

# THE WEEKLY E-PISTLE

## news & updates



February 21, 2021 | This Week at Christ Church

### We gather every Sunday at 9 a.m. ONLINE!

Join the interactive service on Zoom or watch livestream on YouTube by clicking below.



[CLICK HERE to ZOOM 9 a.m. Sunday Service](#)

[Click Here for Bulletin/Order of Service](#)

[CLICK HERE to watch on YouTube](#)

#### TODAY'S SERVICE

**Acolyte** - Louise Delafield  
**Lesson** - Danny Alegria  
**Psalm** - Mary Hufty  
**Epistle** - Carl Cheney  
**Nicene Creed** - Catherine Aragon  
**Intercessions** - Sarah Halsey

#### CELEBRATIONS

**Birthdays**  
Carol Wentworth, Pam Padilla

#### A NOTE FROM YOUR RECTOR

Normally I would be writing about Lent this time of year, but it seems like we have been in Lent for the past ten months. Instead, I want to write about the importance of church fellowship, which cannot be overstated. It is a crucial part of the Christian life. I am grateful for our fellowship team - Carl Cheney, Lenore Lovoi, Sherry Lund and Carol Wentworth (along with Angela Hey providing technical support) – who have spent hours providing different ways for us to get to know each other on a deeper, more personal, level.

Fellowship was an important part of the early church and still is. Acts 2:40 says, "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer." Fellowship at church is different from everything else you do. Unlike a country club, where you join to benefit yourself – access to a golf course, a pool, a dining room -- fellowship at church is not merely for your own benefit. Nor can you select and vote on who can be members of the church as one does in a private club. "Fellowship," from the Greek word "koinonia," expresses the idea of committing to a shared life in Christ together. This is what distinguishes it from the

important, benevolent, nonprofit work that most of us do because it is a commitment to following Christ in community – it is a commitment to each other and to a way of life – the Christian way of life - as opposed to a cause. Causes are easier and less complicated than people.

Fellowship is at the heart of God’s plan for us to grow. The Bible is filled with “one another” verses commanding believers to “bear one another’s burdens” (Galatians 6:2), “build one another up” (1 Thessalonians 5:11), “confess your sins to one another” (James 5:16), and “love one another” (John 15:12). A lot of the Christian life is impossible to live out on Sunday morning as these things are nearly impossible to do just in Sunday worship service. Without fellowship, spiritual growth is stunted. COVID and virtual worship has made this even more extreme, where people can voyeuristically watch a service without engaging at all with other Christians - even in worship. The greater the isolation, the greater the danger. This has been the challenge of COVID, and yet, our Fellowship team has found ways to overcome this. They organized an intergenerational drive-in movie in September that created a safe space to start a collective conversation about racism and police brutality. They delivered cookies to some, set up Zoom dinners for others. I am grateful to them for providing these opportunities to have spirits lifted (see the note below from Barbara Harwood), engage in meaningful conversations, and stay connected with other believers.

Finally, just to underscore how important Christian fellowship outside of Sunday morning worship is, this week I had a two-hour Zoom conference with several colleagues with whom I attended Yale Divinity School. We reflected on what we learned and what mattered most aside from the excellent academic classes and many transcendent liturgical services. We universally agreed that some of the most important learning we did were in conversations in the refectory where the tradition was simply to slide into the next available spot at the 30 foot tables next to whomever happened to be there. The other place where we many of us experienced the most growth was working on group projects. Some people barely did any work, others did more than the lion’s share of work, some people were difficult and some were absolutely mesmerizing. Some refused to take communion from female clergy. Some were brilliant and knew the most obscure theologians, others were just hearing of St. Augustine, Aquinas, Barth, and Kierkegaard for the very first time. We were all at different points in the spiritual journey – but we had teachers who met us where we were – whether they were Professors or classmates. It was a lot like church. Often it seemed that the only thing we had in common was our love for God and our commitment to living in that community of faith, which meant sitting next to and working with completely random people from all walks of life, socio-economic backgrounds, countries, colors, with different traditions, pieties, and even different beliefs about God. Sometimes It was difficult, but it was always worth it.

Thank you for the privilege of accompanying you on the journey in this community of faith and for accompanying me. May we grow together, and thank you Carl, Lenore, Sherry, Carol and Angela for giving us the opportunity to gather beyond Sunday services in fellowship.

With love and gratitude,  
Beth

P.S. A thank you letter below from the Harwoods to the Fellowship team for keeping them connected.

Charles C. Harwood

Portola Valley, California 94028

On Chuck's behalf I want to thank everyone who has helped keep him in touch with Christ Church.

The Valentine cookies made his face light up and between us - consumed in short order!

Sometimes he is somewhat clear in his mind but often not.

He can take very short walks which is good and he has wonderful helpers.

So bless you all from  
both of us Barbara

---

**NEWS FROM THE OUTREACH TEAM**

Dinners for Maple Street  
Shelter: On Sunday





**February 14th** the indomitable team of Ruth Ann Wrucke and Penny McCulloch made a triumvirate of yummy dinner options for 40 elderly at the Maple Street Shelter who are housed in motel rooms. On **Sunday February 28th** our church will be preparing dinner for 120 souls in the main shelter and we are looking for sous chefs for Chinese Chicken salad, refried rice and wontons plus carrot cake bakers. Contact Ruth Ann

at [cwrucke@mindspring.com](mailto:cwrucke@mindspring.com) or call her at (650) 851-8435 to volunteer.

**Lunches for the Frail Elderly at Maple Street Shelter:** Our thanks to teens/college students: Beca Bakken, McKenna Bolka, Charlotte Hill, Erin Miller, Katie Miller, Josie Miller, Annie Pflaum, Annie Travers plus adult volunteers: Kathy Kennedy, Penny McCulloch, and Bob Wrucke. They gathered on Friday February 5th and made Winter Tomato soup with Cucumber Sandwiches plus chocolate chip cookies and lots more for lunches for 40 frail elderly homeless who are being lodged in motel rooms by the Maple Street Homeless Shelter. Motivational pizza was served and we were delighted that Mother Beth and Thomas joined us. The teens also made two cozy fleece blankets for families staying at the Redwood Family Shelter. Contact Kathy at [kennedyiti@aol.com](mailto:kennedyiti@aol.com) if you want to participate on our next date, **Friday March 5th**.

**Groceries for the Homeless:** Our Christ Church community provided a week of groceries for four San Mateo County homeless "Home & Hope" families on Sunday February 7th. Our thanks to Betsy Alexander, Hayley Bakken, Tricia Christensen, Louise Delafield, Lisa Hill, Kathy Kennedy, Diane Leonard, Lenore Levoi, Eda Lim, Jim & Pam Szewczak, Carol Wentworth and Ruth Ann Wrucke. The families send their sincere thanks!

**Toiletries for the Homeless:** Remember travel and those cute little toiletries that hotels used to give out? If you have any or know anyone who does, we are still collecting them for the Maple Street Adult Homeless Shelter. Bring them to the church breezeway and drop them off in the green box. 130 sets of shower shoes were donated last week but we can always use more. No human contact required.

**Outreach Charity Review:** Every two years Outreach reviews the charities we support and this is the year. On **Tuesday February 23rd** beginning at 9:30AM we will be Zoom meeting with Life Moves (9:45) and Home & Hope (11:30), two charities that support the local homeless community on the Peninsula. All are invited to participate. **Zoom** code: <https://zoom.us/j/97649227080>). If you are personally involved with a charity providing aid for the "poorest of the poor, homeless, imprisoned or the invisible needy" that you think we should consider, let us know. Contact Kathy at [kennedyiti@aol.com](mailto:kennedyiti@aol.com) or call her at 650-291-9678.

**GIRL SCOUT COOKIES**

Many people in the parish are looking for a Girl Scout cookie dealer. Mother Beth contact the three that we are aware of - and one has graciously offered to supply us. When I committed to pass along contact information in our newsletter at our virtual coffee hour, I did not know that there are some advertising restrictions so I think you may need to contact Charlotte Hill thought her mother Lisa Hill at [hill\\_lisa@me.com](mailto:hill_lisa@me.com) and then she can send you the link to <https://digitalcookie.girlscouts.org/scout/charlotte883695>

---

## NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE

### Report from Executive Council Member Sherry Lund

Here are updates from the February meeting of the Diocesan Executive Council:

- The Bluebird Village project is a vision for developing nine acres in Brentwood, CA that the Diocese has owned for probably 30-ish years. It has a number of components: market rate housing, affordable homes for first-time homebuyers, affordable rental house, plus a farm, community building, and childcare structure. The outreach arm of the Diocese, the Episcopal Impact Fund (EIF), is working with a project team. This team recently selected Eden Housing out of eight applications to be a building partner for the project. Eden is a 50-year-old well-known and highly regarded organization whose mission is building and maintaining affordable housing. The Executive Council authorized EIF Executive Director Kathleen Piraino to develop an MOU with Eden Housing, with a specifically defined ownership structure by component. The MOU will be returned to the Council and the Bishop for approval. Members of the EC asked that financial and operational plans be defined for ongoing staffing and maintenance for the farm, community center (which would house a church, perhaps office space for Eden, and space rentals) and childcare amenities. This is a project with many steps and are moving it to the next stage. I might mention that Kathleen is an attorney and members of Church of Our Savior Episcopal church in Mill Valley.

A new Diocesan CFO, the Rev. Michele Racusin, has been hired and is now onboard. Michele comes to us from the Diocese of Los Angeles where she was the CFO and missioner for financial stewardship. Her background in finance was honed as a CPA for 30 and in "Big Four" accounting for 20 years. We expect her to bring more emphasis on financial transparency and more financial education for Vestries, Treasurers and others who handle and manage money in parishes.

A new position has been posted for a Multicultural Ministry and Engagement Officer, which can either be filled by a lay or clergy member. More details can be found at: <https://diocal.org/resources/lay-positions/multicultural-ministry-and-community-engagement-officer/multicultural>

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns to advance at the Diocesan level.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sherry Lund (650) 619-5500 [sherrylund@aol.com](mailto:sherrylund@aol.com)

## NEWS FROM THE CARILLON SCHOOL



**CARILLON**  
SCHOOL

# We are now open for enrollment!

Call to schedule your tour.

## (650) 529-1335

Christ Church Portola Valley & Woodside |  
ccpvw.org

