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania



Parish Profile

Autumn, 2019



The Discernment Team has completed its work: *the Parish Profile is complete and final!*

It is available for viewing on the church website. The Team and the Vestry ask that congregation members take a few minutes to review it, and share any thoughts you may have with Sue Gelsomini, Senior Warden, at srgelso@aol.com. Please give special consideration to

whether the profile accurately describes where you think the parish is now, the priorities for the future, and the directions in which God is leading us." We all owe a debt of gratitude for the hard work of the **Discernment Team: Mark Morrison, Joanne Christopher, Allison Kerry-Evans, Bill Kunigonis, and Bill Schilling.**

Congratulations, Tyler Gardner!

Tyler J. Gardner had a great school year. He is moving up to Seventh grade. At the Sixth Grade Ardmore Avenue graduation ceremony he received top three awards. The Ardmore Avenue School Principal Award, The Service Award, and the AAA School Safety Award of Merit. We are truly blessed to have three wonderful children.

Jim Gardner



Jesus Christ is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything.

--Colossians 1:18

The Bishop Is Coming! The Bishop Is Coming!



The 16th Bishop of the Diocese of Pennsylvania, The Rt. Rev. Daniel G. P. Gutierrez, will make his episcopal visitation to Church of the Holy Comforter, Drexel Hill, on Sunday 13 October. He will confirm the six young people who completed the confirmation program last year:

Devon and Skyler Cathcart;

Margaret and Abigail Lyon, and Madilyn and Jane Gray.

He will meet with the youth for about 15 minutes prior to

the service. We will also need to schedule a full hour for him to meet with the Vestry. He will meet with parishioners following the service. I intend to bring some food to supplement our coffee hour sweet rolls, and will be grateful to anyone who wishes to do likewise.

The Bishop prefers that on this occasion we merge the two services, and so there will be no 8:00AM service on October 13. I very much hope that all the 8:00 regulars will want to attend the 10:00 service with the Bishop, but if anyone is unhappy with this arrangement and/or will not be attending the 10:00, please speak to me privately.

John Allen Davis, Jr. (Jack)

March 23, 1947 – August 26, 2019

Requiem aeternam dona ei, Domine, et lux perpetua luceat ei.

Davis, John Allen, Jr (Jack) was diagnosed with cholangiocarcinoma in June of 2017, and exceeded all expectations while dealing with this disease. On Monday, August 26, 2019 he was no longer able to fight the condition, and passed away peacefully at home. He was a loving and devoted husband and father and will be greatly missed by his wife of 39 years Dr. Rosemary (nee Vaughan), sons Dr. Richard V.N. and William A., and daughter Mary Rose. He was preceded in death by his parents John Allen and Bernella Davis, and by his son James Edward, who died in infancy.



Jack served proudly in the Army during the Vietnam War. He then began his financial career in 1971 as an Asset-Backed Lending Officer at First Pennsylvania Bank, and spent the next 47-years of his career in a singular pursuit of researching credit markets and building and leading credit research teams. While working within PNC Bank, he transitioned from managing the bank's loan portfolio to conducting credit research on behalf of the firm's asset management clients. In 1987 he built and led the credit research team of PNC Asset Management, and earned the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) certification. He transitioned to Blackrock in the same role in 1998 as part of Blackrock's spin-off from PNC. He joined Schrodgers in 2000 to build their fixed income credit research platform and worked full time through 2017 and as a consultant until 2018.

Jack was a life-long member of the Church of the Holy Comforter in Drexel Hill, and served on several committees, the vestry and then as the treasurer for over 10 years. Jack was known for his sharp wit and ability to support the Philadelphia Phillies throughout any sort of season. However, his greatest attributes were his love, devotion, and generosity to family and friends.

Donations in Jack's name to

The Providence Animal Center, 555 Sandy Bank Road, Media PA 19063

or Justice Rescue, P.O. 112, Woodlyn, PA 19094

or The Salvation Army, 151 W. 15th Street, Chester, PA 19013

will be appreciated.

Renovations and Expansion of Aronimink School

Gail Morgan met with Frank Salerno, Director of Elementary Education, for the Upper Darby School District on Tuesday, August 13, 2019. He had come over from the administration offices next door to invite us (every/anyone) to a public meeting about the changes they are planning for the school property. The meeting was held on August 20 at 7PM in the gym.

We have been concerned that the increased traffic, both foot and auto, and the proposed bus loop into and out of Burmont Road would cause problems for the church in light of the condition of our sidewalks and curbs, fences and grounds.

The plan is to

1. Take the green space between the church and the current administration buildings and turn that area into a parking lot with one or more lanes for parents to drop-off children. Alternately, the drop-off lanes would connect Marvine Ave to Bond Ave.
2. Create a single lane bus loop with access/egress on Burmont Road, but leaving some of the green space as is. Buses would use it 4 times a day.
3. Substantially, enlarge the footprint of the existing school to allow for increasing the enrollment from ≥ 250 to ≥ 600 .
4. Long range ≥ 5 years: AM and PM Kindergarten and Grade 1 – 5 at Aronimink...with redistricting so that additional students will be coming from Hillcrest and Highland Park. Kindergarten pupils wouldn't be walking, but the others live too close to qualify for busing. These pupils would walk or the parents would drive them.
5. The Running Club would continue to use the sidewalks for seasonal practice.

They are proposing that the church could work out an agreement to use the new parking lot on days when it would be unused.

Gail Morgan



More readable copies are available from the Parish Office.



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	Charlie Morris
Edward Applegate	Eddy Gordon	Viola Mxaku
Joanne Arriviello	Helena	Phillips family
Barbie	Linda Hellmig	Claire & Richard Piason
Nancy Bigley	Jake Henry	Ravi
Bradley family	Howard Hunter	Faith Rose
Don Brett	Connie Impellizeri	George Rose
Carole Brown	Dr. Mark Jackson	Madelyn Rosenholm
Henie and Bob Buck	Colleen Jett	Scarlett
Sherry Butterworth and family	Maryellen Kenney	Mark Schaller
Jackson Casinelli	Allison Kerry-Evans	Steven Schollenberger
Don Cathcart	Jim Knowles	Nancy Sheeran
Chris	Jim Lazarele	Chris Stanley
George Crossin	Michelle M.	Chris Stubly
Rosemary Davis and family	Anne Makim	Shirley Swanson
Darlene Day	Lucille Martina	John Sweeney
Robert DiBenedetto	Katherine McGurk	Janet Szurek
John C. Duby, MD	Michelle McKenna	Jerry Teres
Barbara Elefante	Tom McKenna	Carole Thornhill
Gil Eubank	Will Meredith	Betty Town
Falco	Gary Merson	Dom Urbani
Jayne Fitzgibbons	Michael	Erica V.
John & Rosemary Flammer	Mike	Olivia Zappala
Gallagher family		

Updated for 09.01.19

Prayers of thanksgiving from Barbara and Dave Irving for the preservation of our granddaughters Lindsay and Heather Carpenter during a serious traffic accident

IN MEMORIAM

John Davis, Jr.

Books referred to in Thomas's article

Henri Nouwen, *Spiritual Direction: Wisdom for the Long Walk of Faith*. New York: HarperCollins, 2006.

J. Michael Sparough, SJ, Jim Manney, and Tim Hipskind, SJ, *What's Your Decision? How to Make Choices with Confidence and Clarity: An Ignatian Approach to Decision Making*. Chicago: Loyola Press, 2010.

Douglas A. Blackmon, *Slavery by Another Name: The Re-Enslavement of Black Americans from the Civil War to World War II*. New York: Anchor Books, 2008.

Isabel Wilkerson, *The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration*. New York: Vintage, 2011.

Bryan Stevenson, *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption*. New York: Spiegel & Grau, 2014.

Carol Ann Smith, SHJC, Eugene F. Merz, SJ, *Finding God in Each Moment: The Practice of Discernment in Everyday Life*. Notre Dame, IN: Ave Maria, 2006.

Reading, continued from page 1

spiritual stages that constitute the growth in any relationship. . . Discernment can be a resource for us as we make the often hard choices required by the call to justice, that call to be faithful to the responsibilities of our many relationships. . . [This book] invites you into an experience of ongoing reflection and prayer about the relationships in your life and the call to justice within them."

So, this project that I've resolved on, to deepen my spiritual life and revive my practice of prayer through a rudimentary practice of Ignatian spirituality will also, it seems, support my other reading program, and my intention to be more of the justice-seeking disciple my seminary taught me to be.

Thomas



September Birthdays

- 5 Emma Woodhouse
- 8 Barbara Irving
- 10 Aidan Casey
- 25 Obadiah Slope

Please call or e-mail the office—(610) 789-6754, holycomforterdrexelhill@gmail.com—if you wish your birthday to be 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
• Pruning of trees and bushes	• Replace missing sections of church sign.
• Gutters and downspouts cleaned	• Replace passive door lock on door to UPH
	• Replace lock bolts in UPH stationary door
	• Replace door stop in UPH door
	• Repair toilets on main floor
	• Repair broken glass in UPH

Report from Your Property Team

Item 1 – Altar Carpet

Thank you to the Women's Group for having the altar carpet cleaned, repaired and re-laid. Unfortunately, the material used to hold it in place was not "up to the task". New underlayment will be installed in early September to fasten it more securely.

Item 2 – Bernadette McBrearty has been retained to put out trash and recycling twice weekly. This hire relieves parishioners from the task. We want to thank Chris Stanley and Barbara Irving for having been performing that duty as a gift to the church.

Item 3 – Dangerous Intersection

Members of the public have brought to our attention that the landscaping around the sign at the corner of Burmont Road and Bond Avenue has been a traffic and pedestrian hazard. Drivers coming around the curve on Burmont cannot see cars (or joggers) coming out of Bond Avenue to cross or make the turn

on to Burmont. Those landscaping features that blocked the required Clear Sight zone have been brought into code.

Item 4 – Review of Expansion at Aronimink School

The School Board's plan is to turn the green space west of the church into a parking lot, in addition to constructing a single lane bus loop with access/egress on Burmont Road and, substantially, enlarging the footprint of the existing school to allow for tripling the enrollment. Will the increased traffic, both foot and auto cause problems for the church in light of the condition of our sidewalks and curbs, fences and grounds.

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



Budget to Date

Target for month of [month year]: 75%

Sunday Offerings	% of Budget	Total Revenue	% of Budget	Total Expenses	% of Budget	Net Revenue Less Expense – Surplus(Deficit)
\$78,044	65%	\$107,233	69%	\$163,525	64%	(\$56,292)

Our expenses as of the end of August 2019 (67% of the year) were:

Personnel (64% of yearly budget)	\$ 90,689	56%	
Programs (2.5%)	\$ 2,454	38%	
Administration (2.5%)	\$ 4,454	69%	
Property (19%)	\$ 58,054	117%	
Diocese (4%)	\$ 7,874	75%	
TOTAL	\$ 163,525	64%	

Barbara Irving, Steve Perrone, Dan Knowles

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

Parish Administrator

Gail Morgan
holycomforterdrexelhill@gmail.com

Vestry Members

Michael Cullen, Sue Gelsomini, Dan Knowles,
Wayne Lyon, Steve Perrone, Barbara Powell,
William Schilling, Sharon Yost



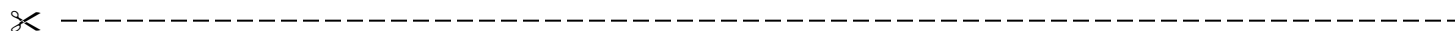
Many Gifts, One Spirit 2019



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 _____