



Reflections From the Rector's Desk

By The Reverend Canon Stephen C. Casey

Dear friends:

I did not grow up with the tradition of Thanksgiving.

The nearest we have to Thanksgiving in England is Harvest Festival, which is more a religious observance than a national tradition. When I moved to America, Thanksgiving to me seemed more like my traditional Christmas, a holiday feast that seemed to last for days, unlike Christmas, which seemed to be over almost before it began. Now, thirty years on, I see Thanksgiving in a different light. More for what it really is - a time for family to come together; a time to pause and be truly thankful.

The origins of Thanksgiv-

ing or Harvest Festival are lost in the midst of time. When the first settlers to this country observed Thanksgiving, they were tapping into the already deep roots of well estab-

and in his final address to the people, Moses reviews their history, their laws, and encourages the people to remain faithful to God. These are themes of Thanksgiving; they are also themes of Advent.



"Advent is a season of expectation as we reflect on God's promises already fulfilled in the person of Jesus."

Right on the heels of Thanksgiving, the season of Advent marks the beginning of a new Church year. It is the time when we prepare for the Feast of the Incarnation, the coming of the Christ-child at Christmas. Like Thanksgiving, the origins of Advent are lost in the midst of history. What seems certain is that Advent began as a preparation for Baptisms, which would take place on the Feast of Epiphany. In that

sense, Advent is often considered as a mini-Lent - a time for sober reflection on our faith - our past, present, future - and what the birth of Jesus means to us in our own lives. But Advent is also a season of expectation as we enter the Promised Land,

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Special points of interest:

- • *Worship services and Parish hours are on the back cover of the Scepter*
- • *Staff and Vestry Members are listed on the back cover of the Scepter*

Reflection

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reflect on God's promises already fulfilled in the person of Jesus.

For all its change in liturgical tone - the Gloria replaced by the more penitential Kyrie: "Lord have mercy" - I love the vibrancy of the change of the altar colours to Sarum Blue in the season of Advent, redolent of a quiet joyfulness to the season. Advent to me marks a new spiritual beginning, an opportunity to start over and renew the intentions which somehow got lost in the year or years past. All of this wrapped up in the constant awareness of how God chose to take on human form in Christ Jesus and enfold our all too human frailties in his humanity - truly a reason for Thanksgiving.

I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving, but I pray you all a blessed and quietly joyful season of Advent.

Blessings

Fr. Stephen+



Sacred Stitches



Nov. 11th gathering at All Saints Church Hershey. Irene Achey in center of back row. This is a great group of ladies and a good way to meet people from our Diocese and make new friends. We always have fun and share ideas.

There were seven churches represented at the Hershey gathering and we got to tour the Church and were served great treats. The next gathering is in APRIL 2018. More information soon about time and place. We would love to enlarge our group so try to join us.

Remembrance Sunday



Fr. Stephen sports a British poppy on Veterans Day which is Remembrance Day in England.

The poppy was given to him by Irene Achey

Note: Other Remembrance Day photos are on page 9 and in color on the web.



www.sainteds.org

Information

Parish Office Hours

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday:

9 AM – 3 PM

Tuesday: 9 AM – 1 PM

Parish Administrative Assistant:
Michelle Bentley

Scepter

Production Staff:

H. J. "Mac" Miller

hj_miller@outlook.com

If you're the last person to leave the building following Sunday services or an event, please take the time to make sure all the lights are turned off (including the rest rooms) and the doors are locked.

Giving

By Fr. Stephen

The point is this...Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance... (2 Corinthians 9: 6)

Dear members of St. Edward's:

This time of year I receive countless requests for money. Much as I would like, I cannot respond to all of these worthwhile causes; I have to be selective. But there is one organisation I do try to remain faithful in my financial giving - St. Edward's Episcopal Church. It is through the services of the church that I learn to be spiritually aware of the wider needs of the world. It is the Church that provides the spiritual shelter for those in need.

It is a given that as the year draws to a close, every church experiences a budget "gap" between income and expenditure: St. Edward's is no exception. This year the gap is close to \$30,000. The vestry and finance committee have always been meticulous in keeping parish costs within budget; the financial gap is invariably caused by a drop in giving. May I invite you, therefore, as a member of St. Edward's, to remain faithful with your giving, and help us close this "financial gap." As St. Paul reminds us, "God loves a cheerful giver," and through our giving, we are blessed abundantly.

Vestry

By Brian Newsome



The Thanksgiving holiday is at hand. Though this tradition commemorates a thoroughly idealized version of relations between European colonists and Native Americans—eliding a much longer history of conflict and bloodshed—it has evolved into a celebration that brings families and communities together in fellowship. The latter characterized the early church. There were struggles, to be sure. Those challenges are woven into the Gospels and the Epistles. On the whole, however, the New Testament bears witness to the determination of the first Christians to work through those differences—to learn to live together, as members of the Body of Christ. Thanksgiving is a secular holiday. It has no basis in the church calendar. And it grows more secular every year, as more and more shops remain open on Thanksgiving Day. Yet Thanksgiving still offers a vital means for families to spend time together, for local communities to serve their less fortunate members, and

for our national community to reflect on the things we have in common. Jesus told his disciples, "Where two or three have gathered together in My name, there I am in their midst" (Matthew 18:25). May the love of Christ unite our families, our community, and our nation this holiday season.

Saturday Service



Third Saturday of Each Month
 5:30 PM
 Next Services
December 16th
 Rite II

Military News

Please keep in your prayers those close to us who are serving in the military.

- ★Dustin Burlison
- ★Justin Carnahan
- ★Brandon Fox
- ★Gordon Frankenfield
- ★Matt Fuhrman
- ★Adam and Christina Grim
- ★Jack Hawk
- ★Drew Johnson
- ★Anthony Koser
- ★Alex Kube
- ★John Lewis
- ★Richard Mutari



- ★David Peck
- ★Capt. Andrew Pfeiffer
- ★Rev. David J. Sparks
- ★Mike Spurr
- ★David Sternberg
- ★Allison Tomich
- ★Evan Westgate
- ★Seamas Whitesel
- ★1st Lt. Thomas Whitesel



**Remember Those
in the Military**

Recently on Facebook, people have risen to the challenge to represent their lives by posting a black and white photo a day for seven days "no people no explanations." Three St Edward's parishioners recently posted these lovely photos that seem to capture the quiet period of Advent.





The sign up board for Christmas flowers will be in the narthex starting Sunday, December 3rd. This is a lovely way to remember loved ones, friends, family “in memory of” or “in thanksgiving for”, during the Christmas services.

Flowers are \$10/per remembrance and envelopes are with the sign up board. Please make checks payable to St. Edward's and in the memo line please indicate “Christmas Flowers.”

Also, the flower chart for 2018 is up in the narthex! Flowers each week can be “in memory of”, or “in thanksgiving for” loved ones, friends, family and are \$50/week.

By contributing to our flower ministry, you enable the lovely arrangements to decorate the altar each Sunday. It is through the weekly and seasonal flower donations that we are able to continually have flowers at St. Edward's.

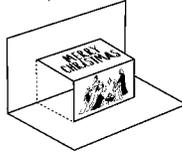


POP-UP CARD

Share the good news of Jesus' birth with this creative Christmas card.

What you need:

- Construction paper (two pieces, including one white)
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Pens
- Glue stick



What you do:

1. Neatly fold the white paper in half, short side to short side.
2. Draw two parallel lines (at least 2 inches apart) from the fold to about halfway to the edge. Cut along the lines.
3. Fold the cut section back and forth so it pops up.
4. Push the section up so it pops up inside the folded paper. Draw a nativity scene on the pop-up box.
5. Fold the colored paper in half, short side to short side. Place the white paper inside it and glue the white paper down, being careful not to glue the pop-up box.
6. Write a Christmas message and give or send the card to someone.

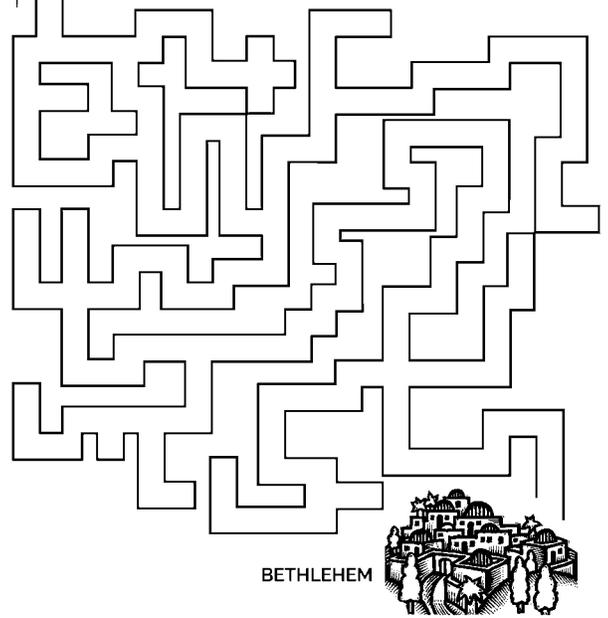


JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM

In the Christmas story in Luke 2, an angel tells some shepherds to go see baby Jesus in Bethlehem.



Directions: Follow the maze to arrive in Bethlehem.



Answer lower left.



Bible Quiz

After Mary learned she was pregnant with God's Son, what relative — also miraculously pregnant — did she go visit?

- A. Esther
- B. Elizabeth
- C. Anne
- D. Anna



Answers
INSIDE

Answer: B (See Luke 1:39-40.)

Don't Forget: Hershey Handbell First Sunday in December!

Hershey Handbell at St. Edward's
 Sunday, December 3rd at 3 p.m.
 We invite you to join us!

The popular Hershey Handbell Ensemble returns to St. Edward's for a free holiday concert (an offering will be taken).

This seasonal concert always draws a crowd, so attendees are urged to come early enough to get a seat!

On the program this year: "Fantasia on Greensleeves", "In the Bleak Midwinter", "He Shall Feed His Flock" and more seasonal favorites.



Krist Kindling Dinner

By Meredith Westgate



Krist Kindling families and other former or possible future Krist Kindlers, please plan to join us at the annual Krist Kindling dinner in the multi-purpose room on Sunday, January 21 at 5:30 p.m. Families: please bring a main dish and a salad or dessert - enough to serve six -- to share as well as your own table service. Beverages will be provided. Bring your stories and your good humor. Guaranteed: a warm and cozy evening with a few good laughs and maybe a surprise or two. Everyone is welcome to join the fun. Questions? Call Meredith Westgate, 898-9245.

Coffee Hour



Many thanks to the following parishioners for serving as coffee hour hosts during the month of November:

- The Milligan family
- Carl and Carol Cotnoir
- Amanda Ferguson
- Barbara Schultz
- R.B. Mullineaux
- Tony and Sue Bianco
- Richard and Gail Irons
- June Klemm
- Geraldine Cosgrave
- Janet Rumer
- Linda Spire

Men's Group

By Mike Patrone



Men of St. Edward's

Men's GROUP

Want to know what you are missing?

Join the Men's Group the last Saturday of the month in the parish hall at 9 AM.

Your friends will be there. See what it's all about.

Include your news and announcements in the next Scepter.
 Due date for January will be:
December 20th.
 Send articles and announcements to:



CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2017

Christmas Eve

- 9:30 am Fourth Advent Low Mass
- 4:30 pm* Family Service of Holy Communion

Praise Band will be playing music commencing at 4:15 pm.

Children's Sermon

- 8:00 pm* Festival Holy Eucharist with Choir
- 10:30 pm Midnight Mass with Choir

**Nursery is available for children up to age 4 at the 4:30 pm and 8:00 pm services*

Christmas Day

- 10:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite II

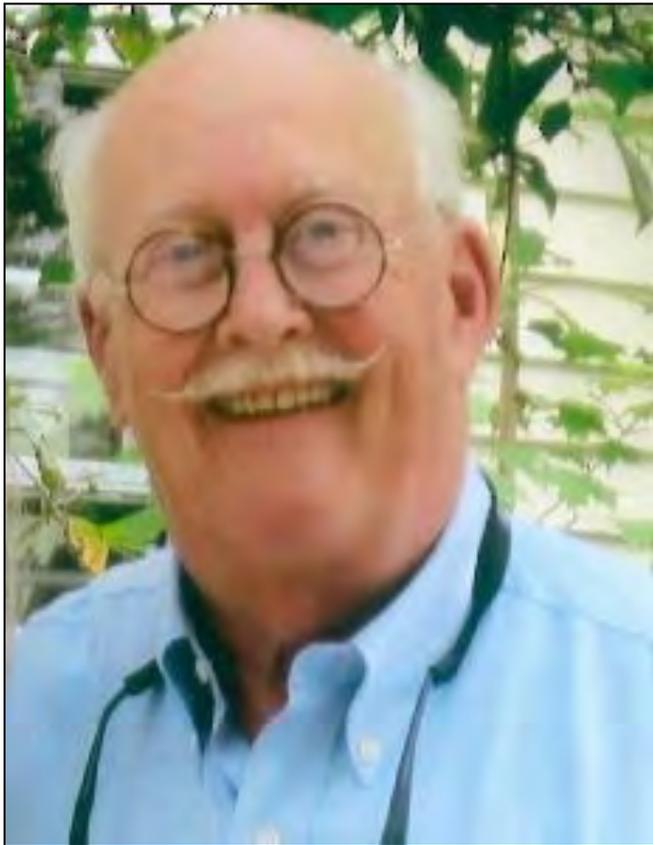
LESSONS & CAROLS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17TH 10:15 AM SERVICE

St. Edward's Episcopal Church • 2453 Harrisburg Pike • Lancaster, PA 17601

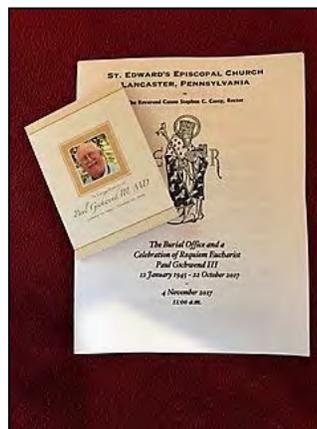
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By Fr. Casey

It is with deep personal sadness that I have to inform readers of the Scepter that Paul Gschwend, a highly respected member of St. Edward's, died on 22nd October after a brief illness. Paul and Dottie Gschwend, with their children Jenn and Kate, joined St. Edward's when the congregation was still worshipping in the Union Hall on Nissley Road. Paul was a surgeon by profession, and known by all clergy who ever visited the old St. Joseph's hospital. Over the years, Paul served St. Edward's as a warden of the parish, a vestry person, and among other things, an usher and greeter. Paul was known for his interest in the arts, his support of museums and music, and his love of nature, especially fly fishing. In all things it could be said of Paul that he was a true renaissance man, interested in life in all its profound richness. In his final days, Paul is said to have remarked: It's nice to know I made a difference. What a wonderful thought to take into the next world: that we made a difference. Paul made a difference in our lives; through his life he touched our lives, and we thank God for him. May his soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen.



Remembrance Sunday – Veteran’s Day

Pictures by Mary Snyder



Jim and Mimi Stauffer await the presentation of the Quilt of Valor, while Dina Cerase introduces.



Father Casey addresses the congregation and blesses the quilts to be presented.



Sharon Hubbard introduces the Quilt of Valor presentation to Buddy Yeager, while Liz Yeager looks on.



Sharon Hubbard presents Buddy Yeager with his Quilt of Valor. Liz Yeager helps Sharon show the congregation the beautiful design.



Donna Holwager presents Vance Spicer with his Quilt of Valor, while his wife, Debbie, helps display the quilt.

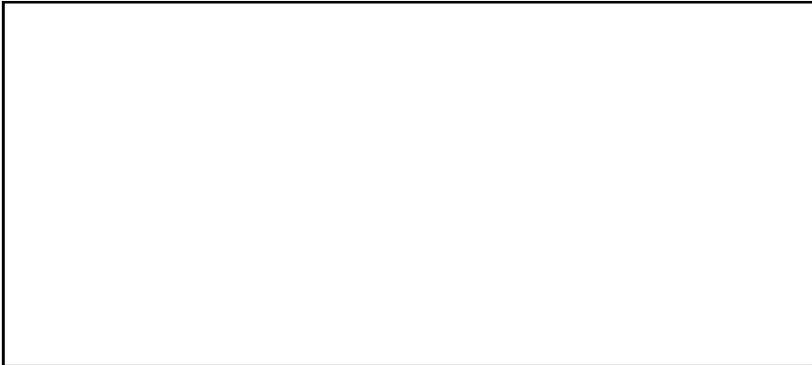
ST. EDWARD'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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www.sainteds.org



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Staff

**The Reverend Canon Vestry
Stephen C. Casey, (year term ends)
Rector**

**The Rev. Hank
Morrow, Jr., Deacon**

**The Rev Eugene F.
LeFebvre, Honorary
Associate Priest**

**Michelle Bentley, Parish
Administrative Assistant**

Parish Office Hours

Monday, Wednesday, Thurs-
day, Friday: 9 AM – 3 PM

Tuesday: 9 AM – 1 PM

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- ✦ **Camille Horine (2018)
Junior Warden**
- ✦ **Dina Ishler (2020)**
- ✦ **Herb Johnston(2018)**
- ✦ **Raymond H. Kiefer
(2019)**
- ✦ **Susan Landin (2020)
Secretary**
- ✦ **Brian Newsome
(2018) Sr. Warden**
- ✦ **Bill Swiernik (2020)**
- ✦ **Meredith Westgate
(2020)**

Worship Services

Sunday Services

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I (said)

10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II

Contemporary Service (2nd Sunday, Sept – May).

Wednesday

12:00 Noon – Holy Eucharist with healing

Saturday

5:30 Holy Eucharist Rite II (Third Saturday)