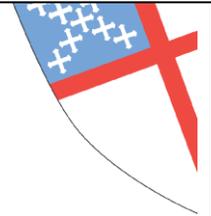




The Comforter



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

October 2019

Contributors to this issue of *The Comforter*

Devon Cathcart
Skyler Cathcart
Thomas Eoyang
Jim Gardner
Jane Gray
Madilyn Gray
Barbara Irving
Dan Knowles
Carole Kunigonis
Abigail Lyon
Margaret Lyon
Gail Morgan
Steve Perrone
Chris Stanley
Barbara Swartz
Barbara Wilson

Of Books, Learning, and Community

(Yes, another installment on my hobby-horse topic, “the church as a learning community.”) A friend of mine, a young and frighteningly brilliant scholar of theology and church history, is teaching undergraduates for the first time (up to now, she has only taught seminarians). She reports that the students in her “Introduction to Theology” class find it “super weird” that she assigns them to read “old time physical books.” Her students tell her they would prefer she assign videos.

A parishioner was telling me how much she has always enjoyed the women’s book discussion group. She may have been responding to a fleeting expression on my face when she quickly added that it wasn’t so much about sharing ideas about the book as it was the simple fellowship—as if I were getting too excited to have discovered a regular mini-college seminar at Holy Comforter.

I’m aware that by advocating books and reading, I may be preaching to the choir, but it is also the case that we all have less and less time for extended reading, most certainly including myself. Television, computers, and smart phones have drastically changed how we receive and interact with information. It has also, I would argue, changed the quantity and complexity of the information and thinking that we choose to grapple with.

I have books piled all through my dwelling, and cartons of books still unpacked from the last two moves, most of which I have not yet read. I even have a book that I’ve been meaning to read that tells me about books I should have read as a regular Christian! (*25 Books Every Christian Should Read: A Guide to the Essential Spiritual Classics*). So what I write here is (to put it kindly) aspirational, or (to put it unkindly) hypocritical.

The book I’ve been trying to finish for months, and which started these reflections—and from which I will continue to report in future newsletters—is titled *Reading for the Common Good: How Books Help Our Churches and Neighborhoods Flourish*. I thought it was going to be a cheerleading endorsement of book discussion groups in church, with a few tips on how to enhance their effectiveness and enjoyment. But the author’s argument is much more ambitious than that, and the book much deeper. In one of his concluding paragraphs he writes:

Finding ourselves in the last days of the modern age, we have inherited a world ripped asunder and smashed to the tiniest of bits. We are starving and gasping for air, cut off from many of the channels that feed and sustain us. Our best hope, it seems, lies in religion (from the Latin root *religare*, meaning “to bind again”), the slow work of binding together things that have been torn apart. The vision of the local church as a learning organization sketched in this book is thus a religious vision: binding together individual Christians in their church communities, church communities in their places, and places in the wondrous whole of creation. Faith and work, being and doing, a rootedness in history and a vision for the future, all brought together with fervent prayer that the Great Healer might continue the work of mending our broken world (p. 147).

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Calendar in Brief

Sunday 6 October

Women’s Group, 11:30a,
Piano Room

Tuesday 15 October

7:15p Vestry Meeting
Piano Room

Sunday 20 October

Baptism of James Krill, 10:00
service

Monday 21 October

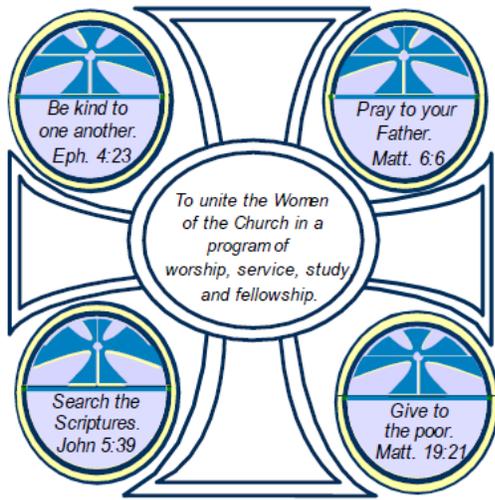
Comforter submission
deadline

Saturday 16 November

Book Discussion/Luncheon,
12-2:00 pm, Upper Parish
Hall

Monday 18 November

Thanksgiving Dinner, 6:00
pm at the Mothers’ Home



Women of Church of the Holy Comforter

Upcoming Planning Meetings:

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



HOST:
Mothers' Home [610-583-4663](tel:610-583-4663)

MOTHERS' HOME DESIGNER BAG BINGO

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18 AT 6:30 PM

Bonner-Prendie Cafeteria
403 N Lansdowne Ave
Drexel Hill, PA 19026

Please join us for a fun night out and a chance to win a beautiful designer purse! Doors open at 6:30 pm, Bingo starts at 7:30. Tickets can be purchased at: mothershome.myevent.com, or by mailing a check to: Mothers' Home, 51 N MacDade Blvd., Darby, PA 19023.

Ticket prices are \$30 in advance, \$35 at the door for 10 bingo cards. **BYOBeverages and BYOFood**. Door Prizes, Raffles, 50/50, and lots of fun! More information on our website at: mothershome.org

Bring a baby item to receive an additional door prize ticket.

All proceeds benefit the women and children of Mothers' Home

Calls to Mission and Ministry



Meals for One Another

Needed: members interested in being on the list to provide dinners to parishioners.

A wonderful part of Holy Comforter's outreach has been providing meals to parishioners who find themselves in need of support after surgery, during illness, or experiencing a special circumstance. The Outreach Committee finds itself in need of recruiting cooks. If you offer to be on the list, you are

not obligated to provide meals to every parishioner in need, but are offered the opportunity. Those of us who have been on the receiving end of this outreach have greatly appreciated this special kind of nurturing from the church members.

If you are interested, please call or email Barbie Swartz (610-891-0329, coopurchaseben@gmail.com). She would also love to talk with you in church on Sunday.

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Confirmands Speak to Us About Scripture

As part of the Confirm not Conform program, our confirmands presented Scripture passages with special meaning for them at the 10:00 service Sunday 22 September 2019:

Abigail Lyon

*Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I fear no evil;
For thou art with me;
thy rod and thy staff
they comfort me.*

Psalm 23:4 Revised Standard Version (RSV)

This verse is comforting to me. As I journey through life, it may be scary and I will be sad and maybe feel alone. But God is always with me, keeping me safe and on the right track.

Jane Gray

*God is in the midst; she shall not be moved: God shall help her,
and that right early*

Psalm 46: 5 Authorized (King James) Version (KJV)

All of Psalm 46 is talking about the Earth and verse 5 is a small part of the Psalm. Everyone will take away something different from this verse and what it means to me won't be the exact same as what you think the meaning of the verse is.

What verse 5 means to me is that if I always believe and trust in GOD that things will always get better. And if I continue to go to church and spread GOD's word I will always have something to lift me up and keep me happy no matter what I face in life.

Madilyn Gray

*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son,
that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have
everlasting life.*

John 3:16 Authorized (King James) Version (KJV)

This well-known verse from the Bible is important to me because it reminds me that God will always love me and care for me because of his sacrifice. It gives me comfort knowing that when I need him, he will be there for me. When I need his help making an important decision in my life, he will guide me towards the right one. I have no doubt in knowing that God has a plan for me and the people I care about. This is the comfort I feel when I read this verse.

Skyler Cathcart

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance,

kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Galatians 5:22-23 New International Version (NIV)

I chose this passage because it means the best part of us is love, joy, peace, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. I will try to practice this in my daily life. I will love my family. I will try to find joy in every situation. I will celebrate peace. I will be more patient, even when it is hard to. I will be kind to everyone. I will be generous by sharing more than I have. I will be faithful by coming to church. I will be gentle with others and I will think before I act.

Devon Cathcart

Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body. "In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold. Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need. Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Ephesians 4:25-32 New International Version (NIV)

I think this Bible verse is telling us a good way to live our lives. It says that it is fine to be angry, but don't hold onto that anger. Also, it says it's important to forgive people because everyone is able to redeem themselves. Finally, it talks about speaking kindly to others and treating them with kindness. If everyone was kind and forgiving to each other, the world would be a better place.

Margaret Lyon

He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain any more, for the former things have passed away.

Revelation 21:4 Revised Standard Version (RSV)

When the people that I love die, I can sometimes feel angry and sad because God has taken them away. I can never see them or love them again. But then I remember that they are no longer suffering and I am thankful for that and happy that they are with the Father and all of their loved ones.

Rally Day 2019

Holy Comforter has many lovely traditions. Rally Day is a festive way to welcome the children back to Sunday school. Piper Major Charlie Rutan led the congregation around the sidewalk into the church with the distinctive skirl of bagpipes. He coordinated with Judy Lang who was substituting for Erin during her recovery from surgery. The beautiful "Highland Cathedral" with the pipes and organ filled our church with a magnificent sound reminiscent of a huge Scottish cathedral. The ever popular "Amazing Grace" was enjoyed by all. Charlie played Beethoven's "Ode to



Joy" which I had never heard on a bagpipe and "Scotland the Brave" for the recessional.

Faith and Ray Hemsher coordinated the church picnic beautifully. Ray is so dedicated he brought his own BBQ grill from home. There was a varied assortment of donated salads, and desserts to complement the hot dogs and hamburgers. Many parishioners helped set up and taking down the tables. We are so blessed to have a church dedicated to carry out this long-standing Holy Comforter Tradition.

Carole Moran Kunigonis

Calls to Mission and Ministry, continued from page 2

Nana's Attic

Save the date: Sunday November 3 for the clothing collection for Nana's Attic!!



It's Fall and time to go through our closets, storage boxes, and attics for FALL AND WINTER CLOTHING we no longer want, and to donate them to Nana's Attic, the primary fundraiser for the Delaware County Abuse Project.

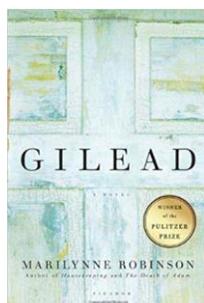
On November 3, bring in women's, men's, children's clothing, shoes, boots, for donation. *No Spring/Summer clothes please.* Nana's attic does not have the storage to keep them until Spring.

Holy Comforter members have always stepped up for this biannual clothing drive. Let's make this the best ever.

Chris Stanley

Book Discussion

The Women's Group is hosting a book discussion and luncheon on Saturday 16 November 2019, from 12-2 in the Upper Parish Hall. This was postponed from our previous date of last March. All are welcome. The book we will be discussing is *Gilead* by Marilynne Robinson. While there are many



glowing reviews of this Pulitzer Prize winner, I read this novel only recently and was deeply touched by the story of John Ames and the words he writes for his young son. The book is available through Amazon and also at the local library. Please contact me at 610-937-1604 with any questions or any feedback once you have read the book. I would love to hear your thoughts.

Joanne Christopher



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 holycomforterdrexellhill@gmail.com

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

Updated for 10.13.19

IN MEMORIAM

For the Parish

Almighty and everliving God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Book of Common Prayer, p. 817



Prayer

Prayer, to be genuine, must be real. God is not interested in how "spiritual" we can look and sound. Prayer is meant to be grounded in the reality of our daily lives; it is meant to touch every part of us. To be genuine and effective, it must be honest and real.

-Br. David Vryhof
Society of Saint John the Evangelist

Prayer as Crying Out to God

Prayer...is not introspection. It does not look inward but outward. Introspection can easily entangle us in the labyrinth of inward-looking analysis of our own ideas, feelings, and mental processes and can lead to paralyzing worries, self-absorption, and despair. Prayer is an outward, careful attentiveness to the One who invites us to an unceasing conversation. Prayer is the presentation of all thoughts—reflective thoughts as well as daydreams and nightmares—to our loving Father who can see them and respond to them with divine compassion. Prayer is the joyful affirmation that God knows our minds and hearts without anything being hidden.

Henri Nouwen
Spiritual Direction (2006, p. 62)



October Birthdays

	16	Carole Kunigonis
4		Warren Phillips
6		Faith Hemsher
	25	Emma Woodhouse
12		Chris Stanley
	27	Obadiah Slope

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

About United Thank Offering (UTO)



“The United Thank Offering (UTO) is a ministry of the Episcopal Church for the mission of the whole church. Through UTO, individuals are invited to to embrace and deepen a personal daily spiritual discipline of gratitude. UTO

encourages people to notice the good things that happen each day, give thanks to God for those blessings and make an offering.”

In 1871, General Convention authorized a Women's Auxiliary as a Department of Board of Missions.

Ida Soule and Julia Emery were the leaders supporting mission work. The first collection, in 1889, sent Lisa Lowell to Japan, and in Anvik, Alaska, a church was built. Also in 1889, a canon was passed to build two training schools for missionary deaconesses.

In 1920, UTO started pension funds for women missionaries.

Some examples the United Thank Offering have funded are new ministries, remodeling projects, and for staff to carry out a new ministry.

Grants for 2018 totaled \$1,535,740.55, an increase over the previous year of \$216,524.34. 100% of what is collected goes to grants throughout the Episcopal Church and Provinces of the Anglican Communion.

Holy Comforter collects our offering in the spring and fall. This fall's offering will be collected on Sunday, November 3rd, with envelopes provided in the service bulletin on that day.

I thank Holy Comforter for supporting this mission.

Barbie Swartz
Coordinator

Diocesan Convention 2019



Pre-Convention Meetings for the 2019 Diocesan Convention facilitate focused, in-depth presentations of the proposed 2020 program budget and resolutions, which will come before convention on November 2nd.

All members of the Diocese are invited to attend any pre-convention meeting, and convention representatives are encouraged to participate in these important gatherings. Here is the schedule:

- 9/26/19, Thursday, 6:30 p.m., Christ Church, 20 No. American Street, Philadelphia
- 9/30/19, Monday, 6:30 p.m., Redemption, 1101 Second Street Pike, Southampton
- 10/9/19, Wednesday, 6:30 p.m., St. Francis in the Fields, 689 Sugartown Road, Malvern
- 10/15/19, Tuesday, 6:30 p.m., Christ Church Old Swedes, 740 River Road, Bridgeport
- 11/1/19, Friday, TBD, Philadelphia Cathedral

The 2019 Diocesan Convention begins on Friday, November 1 and continues on Saturday, November 2, beginning at 7:30 a.m. with registration and open exhibits. Opening prayers begin at 8:30 a.m. Convention is slated to end that day at 3:30 p.m. The entire event takes place at The Philadelphia Episcopal Cathedral. **(There is a Diocesan event on Thursday at the Office's new home in Norristown.)**

In October, resolutions and the names of nominees will be made public here.

All delegates to Diocesan Convention on behalf of Church of the Holy Comforter should be visiting the diocesan website on a regular basis to get up to speed on the resolutions and nominations that will come before Convention.

<https://www.diopa.org/news?tags=convention>

Of Books, Learning, and Community, *continued from page 1*

Mending the world by sharing our responses to books, our ideas and ideals, our faith. Growing closer to God in company with one another, finding meaning and hope in a broken world—together. What a concept.

More later.

Thomas

Books Mentioned

C. Christopher Smith, *Reading for the Common Good: How Books Help Our Churches and Neighborhoods Flourish*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2016

Julia L. Roller, ed., *25 Books Every Christian Should Read: A Guide to the Essential Spiritual Classics*. New York: HarperCollins, 2011.

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 (filed August 15, 2019)

Item One – 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 thank Chris Stanley and Barbara Irving for having performed 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. We are concerned whether the increased traffic, both foot and auto, will cause problems for the church in light of the condition of our sidewalks, 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 August 2019: 67%		
	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%	(\$49,971)

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

Personnel (68% of yearly budget)	\$ 90,689	56%
Programs (3%)	\$ 2,454	38%
Administration (2%)	\$ 4,454	69%
Property (23%)	\$ 58,054	117%
Diocese (4%)	\$ 7,874	75%
TOTAL	\$ 163,525	64%

Barbara Irving, Dan Knowles, Steve Perrone

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 _____