



## THE CHRIST CHURCH CHRONICLE



### From our Priest in Charge:

*What is most important to you?* This time of year, I always reflect on this question.

We associate stewardship season with planning for our next year's budget, but stewardship is about so much more than that. Stewardship is about reflecting on God's call in our lives to be good stewards of all that we've been given in every sphere of our lives: our time, our knowledge, our skills, our words, our relationships, our money, and so much more.

Stewardship season is an invitation to take a look at ourselves and all that we have and ask, "What is most important to us?" Even more important, reflecting on stewardship begs the question, "Does the way I spend my time, my energy, and my money reflect what I say I value most?"

Our God has blessed each of us abundantly with different skills, knowledge, experiences, and relationships. We each have a completely unique set of gifts. God's abundant blessings are unearned and unprompted. God's grace comes from God's love.

As disciples of Jesus, we strive to spread this love and live into God's call for our lives. Part of God's call is the call to us to be a good steward. The best way we can honor the God who has blessed us so richly is by being a good steward of each and every blessing God has given us. We are called to honor every gift – every talent, every moment, every relationship, every dollar.

This stewardship season, may we be inspired to care for all that God has given us as we give thanks to God for the gift of being Christ Church.

### Worship with Us This Weekend

**Join us in-person at 5pm on Saturday!**

*All are welcome for an intimate service of Holy Communion without music.*

**Join us in-person or on Facebook Live at 10am on Sunday!**

*All are welcome for our service of Holy Communion with music!*

*(In the event of any streaming complications, we apologize. There's no login necessary to view our services on Facebook.)*

Mother Ann+

## The Deacon's Corner

Something's different around here. What is it?  
We aren't waiting in deep meditation and self-reflection for the powerful and painful re-enactment of Christ's crucifixion. We aren't waiting in silence wondering if a certain promise is going to be fulfilled. We aren't dancing in jubilation because of the Resurrection. We aren't waiting yet again for the outpouring of grace in the arrival of the Holy Spirit, or rushing out into the world being newly endowed with that Spirit's power. Those transformative events have happened; we have lived them, we have breathed them, we have fully experienced them. That's what's different! Everything is ORDINARY now. It's the season after Pentecost, known in some places as an ORDINARY time.

New season. New chapter. Different atmosphere.

Now the focus is on the life of the Church, on our lives now that we have been given the gift of these experiences and all that they imply, all that they teach, all that they mean. What are we going to do with all this, that's the question that's being answered in the ordinary days. Where do we go from here?

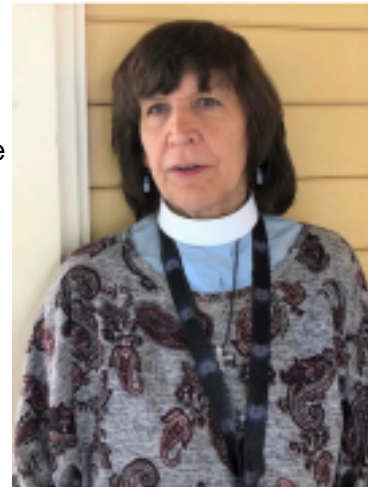
We're finding out together.

Now, in the life of the Diocese of New Jersey, the times are not so ordinary. There's the end of one era and the beginning of another taking place. As I write this, we are preparing for the installation of Bishop-elect Sally Johnson French. By the time most of you read this, she will be Bishop. We walked through a great deal of change and new beginnings under Bishop William ("Chip") Stokes, and we will most likely do so with our new Bishop as well. It's always a time of change somewhere in the world.

So in the times when there is no earth shattering Biblical event that we are getting ready to experience or for which to prepare, we look into the ordinary world. We look for God's signals everywhere to give us some ideas about the ways that we will live out the Gospel. After all, this is the season AFTER Pentecost...the Spirit is here, and we have been given the Great Commission. So it's important, I think, for us to be on the lookout all the time for places and ways that we can live into that.

Where do you see God giving you ideas? I see it in the wild animals and birds finding food in the grass and the greenery. I see it in the trees that didn't survive the drought but are serving as support frames for flowering vines, wildflowers, holly, Rose of Sharon, and the like. I see it in peacemaking between people who have had adversarial relationships in the past but decide to focus on what they have in common rather than where they oppose one another. I hear it in the music in the church, the laughter over coffee cups, the expressions of joy at the accomplishments of a young person. The ideas are strewn everywhere. My job, your job, our job is to look for them and use them.

May this time give you the peace of mind of the everyday ordinary and the power of the extraordinary as well!



Deacon Magdalena

## From our Priest Associate

Greetings Parish Family,

This past July 31st marked my first anniversary here with you as your clergy associate. I am filled with love and gratitude for your welcoming me and giving me a home with you and for the privilege of allowing me to share in your lives.



In our time together, I have witnessed so much love, fellowship, joy, and prayer. There is an abundance of it here! As we enter into our stewardship season, I am convinced that the theme we selected together, Rooted in Abundance, is an appropriate description of who we are. We are overflowing with love for God, each other, and our desire to share what we have experienced here with others. So, in the next few months, let us call to mind again the abundance of blessings that we have found here at our parish and consider how we are called in turn to respond to the needs of our community.

God loves you!

Fred+

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### Our Thrift Store

The Christ Church Thrift Store is open every Saturday from 9am-12 noon in the downstairs of Memorial Hall! Our thrift store has served the surrounding community for years, but we rely on volunteers to grow and thrive. If you would like to volunteer for a few hours (or if you know someone who is looking for community service hours) every month or two, it would be a great gift to our Christ Church Thrift Store!

Our Thrift Store often closes on holiday weekends. Watch our weekly email & our door for updates!

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### [Click here to donate to support Christ Church!](#)

You can download Vanco Mobile [for Android from Google Play](#) or [for Apple from the App Store](#). Once it's installed on your device, you can search for Christ Church of South Ansbey or add us with our invite code: RLRX9X

Also, you can visit us on our Vanco site to donate any time: <https://bit.ly/ChristChurchSAGiving>

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**CARIBBEAN NIGHT**  
Come, Enjoy the Sounds and Tastes of the Caribbean

Hosted by  
CHRIST CHURCH WOMEN WITH PURPOSE  
VISIT CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH SOUTH AMBOY  
[Christchurchsouthambo.org](http://Christchurchsouthambo.org)  
Facebook

Live Steelpan Performance by  
**DNA**  
*Funds benefit our scholarship and outreach efforts*

**Memorial Hall**  
257 4<sup>th</sup> Street, South Amboy, NJ 08879  
Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup> 2023  
6:30pm – 9:30pm  
Parking at 220 Main Street, South Amboy

Tickets: Adults \$30, Children 6 – 12 yrs. \$15  
For Tickets Call/Text 732-309-8161 or 732-598-0134

Please consider bringing non-perishable items to support our Thanksgiving food drive.

**Upcoming Meetings & Gatherings**

Sunday, October 1 after the 10am service: Blessing of the Animals

Thursday, October 19: Monthly Vestry Meeting

Saturday, October 21 at 6:30pm: Caribbean Night!

Saturday, November 11 at 6pm: Thanksgiving Potluck

**Christ Church and Trinity Parish Picnic**



## **Blessing of the Animals**



## **Women with Purpose**



Christ Church South Amboy

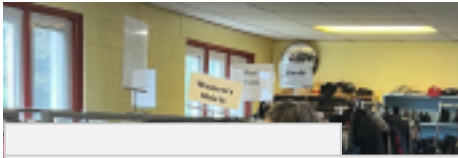
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At Christ Church we are committed to making a difference . The items collected during our school supplies drive were delivered to South Amboy school yesterday by Inell and Terry. The generosity of our congregation and friends knows no bounds .



**Two new volunteers at our Thrift Store. We are lucky to have them!**



An active parishioner, Elise, works with our customers, organizes inventory, and provides transportation for our parishioners. She is also active with Women with Purpose and helps to livestream our Sunday Services.



Nancy has done a wonderful job of reorganizing our book section. She went through every book in our inventory and categorized them by genre and author. In addition to our book section, she is available to help wherever she is needed. Her dedication is inspiring!

Come see us at the Thrift Store every Saturday morning from 9 to 12. We are always looking for volunteers!

## **The Stained Glass Windows of Christ Church**

**By Steve Osterberg**

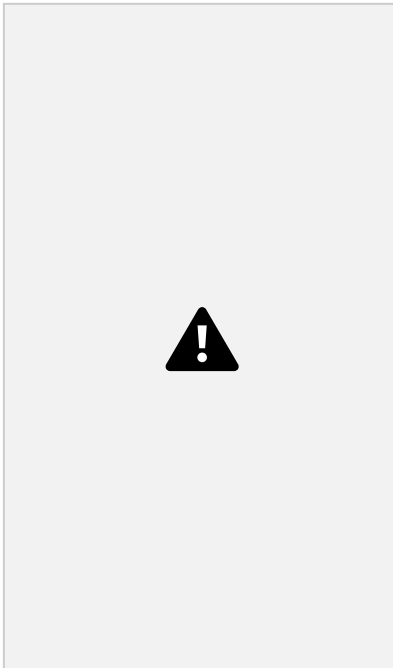
The beautiful stained-glass windows in Christ Church are primarily a ministry of color which helps to transform our Church building into a house of worship. But they are more than just mere decorations. In keeping with the name of the parish, they portray the highlights of Christ's earthly life. A number of the windows are new since the explosion of 1950 that destroyed several of our original windows. Stained glass is a hand craft practiced in America today in virtually the same manner as it was in Europe in the Middle Ages. Each window has an associated Bible text that can be used for meditation and reflection.







**Left: (2) The Nativity (Luke 2:1-20)** In memory of Thomas Treganowan Kerr (killed in World War I). Given by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Kerr Sr. **Right: (3) The Purification (Luke 2:22-39)** In memory of James White and Annie Cozzens. Given by Wilhelmina Cozzens.



**(4) The Christ Child in the Temple (Luke 2:41-52)** In memory of Josephine Frances Johnson. Given by Mrs. William H. Lewis.