

# THE CORNERSTONE

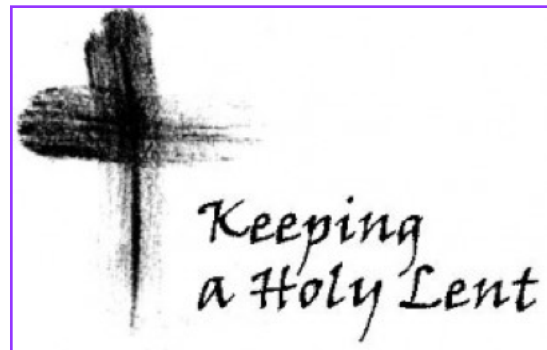
*I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word.... (Book of Common Prayer, 1979, [p. 265](#))*

*... What you can plan is too small for you to live. What you can live wholeheartedly will make plans enough for the vitality hidden in your sleep. To be human is to become visible while carrying what is hidden as a gift to others. To remember the other world in this world is to live in your true inheritance. ... (David Whyte, 2014 – [What to Remember When Waking](#) – retrieved 1/30/2018)*

I started Lent in January. ‘Might as well get an early start. Honestly, I have resolved to adopt different ways of being this year. Some of my resolutions have to do with my diet and physical wellness. Other resolutions are more spiritual and vocational in nature. Each of them, individually and in concert with one another have to do with making progressive and healthy changes in body, mind, and soul. In other words, I am striving to repent. A priestly friend and colleague introduced me a few years ago to [David Whyte’s work](#). Whyte is a poet and speaker whose thoughts and words provoke thousands of other fans to view life through the lens of their day to day experience in this world. Whyte’s wisdom considers lessons of ancestry and spirituality. Some years ago, David offered a [presentation](#) at Seattle University’s School of Theology. In this talk he offers this wonderful definition of repentance ([metanoia](#) – in New Testament Greek). David Whyte said (beginning at [9’:55”](#) in the video):



“The same stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.”



“There is a lovely etymology (meaning) to the word repent in the Bible because in the Greek the word repent was actually metanoia which

**Christ Memorial Episcopal Church**  
156 East Market Street  
Danville, PA 17821  
Office email: [cmecdanville@ptd.net](mailto:cmecdanville@ptd.net)  
Tel: 570-275-3903  
Priest in Charge: Father Jim Strader-Sasser  
Father Jim’s email: [cmecjim@ptd.net](mailto:cmecjim@ptd.net)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/christmemorialepisopal/](http://www.facebook.com/christmemorialepisopal/)

simply meant not to go over your past sins and lash yourself on the back ... which you can do and enjoy if you like. Make yourself a very nice cup of coffee before you do it. But metanoia literally just to change your mind and to think differently.” (Whyte, 2012)

The way that we think shapes the way that we speak. How we speak shapes the way that we live. Early Christians came to be known as people or followers of [The Way](#).(Wiener, 2017). They claimed and received this title because they adopted powerfully their Christian disciplines and exhibited their Christian faith. Fasting, devotional prayers, silence, and acts of generosity were evidence of these newly baptized Christians’ changes in heart, mind, and body.

Lent remains about resolutely changing who we are. It is an intentional season of transformation. We go with Jesus into the Wilderness We follow him into Jerusalem to confront persecutions and prejudices. We witness the intimate and vulnerable time he shares with his disciples. Lent beckons us to confront our own internal and external temptations. Such repentance invites us to reject cravings separating us from God’s love and our neighbors’ needs and desires. Once again, Lenten repentance gives us space to choose what ways we will think, speak, and walk upon moment by moment.

You’ll observe in this Cornerstone many options for practicing your faith this Lenten season. You may decide to spend time contemplating the Stations of The Cross. Centering Prayer continues. Parish ministries such as the Diaper Bank always need volunteers. You may further elect to fast from a habit or ritual that focuses your life more on yourself than God. You should find time on a daily basis to pray and interact with Christ. [Sacred Space](#) offers a daily examination from the Jesuit tradition. Sign up for [Richard Rohr’s Daily Mediations](#). There will be lots of additional options to choose from on the Internet.

We may enter Lent wholeheartedly. Such personal devotion, reflection, and thinking requires courage. Our Christian faith is sacramental and sacrificial. This holy work wholly offers pathways to join Jesus at the foot of the Cross as well as at the opening of Easter’s empty tomb. May our pilgrimages through Lent’s wilderness and wild places draw us nearer to God, provide awareness of God’s angels, and offer us more trust in Jesus our Lord and Christ. May we claim our truest, very best Christian inheritance. Let us carry our divinely offered gifts with humility.

Blessings along The Way, Jim

## **Announcements and Upcoming Events:**

**Souper Bowl of Caring.** We invite everyone this coming **Sunday – Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>** – to bring a can of soup and/or crackers and/or \$1.00 or more to support Danville’s Local Food bank.

**Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper.** Traditionally, families were supposed to purge their homes of cooking fats before the beginning of Lent, to prepare for the fasting that was to come. We will celebrate this tradition in a uniquely American way, with pancakes! And other delicious, fatty foods that we shouldn’t eat anyways. **Join us from 5:30-7:00 on Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>** in the Community Room for a pancake supper, with all the trimmings. If you can help with setup or

cleanup, please let **Doug Cummings** know ([douglas\\_lutz@hotmail.com](mailto:douglas_lutz@hotmail.com)). This will not be a potluck, so bring only your appetites!

**Ash Wednesday services** with communion and imposition of ashes will be at **12 noon and 7pm on Feb. 14**

**Lent Madness** – [Lent Madness](#) is a fun way for people of faith to learn about our church's Community of Saints. Check out the website. Fill out your bracket. (It would be awesome if we could get a volunteer (someone from The Anglican Way program) to lead up a parish wide contest – (\$5.00 to enter w/ proceeds to benefit the winner's favorite charity).

**The Anglican Way** Episcopalians have a rich heritage of religious expression in our forms of worship, literature, music, and our witness in the world. But what do we know about any of it? How did we get to be the people we are? And how does the past affect the choices we make for the future? All of these are questions we will try to answer in the sessions of the Anglican Way. There will be plenty of names and dates, but also ideas that we should still be chewing on, as well as a few surprises as we uncover our roots and unpack the treasures that have been handed on to us. Sign up sheet is in the community room or email Jim at [cmecjim@ptd.net](mailto:cmecjim@ptd.net).

**Tea and Testament** will be **February 4th at 2:00pm** at the Altenbach home.

**The Way of the Rosary** will be **February 20th at 6:00pm** at the Altenbach home.

**Bible and Brews:** This is an informal gathering that takes place at different locations every other Sunday evening to discuss what is going on in each others lives in the context of the Bible. **Feb 11 and 25 at 6:30 PM**

**Centering Prayer** provides interested and faithful people a practice for becoming more grounded. Centering Prayer is a receptive rather than expressed manner of communicating with God. We come to experience God's presence within us rather than elsewhere. It is prayer connected with breath rather than thought. We set an intention to relate to God in ways that are different than how we interact with God throughout our day. In December, Jim is going to introduce and guide 4 sessions of Centering Prayer. These prayer circles will happen on **Thursdays (Feb. 1, 8, 15, and 22) at 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm** in Christ Memorial's Chancel.

**Priest's Office Hours:** These are times where Jim will be available for people to just stop by and share your way along the Journey. **Tuesdays at the Church from 1:00-3:00 PM and Wednesdays at Boil Line Coffee from 9:00-11:00 AM.** Stop by and say hello!

## Bishop Scanlan's Blog

Bishop Scanlan write a weekly blog that she posts every Friday morning that is defiantly worth reading. You can find it here: <http://www.diocesecpa.org/blog/>

Here is an excerpt from her January 26 post.

It took us a long time to find just the right house when we moved to Central Pennsylvania. Our poor realtor (the most patient man on earth) took me through at least 30 houses over a four or five-month period in no fewer than eight different towns and in all sorts of different neighborhoods. I'd given him a list of "essentials" that we had to have (a good kitchen space, room for two offices and a guest room, off-street parking, room for a cat to roam outside, a good basement and a dry lot) but it was amazing how many styles of homes fit the bill. We looked at colonials, contemporaries, saltboxes, split levels and ranches. We ended up in a wonderful post and beam house with all-wood interior (it has a cabin feel to it) with two fireplaces, a sunroom and a deck. We knew as soon as we walked through the front door that we were home. But here's the best part: there's an acre of woods in the back.

The house is in a residential neighborhood a couple of miles outside of Mechanicsburg village. We have neighbors on our right and left, and across the street- it's a development built in the 1980s. But... while all of our neighbors have groomed lawns behind their houses, ours is a big patch of woods. Wilderness. Or at least, "Suburban Wilderness."

I've been working at my practice of meditation/centering prayer lately. In a life that is filled with appointments, meetings, books to read, sermons to write, emails to send and numerous conversations, the volume of words, thoughts and ideas can be very rich. Some weeks, it feels like eating a literary hot fudge sundae for breakfast, lunch and dinner every day. Words. Ideas. The Word of God. In order to address this, instead of filling my prayer time with more words, I've been working on finding quiet: seeking stillness of heart, body and soul, and just sitting. Sitting with God and being present. It's a practice that takes discipline and is harder than you might think. It is a bit like entering the wilderness- the wilderness of not knowing, of vulnerability, and of possibility. With all of the chatter in our lives (even when it's good chatter) it can be hard to slow down, settle down, and just "be."

### **Greeters: For February**

If you are interested in assisting with this welcoming ministry, please contact Ken Altenbach at [kenlmare@yahoo.com](mailto:kenlmare@yahoo.com)

2/4- Erin

2/11- John

2/18- Becky

2/25- Sharon

<b>Birthdays in February</b>	
2- Maryann Richards	
10- Julia Cummings	
13- Beverly Peterson	
14- Pamela Salwocki	
15- Sophie Stobo	
17- Allison Bleistein	
21- Janet Steele	
23- Jennie Johnson	

## **Vestry Minutes: Tuesday, December 12, 2017**

Christ Memorial Episcopal Church  
Vestry Minutes: Tuesday, December 12, 2017

In attendance: Victor Koons, Dave Peterson, Becky Sutherland, George Reabuck, Ken Altenbach, Barb Rhoades, Jason Clapp, Judy Clapp-Treasurer, Guest: Beverly Peterson, Finance Chairperson

Review of November 14 Minutes:

Minor amendments needed. Dave Peterson moves to approve with amendments, Becky Sutherland second - All in favor – approved with amendments.

Priest in Charge Report – Father Jim Strader-Sasser

Overall health of the parish is good.

Worship numbers are steady with slight improvement.

Financial health is good, Parish energy is high.

Father Jim is pleased with the sound recording system.

Centering prayer has been well attended, there seems to be some good energy surrounding this service. It will continue through Advent and beyond if interest continues.

Father Jim makes special mention that he is quite happy that he took this position as our Priest in Charge.

Senior Warden Report – Dave Peterson

Assisted the Finance Committee in setting up the 2018 Proposed Budget.

Assisted with the sidewalk chalkboard.

Columbarium

There had been vestry discussion as to the desire/need for a Columbarium. These discussions have been with the vestry for approx. the past 2 years. In order to come to a final resolution (at this point

in time) Dave Peterson surveyed the congregation as to their need and interest in a Columbarium. The results are as follows:

We had 14 responses, 5 in favor, and 9 not in favor. Of the 5 who were in favor: One no longer attends our church, they just think it's a good idea. One was in favor, but would not be using ours, One was in favor but would not be using it. That left two in favor, who since then withdrew their response.

Dave Peterson moves that in light of this information, that the vestry will table further Columbarium discussions until next fiscal year. Jason Clapp seconds. Ken Altenbach amends motion to table further Columbarium discussions until there is more congregational interest in resuming conversations.

6 in favor, 1 abstention, Motion Passed.

#### Junior Warden Report – Jason Clapp

Jason has created a list of capitol projects that we are looking at, or that are being considered. Our locks and church access is not as secure as it should be. We may consider key pad entry on Pine Street and Community room door.

Toilet in the community room is being replaced.

#### Cemetery Committee – Becky Sutherland

Still working with representative from Fulton Financial on researching plot records.

#### Missions and Outreach

Mary Altenbach will take over as chair of Missions and Outreach beginning immediately.

#### Finance Committee Report – Beverly Peterson

The every member canvas has brought in \$20,000 more in pledges than what was expected. Everyone is very grateful.

#### Treasurer's Report – Judy Clapp

Dave moves to approve report as presented, Becky Sutherland second, All in favor – Approved as submitted.

#### Old Business

Diaper Bank and Good Samaritan – All involved parties will be gathering for discussions before the end of the year.

#### 2018 Budget

Vestry discussion of the Consortium of Endowed Episcopal Churches. This is a group of endowed episcopal churches from across the country, in similar situations to ours, where leaders gather to learn and network on an annual basis.

George Reabuck makes motion that CMEC should join and participate in this Consortium. Jason Clapp second,

All in favor.

A conference will be held in Texas on February 21-24. We will be sending representatives to attend that conference.

Beverly Peterson reviews finalized budget.

Becky Sutherland makes motion to accept budget of \$269,271 with a surplus of \$6,644 including the Diocese Fair Share of \$30,533. Second by Dave Peterson. All in favor, 2018 budget approved.

Vestry also had a conversation about how much money should remain available in our working checking account.

Jason Clapp makes motion to move \$60,000 from checking to our money market account.

Ken Altenbach second. All in favor. Motion passed.

Parish Annual Meeting scheduled for Sunday, January 21st. Directly after the service.

Only one service that Sunday at 9:30 am.

Next Vestry meeting Scheduled for Tuesday, January 9 at 6 pm.

Submitted by:

Victor Koons

Vestry Clerk



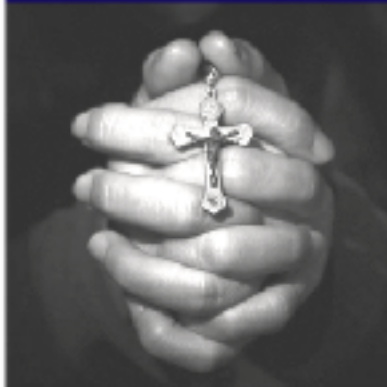
ACADEMY FOR MISSIONAL FORMATION  
SUSQUEHANNA CONVOCATION  
FEBRUARY 17, 2018

# LEADERSHIP DAY

Be a catalyst, agent and advocate for living out God's Mission in Christ, using transformative sources.

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER:  
THE REV. CANON  
DAN MORROW  
"WE ARE  
TRANSFORMED, TO  
TRANSFORM"**

**TO REGISTER, CLICK HERE.**



**Date:** February 17, 2018

**Times:** 8:30 am to 3 pm

**Location:** 255 South Dem Drive,  
Lewisburg, PA 17837

**Cost:** \$65.00 per person,  
includes lunch.

\$25.00 group rate per person for  
three or more from the same  
parish.

SPONSORED BY THE STEVENSON SCHOOL FOR MINISTRY AND ACADEMY FOR MISSION FORMATION

February 2018						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 5:30-6:30 PM Centering Prayer	2	3 10:00-12:00 Trains and Diaper Bank
4 8:00 AM Eucharist 10:00 AM Eucharist 2:00 PM Tea and Testament (Altenbach's)	5 7:00 PM Dulcimers	6 9:30-12:00 AM Bible Buddies 1:00-3:00 PM Priest Office Hours (CMEC)	7 9:00-11:00 AM Boil Line Coffee Office Hours 6:30 PM Choir Practice 7:00 PM Penn Writers	8 5:30-6:30 PM Centering Prayer	9	10 10:00-12:00 Trains and Diaper Bank
11 8:00 AM Eucharist 10:00 AM Eucharist 12:00 Vestry 6:30 PM Bible and Brews (OFBC)	12 TBD The Anglican Way #2	13 9:30-12:00 AM Bible Buddies 1:00-3:00 PM Priest Office Hours (CMEC) 5:30-7:00 PM Pancake Supper	14 <b>Lent Begins</b> 9:00-11:00 AM Coffee Office Hours 12:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service 6:30 PM Choir Practice 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service	15 5:30-6:30 PM Centering Prayer	16	17 10:00-12:00 Trains and Diaper Bank
18 8:00 AM Eucharist 10:00 AM Morning Prayer	19	20 9:30-12:00 AM Bible Buddies 6:00 PM Way of Rosary (Altenbach's)	21 5:30 PM Stations of the Cross 6:30 PM Choir Practice	22 5:30-6:30 PM Centering Prayer	23	24 10:00-12:00 Trains and Diaper Bank
25 8:00 AM Eucharist 10:00 AM Eucharist 6:30 PM Bible and Brews (OFBC)	26 TBD The Anglican Way #3	27 9:30-12:00 AM Bible Buddies	28 5:30 PM Stations of the Cross 6:30 PM Choir Practice			