



The Flame



FEBRUARY 2019

Our Mission is to be a welcoming place where people meet Christ and grow in their relationship with God through our worship, service, and fellowship.



Lock-in

Once again, our youth had a great time during our New Year's Eve lock-in. Special thanks go to our YAC team who organized the evening's activities and did all the cooking and thanks to the parents who helped chaperone the night's fun. Great food, great fellowship, and some wacky games using food, toilet paper, and some played in the dark, made the night fly by and most of our youth were awake the whole time. The good news is that nobody got hurt (unless you count Fr. Tom who played flying squirrel landing on the parish hall carpet as he tried to dodge being tagged) and the parish hall was no worse for wear. Everyone left looking a little tired and excited about coming back at the end of the year to do it all over again. The Lock-in is open to all CHS youth 10 years old and older. CHS youth are welcome to invite friends to join in the festivities.

FR TOM'S TIDBITS



As we enter the month of February, with Epiphany in full swing, our attention turns to the upcoming seasons of Lent, Easter, and Pentecost Sunday. While they seem far off, liturgically they are right around the corner. It is during this time we typically offer out inquirer's class and develop a study for our Lenten program. Well, our class begins on Feb 10th, and our Lenten soup suppers and study begins March 10th. I hope that many will find the time to participate in one or both of these formational offerings.

Based on comments I have heard about the messages shared during worship, we are also going to add something a little different this year. Beginning on Sunday, 10 Feb, our sermons will touch on the same topics covered in our inquirer's class exploring who we are, what we believe, and how we live out our baptismal promises. I pray this preaching series, which will carry us through Lent, is both informative and encouraging, that it will give us a common frame of reference from which to be able to share our faith with others, and that it can answer some of the questions that have arisen from the challenges our Sunday sermons invite us to tackle.

As Christians, we are called to do what we can to share the love we know so that others can know it too. I am not suggesting we stand on the street corner espousing Scripture to do so; however, I do believe we need a more proactive approach than the more traditional and passive one that has existed across the Episcopal Church in the past. The Church's model has been of one waiting for people to come to us; and as most people in our country grew up churched, to some degree, there was generally a flow of people seeking the right place to call their church home. Unfortunately, today more people are growing up outside the church than in; and people are not seeking what they don't know they need.

What this means for us, is a change to our approach if we are to help grow the body of Christ. It means that we need to reach beyond our red doors, out into the community, not just inviting people to come and see, but demonstrating through our actions, our words, and our presence, just how the love of God makes a difference, in the lives of those who embrace it. While this seems to be intimidating, it is not as hard, or as overwhelming, as it seems. In fact, many of us do so already, without even knowing it, through the ways we serve one another and the surrounding community; and while we have a solid core of people who intentionally put themselves out there, to be successful in growing the body of Christ, we need everyone to take part in some way. In sharing the work we are given, we not only reach farther, and do more, we also ease the burdens some feel as they try and do this on their own. Working alongside one another helps deepen relationships that then offers the support we all need.

If you are not currently involved in a ministry here at CHS, I encourage you pray about and explore where your gifts, talents, and passions might meet a need that exists, or that might reveal another pathway for the church to make a difference in the lives of those who worship here and those we encounter along the way. Dcn Joan and I are always available to help anyone find the way we can best live into our shared mission and ministry.

Father Tom

DEACON'S CORNER

I recently read that in ancient Ireland a cross-quarter day was considered the beginning of a season. February 2nd is one of four cross-quarter days in our calendar year. The February 2nd cross-quarter day marks the halfway point between the solstice on December 21st and the equinox on March 20th and the Earth, forever journeying around the sun, brings yet another season.

This poem, *The Summer Day*, written by Mary Oliver, who passed away in January at age 84, is particularly appropriate as we journey through not only seasons, but through our precious lives.

The Summer Day

Who made the world?
Who made the swan, and the black bear?
Who made the grasshopper?
This grasshopper, I mean-
the one who has flung herself out of the grass,
the one who is eating sugar out of my hand,
who is moving her jaws back and forth instead of up and down-
who is gazing around with her enormous and complicated eyes.
Now she lifts her pale forearms and thoroughly washes her face.
Now she snaps her wings open, and floats away.
I don't know exactly what a prayer is.
I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down
into the grass, how to kneel down in the grass,
how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the fields,
which is what I have been doing all day.
Tell me, what else should I have done?
Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon?
Tell me, what is it you plan to do
with your one wild and precious life?

What indeed will we do with our one wild and precious life?

Deacon Joan



Women of Spirit Luncheon

Although the snow kept attendance down, women from Holy Spirit gathered for their annual "holiday" luncheon on January 12. Besides gathering to eat our delicious potluck lunch of salads, hot casseroles, rolls and dessert, Jan Sinram led the group in an activity called "Beautifully Broken." The group took ceramics or china, broke them, and then attempted to glue them back together. Paint was used to cover the seams to show that breaking and mending are a part of life. This technique is called Kintsugi, the art of Japanese art repair. The luncheon concluded with a Eucharist.



Youth Group Roller Skating

Due to the severe cold temperatures, we did not hold our roller-skating event. It will be rescheduled for a later date. Watch the church announcements for updates on when we will try again.



New Beginnings

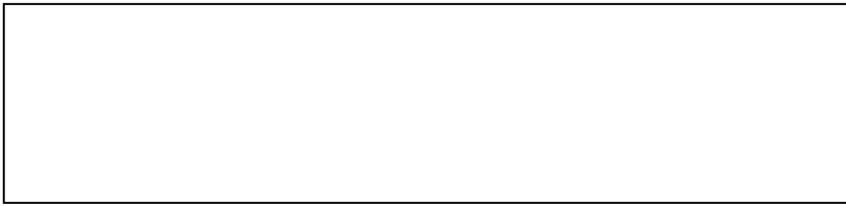
Our parish supports "The New Beginnings Project," a Ministry of Trinity Cathedral, which is a local outreach that helps women who experience domestic violence and find themselves moving into transitional living arrangements after they have fled the situation. Things happened so quickly that they find themselves without anything -- not even a toothbrush -- at a time when it would be dangerous or just not possible for them to venture out to a store. When this happens, the organization/agency assisting the woman contacts New Beginnings, which delivers a bag or suitcase to the agency packed with approximately three days of items needed in the immediate aftermath of the violence.

Donations for this ministry will be collected in the bins to the left of the clipboard table in the Parish Hall starting Sunday, January 27 and continuing until Sunday, February 3, when they will be blessed during the 10:30 a.m. service.

The following **NEW** items currently are needed the most:

- * Women's T-shirts (size XL or larger), which are used as sleep shirts
- * Towel and washcloth sets
- * Women's socks (any kind, any color)

There is also a constant need for pain reliever (12-40 count only) and small bottles of hand sanitizer. Thank you for helping!



CHS's First Mobile Food Pantry in 2019

Saturday, February 2. Delivery truck to arrive at 9 a.m. Doors open at 10 a.m.

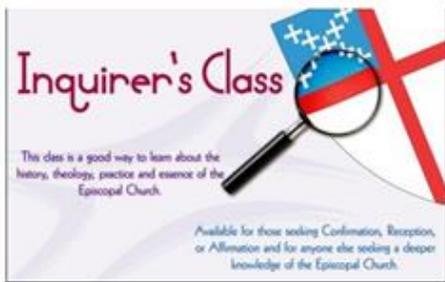
The Airman Leadership School from Offutt will help us with this one but none of the young airmen will have had prior experience with our pantries. So once again it is crucial that we have at least 10 volunteers from the parish to help. We'll need parish help at the sign-in table and help to direct the set up of the food products. Carts and wagons to help carry the food to the cars are also needed.

"You pray for the hungry. Then you feed them. That's how prayer works" Pope Francis



Annual Meeting

Frantic preparations are underway to bring together our annual parish report and all the information needed to conduct the business of the church. During our meeting on Sunday (3 Feb) following the 10:30 service, we will be discussing the results of the welcoming study group, projects and challenges we will be facing in the upcoming year, and a few special offerings that we hope will excite the parish. We will also thank our off going vestry members, welcome and approve those seeking positions on the 2019 Vestry, elect delegates to Annual Council, and hear how a year that looked challenging financially, ended up a year to celebrate. Please plan to attend this very important event in the life of our parish. Brunch is provided by the Vestry.



Inquirer's Class

On Sunday (10 Feb) Fr. Tom will begin his annual Inquirer's Class. This class is especially important for those who are new to the Episcopal Church, those new to Holy Spirit, and those who are considering confirmation. This class examines who we are, what we believe, and how we live out our baptismal promises. This eight week class will meet beginning at Noon and go until 1:30pm.

Blood Mobile

The Red Cross Blood Mobile will be at CHS on Saturday (16 Feb). Donors can reserve a time slot between 8am and 2pm by visiting the Red Cross website or by signing up at the clipboard table. If you have any questions, please contact Carol McLaughlin or call the office.



2018 Grant Money used for Colegio Kids

In December of 2017, Holy Spirit's Daughters of the King® chapter requested a grant from the endowment board to be used for scholarships through Colegio Kids in 2018. The DOK chapter was given a grant which was used to cover educational cost of two students at Colegio San Esteban in San Pedro de Macoris, Dominican Republic.

One scholarship recipient is Julio, a 14 year old boy, and is in the equivalent of our 8th grade. Julio likes to play baseball and his favorite class is Spanish. The other scholarship recipient is Greysa, a 9 year old girl, who is in the 4th grade. Greysa is the youngest of four children and likes watching TV and playing. She wants to be an international model and really likes her art class.

Lectionary Study Group

On the fourth Monday of each month, starting at 4:30pm in the parish library, Fr. Tom leads a study that looks at the Sunday lectionary readings for the coming month. If you would like to gain a deeper understanding of the message we hear each week, and what the preacher's focus will be in the coming month, this is a class just for you. Advance reading is recommended but not required. If you would like a copy of the readings being studied, please contact Fr. Tom.





Daughters of the King Sewing Tote Bag Event

Our Church of the Holy Spirit chapter of Daughters of the King has been granted a sum of \$250 from Thrivent to make tote bags for "New Beginnings".

Several of our Daughters' recently attended a packing event at Trinity Cathedral. We helped to pack 100 tote bags with things like nightshirts, towels, washcloths, toiletries, etc. These bags are given to The Women's Center for Advancement for women who are admitted due to abuse, sex trafficking, etc. Each bag will help these women for a few days as they often arrive at the center with nothing. We pray that each woman feels the care and love that goes into her tote.

We are having a sewing event at Thanksgiving Lutheran Church (36th Street and Hwy 370) on Saturday, February 16th, from 9:00 A.M. until 3:00 P.M. Lunch will be provided. If you can't come the entire time, come for as long as you can.

We hope to have a good turnout of ladies from all over the Omaha area who will bring their sewing machines, their cutting boards, and equipment to help cut out and sew the bags that day. We will also need ladies to iron seams, and put the unfinished cutout totes with sewing instructions into plastic bags for people to sew at home. If you cannot come on February 16th and would like to help, you can take one of these bags to finish at home.

The totes need to be finished by March 15th. Please contact Linda Simodynes at simodynesl@hotmail.com or Sharon Jones at mathteach2000@aol.com to let us know if you can come to this event or if you have any questions. It will also be helpful to know if you are able to bring a sewing machine, cutting board, scissors, etc.

Peace and Hope, Linda Simodynes

Shrove Tuesday



SHROVE TUESDAY

Once again, our Men of Spirit Ministry Team (with the help of some of our youth) will be cooking our wonderful Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner on Tuesday, 5 Mar. Dinner will begin being served at 5pm and will continue until 7pm. Volunteers are asked to sign-up at the clipboard table for one or both shifts. Also, all are invited to bring last year's palms to dinner so that they may be burned for ashes to be used on Ash Wednesday. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us; and bring a friend.



Ash Wednesday and Lent Preview

Following our annual pancake dinner on Shrove Tuesday (5 Mar) our 2019 Lent Season observance begins with our Ash Wednesday services at 9:30am, noon, and 6:30pm on Wednesday, 6 Mar. Beginning on Sun (10 Mar) we will offer an additional worship service on Sunday evenings at 5:00pm, followed by a soup supper at 6:00pm, and our Lenten study beginning at 6:30pm.

Our Lenten study this year will look at key events in the life and ministry of Jesus from the perspective of the four gospel writers along with pictures brought back from Fr. Tom & Sharon's trip to the Holy Land. This six-week multi-generational offers a great opportunity to explore the gospel differences and to better understand the settings in which these events occurred. Sign-up sheets will be available to volunteer to bring a soup, bread, or dessert. Our Sunday evening program will end at 7:30pm. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us.

VESTRY MINUTES
January 17, 2019

Members present: Judy Darrell, Leslie Nutting, Doug Adams, Ken Gomeringer, Vic Culp, Cindy Pekarek, Lori Erikson and Fr. Tom.

Vestry meeting opened at 6:30pm with prayer and a reflection on “shared ministry” followed.

Finance Report: Vic reported that even though the endowment fund saw some significant loss, the 2018 budget received 99% of our 2018 pledges and with other income finished the year at 101%.

The following fund expenditure requests were reviewed:

- Fr Tom gave a breakdown of the monies paid out of the \$4000 grant from the diocese for our welcoming program.
 - \$ 550.00 install outlets and charging ports
 - \$1237.00 install new indoor signage
 - \$1100.00 build and install counter at the back of the undercroft,
 - \$ 344.10 purchase 5 tall chairs
 - \$ 261.07 purchase connection center table
 - \$ 507.00 Remaining Balance
- Journeys \$ 75.00 (lock-in expenses)
- Oktoberfest \$ 89.24 (Wine for Valentine’s Extravaganza)
- Youth Activities \$ 65.96 (Lock-in expenses)
- Memorial Fund \$700.00 (Babcock funds to Calvary Epis Church, ILL)
- Rector’s Disc \$200.00 (Parishioner donation in support of Troop 483)
- Rector’s Disc \$200.00 (Parishioner donation in support of Pack 483)
- CHS Grant Fund \$343.33 (Funds for Siena Francis House Supplies)

MO11719-01 Ken moved and Doug seconded the motion to accept the finance reports as presented.

MO11719-02 Lori moved and Cindy seconded the motion to pay the bills.

An amended budget was presented that reflected one new pledge received after budget approval increasing our pledge contributions. Also noted was a decrease in pledge contributions as one family gave some of their 2019 pledge in 2018. Changes in the given in 2018 for 2019 line item showed the increase given in 2018 and the removal of a planned gift not received prior to the end of 2018. Overall contribution offering total increased slightly leaving a \$1500 budgetary shortfall for 2019. **MO1719-03** Judy moved and Lori seconded the motion to accept the change in the 2019 budget on the pledge offering line to \$192,855.00 and the pledge offering previous year line to \$19,505.00.

The Vestry discussed, amended and approved the 2019 church calendar.

All ministry reports that will be in the annual report must be in NLT Monday, January 21.

Leslie nominated Linda Blinston, Terry Storm and Lisa Weilandt to fill the vacant positions on the vestry. Following discussion, the names will be presented to the parish during Annual Meeting.

Leslie presented recommended estimates for asbestos abatement (\$7280) and new vinyl flooring in the undercroft (\$18,231.86) for a rough total of \$25,000.00. The Vestry identified \$5500 in undesignated fundraising that could be used to reduce the cost to the parish as well as \$2000 expected to be raised in 2019. With a gift of \$3500 given by the Women of Spirit from their Rummage Sale/Holiday Fair fund, the needed funds rest at \$14,000. It is agreed that this project will be presented at the Annual Meeting as a mini-capital campaign for parish consideration and approval. Pledge cards will be made available once approved.

Vestry was asked by the Babcock family for recommendations on how \$1100 remaining in the Babcock Memorial Fund might be used. Two projects recommended was the reorganization of choir area and parish hall flooring. Fr. Tom was instructed to discuss these options and report back to the Vestry at the February meeting.

Fr Tom presented the Rector's yearend review. Noted was a drop in average Sunday attendance, along with attendance during Holy Week and Easter services. Christmas attendance was slightly above average.

Fr. Tom will be applying for a Lily Grant for a proposed sabbatical in 2020 to Israel. Vestry inputs will be solicited with final vestry coordination during the March meeting.

The church has received a request from Richmond Village Independent Living for a priest to hold a full church service for residents of that facility. Reviewing the request, it was agreed that Fr. Tom would offer services on the first and third Tuesday of the month at 1:15pm. Additional services could be added should attendance dictate. Fr. Tom requested approval to use memorial funds to purchase a portable altar kit to facilitate this request. **MO11719-04** Doug moved and Ken seconded a motion to purchase a Portable Altar Kit. (approximate cost \$600-\$700)

Judy requested that all vestry members coordinate with her what entre they are providing for the Annual Meeting so if we need to purchase any additional food items we will have time to do so.

MO11719-05 Lori moved and Ken seconded a motion to adjourn. 8:20pm

FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Report as of December 31, 2018

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
Pledged	\$ 25,877.00	\$ 15,378.83	\$ 184,003.00	\$ 184,546.00
Other Inc.	\$ 2,212.05	\$ 2,634.58	\$ 36,441.49	\$ 31,615.00
Total Inc	\$ 28,089.05	\$ 18,013.42	\$ 220,444.49	\$ 216,161.00
Expenses	\$ 22,727.86	\$ 18,618.83	\$ 221,090.48	\$ 223,426.00



LAY MINISTRIES SCHEDULE



Ministries	February 3	February 10	February 17	February 24
VPOD	Leslie N	Judy D	Michele H	Cindy P
Coffee Hosts 8am	TBD Team 6	TBD Team 1	TBD Team 2	TBD Team 3
Greeters Sun 8am 10:30am	Leslie N Dean & Joan O	Kristin K Toby W Stu W	Leslie N John & Pauline P	Kristin K Gary & Karen G
Ushers 10:30am	Chris D Dean O	Vince C, Jr Brian W Vic C	Ryan & Casey M	Deanne M Lora C
Altar Guild	Joan W Sharon J Kim C	Toby W Kristi S Charlotte A Janet H	Jan S Linda B Joan M	Sandy V Joan O Leslie N Carol M
Altar Bread	Kitty K	Kitty K	Kitty K	Kitty K
LEVs	Jan S Ken G	Joan W	Toby W Charlotte A	Joan W
LEM Sat 5pm	Alberta Y	Cathy J	Kristi S	Ken G
8:00am Lessons Prayers	Doug A Terri S	Sue H Rick S	Doug A Terri S	Rick S Jared S
10:30am Lessons Prayers	Michele H Jan S	Charlotte A	Doug S Jennifer W	Kim C Michele H
Acolytes 10:30am	Daunte H Olivia H Evelyn C	Silas C Kyper M Zoe S	Bobby R Emily W William R	Darius H Isaiah H Vincent C

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS!

- Feb 2: Mobile Food Pantry @ 10am
- Feb 3: Annual meeting @ noon in parish hall
- Feb 8: Valentine Extravaganza @ 7pm
- Feb 10: Finance Committee @ 9:30am
Worship Committee Meeting @ 11:45am
Inquirer's Class @ noon (weekly for eight weeks)
- Feb 14: Vestry Meeting @ 6:30pm
- Feb 16: Blood Mobile at CHS from 8-3
DOK dewing @ Thanksgiving Lutheran from 9-3
- Feb 18: Office Closed for President's day
- Feb 19-22: Clergy Retreat
- Feb 25: Lectionary Group @ 4:30pm
- Feb 26: Staff Meeting @ 9:30am

**Please submit articles for
the March 2019 FLAME to
the church office by
February 15.
Thank you**



Like Us!

FEBRUARY



Regular Services:

Saturday: 5:00 pm Holy Eucharist (chapel)
Sunday: 8:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite 1 (church)
Nursery from 9:30–11:30 am
10:30 am Holy Eucharist (church)
Wednesday: 9:30 am Holy Eucharist / Healing Prayer (chapel)

Education:

Sunday: 9:30 am Sunday School (September-May)
Wednesday: 10:15 am Adult Formation
5:30 & 7:00 pm Adult Formation

Office Hours:

Monday – Thursday: 9:00 am–3:00 pm
Friday: 9:00 am–Noon

Rector's Day Off:

Friday

The Flame is a monthly production of the Church of the Holy Spirit, Episcopal, in Bellevue, Nebraska. We welcome all stories, pictures, and suggestions, but must reserve the right to choose what we can print. Please send articles and pictures to CHS Admin at holyspirit@chsepiscopal.org. The next deadline for submitting news is February 15.

Webpage: www.chsepiscopal.org

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The Flame
Newsletter of The Church of the Holy Spirit - Episcopal
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