

Weekly Church Chat from Christ Episcopal Church, Toms River

This email provides events/ deadlines for the upcoming week or so and may not represent all scheduled activities at Christ Church.

May 11, 2018

NEXT WEEK! Spring Rummage Sale will be held on Thursday, May 17 (9am-3pm) & 18th and Friday May 18 (9am-12pm). Help is needed (strong men & women) to bring items from downstairs up to Disciples Hall on Monday (5/14) morning at 8:30am. Need helpers to sort and price on Monday, May 14, Tuesday, May 15 and Wednesday, May 16 from 9am to 3pm each day. Need cashiers and baggers for Thursday, May 17. Friday 5/18 we need help to clean up at beginning at noon. Donations can be dropped off Monday or Tuesday (please not prior to, as we have no storage space). We need clothing, handbags, shoes, linens, books, jewelry, small appliances, toys and household goods. Please no large furniture, tvs or computers. The actual Sale is May 17th (9am-3pm) & 18th (9am-12pm).

NEXT WEEK! The next **Anti-Racism Training** dates are Thurs-Sat May 17-19, 2018 at St. David's Episcopal Church in Cranbury. The registration is already open and it will fill fast. If you have not yet attended, please register. If you have already attended and would like to go again, please register. Would you also please let me know that you are planning to attend?

Thank you. Here is the registration link. <https://tinyurl.com/y867a6bj>
Blessings, Mother Joan

The Church Office will be CLOSED on Friday, May 18th (all activities resume).

NEXT WEEKEND! The Next Town Hall Meetings will be following each service the weekend of May 19 & 20. Please join us.

NEXT WEEKEND! The Day of Pentecost is celebrated the weekend of May 19th & 20th. **WEAR RED!!** Pentecost is a major Feast Day of the Church that occurs 50 days after Easter. Jesus promised He would send us the Holy Spirit. Pentecost is the day we celebrate the arrival of the Spirit. Red signifies the fire of the Holy Spirit. Vestments are red, so find something red to wear. We celebrate Pentecost at all services that weekend. At the 10:15 service, we plan to fly the Dove kite and the four Flames of Fire Kites. Pentecost is an exciting and fun feast day.

Do You Speak A Language Other Than English? And will you be present at one of the three weekend services of Pentecost, Sat/Sun May 19/20? The Gospel will be read that day in as many languages as possible, just as it was heard on the first Pentecost day. We will provide the script for you (it's really only one sentence). Please call or email the Church Office to volunteer or for more information. A sign-up sheet is also available on the Name Tag Table.

THANK YOU! To all those who participated and attended the Fashion Show & Auction last Saturday. It was a great success!

Women of Christ Church (WCC) will meet at 11am on Wednesday, May 23rd in the Library.

Holy Baptism at Christ Church Do you desire your children or yourself to receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism? If so, Mother Joan will be officiating only two more Holy Baptism dates prior to her retirement, May 20 and July 1. If interested, please contact the Church Office christchurchtomsriver@verizon.net or 732-349-5506 immediately to schedule.

Coffee Hour Hosts Needed! Can you help cover a Sunday even just 1 or 2 times a year? Coffee Hour is an important part of our serve and time with one another. Is Hospitality one of your gifts? Not sure? Consider being a host. It is easy and you don't do it alone. Why not give it a try...we will train you. Contact Melissa Briggs 732-267-6470.

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Baccalaureate Weekend is June 9/10! The weekend that we recognize our graduates. This service puts the meaning behind the graduation. We celebrate the accomplishments of the graduates, but we also send them out in God's name to continue their education at a new level or to begin new ministries. If you are graduating from College, High School, Intermediate School, or earning an advanced degree or a technical degree, or a certificate of completion for a course of study, please contact the church office and give us your name. We want to list all graduates at Christ Church in our bulletin for that day. **Please email names by June 3rd to christchurchtomsriver@verizon.net.**

Cathedral Sunday, June 3, 2018 Dear Friends throughout the Diocese of New Jersey, I write to ask for your help in making Cathedral Sunday 2018 an even more special day by gathering families from across the Diocese to worship in a unique and glorious Flower Festival Eucharist. We have long encouraged our churches and parishioners to view and embrace Trinity Cathedral as their second spiritual home. Cathedral Sunday, now in its fourth year, offers a wonderful opportunity to express this sentiment and share it with our children and grandchildren. Sunday June 3rd, is the day. Our service will begin at 10:30 a.m. I will be the celebrant, and the Rev. Canon Karin Mitchell of St. David's Church in Cranbury will preach. The youth of several parishes will read lessons and prayers and offer the elements. It will be the wonderful worship of God in the sacramental presence of Christ and in our Cathedral, magnificently adorned with numerous extraordinary floral arrangements created by parishioners throughout the Diocese. Immediately following, the Cathedral Major Chapter invites everyone to a light lunch specially prepared by some of the Cathedral's partner organizations in Trenton. It will highlight the Cathedral's many urban ministries. After lunch, there will be a Cathedral Scavenger Hunt for the kids and docent-led tours of the Cathedral for all. Each event tells our Cathedral's story and illuminates its splendors, and offers an opportunity to enjoy the floral displays. Historical artifacts will also be on display. The Flower Festival Eucharist is made possible by flower ministries and enthusiasts from across the Diocese who make the displays the day before at a **free Flower Arranging Workshop at the Cathedral.** I

invite your flower ministry, or any parishioner with a floral yen, to participate this year. The workshop will be held on Saturday June 2nd, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Flowers are provided, as is lunch, and experts will help both the experienced and the beginners. No matter what the level of expertise, all are welcome. Indeed, this may be a valuable means of starting or renewing a flower ministry in your church.

For further information, contact Patrice D'Angelo in the Cathedral Office at 609-392-3805 x100 or at patriceattrinity@aol.com. Thank you for your attention to this appeal and for your support for this wonderful day. Faithfully Yours In Christ, The Right Reverend William H. Stokes, D.D.

Bishop of New Jersey

The Food Pantry: Current needs in our FOOD PANTRY are: Long life milk, canned fruit (any kind), soups (not tomato), flour, vegetable oil, canned corn, rice, canned/boxed potatoes and microwaveable meals. Thank you for all your recent donations.

The **Café** is in need of the following items: Decaf Coffee, Regular Coffee, Powdered Iced Tea Mix, Medium Gloves and Large Gloves. If you are able to donate one of these items we would greatly appreciate it. Please put items in the blue café bin outside the food pantry. Thank you!

If something happened to you, would we know about it? Do the people who care about you know to notify the church right away in case of your hospitalization, or an accident, or an extended illness, etc.? Please give them the church's contact information with clear instructions to contact us right away. We hope to be praying for you during any incidents rather than after the fact. Thank you!!

Let's Share Our Messages of Gratitude. Post a brief message of what you are thankful for, in English or Spanish, to the all parish, bilingual group, "**Gratitude/Gratitud**", on WhatsApp. WhatsApp is a free app that can be downloaded to your mobile phone. To be added to this Christ Church group: text a request to Phyllis Long ([908-814-2906](tel:908-814-2906)) or Jose Cantos ([908-525-5370](tel:908-525-5370)).

Congregational Prayer Request: *A Family That Prays Together Stays Together* In unity let's join each other in prayer every morning at 9am (every day that you can). Thank the Lord for all your blessings and the blessing of our Christ Church family. If you have time to pray more, ask for healing, spiritual growth and renewal for our Parish, with continued guidance in these modern times to keep our church thriving both spiritually and financially, so that we may continue to serve the Lord through our service to others as we spread his truth, his love and shining his light into the world. Join others (as you can) and let's all offer a quick prayer for our Parish. Thank you, Your Vestry and Rector

Nicole Strada,
Parish Administrator
Christ Episcopal Church
Office Hours: M-F, 9am-3pm