



CHRIST AND THE EPIPHANY

VOLUME 25

August 2021

Dear Friends,

In conversations with several of you in the past week, I've heard you say, wearily, "Things just aren't the same in church anymore," and "I miss the way it used to be."

I get it. You are not alone. Throughout the parishes of ECCT, a common refrain that clergy and lay leaders alike hear is, "Why can't we go back to how it used to be?" Everywhere, people are tired of wearing masks, tired of communion being different, and tired of fellowship opportunities being limited because of concerns around shared food.

And now, once again, we are in another time of uncertainty as COVID infection rates and hospitalizations are on the rise, particularly for those who are unvaccinated.

With all this change and uncertainty, one thing never changes. We can be sustained by this unwavering promise: "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases. God's mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning." (Lamentations 3:22-23)

There is nowhere we can go, nothing we can experience, no situation we can face, where God in Christ is not present.

God is in all of it, present in our very longing for normalcy, offering us rest for our weary spirits.

Our journey together through this pandemic is not over, and I want to hear from you about how you are and how our parish family can reconnect in vibrant, life-giving ways.

Some of you who attend in-person worship have expressed your yearning that we could come to the altar rail for communion, and I'm hoping we can begin this sometime in September. A return to the "regular" altar for The Eucharistic Prayer, using traditional communion wafers, will happen. We will be able to gather safely as God's people around the table with the proper precautions. Of course we want to assure that our technology is setup to accommodate any adjustments so that all our Zoom folks can continue to fully participate.

Meanwhile, let us go gently. With ourselves. With others. Come to church if you can and find the strength and comfort of fellow travelers in Christ finding hope in a weary land.

"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work

within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus

throughout all generations, for ever and ever!" (Ephesians 3:20-21)

God bless you and God bless our lives together,
Mary Anne

Upcoming Events

Every Sunday, 9:00 a.m., Sunday Service in-person and via Zoom

Sunday, August 8, noon - 4:00 p.m., Junk in the Trunk

Sunday, August 29, 10:30 a.m., ECCT online service

(Zoom connection information at end of newsletter.)

ECCT Fifth Sundays

In collaboration with Christ Church Cathedral, our Bishops invite you to participate in the upcoming Fifth Sundays Across ECCT at St. Monica's, Hartford on **Sunday, August 29 at 10:30 a.m.** Join online or in person!



Annual Meeting of ECCT. Featuring our parishes and coordinated by our Cathedral.

Junk in The Trunk

The next Junk in the Trunk event will be August 8 from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Carol's Kitchen continues to be a fan favorite and all goodie contributions are welcome. Note that there will not be an event in September. Instead, we will be having our normal Bake Sale tent for the East Haven Harvest Festival.

Soups & Stews

On Sunday afternoon, Oct 24, we will be hosting an International Buffet of soups, stews and chilis from around the world. Diners can eat in or get takeout. For only \$4.00 get a bowl and two slices of bread. Desserts will also be available for purchase.

If you can donate a dish for this event please contact Carol Link-Ude at 203-458-0590 or cude@snet.net.

Thrift Store Update

This month our Good Shepherd Thrift Store was extremely pleased to receive a donated statue of our namesake which is now being displayed on our checkout desk. (See picture)

Did you know that all spiritual books in the Thrift Store are free? Like the upstairs Library, the Thrift Store's collection covers a wide array of topics. Looking for some daily devotions? Or studies on psalms, Jesus's life, or books of the bible? Or maybe how to live a more meaningful life with more joy and less stress? We have it all! Feel free to peruse the shelves in both the

Around the Church

Sunday Service Zoom participants



Sign of Summer



Good Shepherd Statue



Spiritual Books



Summer Thrift Store



Library and Thrift Store and take home a book to enjoy.

July Vestry Summary

Next Meeting - The next Vestry meeting will be Sunday, August 15th after the 9:00 a.m. service in the church library.

Admin - Vestry members continue to work on getting Safe Church certified.

"Pulse of the Parish" - *How do you think we are doing?* Let us know! Vestry members generally felt that while in-person worship is welcome, there is still a feeling of being disconnected from each other and a lack of "spark". We will all think about ways to rekindle our connections to God and each other.

Finance - Recap of Finance Committee meeting. (See Treasurer's Report)

Fundraising - Junk in the Trunk continues to do well even though July was more sparsely attended than June. No event in September as we will instead have our normal Bake Sale table for the East Haven Harvest Festival. Carol is considering continuing *Carol's Kitchen* once a month in the Thrift Store after the Junk in the Trunk season. For the Fall we will also start thinking about a Fall dinner.

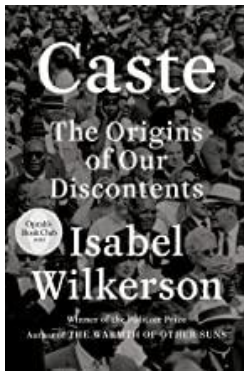
Technology - We have switched from Frontier to Comcast for our phone and internet service. We still need a consultant to advise us on

how to get stronger WiFi coverage throughout the building.

Caste Book Study Review

Susan Shultz

Earlier this year Rev. Mary Anne moderated a Zoom book study on the book *Caste* by Isabel Wilkerson. There were 6-8 of us present each week.



The book is a discussion on how American society has a strong caste system which has shaped almost all aspects of life. Her position is not that we have a racist culture but that we have created a caste system where non-whites are relegated to the bottom caste. She discusses the similarities and differences to other caste systems such as India and Nazi Germany.

I really enjoyed reading this book. Her writing is very clear, non-“lecturing”, and easy to read (even though some of the content was difficult or upsetting). I especially appreciated her numerous current, real-world anecdotes and stories which vividly illustrated the topics. Participating in a group discussion was invaluable as

we were able to hear other people’s perspectives and learn more details about history and the different themes presented.

I highly recommend this book and encourage you to take the time to read it yourself. If you would like to borrow a copy please let me know.



- August 12 - Elise Nacca
- August 17 - Ricky Alexander
- August 28 - Stephanie Reynolds
- August 30 - Janet Nolan

Women of Madagascar

Jacky Lowe

At the Women’s Centre the “Days for Girls” program (Women’s hygiene and menstruation) is working hard to be self-supporting. They have made 2,000 shields and 2,000 liners which were sold to an African charity.

There is a beautiful labyrinth at St. Patrick’s Cathedral but it has many weeds with very long roots that are difficult to remove.



The child sponsorship program is growing and children are encouraged to participate in community activities. In Toliara they worked on weeding the labyrinth (originally designed by the Church of the Good Shepherd in Florida.) Many of the children who helped had been previously sponsored and now study at the University. It costs \$25.00 a month to sponsor a child. If you are interested email ToliaraChild@gmail.com for information.



I am doing well and healing. The cancer is in remission and I am very grateful.

1 Thessalonians 5:18: Give thanks in all circumstances for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

From the July 2021 Women of Madagascar newsletter



- August 7 - James & Stephanie Reynolds
- August 18 - Richard Schiavone & Judith Randall
- August 20 - Tom & Susan Shultz
- August 24 - Fred & Pat Walters

Encouraging Words

Charlie Langlan

Celebrating Creation

All things were made by him;
and without him was not any
thing made that was made.

-John 1:3

Let heaven celebrate! Let the
earth rejoice! Let the sea and
everything in it roar! Let the
countryside and everything in
it celebrate! Then all the trees
of the forest too will shout out
joyfully

-Psalm 96:11-12

“But ask the beasts, and they
will teach you; the birds of the
heavens, and they will tell
you; or the bushes of the
earth, and they will teach you;
and the fish of the sea will
declare to you. Who among all
these does not know that the
hand of the Lord has done this?
In his hand is the life of every
living thing and the breath of
all mankind.”

-Job 12:7-10

For ever since the world was
created, people have seen the
earth and sky. Through
everything God made, they can
clearly see his invisible
qualities—his eternal power
and divine nature. So they
have no excuse for not
knowing God.

-Romans 1:20

In His hand are the deep places
of the earth; The heights of
the hills are His also. The sea
is His, for He made it; And His
hands formed the dry land.

-Psalm 95:4-5

O Lord, how manifold are your
works! In wisdom have you
made them all; the earth is
full of your creatures. Here is
the sea, great and wide, which
teems with creatures
innumerable, living things both
small and great.

-Psalm 104:24-25



**Episcopal
Church in CT
(ECCT)**

Cathedral Redevelopment Update: Approaching the Finish Line

Last fall was a time of
visioning, design reviews, and
multiple Joining Jesus
Initiative meetings. On March
1, 2021, our terrific
contractors arrived in the
building to begin to make our
vision a palpable reality.

The renovation process has
been life-giving and inspiring.
Bishop Douglas and I have been
blessed to journey with our
architects, Duo Dickinson and
Nicole Desrosiers, in this holy
adventure.



Bishop Douglas and contractors

I am confident that those of
you who have donated to and
prayed for this initiative will

be delighted to see how God
has shown up in design, details
and overall experience. Our
renewed Cathedral space
promises a myriad of
possibilities for our
engagement in God’s mission
for our Cathedral
Congregations, the City of
Hartford, and across our ECCT
Community. It will be a
wonderful, open and
accommodating space for
liturgical and theological
imagination and for community
engagement.



Dean Lina Howell in Cathedral

We anticipate completion of
the work by the end of August
and look forward to
celebrating this renewed space
with the ECCT family with a
Friday night Gala at our ECCT
Annual Convention in October.

Enjoy this update with
pictures, plans and videos of
the project!

<https://youtu.be/R46cvZ0NcBg>



CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL
CONNECTICUT'S CATHEDRAL



Episcopal Peace Fellowship (EPF) Peacebuilding Online Project

First Sunday of the month beginning August 1 at 4:00 p.m. via Zoom

EPF will host a series of one hour online presentations the first Sunday of each month on different aspects of and approaches to peacebuilding, both with others and within ourselves. Hear inspiring voices. Learn. Discover resources for going deeper. Read more.

First offering, Sunday, August 1 4:00 p.m. *Being the Church in a Fearful Time.*

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/episcopal-peace-fellowship-peacebuilding-online-project-fear-in-church-tickets-154100248993?aff=ebsdoporgpr>
[ofile](#)

Intercessory Prayers

Andrew, Astrid Swanson, Barbara R., Barbuschak Family, Brandon, Carol Ude, Carol C., Charlie & Kris Langlan, Clearwater Family, Courtney, Craig, David, David C., David & Edward, David & Irene, Devin K., Diane, Diane Link, Dot Tate, Doug, Ed, Eileen F., Elaine, Eleanor N., Faith, Father Eddie, Fran Zella, Francesca, Frank P., Frank, Fred & Judy Herzman, Gale, Garratt, Geneva, Glenn

McKnight, Goodfellow Family, Greg T., Heather, Holly & Family, Ian, J.D., Jack K., Jacob, Jaime Aguayo, Jake Swanson, Jen & Tyler W., Jeremy Maldonado, Jessica & baby Olive Estelle, Jesse, Jim C., Jim R. & Family, Joe Riccitelli, John A., John Guida, John M., John U., John & Vera DePalma, Joseph, Judy DeFeo, Julia, June W., Karen Dattilo & Family, Karl, Kathrine Burdick, Kate W., Katrina R., Ken, Leah S., Lila Day, Lisa H., Lois, Lucas Sundwall, Madeline, Mark Conti, Marjorie Cowles, Martin Micheo, Marty, Matt, Matt R., Melissa D., Michael, Michelle C., Mitzi Parisi, Nancy S., Patty R., Rachael, Ray C., Rob

& Family, Ron C., Sallie Alexander, Stan R., Suzy Brown, Turiano Family, Wendy, Zach Schatz

To submit names for the Intercessory Prayers list please call or email the church office. Names will be kept on the list for three months unless longer time is requested.

Next issue

The deadline for the September issue is **August 18**. Submissions can be sent to newsletter.christandtheepiphany@gmail.com. For an update to the Intercessory Prayers, Birthday or Anniversary lists, please call the church office at 203-467-2310.



"Sorry for the racket.. there are billions of dogs up here, and they get a little excited when someone's at the gate."

Music Notes

Barbara Coulombe



Recently I received the *Our Daily Bread* publication of a paperback titled “How Sweet the Sound” which is a fresh look at thirty of our classic hymns. It was written by Laura L. Smith, a music lover and best-selling author, who speaks around the country sharing the love of Christ with women at conferences and events.

She says: “Music has a powerful effect on the way we remember things - it can transport us back in time, vividly reminding us of sensory details.” It reminded me of when our Wendy returned from her mission trip to Madagascar and taught us the little Nigerian chant that we have used following Communion- “O God, we thank you today-you alone, you alone are worthy to be praised!” It was special moment when I was blessed to share in her journey by transcribing that simple but powerful worship song for our congregation.

Many of our beloved hymns were written over a hundred years ago for organs yet they live on and on in the repertoire of our worship. They are God’s music - heavenly anthems written about our eternal, unchanging God. The lyrics are often rooted in scripture. The truths in these hymns, no matter when they were written, haven’t changed. God is still good. The Lamb is still on His throne. He is still worthy. We still long to give Him endless praise.

The same is true for modern worship music which also points to our King of Kings! All songs written for our loving God can help us draw closer to Him. They help us drown out the distractions of this world we live in. Not only does this heavenly music take us back to our memories; but it also reminds us of generations of people who sought and those currently seeking Jesus. Let us use our voices to sing with joy in our minds and hearts as we, too, strive to draw closer to our King!

Treasurer Report

Susan Shultz

	JUN	(UNDER)/OVER BUDGET	YTD	(UNDER)/OVER YTD BUDGET
INCOME	\$8,695.12	\$2,142.62	\$39,268.20	(\$4,326.80)
EXPENSES	\$8,056.79	\$179.76	\$52,913.08	(\$969.69)
NET	\$638.33	(\$1,962.86)	(\$13,644.88)	(\$3,357.11)

Notes: We lost a little ground YTD although we continue to be under budget. While income was up the Finance Committee has identified some “at risk” pledges we will be reaching out about. The Finance Committee also identified some second half of the year “at risk” income and expenses - the Fall Fundraising dinner, the return of the EHU Community Kitchen, and some exterior painting work needed.

Parishioner Spotlight - Richard Mead

Tell us about your immediate family and pets

I married Lynn in June 1968 and have two children. They don't live with us but we know where they are! Rick lives in Waltham, MA and is married to AnnMarie. Their sons are Jake, who is in his third year at Holy Cross and Ryan who just finished high school and will be entering Wentworth college in Boston in Sept. Farrah, our daughter, lives in West Hartford and is married to Dave. They have three children - Timothy who recently graduated from Northeastern, and is planning to move to Denver, CO; Hayley who is in her third year at Central in New Britain, and Kyle who just graduated from Cheshire High and will also be furthering his education at Central in New Britain. We do not have any pets at this time.



What brought you to Christ and The Epiphany?

I am at C&E to share worship with my sister, Dolly (a.k.a. Barbara), her husband George, and Susan my niece. I just got tired of sitting alone in church, even though I had many friends at St Johns, and Jesus.

In what ways do you serve your church family or community?

In my church life, I have served in every capacity except Treasurer, including bringing communion to home bound parishioners, a task I enjoyed very much.

What was your occupation prior to retirement?

I owned Dicks Paint and Wallpaper in Branford. During my life I have had many memorable jobs from being a bellhop in a hotel to being a professional golf association member.

What's your favorite pastime?

I must say golf in the summer months and being part of a setback card league in the winter months, I also enjoy sleeping late in the morning. When I can!

What's one thing about you that no one knows?

My upper teeth are fake! But seriously, when I had the paint store, I participated in a program to give troubled high school students a second chance. I had three different students. One of them, Keith, I got to know deeper and met his family, etc. He left the program to work part-time at an automotive oil change facility. There was an incident where he was in the wrong place at the wrong time, got into deep trouble, was arrested and ultimately incarcerated for slightly more than four years. I visited him in jail, and corresponded with him. After his release I kept in touch, helping him get back into society. To this day 15 years after the incident, we still meet for an occasional lunch. A happy ending, he now has a good job, a girlfriend, is able to see his daughter, and has a good truck, which to a car person is a big thing.

What is your fondest childhood memory?

There were many but one stands out - at Christmas my uncle Louis always brought us a gift, a big gift, in a big box. Often a game of some kind, I guess I was excited with the size of the gift.

What brightens your day?

Just waking up each morning really brightens my day. Also that I have four students I am teaching golf to. When I see their success and they reach out to me to speak about their game, via email or phone, their thanks and the fact that they correspond brightens my day.

Do you have any favorite psalms, Bible passages, or inspirational sources?

I find pleasure in reading the Acts of the Apostles, but I get most of my inspirations from the many books I have in my small library at home.

Critical Race Theory is a gift to Christians

The Christian Century, June 28 2021

The good news about collective and institutional sin is that, like individual sin, it can be redeemed.

Last month, the Southern Baptist Convention reaffirmed its 1995 resolution apologizing for its pro-slavery roots. The declaration also rejected “any theory or worldview” that denies that racial discrimination is rooted in sin. The latter is a reference to divides in the SBC over critical race theory—and an attempt to appease conservatives without losing Black constituents.

That little word *sin* might be essential to understanding how a broader battle over CRT has swept across the country. This strain of academic discourse was developed in academia during the 1980s/1990s to examine specific ways that legal systems and other institutions have racism embedded in their structures. CRT argues that to truly dismantle racism in this country, Americans need to focus on institutional structures and foundations.

This idea does not sit well alongside American individualism—and especially not alongside a theology that defines sin in terms of individual actions or beliefs. Only recently have we become accustomed to speaking about “institutional” and “systemic” racism. Americans, and especially White Americans, still commonly think of racism as an individual problem.

Thus when the SBC reaffirmed its position that all racism is rooted in sin, its primary objection to CRT, was that it locates the “ultimate identity of human beings in ethnicity” as a “group dynamic.” The very awkwardness of that wording suggests the discomfort that lies in grappling with systemic racism.

Treating CRT as a bogeyman allows its opponents to protect institutional and cultural power for themselves. But more broadly, many American Christians—across the political spectrum—lack a way of speaking about collective sin that is biblically rooted and socially transformative.

Fortunately, we do not have to look far. The Bible is full of the ways that communities and societies, institutions and structures, become mired in sin. The prophets repeatedly remind the Hebrew people that as a people they have been called and as a people they will be redeemed. In the New Testament, believers are admonished that the whole world is at stake in God’s redeeming work, not just each individual heart. The Bible takes the communal nature of sin and redemption for granted, so much so that it can be hard for us to see how individualistic our biblical interpretation tends to be.

The good news about collective and institutional sin is that, like individual sin, it can be redeemed. By acknowledging systemic sin and working to change unjust structures—with the aid of tools like CRT—we realign ourselves with God’s work in the world.

A faithful path forward involves reckoning with institutional sin and learning new ways of speaking and understanding that can help us diagnose what ails us and help our nation on a path to healing. For this, critical race theory is a gift.

You can subscribe to the Christian Century at <https://www.christiancentury.org/user/register>

Worship Schedule (9:00 a.m.)

	<u>Aug 1</u>	<u>Aug 8</u>	<u>Aug 15</u>	<u>Aug 22</u>
Ushers	Wendy Bellmore Audrey Sundwall	Barbara Parsons Mary Claire Peach-Keyes	Melanie Miller Astrid Swanson	Barbara Parsons Pat Walters
Lay Reader	Gail Beck	Pat Walters	Wendy Bellmore	Ray Clearwater
Crucifer	George Coulombe	George Coulombe	George Coulombe	George Coulombe
Morning Prayer Officiant	George Coulombe	n/a	n/a	n/a
Lead Counter	George Coulombe	Astrid Swanson	Pat Walters	Susan Shultz
Asst Counter	Ray Clearwater	Melanie Miller	Barbara Parsons	Mary Claire Peach-Keyes

Zoom Worship Connection Information

To connect by computer click:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7639094733?pwd=WkR1ZHBNYTNkwmJqM2NvTkrjZ09hdz09>

To join by phone call:

929-436-2866

Meeting ID = 763 909 4733

Password = 39

Weekly bulletins are emailed out on Fridays. Zoom is opened around 8:45 a.m. on Sunday.

Past sermons are available on the *Christ and The Epiphany* YouTube channel here:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkGs9WC8ug7syl9n0kHkRaA>.

If you are not receiving the email bulletin please contact Diane in the office at 203-467-2310 or christandtheepiphany@gmail.com.

If you want or need any help getting connected on Zoom please reach out any time to Susan Shultz at 860-669-1104 or sbshultz@gmail.com.

Christ and The Epiphany Church

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Phone: 203-467-2310

E-mail: christandtheepiphany@gmail.com

Website: christandtheepiphany.org

Worship Schedule

Sunday 9:00 a.m. In-Person & Online Zoom Worship

In-person with masks and social distancing

(See the newsletter, our website, or Facebook page for

Zoom connection information details.)

Christ and The Epiphany Church
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