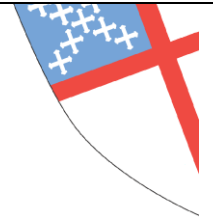




# The Comforter



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

November 2019

## Contributors to this issue of *The Comforter*

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

## Holy Comforter Youth Lead Support of Hunger Project

*The following two letters should explain the culminating project of the Confirm not Conform program that prepared six of our youth for their confirmation by Bishop Gutiérrez, reported on page 3.*

8 October 2019

Dear Hunger Project:

Enclosed is a check for \$1,405.00 from Church of the Holy Comforter in Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania. We are an Episcopal church in the Philadelphia suburbs.

The contribution came about as a result of a confirmation preparation program, which asked each participant to research a charity that aligned with her or his values as previously identified during the program. After each person presented their individual choice, the programs were discussed, and your organization was chosen by a vote by ranked ballot.

The young people then put together a PowerPoint presentation and made it to the Vestry (i.e., governing board) and many members of the congregation. They ended the presentation with the specific request that the church donate \$750 from its budget. The congregation was then solicited to augment this amount with whatever individual contributions they chose. These amounted to another \$655, thus the amount of \$1,405.00 being sent to you with this letter.

Thank you for the important work that you do, and for inspiring our young folk to think in concrete terms about the needs of the world.

Yours in Christ,  
(The Rev. Dr.) Thomas Eoyang, Jr.



[from The Hunger Project]

November 5, 2019

Dear Rev. Dr. Eoyang and the Congregation at Church of the Holy Comforter,

Thank you for your gift of \$1,405 that we received on October 16, 2019. This investment will empower Hunger Project community partners who are taking action every day to end their own hunger.

As one example, Cecilia Ankrah was born in the Taido community in central Ghana. At over 60 years old, Cecilia had not had any formal education and could not read or write. She was a smallholder subsistence farmer, owning less than one acre of farmland and was living from hand to mouth. Through THP-Ghana, Cecilia met Vision, Commitment, and Action animators who inspired her to join adult literacy classes. She has since graduated the program and can now read important information such as medical prescriptions and her bank pass book.

*continued on page 4*

## Calendar in Brief

### Saturday 2 November

Diocesan Convention  
Philadelphia Cathedral



### Saturday 16 November

Book Discussion/Luncheon:  
*Gilead* by Marilynne  
Robinson. 12-2:00PM, Upper  
Parish Hall



### Monday 18 November

Thanksgiving Dinner, 6:00PM  
at the Mothers' Home



### Tuesday 19 November

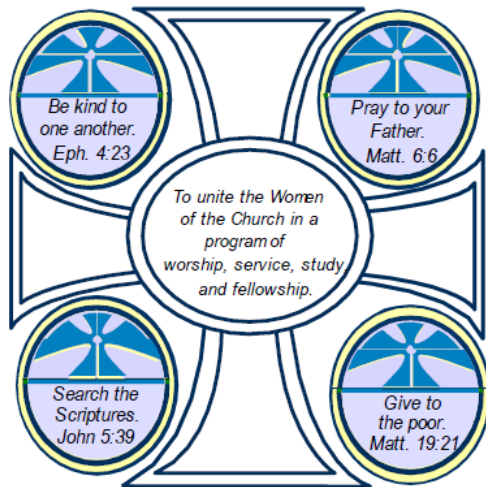
Vestry Meeting 7:15PM



### Monday 25 November

*Comforter* submission  
deadline





## Women of Church of the Holy Comforter

Upcoming Planning Meetings:

**November 3, January 5, February 2, March 1  
11:30 am, Piano Room**

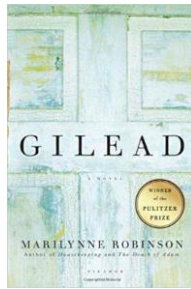
All women are welcome to attend.

Contact Officers with questions and ideas:

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

## 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**

## Diocesan Convention 2019

At Diocesan Convention on November 1-2, 2019, a major highlight for members of Church of the Holy Comforter was the awarding of the Bishop's Medal to the Rev. Rodger C. Broadley, ordained to the priesthood from this congregation forty years ago, and longtime rector of Church of St. Luke & the Epiphany in Center City. Rodger was recognized for his leadership in the diocese and for St. Luke's active and long-standing ministry to people with HIV/AIDS. Here are Barbara Powell's thoughts about the rest of convention.



"The Year of Living Fearlessly in Jesus Christ," Bishop Gutierrez' presentation to the 400 lay and clergy delegates at the Convention was powerful! Our journey in our mission is one of working together in love, with hope, prayer, in bold steps, exhibiting courage, trust and faith proclaiming the Good News. This is now the time to "live fearlessly in Jesus."

Among the many resolutions approved were those on the (1) budget (improving over the past year from a \$873,000 deficit to a \$2,000 surplus); (2) Anti-Gun Violence; (3) Continuing the Companion Diocese relationship between Pennsylvania and Guatemala; (4) Commitment to Eliminate Poverty; and (5) Anti-Racism.

I believe (with all my heart) we can move forward accomplishing these objectives! We are 134 churches making up one diocese, one people, one church! Know Jesus and Change the World! Thank you for electing me a delegate to the 2019 Convention. A wonderful day of new experiences and association with our brothers and sisters in Christ!

*Barbara Powell*

Please take some time and browse through the various postings in the recap of the Convention on the diocesan website. The videos are all very short. I hope you will sense the excitement that Barbara and I felt in imagining a diocese on the move for Jesus' hope and God's vision.

<https://www.diopa.org/news/recap-of-2019-convention>.

## Confirmations at Holy Comforter, 2019



The long-anticipated visitation to Holy Comforter of The Right Reverend Daniel G. P. Gutierrez, XVI Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania, took place on Sunday, October 13, 2019. Only one service was scheduled that day, at 10:00AM, and many of the 8:00 regulars did indeed attend the later service.



Six young people were confirmed: Abigail Lyon, Devon Cathcart, Jane Gray, Madilyn Gray, Margaret Lyon, and Skyler Cathcart. All had faithfully completed the curriculum *Confirm not Conform* during the 2018-2019 academic year. At a Sunday service earlier in the fall, they spoke about the personal meaning of Scripture passages they had chosen, and in June, 2019, they made a joint presentation to the Vestry and congregation in support of The Hunger Project.



Before the service, Bishop Gutierrez met with the confirmands and asked them what they most valued from their confirmation preparation. Many agreed that it was working together and growing closer to one another. When the Hunger Project presentation was described to the Bishop, with the report that the Vestry had agreed to the confirmands' request for \$750 from the Church's budget, to which individual parishioners added amounts that brought the total to \$1,405, the Bishop immediately offered another \$1,000 from his discretionary fund.



A festive spread was laid out for coffee hour, after which the Bishop met with the Vestry for about 45 minutes. In an open discussion, he spoke from the heart about the importance of mission both to the church and to the diocese.



Photographs by Liz Teres



## 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](mailto:holycomforterdrexelhill@gmail.com)

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

Updated for 11.03.19

### IN MEMORIAM

Gerri Trethewey

Youth Leadership, *continued from page 1*

Cecilia began attending epicenter committee meetings and was elected to be part of the food security subcommittee. Thanks to the knowledge she acquired in the best practices of the farming workshop, she negotiated for more farm land and has increased her production of maize, cassava, peppers and eggs, as well as her income. In addition to increasing her income, Cecilia has gained confidence and won leadership positions at her Church and the local government.

Thanks to your partnership, community members like Cecilia are supported on their journey to declaring self-reliance. It is your commitment and investment that makes transformation possible. Thank you for standing with women, men and children who are taking charge of their lives and building a new future for their families and communities—a future of self-reliance and dignity for all.

With gratitude,  
Jenna Recuber  
Global Vice President



New door bolts on the doors to the narthex, installed by Chris Baldwin. The previous bolts were less substantial, and, in the case of the door from narthex to cloister, allowed a break-in. (Fortunately, it was during the day, and staff was on site.) See **Property Report** on page 5.



## November Birthdays

4 Chris Casey  
19 Obadiah Slope

14 Emma Woodhouse  
*Please call or e-mail the office—(610) 789-6754, [holycomforterdrexelhill@gmail.com](mailto:holycomforterdrexelhill@gmail.com)—if you would like to include your birthday in the monthly listing.*

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



### It's Always Something

WORK COMPLETED	ONGOING WORK
• Replace passive door lock on door to UPH	• Repair missing glass in UPH
• Replace door stop in UPH door	• Repair toilets on main floor

### Report from Your Property Team

**Project #1—Repair/Replace recalled components of toilets in Lower Parish Hall**

The current components have ceased to work and have been recalled because they “blow up”. After conversations with several plumbers, it has been determined that, although the company will send “replacement units;” the cost to install them makes replacing the toilet less expensive in the long run. (The replacement units require a re-fit of the existing toilet tanks.)

**Project #2—Repainting and caulking etc. to windows and siding**

It has been years since we performed maintenance on our windows, doors and other exterior woodwork. After receiving initial estimates for all that needs to be done, we have re-prioritized the project. We are going to begin with the pair of tall windows on the Bond Ave side of the church. We will be getting estimates for sanding, repairing, caulking, priming, and painting through the month of November. We are working with old lead paint which requires special treatment.

**Project #3—Gathering information RE: air conditioning of the Upper Parish Hall**

It has been determined that a “split system” is the most practical method of cooling the area. We have an estimate

of nearly \$25,000 to purchase and install. The exterior portions of the system would be located in the Columbarium with cool air piping to come through the wall.

**Project #4—Identify Cause and Repair Leak in Small World Classroom**

The leak in ceiling of the Small World classroom for 2-year olds has re-appeared after several years. The carpenter and plumbing companies have been engaged and the beginning of work will be scheduled.

**Project #5—Identify Cause and Repair Leak in Nave of church**

With the rains of autumn upon us, a leak has been noticed on the aisle at the back of the church. A roofer has been engaged to locate the source of the leak (near the new steeple) and repair it. They will not be using heavy equipment to access the roof so there should be not damage to our lawns and sidewalk.

**With thanks to Chris Baldwin for finding and installing the new door locks in the Narthex. He's still searching to find replacements for the door bolts for the doors to the Upper Parish Hall.**

**Jim Gardner and Gail Morgan**



### Budget to Date

Target for month of September 2019: 75%

Sunday Offerings	% of Budget	Total Revenue	% of Budget	Total Expenses	% of Budget	Net Revenue Less Expense—Surplus(Deficit)
\$87,798	73%	\$119,514	77%	\$194,121	76%	(\$74,607)

Our expenses as of the end of September 2019 (75% of the year) were:

Personnel (68% of yearly budget)	\$ 114,199	71%
Programs (3%)	\$ 3,054	48%
Administration (2%)	\$ 4,992	78%
Property (23%)	\$ 61,641	125%
Diocese (4%)	\$ 10,235	98%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 194,121</b>	<b>76%</b>

**Barbara Irving, Dan Knowles, Steve Perrone**

*Watch your mailbox for the 2020 Stewardship Appeal!*

# 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](http://www.comforterchurch.org)  
E-mail: [holycomforterdrexelhill@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:holycomforterdrexelhill@gmail.com)

### Vestry Members

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

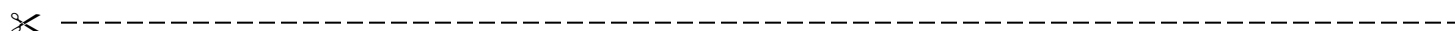


## Many Gifts, One Spirit 2020



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 2020 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 \_\_\_\_\_