

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

NEWS

A welcoming, compassionate, healing community
People As Problem Solvers—Not Projects

Taken from Diobeth.org

When Michele Causton, a member of Christ Episcopal Church in Stroudsburg, became worn down by having to repeatedly turn away people in need, she decided to do something about it.

“Although I’m a member of Christ Episcopal Church, I work at St. John’s Lutheran Church on the main street in town,” says Causton. “Because of the central location, there was a large stream of individuals coming in throughout the day, every day of the week, and we were unable to help a lot of them.” Causton began talking to leadership at other local churches, and found they were having similar experiences of being unable to help those who came to their door. Declining membership, they said, had resulted in declining funds.

“It just really breaks my heart to constantly be in that situation of turning people away—you know, it really wears on you” says Causton. “And this church that I work at has a huge stained-glass window depicting Jesus knocking on the door. As these individuals kept coming in, that image came to mind — these people were Jesus knocking on the door. So I kept going back to that image, and that really inspired me to go out into the community to see exactly what was going on and if we were to refer these people to other agencies, would their needs be met.”

Causton started by working with the local clergy association to map out the agencies and resources operating within the community. Then, she began interviewing representatives from those agencies. “I would start by asking the agency if the church was present at any of their meetings or events, and the answer was always ‘no,’” says Causton. “One individual described the churches as always in ‘their own little silos,’ which was concerning.”

After speaking with the agencies, Causton was able to start offering more effective help to more people. “Once I got familiar with all the agencies and what services they offer, that started to alleviate some of the stress on my part of turning people away. At least I was able to start better referring them to other resources,” says Causton.

Next, Causton set about comparing the services that churches were providing with the assessments of community need conducted by United Way and other organizations. She learned that in Monroe County, where Stroudsburg is the county seat, no one is what she calls “a champion for the impoverished.”

“And I thought, ‘this is what we are called to do as church. This is what we should be doing,’” she says.

It quickly became clear there were disconnects between the type of help churches offered and the needs of the community. “We realized that every church within a two-block radius had a food pantry,” Causton says. “But no one was addressing housing or transportation, which, according to the community assessments, were the areas of highest need.”

(continued next page...)



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“A welcoming,
 compassionate, healing
 community in Christ.”



Worship Schedule:

Saturday 4:00 pm
 Said Eucharist

Sunday 8:00 am
 Said Eucharist

Sunday 9:00 am
 Adult Forum

Sunday 9:45 am
 Sunday School

Sunday 10:15 am
 Choral Eucharist

Wednesday Noon
 Healing Prayer Eucharist

Armed with this new understanding of the community's needs, the clergy association is weighing its options. "Now we're in the phase where we're going to start saying, 'Okay, is any congregation willing to let go of the food pantry? Let's really assess how each food pantry is functioning, if it's busy or not,'" Causton says. "So we're really going start restructuring. And that is challenging because the individuals who started these ministries are understandably passionate, so it's hard to let go. At the same time, if we're truly called to meet the needs of the people, we're called to do it intentionally. We're trying to add those intentional planning pieces like you would see in community development, but bringing the church into it."

Causton's work was eye-opening for Christ Church's rector, the Rev. Doug Moyer. "We have been way too parochial in our perspective, and we think too much in terms of, 'well we have a food pantry, and it's *our* food pantry.' It should be a food pantry for Monroe County, rather than for the people of Christ Episcopal Church. So, would it not make more sense to have a food pantry that all the faith communities contributed to and helped fund, helped maintain, and volunteer to distribute the food so we could possibly reach a greater population and be far more effective? And what other things could we do along similar lines that if we pooled together could have a similar impact? So let's talk to the people that deal with this every day to find out where the greatest need is."

Causton stresses the importance of partnering with agencies, like [Bridges Out of Poverty](#), that look to people in poverty to set the course. "People living in poverty are being asked what they need, and are recognized as problem-solvers, not projects, or problems to be solved. It is so wrong for us to come in and say, 'okay we're going to fix your problem.' This is a different way to do things, and I think that is a critical part. So instead of just handing a box of food to someone who comes to the food pantry, we need to be sitting with those individuals and asking them, 'what can we do?'"

Causton, who is a candidate for the diaconate, reports that the Christ Church congregation has been receptive to this new way of thinking about outreach. "I always joke around that Jesus didn't just get up in the morning and say to the disciples 'what are you passionate about today, what do you want to work on?'" she says. "He led them to where the needs were, and those places were typically places the disciples wouldn't have gone on their own."



COMFORT AND HEAL THOSE WHO
SUFFER IN BODY, MIND OR SPIRIT. . .

Sylvie, June, Jennifer, Roseann,
Jim, Cynthia, Barbara, Alex, Rod,
Dryden, and the victims of the
hurricanes.



IN THE MILITARY. . .

Benjamin Potter, Joseph Causton,
Andrew Walck, Nii Lante Lamptey,
Jonathan Lindsley, Mario Arciniega,
Tim O'Sullivan, Shane Gephart,
Damien Smeltzer



Raymar DeCaires, Elizabeth McQueen (10/3), Jay Freeman, Claire
Giuliano (10/6), Taylor Blum (10/7), Mark Morella (10/8), Jackson
Brancato, Arianna McRae, Robert Ott (10/10), Michele Causton
(10/11), Justin Nwosu (10/13), Charlotte Brooks, Gwentyth Hudson
(10/15), Kyle Schumann (10/21)

Steve and MaryEllen Whiteley (10/11)

Ken and Coralie Corcoran (10/16)

Tim and Patti Laing (10/17)

Bob and Chris Nelson (10/18)



OCTOBER 2017

DATE	TIME	TORCHES		SERVERS	LECTORS	CHALICE	COUNTERS
Oct. 1 17 Pentecost	8:00 AM	-		Rob Causton	Joan Duckloe	Jeanne Armitage	-
	10:15 AM	1st: 2nd:	Jaina Nortey Jerrin Nortey	Jolen Nortey	Andrea McQueen Patti Alleger	Howard Alleger	1st: Bob Nelson 2nd: Terry Miller

Oct. 8 18 Pentecost	8:00 AM	-		Rob Causton	Michele Causton	Jo Bauer	-
	10:15 AM	1st: 2nd:	Jelena Nortey Jerrin Nortey	Anthony Pisculli	Jill Thatcher Leigh Smith	Leigh Smith	1st: Jill Thatcher 2nd: Cheryl Cloke

Oct. 15 19 Pentecost	8:00 AM	-		Rob Causton	Kevin Furst	Rob Causton	-
	10:15 AM	1st: 2nd:	Jaina Nortey Jelena Nortey	Jolen Nortey	MaryEllen Whiteley Martha Linne	Cynthia Nortey	1st: Steve Whiteley 2nd: Martha Linne

Oct. 22 20 Pentecost	8:00 AM	-		Rob Causton	Michele Causton	Jo Bauer	-
	10:15 AM	1st: 2nd:	Jelena Nortey Jerrin Nortey	Jolen Nortey	Mike Shands Jay Freeman	Jay Freeman	1st: Greg Tanico 2nd: Jay Freeman

Oct. 29 21 Pentecost	8:00 AM	-		Rob Causton	Joan Duckloe	Jeanne Armitage	-
	10:15 AM	1st: 2nd:	Jelena Nortey Jerrin Nortey	Jolen Nortey	<i>Needed</i> Cynthia Leenerts	Cynthia Leenerts	1st: Chris Nelson 2nd: Sue Freeman



Youth Choir

Youth Choir is open to any Christ Church young person from 4th grade to 8th grade. We meet twice a month on Sundays from 11:45-12:15 following the service and after a small bite to eat downstairs.

The Youth Choir sings at the Children's Mass held once in Pentecost, Advent, Epiphany and once in Lent. If you are interested in joining please see Ms. Sue after church for information.

ADULT Choir

Our Choir has grown to 15 members STRONG! Each week we will feature different types of music: Contemporary, Sacred Quartet, Soloists, 2-3 part Harmony. Our ministry this year, is to relate the weekly OFFERTORY to one of the readings or the PSALM in order to make our music a prayer of relatable text combined with beautiful sounds. If you see a choir member (Janet, Barbara, Carole, Louise, Andrea, Colleen, Debby, Patti, Mike, Steve, Terry, Howard, Cassi, Liz, Justin) tell them how you feel or give them a thumbs up. They put in many hours to bring beautiful worship music to our 10:15 Service and to our congregation at Christ Church. Thank you CHOIR for your service and dedication throughout the year.

BENEFIT CONCERT

Project One Step and Bridges out of Poverty are sponsoring a benefit concert at Stroudsburg High School on Sunday November 5 at 3:00 p.m. Church community choristers from around the Poconos and New Jersey will join together to praise God's goodness through music and song. Featured guest composer and world renowned pianist Joel Raney will be performing along with Jane Hoststein on the organ. It will be an exciting afternoon of sacred music!

Proceeds will benefit "FILL A GLASS WITH HOPE" providing fresh milk for local food pantries.

Tickets are \$15 each and are available from one of our choir members who are participating.

This year's United Thank Offering (UTO) collection was presented during our diocesan convention worship service at Trinity Church, Carbondale. I was pleased to present our check for \$845.00 on behalf of Christ Church.

Thank you all for your heartfelt giving for a great cause. The money will go to those in need here in the US and countries abroad. The generosity of our Christ Church family never ceases to amaze me.

With grateful thanks,

Patti Alleger
UTO Chair



United Thank Offering

Sharing Blessings with Thanksgiving and Love



If you missed the Christ Church shirt fundraiser or would like to purchase another shirt, there are T-shirts and sweat shirts (hooded and non) still available for purchase in various sizes. Please see Cynthia Nortey.



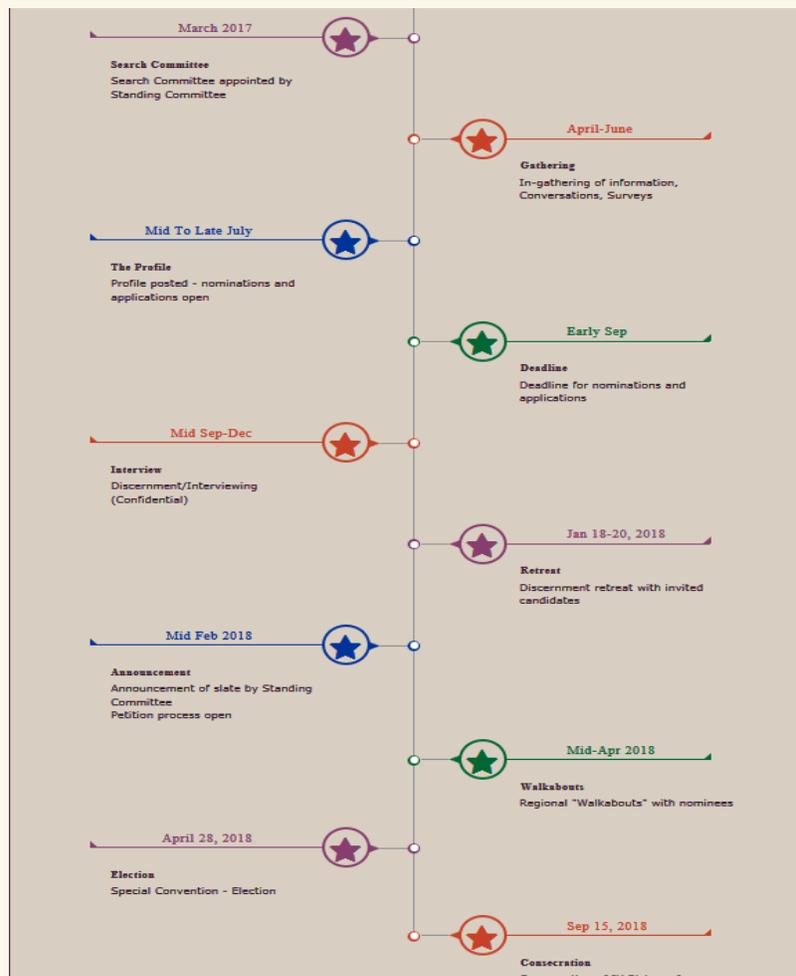
Commitment Sunday is coming! During morning worship on November 5th, we will ask our members to make a financial commitment to our church's missionary, benevolent, and educational ministries in this community and around the world. Please be sure to prayerfully read the Stewardship insert in today's bulletin and those that will be inserted in subsequent weeks.



The Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem

THE BISHOPS BOX

The Process Continues. . .



Frequently Asked Questions

The frequently asked questions are still being gathered. Is there something you'd like to know?

If so, email your questions to the committee at bishopsearchdiobeth@gmail.com or visit the website at www.bishopsearchdiobeth.org

Around Our Community

Join our 26th Annual



P.A.T.H. LUNCHEON

Saturday, October 14, 2017

11:00am - 1:30pm

Homemade Soups & Salads!

Breads ♦ Desserts ♦ Beverages

\$8 Adults \$4 Children under 10

Take Out Available!

**First Presbyterian
Church**

575 Main Street
Stroudsburg, PA
(570) 421-7751

www.fpcstroudsburg.org

**Ample parking available
in municipal lot behind church!**



*This event is sponsored by
the congregation of
First Presbyterian Church.
All proceeds benefit the work of
Pocono Area Transitional Housing.*

Around Our Community



a music ministry uniting people of faith and lifting up people in need

fifth annual choral concert

on Sunday, November 5, 2017 at 3:00 p.m.

featuring

Joel Raney

&

Jane Holstein

directing and performing with

the Project One Step Choir &

the Pocono Community Orchestra

Stroudsburg High School auditorium

\$15 admission

Proceeds to benefit



www.projectonestep.org 570-476-4223

