



christepiscopalxenia@gmail.com

63 East Church Street, Xenia Ohio 45385

www.christepiscopalxenia.weebly.com

February 2014 Volume 5, Issue 2



Pastor's Page

Dear Friends,

What a winter this has been! God has given us the ministry of sheltering the homeless, and we can be thankful for that. That ministry has meant more than we can imagine to people facing the life-threatening cold we've been experiencing. God blesses us with this work.

In other ways this winter has proven to be difficult. I know the trend is to say "challenging" rather than difficult – but in reality it's been difficult. We lost a relative newcomer to our congregation. Dr. Ritter Werner had not been with us long, but his delight in being part of Christ Church was a joy to see. He found the church to be the warmest and most welcoming he'd ever encountered. As a member of the family said: "We knew he'd found his spiritual home." He was gifted and widely

knowledgeable, and it was difficult to lose him. We will miss him and the wonderful conversations.

The very day we gathered at the Memorial Service to give thanks for Ritter, we also lost one of our matriarchs and longest-standing members—Betsy Kitch. There is little that can be said about losing Betsy. She was forthright, fiercely loving, strong-willed, and deeply spiritual--and utterly committed to God. It still seems so hard to believe she isn't with us any longer. We miss her so. This month we will gather to celebrate her life and give thanks.

The winter has been long and brutally cold; colder than many of us can recall from past years. Certainly we have faced temperatures in the single digits and below zero. Many of us cannot remember facing them over and over and over and over.... Well, you understand what I mean. And still we give thanks. Perhaps the very severity of the cold may remind us to honor and safeguard the God-created, delicate balances of nature.

In all things, we give thanks. For a work that keeps others safe and warm, for

Warden's Words

will return next time



Our friend Jack Kitch will remain in rehab at Bethany Village for another few days or so. He would be cheered by visits, phone calls, and cards. It's always good to know your church community cares!

beloved lives that have graced and blessed our own, and even for weather that astounds us with its severity...we live in gratitude and hope. We turn all things over to God, and God will surely bring good from them. We may not always know what good may come; but **our faith** tells us that it will.

In peace,
ML+



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1	Pastor's Page
3	Ministries and Financial Matters
5	Absolom Jones Article
6	Dates to Remember
7	Announcements, List of Birthdays & Anniversaries
8	Children's corner
9	Schedule
10	Vestry Candidate Bios

Bible Quiz



During Israel's 40-year sojourn in the desert, where did the Lord turn bitter water sweet so the people could drink it?

- A. Egypt
- B. Mt. Sinai
- C. Canaan
- D. Marah

Answer: D (See Exodus 15:23-25.)



Good leaders don't insist on having all the "stars" on their teams. Good leaders *create* stars from the people they already have!



Get Ready, Everyone! It's February 2nd!

Bring a dish to pass – we'll share breakfast!

Pray about our Vestry elections,
and your own possible part in that process

Talk with your Vestry –

find out how they feel about being Vestry members and Wardens

Vote on the new Vision Statement the Vestry has been writing this year

Laugh, Talk, Share, Eat, Enjoy – and still be home in time for Superbowl!

(What more could anyone ask??)

2014 Annual Meeting



PANCAKE BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER FOR CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH'S EMERGENCY DROP IN HOMELESS SHELTER

Homeless Shelter



SATURDAY – FEBRUARY 15TH
9:00 A.M. UNTIL 11:00 A.M.
AT CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH



MENU:

PANCAKES - BACON OR SAUSAGE - ORANGE JUICE - MILK - COFFEE



COST: \$5 FOR ADULTS / \$3 FOR CHILDREN UNDER 5 YRS

COME JOIN US FOR A GOOD BREAKFAST
AND HELP RAISE FUNDS FOR THE GUESTS
AT THE SHELTER.





Stewardship

To give thanks is to bless. When we ask God to bless our successes in life, we are thanking God for being present in the midst of those events. In the same way, we can also ask God to bless our failures in life. When we ask God to bless our losses, we are thanking God for being present in the midst of those events.

Thanksgiving, then, means blessing God as we remember both the gains and the losses... Bring both the gains and the losses... bring successes and failures. As you ask God to bless those events, even the most painful ones can be transformed. They will be transformed by a divine love, a holy presence, a peace, that passes all understanding.

The Very Reverend Sam Candler is Dean of the Cathedral of St. Philip in Atlanta, Georgia. This article originally appeared on his blog at [Good Faith and the Common Good](#).

One way to reflect on your blessings as the days and months pass is to fill a Blessing Jar. Simply find a container (ideally with a lid) and place it in a prominent place in your home. Next to it, set slips of paper and writing utensils.

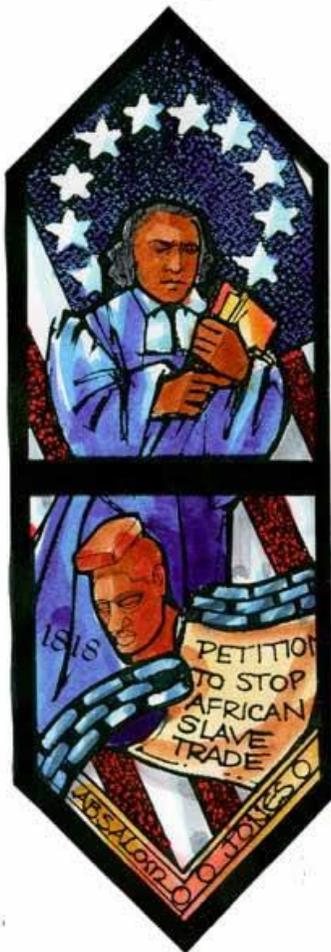
Every day jot down one thing you're grateful for that day. Encourage every family member to do the same. Save your jottings throughout the year - fill the jar! If you'd like, every week sit down together and review the many ways that God is present in your lives.

The Blessing Jar



On February 16 Christ Church will celebrate the life of Absalom Jones

Absalom Jones was America's first black priest. Born into slavery in Delaware at a time when slavery was being debated as immoral and undemocratic, he taught himself to read, using the New Testament as one of his resources. At the age of 16, Jones was sold to a shopkeeper in Philadelphia where he attended a night school for blacks, operated by Quakers. Following the purchase of his own freedom in 1784, Jones served as lay minister for the black membership at St. George's Methodist Episcopal Church. The active evangelism of Jones and that of his friend, Richard Allen, greatly increased black membership at St. George's. Alarmed by the rise in black attendance, the vestry decided to segregate blacks into an upstairs gallery without notice. When ushers attempted to remove the black congregants, the resentful group exited the church. This exodus triggered the establishment of the Free African Society by Jones and Allen in 1787 to aid in the emancipation of slaves and to offer sustenance and spiritual support to widows, orphans, and the poor.



In 1794 Jones and Allen, with the assistance of local Quakers and Episcopalians, established the “First African Church” in Philadelphia. Shortly after the establishment that same year, the African Church applied to join the Protestant Episcopal Church, laying before the diocese three requirements: the Church must be received as an already organized body; it must have control over its own affairs; and Jones must be licensed as lay-reader and if qualified, ordained as its minister.

Upon acceptance into the Diocese of Pennsylvania, the church was renamed the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas. The following year Jones became a deacon but was not ordained a priest until 1804, nine years later. At 58 years old, he became the first black American priest. He continued to be a leader in his community, founding a day school (as blacks were excluded from attending public school), the Female Benevolent Society, and an African Friendly Society. In 1800 he called upon Congress to abolish the slave trade and to provide for gradual emancipation of existing slaves. Jones died in 1818.

Stained glass window in St. George's Episcopal Church, Dayton, Ohio,

crafted by Willet Stained Glass © 2000

© 2008 The Archives of the Episcopal Church
DFMS/PECUSA.

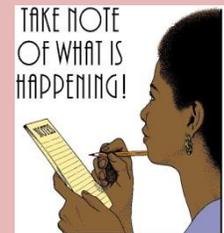
In our ongoing effort to develop shared ministry as we aspire to become a Common Ministry Parish, Mother Lynn and the Vestry will be seeking parishioners who will accept the call to the Pastoral Care ministry. She and the Vestry have decided that it's time to develop this ministry which has been part of our long-term planning. The work will include hospital, home, and nursing facility visits. Mother Lynn will continue the sacramental work of anointing and what we know as "Last Rites", and will work extensively with this new team in training and education. She'll also continue to do workshops and coffee hour sessions etc., for the congregation, as well as work with our other ministries.



We will begin praying this week for discernment about those in our midst who may be called to take on the ministry of pastoral care among us. With open hearts and minds and spirits, we anticipate the guidance of the Holy Spirit. This team will, in effect, be our church's "Chaplains", and you probably already have some feeling about whom you feel might have the gifts and the call for this ministry. So now we begin praying, and in due time, we will gather to reflect on the discernment we've been given.

Dates to Remember

- February 2nd - CECX Annual Meeting
- February 8th 10:30AM - Betsy Kitch Memorial Service
- February 14th - St Valentine's Day
- February 16th - Absolom Jones Sunday



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Altar Flowers: If you would like to donate flowers for the altar, either in memory of or in honor of a loved one, just sign up on the Flower Chart on the Parish Hall bulletin board. Send the check into the office with 'Altar Flowers' on the memo line - or see Pam Feinour or Doug Pultz. (Cost is \$20)

Coffee Hour: We need volunteers for the coffee hour. Sign up is in Parish Hall.

Recycling: Reminder to all, we are recycling. There is a recycling bin in the Parish Office for paper, glass bottles, plastic bottles, and the like. We are using easily compostable tableware so it will not spend that much time decomposing in the landfill. Help us out by sorting. Help us out by reading the newsletter online. Help us out by suggesting ideas to your local vestry member.

Homeless Shelter Needs:

There are still many open dates for bringing a dinner to the shelter. If you can't bring a hot meal, volunteer to bring a large frozen meal. Make sure you bring enough for about 15-20 people. Even a giant store bought frozen lasagna or casserole is better than people going without food.

Contact Tanya at cecxtanya@gmail.com to volunteer a meal.

Contact Carol at cconway50@yahoo.com if you want to volunteer time.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

01 **Aubyrn Thomas**
04 **Tommy Thomas**
13 **Doug Pulz**
23 **Laura Stookey**
28 **Cheryl Eskridge**

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

03 **Maria & Linc Thomas**

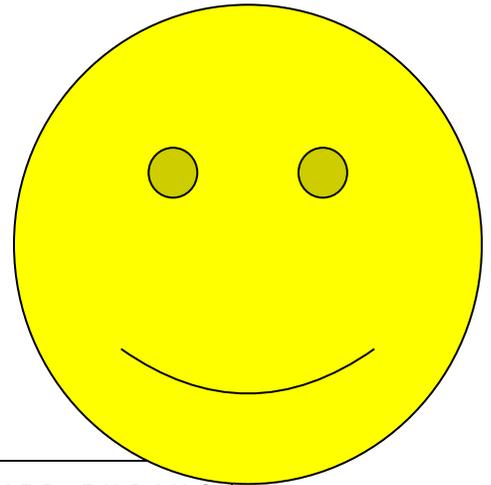


If we have missed your birthday, please let us know.

Check out our Church website:
www.christepiscopalxenia.weebly.com

Parish Office email address:
christepiscopalxenia@gmail.com

Children's Corner



For those who are young, those who think they are young, those who feel young at heart, and those who aren't any of the above (nobody's looking... Have some fun!)

PUZZLE

God's Love

We can't measure God's love for us. It starts before we're born and continues for eternity.

Directions: Down the left-hand column, spell out the name of each number. Then write the circled letters on the blank lines in the right-hand column. Read the words on the right, from top to bottom, to see what Psalm 33:22 (NIV) says about God's love.

20	_____	"M a _____
4	_____	y _____
99	_____	u _ f a _ l _ _ _ g
7	_____	l o _ _ _
1	_____	b _ _ _
28	_____	_____ h
60	_____	u _ ,
40	_____	L _ _ _ d,
70	_____	_____
6	_____	a _ _ _
12	_____	_____
64	_____	p _ t
14	_____	_____
81	_____	_____ p _ _
9	_____	_____
24	_____	_____ .

PSALM 33:22, NIV

Twenty "May
 Four your
 Ninety-nine unfailing
 Seven love
 One be
 Twenty-eight with
 Sixty us,
 Seventy Lord,
 Eighty-one hope
 Nine in
 Twenty-four you,"
 Twelve we
 Sixty-four put

NEVER-ENDING GIFT

Seven days a week, remind someone special about God's love, the gift that truly keeps on giving.



What you need:

- Large plastic pill box with a compartment for each day
- Construction paper
- Craft glue
- Black permanent marker
- Heart stickers
- Scissors
- Bible
- Pencil
- 7 small treats (fish-shaped crackers, small candies, trail mix, etc.)

What you do:

1. Glue paper onto the container. Write "God's Love" in permanent marker. Decorate with heart stickers.
2. Cut seven slips of paper. On each slip, write out one Bible verse about God's love. (Examples include Psalm 63:3; Psalm 100:5; John 3:16; John 15:12; Romans 5:8; 1 John 4:9.)
3. Fill each compartment with a different treat. Then place a folded slip atop each treat.
4. Give away the present. Tell the recipient to open the correct day for a week — and then refill the treats and verses and "regift" God's love to someone else.

**Christ Episcopal Church, Xenia
Service Calendar, January 2014**

Ministry	1/5/2014	1/12/2014	1/19/2014	1/26/2014
Worship Leader	ML	ML	ML	MP-Barb
Altar Guild	Dana, Becky	JoAnne, Tanya	Pam, Becky	Dana, Tanya
Lector	Pam Feinour	Chandra Hightower	Mark Cummings	Nancy Nickell
Ushers	JoAnne, Doug	Donovans	Elizabeth, Tommy	Brad, Rick
Intercessor	Rick Feinour	Doug Pultz	Barb Bonham	Ruth Hazel
Chalice	Kim Holbert, Barb Bonham	Debbie Gillespie Pam Feinour	Ruth Hazel Rick Feinour	-----
Vestry Member of the Week	Chandra Hightower	Larry Thomas	Mark Cummings	Barb Bonham

Service Calendar, February 2014

Ministry	2/2	2/9	2/16	2/23
Worship Leader	ML	ML	ML	MP Rick
Altar Guild	Ruth, Becky	JoAnne, Tanya	Dana, Becky	Pam, Tanya
Lector	Dana	Tommy	Becky	Pete
Ushers	Donovans	JoAnne, Doug	Elizabeth, Tommy	Brad, JoAnne
Intercessor	Rick	Mark	Dana	Barb
Chalice	Kim, Mark	Barb, Pam	Ruth, Debbie	-----
Vestry Member of the Week	JoAnne	Kim	Larry	Mark

If you can't be there for your assigned position, please find a replacement and let Becky know of the change.

Vestry Candidate Bios

CAROL CONWAY

I first came to Christ Episcopal Church about 5 or 6 years ago. I liked the church immediately. The pastor knew my name the 2nd time I came. I did not grow up Episcopalian, but consider myself a "convert" because people are treated with kindness and acceptance here.

As a member of the vestry, I think it's important to follow the "way of the Episcopalians." By that I mean to continue the outreach to the community's poor and underprivileged that this church already does beautifully. People in the community have remarked to me "your church sure does a lot for people." I agree.

Sincerely,
Carol

MARK CUMMINGS

I have lived in Xenia since 1982, at which time I joined The Xenia Nazarene Church. I started attending CECX about 6 years ago and joined the church about a year after that. I have enjoyed my time as treasurer and also have been involved as lector, intercessor, Eucharistic visitor, Eucharistic prayer minister and more recently a member of the choir.

I am employed at NCT Technologies in Dayton, a metal fabrication company and do a little of everything there. I guess I would describe my position there as quality control with a more recent involvement on the production side of things.

My position as treasurer has allowed me to participate on vestry and contribute in any many ways. I consider the responsibilities as a vestry member to be a privilege and if that is where God leads me these next few years I will accept that call willingly and will consider it an honor to serve God and the church in that capacity.

Peace, Mark



Enlightened leadership is spiritual if we understand spirituality not as some kind of religious dogma or ideology but as the domain of awareness where we experience values like truth, goodness, beauty, love, and compassion, and also intuition, creativity, insight and focused attention.

-Deepak Chopra



VIKKI CARTER

Was raised at Christ Church Xenia. Father, Stanley Kirton, was the choir director and mother, Ruby, sang in the choir. I sang in the children's choir. Junior Vestry, Christ Church Xenia.

Graduated from Xenia High '72, Wright State '77 and University of Southern Cal '83.
Chosen profession: Social Work (BSW, MSW).

Los Angeles Employment History: Counselor, Big Sister League (home for unwed mothers), Social Worker, Venice Beach Area for Delta Sigma Theta Head Start, Medical Social Worker at St. Mary's Hospital and Martin Luther King, Jr. Hospital, Children Services Worker, LA County Children's Services.

Return home in 1997 after spending 20 years in LA. Currently employed at Montgomery County Children's Services, On-going worker.

Mother to son, Taylor, and MeMa to granddaughter, Taylor Lynnette.

Christ Church is home for me. It brings both joy and a little sadness especially since both my parents are deceased. Feels good to be surrounded by folks who have known me since I was a child and making new memories as an adult.



KIM HOLBERT

I have been on vestry since 2011. I have had the pleasure of being a part of some very important decisions such as choosing a part time priest in charge. I believe the vestry made an excellent choice in Rev. Sinnott. A lot of effort and discussion went in it that process. Vestry seems to be the part of the church that is often times dealt some difficult choices, and tasks. Most importantly, putting the needs of our members as a priority. I feel that the experience has been rewarding and a teaching process all in one. The shelter ministry, which the vestry chose to adopt has been a very important ministry to our community and our parishioners. This ministry has shown our willingness to work with those less fortunate. I believe this is God's plan for all of us. I believe we have grown as a church and it honors me to say that I am a member of CECX vestry.

TANYA ELLENBURG-KIMMET

Who am I?

I was born at Eglin AFB in Florida. I have lived in Huntsville, Alabama, Midwest City, Oklahoma, and Huber Heights, Ohio. I now reside in Yellow Springs. I received a bachelor's of Liberal Arts focused in English Romantic Poets at Wright State University in 1995, just before I married the love of my life, Ryan. I have one teenage son, Zachary, whom will start college at Wright State this Fall. I work at Wright State's Dunbar Library as a Digitization Specialist, scanning Archival material and printing copies for educational use. I'm a poet, writer, photographer, anthropologist, and web designer.

My great grandfather help start the Church of Christ at Arab Alabama. The Ellenburg's have been members ever since. My mother was reared Catholic and converted to Church of Christ when she met my dad. I was baptized in March 1986. I left that church in the 1990's over differences of opinions on many matters, especially on who was granted grace and forgiveness. I spent time with the Buddhists in college, and though it was good to have that connection, I wanted to feel God's presence again. I found my way to CECX and instantly knew I belonged here and was meant to be Episcopalian. I was confirmed in 2010.

Because music fills my soul, I am a member of the Choir. Since the environment fills my lungs, I am a member of the Green Team. I often feel chilled, so I knit with the Knitwits to keep me active and others warm. The desire serve leads me to be a member of the Altar Guild. I am also currently serving on Vestry. Words are my passion, so I serve as Communications Director for our Parish.

And yet, all of that is where I've been and what I've done. I am like everyone else, and just as I'm sure everyone asks at any road and junction, I ask again, who am I?

*"When I think of how He came so far from glory
Came to dwell among the lowly such as I
To suffer shame and such disgrace
On Mount Calvary take my place
Then I ask myself this question
Who am I?" - (Charles Goodman)*

I am a sinner, trying to make the world a better place, falling short of glory, and always uplifted by God. I try to be the best I can be with the energy I am given by Him. I want to help where I can and when I can. I think I can do that if I am on Vestry again, but that is for others to judge, not me.



I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

Philippians 4:13



And, last but not least, the candidates for Junior and Senior Warden

LARRY THOMAS

Larry is a Christian, a father, a grandfather, and a husband. I met him when we were 17 and still in high school. He joined me in teaching Sunday School at the Baptist Church where I was raised. We fell in love and dated for 5 years. He married me 42 years ago.

Anyone who meets Larry is taken by his affable style. He is inquisitive by nature and always seeks to see how something works or how it might be fixed. He taught himself carpentry and building after a friend taught him to build furniture. He is a master furniture maker, a handyman, and good at building and remodeling and fixing things. He took this talent to his career after receiving a degree in agricultural education from The University of Georgia. He served as administrator in job training for young adults and later as assistant principal at Stivers School for Visual and Performing Arts. He is talented in working with young people who respect and love him because he "listens." His daughters, the late Lauryn Thomas and Noel Thomas Lester and grandchildren, the late Maya Thomas and twins Malia and Brighton Lester love him for the same qualities.

When he joined Christ Episcopal Church Xenia, he seemed to find his niche. He loves the church and the people in it and is committed to it in a way that only he can fully explain. I see it in the way he participates and gives so generously of his time and talents. It does not surprise me, then, that Vestry would be something that would appeal to him. The church will be better because of his caring participation.

Maxine Thomas



Dear Mamaw:

DANA RHYNE

I am writing this letter to you the day before I'm to be confirmed in the Episcopal Church. I suppose Mom & Dad have told you of my decision. I just wanted you to know that you have only yourself to blame! All of my life you have shown me how to be a woman of faith (and I must say you are a hard act to follow!). I have watched you work in the church, you and all the other strong women I grew up with--Lil Stepp, Lillian Holsclaw, Brenda Fox, my mother, just to name a few. And I have watched that same wonderful welcoming church slam its doors in the face of my generation, just because we wanted to follow God all the way to the altar and beyond. At the time I thought, "Fine, I don't think I can ever be other than Baptist, so I'll just put church on the back burner of my life. I don't really feel welcome there with all I have to offer." And I did put church on the back burner.

For a while I attended and even joined the First Baptist Church of Asheville, a nice middle-of-the-road Baptist church. But then the minister let me down (ala Bill Clinton). So I stopped going there. And a precious part of my life was missing.

When we moved up here I visited the Church of Our Saviour because I knew one of the members (the sister of one of my seminary friends). I went sporadically last year, enjoying the warm, friendly atmosphere, enjoying the new type of service, finding peace in the words of the ancient church. Then I started going more regularly, thirsty for what I had missed during those years away from the church. Then I was asked to supervise Sunday afternoon coffee hour goodies and cleanup. Then I was asked to be the treasurer on the vestry. All the time I was never asked to become an Episcopalian or join the church, just that I be there!

And so I asked myself why it was that I was there so often, when never before have I willingly gone to church "eight days a week & twice on Sundays." I realized that our priest, Mother Paula, while being thoroughly traditional in many ways, had a broad interpretation of Christ's welcome table. Everyone is welcome. Everyone. White, black, man, woman, gay, straight, alcoholic, tee-totaler, everyone. We are all affirmed and prayed for, by the congregation as a whole. And it's not just welcoming words from the priest--everyone at church welcomes everyone else. During the service we "pass the peace of Christ" and we all go and hug or touch everyone in the sanctuary as if we mean it. And we do! I feel Christ's love in that sanctuary, in a way I never have since I was a teenager in a church that hadn't told me yet that I wasn't welcome behind the altar.

Because of that I have decided to join the church. I know it isn't necessary. I know that I am giving up my heritage, a heritage that, while it rejected me, also brought me to Christ. But I would rather start a new heritage in church, than contemplate my old heritage sitting in my living room on Sunday mornings. I am so glad to have found my way again. The least I can do is join the people who held the light before me.

I love you Mamaw, and I hope that you are happy for me. I'll be thinking of you tomorrow, and of all those strong women (and men!) on both sides of my family. I'm doing this because of you all.

Love, Dana

About Memorial Gifts....Part 1

When we lose a loved one, often our family and friends look for ways to memorialize that person. We may request that such memorial gifts go to organizations that were especially important to our loved one. Christ Church is often the recipient of many of these gifts.

If the memorial gifts arrive without a use specified, the Vestry is the body responsible to decide how that money will be used. Under Canon Law, only the Vestry can make decisions regarding the finances of the church...and when unspecified memorial gifts arrive, they become part of the finances of the church. The donors expect that the church will use them in ways that honor the loved one for whom they are given, and that's what the Vestry works hard to do.

Now – there is an exception to this! If you know your loved one had a particular interest in Altar Guild, or Music, or providing meals for funerals or memorial services, or? you might like any memorial gifts to be used for those purposes. In that case, please ask people to give their gifts specifying the use. For example: *“In lieu of flowers, please send any memorial gifts to Christ Episcopal Church Music Program”* (or Altar Guild, Funeral Reception Fund, Outreach, etc.)

Now - just as Canon Law says that any unspecified gifts become the sole responsibility of the Vestry, the law also tells us that specified gifts must be used for the purposes for which they are given, and the Vestry is very happy to do that.

In the past year or two, Vestry has used Memorial funds to purchase hymnals in memory of someone who loved the music of the church. Other Memorial funds were used to help polish our Altar brass in memory of a parishioner who was a staunch supporter of the Altar Guild. The Vestry, because they, too, are members of our parish, give a great deal of care and thought to using memorial gifts to help the church in ways that will truly honor the loved ones of our members. You can trust them to do that lovingly and well.

New



Choir Members
Welcome!

The Chancel Choir is looking for singers! Even if you feel you do not sing "well", but enjoy making a joyful noise to the Lord, we will welcome you with open arms. Rehearsals are from 7:00 to 8:00 pm on Wednesdays at the church and we sing about once a month during Sunday Service. Come join this fun group of people as we sing God's Praises!



From Newsletternewsletter.com

For the Months of February, let's bring:



**Food
Pantry
Needs**

**Oatmeal
and
Vegetable
Soup**



If you are not on the email mailing list or not receiving emails and you thought you were on the mailing list for the church, email Tanya at

cecxtanya@gmail.com

Make sure any spam filters allow email from cecxlist@googlegroups.com and cecxtanya@gmail.com

Submissions:

Anyone who wishes to submit information or creativity (links of information, upcoming events, shout-outs of recognition) for the Trumpet should do so ASAP. **Deadline for submissions is February 25th.** Submit information by hand to Tanya or by emailing it to cecxtanya@gmail.com.