

April 2019



Published by Christ's Church Greensburg

a Member of the Anglican Communion

www.ccagbg.org

Easter Eggs: Not Biblical but Rich in Christian Tradition



Reflections from Fr. Jeff

*"The mission of
Christ's Church is to
worship God and to
make known the love
and salvation of
Christ."*

I remember distinctly Easter morning, my first Easter at Christ's Church. I was so excited and a bit nervous. I remember the ushers coming forward with a big grin. As they handed me the collection plate, it felt like a 100 pounds. As I glanced down, I noticed Easter Eggs in the collection plate and two ushers and a few others chuckling at the situation. I laughed at it as a great joke and truly felt loved. What I did not know was that receiving Easter Eggs in church was an ancient tradition that predates the Easter Egg Hunts and Easter Rolls.

The earliest known tradition with painting hard-boiled eggs go back thousands of years in current day Iran, where they used the Eggs, called Nowruz, to represent new life, fertility, and rebirth for their new year celebration which fell on the spring equinox. Many claim that the Easter Egg has pagan roots; however, the earliest and only source was the Venerable Bede, an English monk, who wrote the first history of Christianity in England. Unfortunately, there is no other evidence to support this story and is, therefore, highly unlikely.

For Christians, the Easter egg is symbolic of the resurrection of Jesus. The Orthodox and Eastern Catholic traditions would dye their eggs red to represent the blood of Jesus shed on the Cross. It was in these early days that Easter eggs were blessed by the priest at the end of the Paschal vigil and then distributed to the congregants. The hard shell represented the sealed Tomb of Christ and cracking the shell represented Jesus' Resurrection. In addition, Christians in those days would not only fast but abstain from meat which included eggs during Lent. Easter was the first chance to eat eggs.

So this year, if I receive eggs in the plate, I will have a greater appreciation of its history, and enjoy them just same as well as feeling the love. AMEN and have a Blessed Easter!!!

Fr. Jeff+



Christ's Church
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Greensburg, PA 15601
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Greensburg, PA 15601
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Staff

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Honorary Assistant:
The Most Rev.
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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
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Fellowship:
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² *Clergy Chairs*

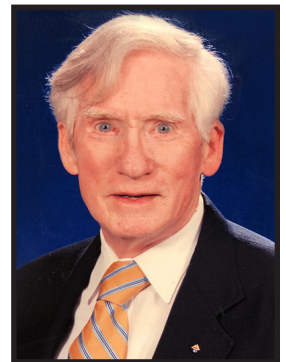
The Presider's chair—the chair the clergy member officiating at a service sits in—is significant to our worship. The Presider's chair should occupy a position to lead services, especially the Liturgy of the Word, the first half of our Eucharist Service. The ideal location is directly behind the Altar facing the congregation. When I first arrived at Christ's Church, our Presider's Chair had one leg longer than the others and was cracked and splintered.



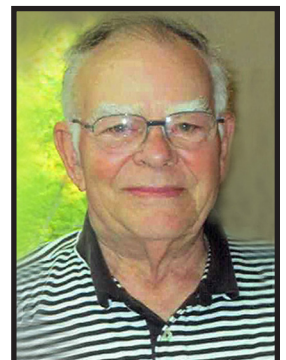
Knowing the Presider's Chair was in disrepair, Nadine requested that the memorial funds for Robert Plummer be used to purchase a new Presider's Chair. It was an answer to prayer, but the selection of a chair was challenging. Though there are many styles of chairs, few are designed for an Anglo-Gothic structure. It cannot be just any style of chair; its profile must fit our architecture and be noble in its simplicity. The chair finally selected and ordered was custom-built to meet our needs.

We suffered another significant loss with the passing of Robert Wicker. Dee offered the memorial funds for Bob be used to replace the two flanking chairs: the Deacon's Stool (which is a chair) and the Lay Eucharistic Minister's Seat. These chairs were also custom built to match the new Presider's Chair.

As the new chairs were placed on the Altar, it was like Robert and Robert were back together as they had so often been before, here at church, doing ministry, going on trips or even just relaxing in each other's backyards. Both were true leaders, active with Christ's Church. Though we feel and mourn their loss, dedicating these chairs during the Bishop's visit reminds us that life has changed; however, it has not ended for them nor our relationship with them. As the bishop consecrated these chairs for sacred use, I could not but help to think that both of these men have a unique spiritual presence with us. That once again both of them are celebrating at our Lord's table with us, the very core of our Eucharist theology. I pray that the loving and committed spirit that they shared with us throughout their lives will continue to inspire us in our journeys. AMEN.



Robert Plummer



Robert Wicker

Church Register

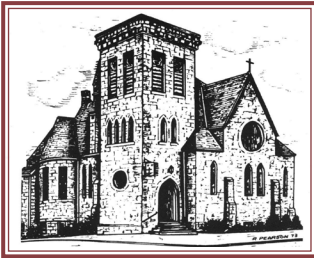
Transfers In:

❖ Will and Bonita Heisey

Deaths:

It is with sadness that we announce the deaths of two of Christ's Church's prior members.

Richard Pearson had been a very active member of Christ's Church from the 1960s through 2006 when he and his wife, Eleanore, moved to Marietta, GA. He and Eleanore were Youth leaders in the mid to late 1960s. Richard also drew a beautiful pen and ink drawing of the church which was used for years on our notecards.



The original drawing is currently hanging in the stairway of the CE Building. Richard died on February 12, 2019. Cards can be sent to Eleanore at 2487 Lakebrooke Drive, Marietta, GA 30066-4935.

Kathy Henry had also been a very active member of Christ's Church until she and her husband, Curt moved to South Carolina in 2013. Kathy and Esther Yant taught English as a second language in the church undercroft for many years. She was one of the sweetest people you would ever want to meet. Kathy died on February 23, 2019. Cards can be sent to Curt at 465 North State Rte 741, Apt 209, Lebanon, OH 45036.

Palms

If anyone would like to donate for the palms in memory or honor of their loved ones, please send a check into the church indicating such. It would be appreciated.

Worship Ministry

If you like to read the scriptures aloud, we could use you as a Lector to read the Epistle at either service. Please let Father Jeff or Marsh Tallant know if you are interested.

VESTRY Notes

Since there was not a quorum at the February meeting no business was completed. The Church Register for 2018 was reviewed showing an average Sunday attendance of 95 which is down from the 100 recorded in prior years.

A thank you was read from The Salvation Army for the donation sent to them in the amount of \$353. The loose cash receipts in the offering plate from the first Sunday of each month is sent equally to Catholic Charities and The Salvation Army to assist those in need.

A letter from The Community Foundation of Westmoreland County was read that stated that Christ's Church was the recipient of a grant in the amount of \$1,000 for remodeling from the Tom Anton "Gift from Heaven" Memorial Endowment Fund. A thank you has been sent.

Financial statements for January were reviewed, and they showed:

- ❖ General Fund Income for January - \$16,849
- ❖ General Fund Disbursements for January - \$16,215
- ❖ Net Gain for the month of \$634
- ❖ Total amount in general checking is \$36,848
- ❖ Total amount in savings and investments is \$135,664

Envelope Confusion

There seems to be some confusion about the envelopes for the Three-year Capital Building Fund (Building Fund). The monthly Capital Fund envelopes in with your pledge envelopes are not for the Building Fund. If you need envelopes for the Building Fund, please contact the church office. If you do choose to use the Capital Fund envelopes for your Building Fund pledge, scratch out "Capital Fund" and write in "Building Fund." Now that I have totally confused you – call the church office if you have questions.

Upcoming Parish Calendar

Apr 8: Christian Women Together monthly dinner at Tapped Brick Oven and Pour House (across from the Hempfield Walmart Plaza on Rt. 30)

Apr 9: Vestry Meeting beginning at 7:15 pm in the C.E. Building

Apr 10: Deadline for the articles to be included in the next Parish newsletter

Apr 13: Altar Guild Cleaning Day

Apr 14: Palm Sunday - Easter Egg Hunt, CE Building, beginning immediately after the 10:30 service

Apr 18: Maundy Thursday - Agape dinner at 7:00 pm followed by a Holy Eucharist Service at 7:30 pm that will conclude with the stripping of the sanctuary

Apr 19: Good Friday Liturgy begins at noon

Apr 21: Easter - The Service of Light will begin at 8:00 am with Easter Sunday Celebration at 10:30 am

Apr 28: Serving dinner at Shepherd's Heart. See Deacon Gretchen for details.

Holy Week Schedule

Our Holy Week schedule for 2019 will be the same as past years. We will observe the blessings of the palms on Palm Sunday, April 14 at both the 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. services.

On Maundy Thursday, April 18 the evening will begin with an Agape meal at 7:00 p.m. followed at 7:30 p.m. with a Holy Eucharist service that will conclude with the stripping of the sanctuary.

On Good Friday, April 19 the church will be open from 12:00 to 3:00 p.m. for Good Friday liturgy, The Way of the Cross, and solemn silence.

On Easter Sunday The Service of Light will begin the Eucharist celebration at the 8:00 a.m. service. The 10:30 a.m. service will celebrate Christ's resurrection with Holy Eucharist.

Join us for this journey through Christ's last days and celebrate with us a glorious Easter.



For more information
call
Jeff or Leslie Simpson at
724-787-1519 or
724-757-0317

MAY 2019

**SUNDAY FUN DAY for SUNDAY
SCHOOL KIDS SERVING EVENT.**
Sunday 19th immediately
after the 10:30 service.

Youth will provide an after-
noon of fun activities/prizes.
Hot dogs will be provided
for all. More details provided
closer to date.

The last Youth Group of the
Season will be May 16th.



Don't forget!
April 10
is the deadline
for articles
in the May
issue of
The Word.

2019 PITTSBURGH PIRATES

FAITH NIGHT

SAVE THE DATE!
JUNE 22 vs. PADRES
4:05 PM

P Additional details coming soon.
Check pirates.com/faith for more information.

TICKETS NOW ON SALE!

The 7th Annual Faith Night this season is going to be held on Saturday, June 22, which is a 4:05 pm game.

With it being an earlier presentation and on a Saturday, we're expecting the largest turnout that we've ever had. Right now, we are accepting deposits for Groups of 10 or more who will receive an average savings of \$10 per person! Based upon the feedback that we have already received and the enthusiasm for this date and time, I would highly recommend making your group reservation as soon as possible. This is sure to sell out, and tickets will not be available as late as they may have been in past years.

Secure your Group Now and Receive:

- ★ **Lowest Group Prices for the 2019 Season Right Now!**
 - * Group Ticket prices are subject to increase based on real time pricing. Call 412-325-4756 for current pricing for Faith Night.
- ★ **Benefits for Groups of 10 or More**
 - * Discounted Seats + No Service Fees
 - * Represents an Average Savings of \$10 Per Person!
 - * Group Recognition on the LED Boards
 - * Two Complimentary Tickets to a Future Game!



Chad Glover

Account Manager, Premium Seating Sales
chad.glover@pirates.com
p. 412.325.4756

PNC Park at North Shore | 115 Federal Street | Pittsburgh, PA 15212

The History of Aprons

I don't think our kids know what an apron is. The principal use of Grandma's apron was to protect the dress underneath. Because she only had a few, it was easier to wash aprons than dresses, and they used less material. But along with that, it served as a potholder for removing hot pans from the oven.

It was wonderful for drying children's tears, and on occasion, it was even used for cleaning dirty ears. From the chicken coop, the apron was used for carrying eggs, fussy chicks, and sometimes half-hatched eggs to be finished in the warming oven.

When company came, those aprons were ideal hiding places for shy kids. And when the weather was cold, Grandma wrapped it around her arms. Those big old aprons wiped many a perspiring brow that was bent over the hot wood stove. Chips and kindling wood were brought into the kitchen in that apron.

From the garden, it carried all sorts of vegetables. After the peas had been shelled, it carried out the hulls. In the fall, the apron was used to bring in apples that had fallen from the trees.

When unexpected company drove up the road, it was surprising how much furniture that old apron could dust in a matter of seconds.

When dinner was ready, Grandma walked out onto the porch, waved her apron, and the men knew it was time to come in from the fields for dinner.

It will be a long time before someone invents something that will replace that old-time apron that served so many purposes.

REMEMBER: Grandma used to set her hot baked apple pies on the window sill to cool. Her granddaughters set theirs on the window sill to thaw. They would go crazy now trying to figure out how many germs were on that apron. I don't think I ever caught anything from an apron but love!



Prayer List

We are going to try to list those in our parish in need of our prayers each month. We apologize up front if we miss you, but we don't always know who is sick or in the hospital. Please let us know if you wish to be included. This list will only be Christ's Church members. For a complete listing of our Prayer List see the website.

April's List

John Beavers Derek Peske Janet Colosimo
 Kay & Herb Ferree Jim & Julie Smith
 Melanie Wood Bettyann Finney
 Ruth Manson



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

Salad Bar

Our salad bar on March 8 competed with Lenten lunches at local churches and fire halls. BUT we served 70 guests, and our net income was \$649.44.

"Thank you" for your generous donations of food! We had a few new helpers who were absolutely awesome!

"Thank you" again!



There is NO salad bar in April because of the Easter holiday; the next dates are May 3 and June 7.

Frozen Pie Sale

April is the month to remind you of our Frozen Pie Sale. The delivery date is **Wednesday, May 15**. There are 14 kinds of delicious pies to choose from, plus two kinds of no-sugar-added pies, plus pumpkin rolls. What are **YOUR** favorites?

Would **YOU** buy at least **ONE**?

Please be generous with your orders by asking your friends and family! **Last day to order is May 8.**

Altar Guild Easter Flowers

On April 13, at 8:00 a.m., we will prepare the sanctuary for Palm Sunday and Easter. All the silver and brass will be polished, marble, wood, and stone washed, candles trimmed, etc., everything to make the days special. We need all Altar Guild members to put this on their calendars. Also if you are not a member of Altar Guild and would like to come and join us, please do. Any questions should be directed to Marsha Tallant.

If you wish to have your loved ones listed on the Memorial Flower insert for Easter, please use the Easter Flower envelope that is in with your pledge envelopes and send it to the church office or put it in the offering plate by April 15. If you do not have envelopes, use a regular envelope and write the names of your loved ones on the envelope. The cost for each lily this year is \$10. Please be sure to pick up your lily after the 10:30 a.m. service on Easter or the following Sunday.

Favorite Recipes from the **CCW Salad Bar**

CREAMY CHICKEN TORTELLINI SOUP

- | | | |
|---|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 T. extra virgin olive oil | 1¼ lbs. boneless chicken breasts | 3 cheese tortellini pasta (8.8 oz.) |
| 1 large sweet onion, peeled and chopped | 9 cups chicken broth | ½ cup half and half |
| 1 red bell pepper, seeded and chopped | 1½ tsp. dried thyme | ½ cup fresh baby spinach |
| 2 cups carrots, sliced | ½ tsp. crushed red pepper | |
| 4 cloves garlic, minced | 1 tsp. salt | |
| | ¼ tsp. black pepper | |

Sauté onion in extra virgin olive oil for three minutes until soft. Add bell pepper, carrots, and garlic. Sauté additional three minutes.

Add raw chicken, chicken broth, thyme, crushed red pepper, salt, and black pepper. Simmer until chicken is cooked through. Remove chicken and cool before shredding.

Bring heat to medium and add tortellini. Add shredded chicken to pot. Cook 10-15 minutes, then turn off heat. Stir in half and half and spinach. Season to taste with salt and pepper.

Nancy Getson

Christ's Church Workers (CCW) - Greensburg

Profits are used to support local charities and for specific church projects.

Each 10" pie is frozen and, for best results, should be baked on a cookie sheet. Follow the directions on the box and adjust time and temperature to your oven.

The CCW has two frozen pie sales a year—one in May and one in November for the holidays. Tell your family, friends, and neighbors about our pie sales. We need your continued support!

**You will be called
when your order is ready.**

**Orders must be picked up by
12 noon on May 15!**



**Our next sale will be
November 2019
so plan your order accordingly!**

If you have any questions or need additional order forms, see Freda Schultz or call the church office (724-834-4750).

All orders must be prepaid by check, payable to "Christ's Church CCW." Please mail your order and check to:

Christ's Church
Attention: CCW
122 North Maple Avenue
Greensburg, PA 15601-2580

The last day to order is May 8!

CCW Frozen Pie Sale – May 15, 2019

*All pies are **\$10.00** each, except as noted.*

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Apple | <input type="checkbox"/> Pecan (<i>thaw and serve</i>) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Apple Berry (<i>blackberries/blueberries/red raspberries/rhubarb/strawberries</i>) | <input type="checkbox"/> Pineapple Upside Down / Cherries (<i>caramel glaze/pecans</i>) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Apple Walnut (<i>caramel glaze</i>) | <input type="checkbox"/> Red Raspberry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black Cherry | <input type="checkbox"/> Strawberry Rhubarb |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blackberry | <input type="checkbox"/> Very Berry (<i>strawberries/blackberries/blueberries/red raspberries</i>) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blueberry | <input type="checkbox"/> Pumpkin Roll - \$7.00 (<i>thaw and serve</i>) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cherry | <input type="checkbox"/> Apple (<i>NO sugar added</i>) – 8" - \$8.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Peach | <input type="checkbox"/> Cherry (<i>NO sugar added</i>) – 8" - \$8.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Peach Praline (<i>praline glaze/pecans</i>) | |

Name _____

Total Number of Items _____

Home Phone (_____) _____

Total Amount Due \$ _____

Cell Phone (_____) _____

Check Number _____



Christ's Church
Parish Office
122 N. Maple Avenue
Greensburg, PA 15601