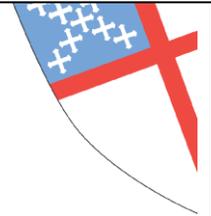




The Comforter



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

December 2019

Contributors to this issue of *The Comforter*

Thomas Eoyang
Jim Gardner
Barbara Irving
Dan Knowles
Carole Kunigonis
Gail Morgan
Steve Perrone
Chris Stanley
Barbara Wilson

Calendar in Brief

Tuesday 10 December

7:30PM Upper Parish Hall
Upper Darby Encore Singers

Sunday 15 December

Collection for Santa's Secret
Shop donations to Domestic
Abuse Project

Tuesday 17 December

7:15PM Vestry Meeting,
Piano Room

Monday 23 December

Submission deadline for
January 2020 *Comforter*

Tuesday 24 December

Worship services:
4:30 PM and 7:30 PM

Wednesday 25 December

Worship service: 10:00AM

Sunday 5 January

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

Incarnation and Hope

During the Sundays of Christmas, we use the Preface of the Incarnation to begin our Eucharistic Prayer: "Because thou didst give Jesus Christ, thine only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Ghost, was made very Man of the substance of the Virgin Mary his mother; that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become thy children" (BCP, p. 345).

One primary sense of incarnation is Christ become flesh, Christ participating in human form and human nature, which also implies that we take part in Christ's nature ("that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us," [BCP, p. 337]). As Richard Hooker puts it in *Of the Laws of Ecclesiastical Polity*, the first great theological work of Anglicanism:

But may it rightly be said concerning the incarnation of Jesus Christ, that as our nature hath in no respect changed his, so from his to ours as little alteration hath ensued? The very cause of his taking upon him our nature was to change it, to better the quality, and to advance the condition thereof, although in no sort to abolish the substance which he took, nor to infuse into it the natural forces and properties of his Deity. (*Laws*, V.lvi.5).

We are to think of our nature as bettered in quality, advanced in condition, as a result of Christ's taking human form. Incarnational theology gives us an embodied sense of how our nature can approach the divine. In focusing so deeply on the bodily and intimate interrelationship between Christ and humankind, Hooker is also describing a theology at odds with those who see God and humankind as completely separate entities. In incarnational theology, God and humankind are intertwined.

If incarnation is Christ's indwelling in us and ours in Christ, then it might simply be a Christian's very specific sense of what we more generally mean by "our better nature." But it is more than that: the incarnation, based both on the life of Christ as lived and reported in the Gospels, and on the ongoing life of Christ as lived out in everyday human community, is discovered in community and not in meditative isolation. Christ's presence is made manifest in more than just each of us as individuals.

A complementary sense of incarnational theology is that all of creation, authored by God, redeemed by Christ, and sanctified by the Holy Spirit, is thus everywhere and always perfused by Their presence—in the dynamic formulation of Gerard Manley Hopkins, the Incarnation is "the world is charged with the grandeur of God."

The incarnation is the basis for a profoundly optimistic theology: "The Incarnation has become a guiding principle shaping Anglican understandings of humanity, the sacraments, and the material world because it underscores the potential goodness of humanity".¹ The Anglican emphasis on incarnation places in the foreground a deeply concrete message of hope, one that—with humility and joy—we recall and renew sacramentally in Baptism and the Eucharist.

Thomas

¹ Thompsett, F. H. 1993. *Courageous Incarnation: In Intimacy, Work, Childhood, and Aging*. Boston: Cowley, pp. 30-31.



Annual Christmas Concert

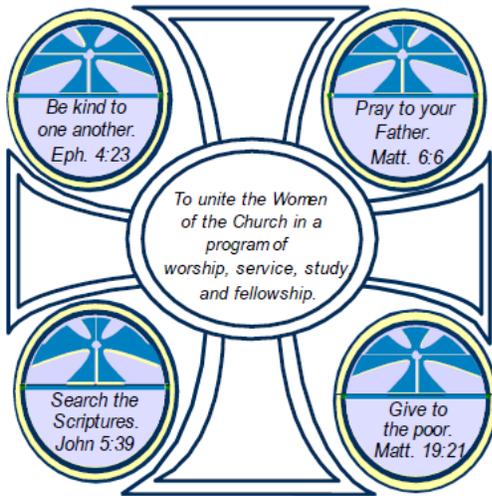
Upper Darby High School Encore Singers

Tuesday, December 10, 2019

7:30 pm in the Upper Parish Hall

Invite your friends and family to
join us for this *free* concert.

Sponsored by the Women of Holy Comforter



Women of Church of the Holy Comforter

Upcoming Planning Meetings:
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

Election of Rector

On Sunday, November 24, 2019, it was announced at both services (by Mike Cullen at the 8:00, and by Sue Gelsomini at the 10:00) that the Vestry of Church of the Holy Comforter has elected The Rev. Dr. Thomas Eoyang, Jr., as the church's rector. Thomas has been Priest in Charge of Holy Comforter since December 2017.

Following a procedure specified by the Bishop of Pennsylvania, the Rt. Rev. Daniel G. P. Gutiérrez, the Vestry held three "listening sessions" which the entire

congregation was urged to attend. These sessions were concluded before Bishop Gutiérrez's visit on October 13. On Sunday, November 10, the Vestry met and voted to send a letter requesting the Bishop's approval for the election of Thomas as the rector. Sue Gelsomini wrote and sent the letter the following day, and then e-mailed it three days later, on Thursday. On Friday, November 15, the Bishop e-mailed his approval. A date for the formal installation has not been set, but it may take place sometime this spring.

The Vestry

To all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

John 1:12-13

Eucharistic Ministry Report

Bill and I brought Carole Brown several meals and some chicken soup for her body, and the Body and Blood of Christ in the Eucharist for her soul. After Communion I asked Carole if she would like me to say prayers of healing. Bill and I placed our hands on her shoulders and I read the prayers of healing which Thomas performs at the Wednesday healing service. She was very happy to hear Thomas is going to be our Rector. She said how comforting and important his pastoral his visits had become.

I feel very humbled and blessed to be able to take the precious Body and Blood of Jesus Christ to parishioners who are unable to attend church. In Matthew 18:20 we are reminded "Whenever two or three of you are gathered together in my Name, there I am in the midst of them." I feel that when we receive Communion with another person a spiritual bond is formed. When we say intercessory prayers for a parishioner, I think the Holy Spirit is present in the power of the prayer.

**Carole Moran Kunigonis
Lay Eucharistic Minister**

Last Day to Pick Ornament from Giving Tree



The response to our annual contribution for **Santa's Secret Shop** at the shelter for the Domestic Abuse Project of Delaware County (DAP) has been great. There are still a few more ornaments left to pick. As many of you know, at a Santa's Secret Shop, children get to "shop" for a present for their mother. This is a wonderful message of giving for the children, and a gift of love for their mothers.

The Giving Tree has three types of ornaments: Snowflakes for buying items the kids can pick as gifts for their mothers, Snowmen for buying \$10.00 WAWA Gift Cards and Sleighs for regular or "cozy" socks for the women in the shelter. The gift cards and socks were requested by the shelter personnel for women when they enter the shelter. **Come to the Upper Parish Hall after church today and pick an ornament and return your contributions on December 15. Please do not wrap any of the items.** If you have any questions, call Liz Teres (610-325-9366).

A Diocesan Proposal: "5 Sacred Days"

Thomas and the Vestry first heard about this during Bp. Gutiérrez's visit on October 13. These details are excerpted from a document from the diocesan Canon for Communications and distributed to the clergy of the Delaware Deanery on December 3.

1 day, 1 idea, 5 churches

The sacred days are a regional approach to combating poverty, increasing collaboration between churches and spreading evangelism. We are asking churches to work together on one or more of the days and incorporate a message of God (see below for ideas) into what you do. We know that most of you are already doing work—that is GREAT! Can you involve more of the churches in your area to help you?

We are looking for at least 5 churches to host each day—people that can "carry the torch." We will provide support and all the marketing assistance you need . . . as well as highlight the resources available (e.g., homelessness guide, Narcan training, mental health, etc.)

Potential ideas

1. **Day of Clothing in February:** [sample ideas from Holy Spirit, Harleysville and churches in Bucks County]
2. **Day of Feeding in April:** *St Paul's Chester, St. Mary's food cupboard, Trinity Swarthmore working together [these churches are in Delaware Deanery with us].
3. **Day of Education in June:** *Philadelphia churches to team up with libraries to give out books, offer readings. *Book drives or mobile book banks. *Go into shelters as there are many young people living in shelters.
4. **Day of Healing (Aug/Sep):** *Capitalize on needs for back-to-school kids by offering free flu shots. *Offer free health screenings (addiction unit at St. Mark's Frankford) *Highlight any one of the 8 wellness centers. *Focus on prayer.
5. **Day of Service (right before Convention):** *Organize street outreach that can be done by several churches (2 from each) at the same time. *Publicize several sites offering legal clinic (St. Luke's Germantown).



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

Updated for 12.01.19

IN MEMORIAM

Don Kerry



December Birthdays

2	Allison Kerry-Evans	19	Obadiah Slope
5	Emma Woodhouse		
		28	Peggy Pender

Please call or e-mail the office—(610) 789-6754,

holycomforterdrexelhill@gmail.com—if your birthday has not been included in the monthly listing.

Shawn Pender Honored

Marie and Peg Pender and their family traveled to Oriole Park at Camden Yards, the stadium of the Baltimore Orioles on November 16, 2019 to share in the excitement of Shawn Pender's induction into the Baseball Hall of Fame for Professional Scouting. Shawn built a successful career as a baseball scout for multiple teams.



Shawn is currently Vice President of Player Development for the Cincinnati Reds. It is a remarkable

accomplishment for Shawn to be recognized for his body of work in baseball scouting and the parishioners of Holy Comforter Church salute him.

Chris Stanley

Another Successful Fall/Winter Clothing Drive for Nana's Attic

Parishioners brought in to church or delivered personally gently used Fall/Winter clothing and shoes to Nana's Attic during the first week in November. The official collection Sunday was November 3rd. Once again, my minivan and Barbara Irving's Subaru were filled with bags of donations.

As many of you know, Nana's Attic is the primary community fundraiser for the Domestic Abuse Project of Delaware County, one of our missions. Mothers in the shelter also get vouchers to shop at Nana's Attic for clothing needed after leaving their home.

Parishioners have shown their generosity with their response to past collections for Nana's Attic and this collection continues our tradition of giving. I look forward to another successful clothing drive in the Spring.

Chris Stanley

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



It's Always Something

WORK COMPLETED	ONGOING WORK
• Replace Women's room toilet on main floor	• Replace missing glass in UPH
• Replace 3 toilets in LPH	• Extermination of insect pests & rodents
• Repair damaged ceiling in Small World classroom from leak in upstairs bathroom	

Report from Your Property Team

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

The three toilets in the Boys' and Girls' rooms in the Lower Parish Hall have been replaced with easily repaired models and are functioning properly.

Project #2 – Repainting and caulking etc. to windows

The repainting of the woodwork of the pair of tall windows on the Bond Ave side of the church has been started. Will be completed as weather permits. Will address remainder of repainting in the future.

Project #3 – Identify Cause and Repair Leak in Small World Classroom

The ceiling damage from the leak from the first floor women's room has been repaired in the Small World classroom for 2-year olds. The toilet which caused the damage has been replaced with an ADA compliant one.

Project #4 – Identify Cause and Repair Leak in Nave of church

The roofer came and identified the cause of the leak at the back of the church. When the steeple was re-installed, there were gaps left uncovered with caulk or sheathing. Those gaps have been closed.

Project #5 – Replace Office Computer and Monitor/ Reinstall Programs

Over a year ago, Microsoft informed everyone that they would not be supporting Win07 after the beginning of 2020. We had decided to "hold-out" on upgrading to Win10 as long as the office computer worked. In late October, it died and we had to purchase a new computer with Win10 installed and the current edition of MSOffice. In early November, the monitor died and had to be replaced.

With many thanks to Dan Knowles for donating a new monitor for the computer in the church office.

Jim Gardner and Gail Morgan



Budget to Date

Target for month of October 2019: 83%

Sunday Offerings	% of Budget	Total Revenue	% of Budget	Total Expenses	% of Budget	Net Revenue Less Expense – Surplus(Deficit)
\$94,261	79%	\$128,131	83%	\$212,185	83%	(\$84,054)

Our expenses as of the end of October 2019 (83% of the year) were:

Personnel (64% of yearly budget)	\$ 126,142	78%
Programs (2.5%)	\$ 4,824	75%
Administration (2%)	\$ 6,825	106%
Property (23%)	\$ 64,010	129%
Diocese (4%)	\$ 10,385	96%
TOTAL	\$ 194,121	76%

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 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 _____