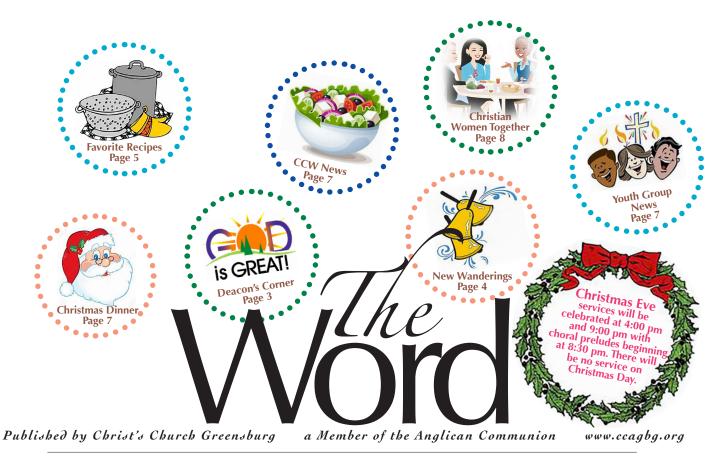
## December 2018



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**Reflections** from Fr. Jeff



# **Ghe Star**

few weeks ago while I was out dining with my family, I overheard someone nearby ask if they served Mogen David wine. I thought to myself, "Wow! I have not heard that since my parents drank it back in the 1970s." I thought it had Jewish origins but really did not think much about it until after the horrific event that occurred at L'Simcha Congregation (the Tree of Life Congregation). The hurt I had-we all had — for those who were gunned down for their faith, right here in Pittsburgh really struck home. They were persecuted not only because they were Jewish, but also because of their mission in living their faith by helping those in need. I also thought of the haunting stories of Rabbi Sarah at the Greensburg Ministerium meeting just days before this tragedy where she told us of the increasing Anti-Semitic tone she is experiencing. As I prayed, I had an overwhelming sense from God for us to stand in solidarity with our Jewish neighbors who are hurting. I noticed a symbol emerged

representing solidarity with those in Pittsburgh, using the Steeler emblem of the three ingredients of making steel: the words with those in Pittsburgh, using the Steeler emblem of the three ingredients of making steel: yellow which is coal, orange which is iron ore, and blue which is steel scrap. The solidarity symbol changed the yellow logo portion to a yellow Star of David, with the words *Stronger than Hate* on the banner. My first thought was how cool to include the Jewish symbol; then I started to think about the Star of David as we approach Christmas.

As I researched the Star of David, I was surprised that it has not always been the symbol of the Jewish faith. Known as *Mogen David* in Hebrew, its association with the Jewish faith did not occur until the 19th Century. The Nazis adopted its use during WWII as part of their Anti-Semitic campaign. It does have roots in biblical times, but there are some discrepancies of its exact origin. Some call it the *Star of Solomon* having the belief it was a symbol of

(Continued on page 2)



#### Christ's Church 145 North Main Street Greensburg, PA 15601 *Parisb Office:* 122 N. Maple Avenue Greensburg, PA 15601 Office: 724-834-4750 Kitchen: 724-836-7140

#### Staff

*Rector:* The Rev. Jeffrey Wylie Honorary Assistant: The Most Rev. Robert Duncan Deacon: The Rev. Gretchen Peske Deacon Emeritus: The Rev. Ruth Manson Parish Administrator: Marsha Tallant Organist: Sara Frye Christian Education Director: Dennis Hyland

Vestry Senior Warden: Alan Fleissner Junior Warden/Property: Gene DiPrimio Secretary/Treasurer: Marsha Tallant Worship: Nick Lynch Communication: Amy MacMannis Christian Education: Tom Thompson Fellowship: Dee Claiborne **Outreach/Mission:** Ann Yutz

The Word Staff *Editor:* Fred Vornbrock *Design:* Lee Klingenberg Solomon's signet ring. There is little to authenticate these unfounded traditions. The general consensus among scholars is that it was a symbol David used to represent the unity or solidarity of all the tribes of Israel. Initially, when Saul died, only the tribes of Judah and Benjamin were loyal to David. The other ten tribes remained loyal to the house of Saul. It took seven years for all twelve tribes to be unified. This symbol represents the strength and solidarity of the twelve tribes of Israel. There are twelve points on the outside, and the two intersecting triangles represented the two factions coming together unifying the twelve tribes.



The Star Prophesy is found in Numbers 24:17, "I shall see him, but not now: I shall behold him, but not nigh: there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall

rise out of Israel, and shall smite the corners of Moab, and destroy all the children of Sheth." This verse can relate to both the scepter of David and of Jesus. But when we get to the Magi, who came from the East, we see a distinction in the Star of David and the Star of Bethlehem. The Star of David represented the Coat of Arms on the Shield of David's forces, which represents David's military is coming. The Star of Bethlehem is marked by the coming of the one greater than David. The Star of Balaam prophesy, which is rooted in Numbers and continues to be defined in Daniel 2:48 and Jeremiah 39:13, is the same star the Magi followed. Most scholars agree the Star of Balaam and the Star of Bethlehem are one and the same because they are described nearly identically. It is interesting to note, that the language also indicates that the star the Magi followed was Christ himself.

In the Gospel of John, we hear about the light coming into the world, which darkness could not overcome. I cannot help but think that when Jesus was born, He literally lit up the whole world. By His very presence, the light was easy to follow until the Magi got to Jerusalem. When the Magi got close to Jesus, they were unable to determine the origin of the light because they were in His radiant range. This also explains, how many in Israel were blinded by their lack of faith. If you're rolling your eyes at this point, that's okay. The fact that Jesus is the light of the world is key: He enlightens us to eternal salvation. We, too, are called to be light to the nations. The Star of David shows unity; so, we too, must be one in Christ. This world wants to divide and conquer all that is good. Though others walk in other faiths, we still are called to bring Christ's love. We need not be divided by earthly realms; rather, we need to be unified by the heavenly presence of the light of Christ. His prayer was for peace upon us that we might be one. This world wants us to see only darkness, but the Light has come and the darkness cannot overcome it. Our star is Jesus Christ that we may always live in His Light. AMEN.



We are asking once again that the poinsettias adorning the sanctuary for Christmas be purchased by those wishing that their loved ones be listed in the Christmas bulletins under Memorials. The cost for each flower is \$10. Please use the Christmas Flower envelope that you received with your pledge envelopes for this purpose, listing the names of your loved ones on the back of the envelope. This must be received in the office by December 16th. Your flower will be available for pick-up the Sunday after Christmas. If you have any questions, contact Marsha at the church office.

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## Youth Group News

Our youth had a busy November doing outreach in our community. On November 4th they went to random homes in Academy Hill and raked leaves. On November 15th they rang bells outside JC Penney for Salvation Army.

They will visit Redstone Highlands on December 8th to help with crafts.

#### Christian Education

Our three-year-old through fifth grade Sunday School classes will be studying the Three Wise Men on December 2nd, the Birth of Jesus on December 9th, and have a Christmas party on December 16th.

## Altar Guíld

Altar Guild Workday for the Christmas season will be on Saturday, December 1st beginning at 8:00 am. ALL are invited to come and help out. We will be polishing silver and brass, hanging some of the wreaths, putting up the Advent wreath and doing some general cleaning. The more helpers, the merrier and the faster it will go.



Don't forget! December 10 is the deadline for articles in the January issue of The Word,

Notes from the Prayer--Whv?

few years ago we had a parishioner who seldom appeared at Church on a Sunday morning... he liked to play golf! I remember asking his wife, "Does he have nothing to talk to God about? Is his life so good that there is no need to recognize our God through prayer and worship?" His wife said to me, "Ask him, why don't you?" He died suddenly before I had the chance!

The fourth chapter of John tells the story of Jesus and the Samaritan women. In their conversation, in verse 23, Jesus tells the woman, "But the hour is coming, and now is here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship Him." Jesus gave the Samaritan woman directions for her life. As we worship God in our public liturgy on Sundays and other Feasts days of the year, we worship Him with others. Prayers in our liturgy are written for us to join with other Christians to glorify God in spirit and truth. This is good, and our Father wants us to worship Him in this manner.

What about our private prayer life in our most personal spaces? A number of years ago I was in a conversation with a parishioner about prayer. He shared with me that he prayed for EVERYTHING, even for direction from God to help him decide which pre-owned car he should buy! Honestly, at that time, I thought that was the most ridiculous thing I had ever heard about prayer.

Growing in faith and communication with God, I have come to appreciate that we can, and should, ask God for ANYTHING that is on our hearts. God, as our Father wants us to go to Him, to trust Him, to lay open our hearts to Him. He knows us better than we know ourselves, and He knows what is troubling us. He wants us to seek Him out, in our public lives and our most intimate moments in our personal lives. He is open to us anytime, night or day.

I used to think that prayer needed to take place while I was sitting down, without the distraction of four children tugging at me, in a quiet place, allowing me to focus on God alone! I so quickly had to give up the notion that I could only pray under those conditions, as I so seldom had those perfect conditions! I had to learn to pray under different conditions. A good example of less than perfect conditions came at a time in which I was hired as a nurse consultant by a company in McMurray for the purpose of developing a rehabilitation facility. My daily drive back and forth to McMurray gave me 53 miles each way to pray. I didn't intend for

## Deacon's Corner

My Life is Just Fine.

this to happen...it just did. I enjoyed the silence of driving alone, and soon I found myself "talking to God." This is prayer...just talking to God.

Talking to God, having a conversation with Him, can contain the four elements of prayer wrapped up in the word, "ACTS." Prayer is (A) **adoring** God; (C) being **contrite** for our sins, "those things done, and those things left undone", as stated in our Anglican liturgy; (T) **thanking** God for our many blessings; and (S) **supplications**, asking for those things which we feel we need or desire.

God, Our Father, wants us to seek Him, wants to hear from us. Spending a few moments each day can provide us with a sense of comfort and peace, a peace which passes all our understanding. Reading a few verses of the Bible can direct our prayers, as we think about how the Scriptures apply to our personal lives. We can even find answers to our prayers in scripture, (as we learn about how others were affected by Jesus) such as the Samaritan woman.

During this Advent season, try tuning up your prayer life taking those few minutes each day, either while driving in the car, by waiting for your children at the school bus stop, waiting in line at the grocery store, waiting in line to pay for your Christmas gifts, or waiting on Amazon to submit your online order, to say a prayer. Truly it will calm you during stressful times.

God Bless you and your family during this "Holy-Day" season!



## Thank you

Many thanks to all who sent me cards and said prayers for my recovery after my surgery. God was gracious and blessed me with little or no pain. I still have some recovery to deal with over the next few months, so your continued prayers are appreciated.

In Chríst, Marsha Tallant

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New Wanderings

A s I discussed in my previous article, our annual Diocesan Convention was held at St. Stephen's Anglican Church in Sewickley. Still experiencing the shock of the horrific event at the Tree of Life Synagogue, a significant focus was placed upon the pain being experienced by so many. The tone of our opening Eucharist began with an appropriately moving prelude, "Compassion," as presented by the St. Stephen's Bell Choir. At the point of the



Prayers of the People, we were joined by two Messianic rabbis, who prayed the Kaddish, a prayer for peace. Bishop Jim Hobby preached on the lessons that were selected for the day with particular emphasis being placed upon reaching beyond one's imagination with the intent to do incredible things. In conjunction with an outstanding music program, this service set the stage for our Gathering.

While the intention of our Convention is to concentrate on the business of the Diocese, it was determined that we attempt to condense the format. This was done so that we could expand the scope of this time together, both in camaraderie and learning. We still were presented for acceptance the Diocesan budget for the coming year. We had a slate of candidates for various positions within the Diocese. During this portion of the meeting, I was blessed to be elected to another three-year term on the Diocesan Council, representing our District 4. Among the areas of business, the merger of the Anglican churches that are serving Penn Hills and Verona is now official. After considererable deliberation, their new name is "Reconciliation," which seems to be most appropriate. One of their priests, familiar to many at Christ's Church, is The Rev. Peggy Means, with active support from her husband, Scott.

During our Bishop's Address, there were some important thoughts presented that are worth sharing. He expressed the importance of our worship of Jesus, accomplishing this through joyful praise and meaningful prayer. An example of prompting Jesus' spirit in our lives was presented. When you have offended someone, or they have offended you in some way, reconciliation is a must. If we don't reconcile our issues, we cannot move past the offense. We live in a culture which wants to unseat Jesus from the throne; as faithful Christians, we must live our lives with a peaceful confidence. This occurs with the knowledge that the Lord is always with us, in everything we do. Another suggestion directed to all Vestry members was to be more of a discernment team, not just a decision-making team. They should listen to Jesus' direction.

Another area of thought involved our Anglican identity. As Anglicans, our worship is Gospel- centered, which leads to Grace in our faith journey. We are liturgical and sacramental in our method of worship. It should be our continued intention as we worship to create a comfort zone with our Lord and Savior. The Creeds, most particularly the Nicene and the Apostles, are the core to our Anglican beliefs.

In upcoming articles, I will review some of the sessions that were available throughout the day for our continued growth and learning. At this time I want to thank you for this opportunity to experience our Anglican Church on the grander scale and to invite you to join me in future Gatherings. Let me close with these words from the Kaddish: "May God's great Name be blessed to the end of time."

## Tim Moore

## Vestry NOTES

At their November meeting, the Vestry decided to take money out of savings to make up the difference between what was in the *Three-year Capital Building Fund* and what was needed to renovate the men's room in the church undercroft.

The 2017 audit was accepted by the vestry. Many thanks to Jeff Simpson for his work in accomplishing this.

The renovation of our library by the Boy Scouts for an Eagle Scout project is just about completed.

Side Altar chairs to match the new Celebrant's chair have been ordered in memory of Robert Wicker.

Stewardship Sunday will be December 9th. Pledge cards will be mailed soon.



Income for October - \$ 19,286 Income year-to-date - \$181,174 Disbursements

in October -	\$ 23,422
Disbursements	
year-to-date -	\$188,263
Net loss -	\$ 7,089
Assets:	
Checking accounts -	\$ 45,103
Investments -	\$133,656



Favorite Recipes from the CCW Salad Bar

## **BEEFY BAKED RAVIOLI**

1 lb. ground beef 1 pkg (25 oz.) frozen cheese ravioli 2 jars (14 oz. each) spaghetti sauce 1-1/2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese 1-1/2 cups shredded Monterey jack cheese 1 T. parmesan cheese

Preheat oven to 450 degrees. Cook and drain ground beef. Stir in spaghetti sauce. Spread 1/3 cup sauce in the bottom of a 9"x13" baking dish. Arrange half of the frozen ravioli over sauce. Sprinkle half of cheese (not parmesan) over ravioli. Repeat layers, ending with last of sauce on top. Cover with foil and bake 30 minutes. Sprinkle with parmesan over top before serving.

Nancy Getson

## **NEWS** About Our Jr & Sr High Youth Programs

Leaders, Jeff and Leslie Simpson, on Thursday evenings from 5:30 to 7:30 pm in the CE Building. Each youth is expected to bring a Bible. If they do not have one, we will give them one. Our evening begins with "Highs /Lows" of the week. We provide a lesson regarding issues youth deal with and look for answers in the Bible, watch videos, and listen to music. The last 30 minutes is free time.

We will meet every Thursday evening except for school holidays, inclement weather, and insufficient attendance.

Here's our upcoming schedule, subject to change.

#### December 2018

NURSING HOME VISIT OUTREACH. Saturday, December, 8th. Our Youth will participate in a Christmas craft event. The youth group will help with a craft project for the younger ones that come to the craft event.

#### January 2019

YOUTH LOCK-IN INVITING EVENT. Youth will arrive Friday, January 11th in the evening @ 7:00 pm. They are encouraged to invite a friend/friends. The evening will be filled with food, games, and movies! Youth will be "Locked-In" until Saturday, January 12th @ 10 am. Breakfast will be provided.

SHOVEL FOR JESUS OUTREACH. Sunday, January 20th immediately after the 10:30 service. Weather permitting, our Youth will shovel sidewalks of homeowners in the area. Lunch will be provided. Pick up @ CE building @3:30.

#### February 2019

STORYTIME for SUNDAY SCHOOL KIDS SERV-ING EVENT. Sunday, February 3rd. Our Youth will read stories to our Sunday School kids. Details later.

#### March 2019

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER FUND-RAISER. Tuesday, March 5th. Youth should arrive @4:00 and will serve from 5:00-7:00. They will need to stay to clean up until 7:30. Pick-up @7:30.

COSMIC BOWLING INVITING EVENT. Date TBA.

#### **April 2019**

EASTER EGG HUNT for SUNDAY SCHOOL KIDS SERVING EVENT. Sunday, April 14th, Palm Sunday. Our annual Easter Egg Hunt will follow immediately after the 10:30 service. Details later.

Easter Break April 18, 2019 – April 26, 2019

#### **May 2019**

SUNDAY FUNDAY for SUNDAY SCHOOL KIDS SERVING EVENT. Sunday, May 19th. Our "Sunday Funday" will follow immediately after the 10:30 service. Youth will enjoy an afternoon of fun, activities, and prizes! Hot dogs will be provided for all. Details later.

#### Last Youth group for 2018-2019: May 16, 2019

If you would like more information, please contact Leslie or Jeff Simpson at 724-757-0317 or 724-787-1519.

Mission Statement: "To glorify God in relationships and activities, and to encourage a servant's beart toward God, the church family, and our community."

#### **Important Dates for Your Calendar**



## Salad Bars

Every salad bar has a story, and November 2 was no exception. Much to our surprise, we served only 64 guests, and our net income was \$555.18. Quite a difference from October when we served 132 guests! However, the so-called good part was that we had 12 helpers instead of the usual 20. The serving duties worked out, after all.

Thank you to everyone who made their favorite recipes... so many nice comments were made!

#### **Christmas Dinner**

Did you mark your calendar for Saturday, January 5, 2019? Our Christmas Dinner will be at Lakeview in the Crystal Room (same as before). New entertainment will be awesome this year!

An invitation will be mailed inviting you, your family, and your friends. A sign-up sheet for reservations will be posted on the CCW bulletin board in the undercroft. Lunch, Soup, and Bake Sale The

## "BIG ONE" is coming Friday, December 7! We have so much to offer that

We have so much to offer that day... a salad bar plus homemade soups and baked goods! People "shop" before they eat! It is a popular event, and I hope you will make one or two of your favorite recipes. TWICE the food and TWICE the helpers are needed! This is our biggest fundraiser of the year... HELP!!

JUST A REMINDER... Soups and baked goods should be brought to the undercroft the day before on Thursday, December 6, between 1:00 and 4:00 p.m. to allow us time to jar the soups and price the baked goods. Salad bar foods can be brought in as usual.



Greensburg, PA 15601 aunavA alqaM .N 221 Parish Office Christ's Church

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A Christian Website for Your Consideration

# Christian Women Together

hristian Women Together (CWT) will gather on December 10th at DeNunzio's in Jeannette at 6:30 p.m. to celebrate our time together and Christmas. All women are invited to attend. Please let Deacon Gretchen know if you will be attending.

Here we are enjoying a great dinner at Atria's in North Huntingdon on Monday evening November 22. A good time was had by all!



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