

# Calico GIFT AUCTION

Donations are needed for the Calico Gift Auction, which will be held on October 20th at Middletown Arts Center, just down the street from Christ Church. Baskets, gift items, or monetary donations will be gratefully accepted. Checks should be made payable to Christ Church, with "Calico Gift Auction" on the

memo line. Your donations are tax-deductible. In order to make this a huge success for Christ Church, we need everyone's help. Advertising flyers are available for your use, and tickets will be available for sale next week. For more information please contact Maria Kerfoot, Committee Chair, at 732-842-2310 or 732-859-2525. Thank you!

## Lenten Almsgiving - Setting Sail to the Ark!



The Outreach Committee is pleased to announce that we surpassed our Lenten Almsgiving goal and raised a grand total of \$6,500! Our congregation answered the call to seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbors as ourselves. We have literally turned our fasting this Lent into a feast of hope and new beginnings for those in need around the world! At this time, our Heifer Ark will set sail, providing life changing animals to a community in need. Wherever hunger, poverty and many times hopelessness are found, our Heifer animals will provide the "olive branch" of peace and opportunity. Thank you again for your incredible support!!

-Robyn Gerin

## Outreach Coffee Sale

The next Outreach Coffee Sale will be held June 8 & 9 and June 15 & 16, with delivery expected on June 23rd. All profits from the sale support Christ Church Outreach ministries.

## Seamen's Church Institute

We are collecting unopened, sample-sized toiletries for SCI's Christmas at Sea program. Please place your toiletries in a bag marked "SCI" and place them in the little red wagon. Thank you!

## Lost & Found

Please contact Linda Malanowski at the church office if you think you may have left some of your belongings at church. Thank you!



## CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

90 Kings Highway • Middletown, NJ 07748 • 732.671.2524

www.ChristChurchMiddletown.org • www.facebook.com/ChristChurchMiddletown



## Welcome to Christ Episcopal Church!

Church School 10 am, 2nd fl. classrooms

Nursery care is available for children under 3 during the 10 am Liturgy in "Jimmy's Room" on the second floor of the Education Wing.

## Christ Church hosts Family Promise

Today we welcome our Family Promise guests. Thank you to everyone who has made this important ministry possible, working to prevent homelessness in Monmouth County. For more information about how you may help, please contact Barbara Garrity

## Today: Annual Diaper Drive



The Outreach Committee will sponsor our second annual Diaper Drive May 4 through May 12. Through Child Care Resources' Diaper Bank, diapers will be distributed to families working with various community and social service organizations, including Family Promise of MC. Diapers cannot be obtained with Food Stamps, WIC, or other state or federal 'safety net' programs. Older children with special needs often wear adult sized diapers. Please place your UNOPENED boxes or packages of disposable diapers or wipes in the designated bin in the undercroft of the main church or the back pews of the historic church. All sizes are needed but sizes 4, 5, 6, especially in pull-up style, and training pants are in greatest need. Any questions, please contact Marty Truscott.



Rise Against Hunger  
May 18, 9:30-11:30am,  
Thorne Middle School

This Sunday during coffee hour, please choose an envelope from the "Giving Board" to support Rise Against Hunger. Each meal costs \$0.35 and together with our friends at Middletown Reformed Church and Thorne Middle School, we hope to package over 10,000 meals on May 18th. This meal packaging event is open to all parishioners. If you are interested in joining us or you have any questions, please email Cindy McCormack at [CynthiaMcCormack33@verizon.net](mailto:CynthiaMcCormack33@verizon.net). Cash or checks made out to Rise Against Hunger are greatly appreciated. Thank you!

## COG Household Goods Drive

We are now collecting feminine hygiene products, toothpaste, tissues, and plastic wrap for the Calico Pantry. Please place your donations in one of the little red wagons, located in both churches, and in front of the office. Your donations are greatly appreciated. —Janet & Kate Chaballa

## Adopt a Table

We will gratefully accept donations to cover the cost of the six round tables we recently purchased for the Undercroft. Parishioners are invited to adopt any portion of a table. Please make checks payable to Christ Church with "adopt-a-table" on the memo line. Thank you!

## Education for Ministry (EfM)

Education for Ministry ([www.efm/sewanee.edu](http://www.efm/sewanee.edu)), a 4 year program of adult religious education, will return to Christ Church in September. EfM participants study the Bible, but they also learn how to understand the Bible within its historical context and literary setting. The four years of study, with enrollment one year at a time, covers the Old Testament, New Testament, Church History and Theology.

Registration for the new “school” year is taking place now. If you are interesting in taking part in this program or are just curious, contact Pauline Dawson (732-290-9435; [pzd732@gmail.com](mailto:pzd732@gmail.com)) or George Speidel (732-615-9809; [speidel2@aol.com](mailto:speidel2@aol.com))

**THANK  
YOU**

### Thank you to everyone who helped make our Gourmet Dinner a success!

Thank you to the chefs: Jim Murphy, Steve Carl, Paul Chaballa, Cara Chaballa, Cynthia Mathews, Herb Spaulding, John Marione, and Drew Wilson. Your talents are remarkable!

To the decorators: Candi Carl, Cyndi Corbitt, Ronnie Warren, Cathy O'Flynn, and Pam Marhan. You helped us transform the undercroft into a beautiful, elegant restaurant.

To the wait staff: Jason Chaballa, Juliet Rossnagel-Tranberg, Anna Schuler, Andrew King, Dalia Habiby, Stefan Gerin, Emily Strom, Janet Chaballa, and Cindy McCormack. Your admirable abilities in making sure our guests were well taken care of were greatly appreciated. Great job!

Thank you to everyone who stayed to help clean up, especially Colin Wright, and his friends. Thank you to Paul and Pauline Dawson for their generous donation of wine.

Many thanks to Linda Malanowski for the formatting and printing of the beautiful menus. An extra special thank you to Jim Murphy for gracing us with his outstanding knowledge and talent, and David Murphy, who ran errands for two days and manned the dishwasher all night! Thank you Father Michael for your wonderful blessing. Last but not least we would like to thank all who attended. —*Kim, Joyce, and Sue*

### Save the Dates for VBS: August 5—9, 2019

As you plan your family's summer vacation time, please save the dates for Vacation Bible School 2019! VBS is a free, fun-filled faith program offered to all children from 4 years old through fifth grade, featuring Bible stories, music, games, crafts, and snacks.

VBS is held in partnership with Middletown Reformed Church, and will take place in their air conditioned classrooms, just down the street from Christ Church on Kings Highway. Registration forms will be available shortly.



## Father Michael's Gospel Reflection

*The Fourth Week of Easter—John 10:22-30*

When we think of Jesus as The Good Shepherd, thousands of images come to mind, many of them comforting and beautiful - and clean! Have you ever seen a stained-glass window depicting the good shepherd? Did you ever notice that Jesus is perfectly clean in these images even as he carries a sheep over his shoulders? Jesus is spotless and the lamb is a beautiful fluff of pure white wool. In fact, the scene looks as though both shepherd and sheep have been freshly bathed, powdered and scented! Not very realistic, is it? In my youth, I worked on a couple of farms in the UK, and I can tell you that shepherding is not squeaky-clean work. In fact, if one is properly caring for the flock, it's just about impossible to maintain any degree of socially acceptable hygiene. You see, in complete contrast to the traditional representation of Jesus as the Good Shepherd, in the real world, both shepherd and sheep are smelly and grimy.

What's more, these images are also characterized by their pastoral settings of harmony and peace. This idealistic version of the life of a shepherd is at best naïve; real shepherding is rarely that serene. In fact, danger is always lurking in the world of shepherding; predators and foul weather seem to conspire against the security of the flock. But shepherds are expected to face these dangers whenever they arise. Such vigilance on the part of the Shepherd is necessary because sheep have no natural defenses - they are vulnerable to attack from a long list of predators; they get lost in the storm; they get stuck in the mud. Keeping them safe is a never-ending challenge; but the shepherd must be ever on the alert and must always put the needs of the flock above his/her own.

Jesus, as the Good Shepherd, certainly did this-even to death on the cross; and If we want to follow Jesus, we must take on this responsibility too. Shepherding is not easy or safe; but nevertheless laity and clergy alike are called to be shepherds. We are called to care for God's flock; to stand up for the poor and oppressed; to speak out for justice and peace; and to tough it out through dangerous and confusing times, working through grit and grime, loving as only a Good Shepherd can love. Ours is often a dirty and dangerous world; and so, God's work is often dangerous and dirty as well. But if we are willing to get our hands dirty, we can all be good shepherds. Are we willing to take on this role?

Peace,  
Father Michael +