



CHRIST AND THE EPIPHANY

VOLUME 29

June 2025

Episcopal Reception

Susan Shultz

In June we will celebrate a wonderful event - the formal reception of Evelyn & Brad Conant and Anthony Reckart into The Episcopal Church.

You may ask - what does this really mean? Technically you are an Episcopalian by simply attending an Episcopal church and registering your baptism has happened. Most of us have probably never even thought about it.

The Episcopal Church defines Reception as a sacramental rite of Christian Commitment. *Baptized persons who have been members of another Christian fellowship and wish to be affiliated with the Episcopal Church may make a public affirmation of their faith and commitment to the responsibilities of their baptism in the presence of a bishop. The bishop says, "We recognize you as a member of the one holy catholic and apostolic Church, and we receive you into the fellowship of this Communion".*

While anyone from any denomination (or no denomination) is welcome and encouraged to become a member of Christ & The Epiphany at any time - being formally received can be a

powerful and moving way to profess your adult commitment to your faith and faith community. Last year Melanie Miller, Paul Barrett and Mary-Claire Peach-Keyes had this special moment right here.

In our parish, every member's story is different. Some grew up in the Episcopal Church. Many have come to it from a different tradition. Some came because they married an Episcopalian. Some found the Episcopal Church as a "midway" point between Protestant and Roman Catholic practices. Some came from more evangelical traditions drawn by the openness and liturgy of the Episcopal Church. Many came from the Roman Catholic church, looking for a sacramental expression of Christianity that also values lay leadership, the ordination of women, and broader theological views. And some came because C&E just felt like a good fit, and denomination wasn't really part of the question.

Being formally received into the Episcopal Church does not at all mean that you need to leave everything that has formed your faith from other religious or Christian traditions at the door. All those things are important and have shaped you into the person you are today. It is, though, a recognition that now you are

Worship Services

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

Sunday, June 1, 9:00 a.m.,
Guest organists

Saturday, June 7, 10:00 a.m.,
Episcopal Reception service for
Brad, Evelyn and Anthony at
Christ Church, Greenwich

*(Zoom connection information
at the end of newsletter.)*

Events

Sunday, June 22, Church
Picnic after 9:00 a.m. service

looking to the faith tradition of the Episcopal Church as you continue to grow in your life in Christ.

Many people find this deeply meaningful, and a way of saying - this is the community where I will continue to grow in my faith in Jesus Christ, as well as inviting the Holy Spirit in a particular way to continue to work in them through the life of Christ & The Epiphany and the Episcopal Church.

Anthony, Brad and Evelyn - we are grateful you are making this commitment and joyfully celebrating your life with us!

The Editors thank you for your understanding about the skipped May version this year.

Guest Organists

On Sunday June 1, we are honored to have Dr. Jeremiah Martin and Tony Lamberti be guest organists at our 9:00 am Sunday service. Some of you have heard them play before. They are amazing musicians and this special event is sure to be a real treat. Mark your calendars!

TEC Reception Event

If you missed it in the front article, on Saturday June 7 Anthony Reckart and Brad & Evelyn Conant will be received by a bishop into The Episcopal Church. The event will take place at 10:00 am at Christ Church, Greenwich. Christ Church is located at 254 East Putnam Avenue. If you need assistance getting to the event please see Susan Shultz or Diane Villano.

Church Picnic

On Sunday June 22 we will be having our annual church picnic after the 9:00 am Sunday service. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the Upper Hall. This is always a great way to spend some social time with your parish family. We hope to see you there!



May 19 - Erick & Diane Villano
May 30 - Tony & Jill Lamberti
May 31 - Brad & Evelyn Conant
June 26 - George & Barbara Coulombe



Easter Baskets

Many thanks to all those who contributed towards the Easter Baskets for the Community Dining Room. Ken and Kathy Dougherty report they were very happily received at the Spring Fling Event.

April & May Vestry Meetings

Next Meeting - The next Vestry meeting will be Sunday, June 8th after the 9:00 a.m. service in the library and via Zoom.

Worship - We had successful special services for Holy Week, Harry Bartlet Memorial service, Red Dress Day and Mother's Day. Fr. Charles renewed his vows on Sunday April 6th. Now planning for Pentecost (6/8) and Father's Day (6/15). There continues to be a need for more Crucifers and Acolytes.

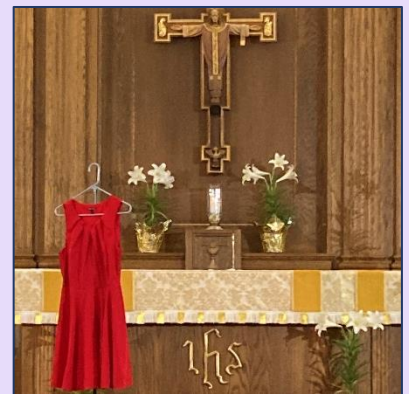
Building & Grounds - The decaying tree on the left side of the exit driveway was removed (\$1,500). Thanks to Diane V for the great vendor recommendation. The Greater New Haven Cat Project hall rental in March was a great success. Their entertainment

Around the Church

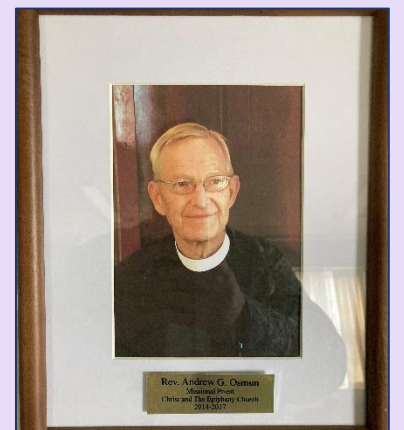
Easter



Red Dress Day



Library addition



was the Yale women's group "Whim 'n Rhythm" who rehearsed in the Thrift Store and brought their joy to every corner.

The ECCT property improvement grant paid us \$2,725 out of the \$8,000 we asked for. The water heater at 47 Park Place was replaced (\$1,850). Drapes in the Upper Hall were cleaned and pressed by Pat Walters and Steve Juhasz. Brad Conant has volunteered to paint 47 Park Place. Those interested in helping (scraping!) please see Brad or Barbara P. We are also working to get an estimate to repair the sidewalk leading to the handicapped ramp as it has lifted and caused a fall last month.

Communications - Diane V led another successful Lenten Zoom study on the Living Compass devotional booklets. We had our initial meeting with Laine Driscoll who is going to build us a new website.

General - A number of Vestry members and Anthony R attended various ECCT Spring Training sessions. The Vestry formally adopted the Safe Church policies outlined by ECCT and will be working to implement them over the next few months. A framed picture of Rev. Andrew Osmon with brass plaque has now been hung in the Library. Diane V will be working with Diane R to review the Annual Parish Survey which is due to ECCT by June 30.

June
Pride



May 2 - Melanie Miller
May 5 - Pat Walters
May 8 - Audrey Sundwall
May 11 - Diane Villano
May 13 - Judith Randall
May 22 - Paul Barrett
June 12 - Ron Blevins
June 17 - Kathy Alison
June 24 - Charlie Langlan
June 28 - Richard Schaivone

Spring Training Report Susan Shultz

This year besides the online Spring Training sessions which a number of parishioners attended, Susan Shultz and Anthony Reckart attended the in-person Saturday Spring Training workshop day.

You may have heard how Anthony was this year's star as he attended almost ALL the workshops throughout the week. Bishop Jeff even presented him at the closing session with a "frequent flyer" award of an ECCT mug.



One of the most interesting sessions I attended was *Expansive Welcome: Highlighting Non-Patriarchal Divine Images in Scripture in Order to Widen Our Welcome and Deepen Our Understanding of the Holy*. (whew!)

This session talked about how we can expand our language to be more inclusive without necessarily "replacing" our traditions. It talked about how words matter and adding more non-gender and metaphorical images and language can increase our inclusivity.

We seek to maximize rather than erase language from our liturgical lexicon. Language matters. It shapes our sense of reality, and through it we forge and maintain our relationships with God and one another. Expansive language seeks to tell as much truth about God as we can, utilizing the full range of language available to us. It does not displace traditional language for God, but uses additional metaphors even as we recognize no human language can contain God.

I was especially surprised to be reminded of the number of female and maternal images of God there are in the bible. From the parable of the women who is looking for her lost coin (us) to verses like Isaiah 66:13 "As one whom his mother comforts, so will I comfort you; you shall be comforted in Jerusalem." We even saw a Roman church mosaic of God as a mother hen with us (her chicks) under her wings.

Encouraging Words for Ascension Day

Audrey Sundwall

Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God."

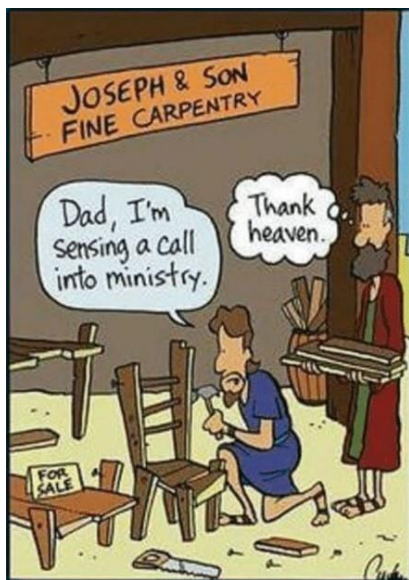
-- John 20:17

After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was taken up into heaven and he sat at the right hand of God.

-- Mark 16:19

He was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky as He was going, when suddenly two men in white stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

-- Acts 1:9-11



Statement on the death of Pope Francis

Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe

My heart is heavy at the death of our brother in Christ, Pope Francis. Throughout his life and ministry, he has been a witness for the Gospel and a champion for the poor and marginalized. Especially in this season, I give thanks for his powerful advocacy on behalf of migrants and refugees. Pope Francis, who was the first Latin American pope, understood these siblings in Christ are never at the edges, fearful and alone. As he once wrote, "In the faces of the hungry, the thirsty, the naked, the sick, strangers and prisoners, we are called to see the face of Christ who pleads with us to help." In 12 years as the Roman Catholic pontiff, Pope Francis transformed our theology of the environment and recognized the need for LGBTQ+ people to feel heard, seen, and included in their church. We are likewise grateful for his emphasis on reconciliation and ecumenical dialogue, in which our church has participated through the Anglican-Roman Catholic Theological Consultation in the United States of America.

I thank God for the life of Pope Francis, and ask you to pray for him, for all who loved him, and for our Roman Catholic siblings in Christ. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.



ECCT Bishops Letter on Refugees

On May 12, Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe sent out a letter regarding Episcopal Migration Ministries (EMM). In the letter he notes that the federal government informed EMM that due to their federal grant funding, they were expected to resettle white Afrikaners from South Africa, who the U.S. government had classified as refugees.

Bishop Rowe states in his letter, "in light of our church's steadfast commitment to racial justice and reconciliation and our historic ties with the Anglican Church of Southern Africa, we are not able to take this step." He also expresses deep concern that in these actions by the federal government, one group of refugees is prioritized over others, especially those who have been waiting for years to enter the U.S. enduring harsh conditions and living in refugee camps. Given this turn of events, at the end of the federal fiscal year, The Episcopal Church will end its refugee resettlement grant agreements with the federal government.

We commend Bishop Rowe for his actions and support his decision. We continue to conduct our ministry as followers of Jesus Christ. We are again reminded of the words of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., "We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in

*a single garment of destiny.
Whatever affects one directly
affects all indirectly."*

We ask you to pray for, and work on behalf of, all refugees everywhere, individually and within your communities. We recommend to you the work of IRIS and EMM, who continue to partner with, and advocate for, refugees and immigrants within Connecticut and across the country.

Persevere in the good work that God has called you to do, proclaiming the Good News of the resurrection, living resurrection lives, and bearing witness to the places in our world in deep need of the New Life to which Christ calls us.

Intercessory Prayers

Aiden & the Guida Family,
Alexis, Amanda, Amy, Andrew,
Barbuschak Family, Beth Flynn,
Bohdan & Family in Ukraine,
Brandon, Carol Ude, Charlie &
Kris Langlan, David & Irene,
Diana, Diane Link, Debbie,
Donna Hodge & Family, Dot
Logan, Doug, Ed, Elaine, Ellen
McDonald, Faith, Francesca,
Gail, Gail & Marnie, Geneva
O'Donnell, Hal Levi, Holly
Chickos, Holly, Jan McDonald,
Jim R. & Family, Joan
Shaffner, Kathy Guida, Kira,
Korey Mollor, Kris, Lauren,
Lucas Sundwall, Rev. Lucy,
Matt R., Maureen McPherson,
Mike, Michael M., Mila,
Minogue Family, Nicole C., Pat
Walters, Rachael, Regina
Schwall, Richard Testa, Sallie
Alexander, Sam W., Susan
Diaz, Tim, Tricia Clearwater,
Turiano Family

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.



**ECCT
Online Shop
(and Pride!)**

Did you know ECCT has an online shop where you can buy Christian merchandise? And now just in time for pride month they have added a line of Pride items. From mugs to scarves. t-shirts to hats you'll find something for everyone!
<https://ecct-shop.printify.me/>



A Sonnet for Ascension Day ***Malcolm Guite***

We saw his light break through the cloud of glory
Whilst we were rooted still in time and place
As earth became a part of Heaven's story
And heaven opened to his human face.
We saw him go and yet we were not parted
The heart that broke for all the broken-hearted
Is whole and Heaven-centered now, and sings,
Sings in the strength that rises out of weakness,
Sings through the clouds that veil him from our sight,
Whilst we ourselves become his clouds of witness
And sing the waning darkness into light,
His light in us, and ours in him concealed,
Which all creation waits to see revealed.



From the Bookshelf

Barbara Coulombe

Recently, I enjoyed a wonderful book- “*The Heartbeat of God*”- by Katharine Jefferts Schori, the first female Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church (2006-2015). The focus of her book is finding the sacred in the middle of everything- creation, brokenness, public life, and margins.

On May 11th we celebrated Mother’s Day, but it also was “Good Shepherd” Sunday. Her chapter “Good Shepherd” is based on the Scripture from John 10:14-15 - “I am the good shepherd, I know my sheep and my sheep know me - just as the Father knows me and I know the Father- and I lay down my life for the sheep.” In this chapter she says the following:

“Shepherds in Jesus’ day were essentially homeless. They didn’t have any permanent place to lay their head at night. They spent their days and nights in the open, rarely bathed, carried sick sheep to safety, and probably dispatched the sickest. Each morning shepherds had to sort out their sheep and goats from the others who shared the open grazing land, and they had to take on various predators, both animal and human. The competing shepherds in common grazing lands had to be able to tell their sheep apart- each shepherd knew the sheep as individuals and had a distinctive call to gather his own, the sheep of that herd knew that call, and followed their own shepherd.

Many of the ancients thought of shepherds as thieves, probably because of confusion among the sheep on those common pastures. There was even a prohibition in Jewish law against buying wool and milk from shepherds, lest one unwittingly receive stolen goods. Shepherds weren’t considered reliable as witnesses, and couldn’t give testimony so why would anyone want to follow somebody like that? Why would Jesus call himself a shepherd? Maybe because this good shepherd Jesus hangs out with anybody and everybody, and joins the outcasts and the forgotten. This isn’t sanitary Jesus, robed in Mr. Clean whites and looking saintly on an old stained-glass window. This is Hell’s Angel Jesus on a Harley, rounding up toys for poor kids. This is gang leader Jesus, pushing his homeys to fill an old lady’s grocery cart, and then haul it home for her and put the food away. This is a shepherd like Oscar Romero- the bishop of El Salvador who spoke out against injustice and was assassinated in 1980- challenging the government to remember those who are left out. This kind of shepherd comes in surprising guises, speaking in unfamiliar tongues, but leading us toward a society marked by welcome for all, where there’s room at the table for people of every family, language, and nation. Jesus the good shepherd wipes away tears from every eye, finds shelter for all out of the scorching sun, waters them in the desert at the springs of the water of life, and feeds every single one on the borderless pasture planted and grown for all of God’s beloved creatures, not just a privileged few. That’s a shepherd worth following!” (pp. 114-115)

God, Gospel, and Gender

Sarah Woodford, ECCT Canon for Communications & Media

Recently Sarah Woodford sat down and interviewed ECCT clergy Rev. Margie Baker about her book *God, Gospel, and Gender: A Queer Bible Study for Teens* published last year. This book came out of a discussion about how there’s not a good Bible study for children who have questions about LGBTQ issues. There are books that exist that are affirming but they’re not based in the Bible. This was an attempt to rectify that. Read the entire interview here - <https://www.episcopalct.org/this-is-the-work-that-god-has-called-me-to-do-an-interview-with-the-rev-margie-baker/>

Parishioner Spotlight - Brad Conant

Tell us about your immediate family and pets

My family is my wife Evelyn and my mother Joyce. I have two adult stepchildren with Evelyn. Raquel (37) and Michael (35), as well as four grandchildren; Raquel's son Justin (16) and Michael's children Allison and Madison (13) and Michael Jr (11). We also have four pets. A Carin terrier Rile (15), westie schnauzer mix Lola (9), white Turkish angora cat Oscar (10) and an American short hair cat Daisy (12).

What brought you to Christ and The Epiphany?

We had been away from church for about a year. Shortly after moving to East Haven I just felt the need to get up one morning and walk to church. So here I am!

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

I have helped twice with the kitchen during the holiday fair. I was also elected to the Vestry in January. I have not yet really plugged into East Haven community activities.

In the past I volunteered at the church we were attending - Mercy Impact. And several times with the Bridges of Hope New Haven yearly event. In the rock climbing community I work with climbers who have adaptive needs such as physical limitations, traumatic brain injuries or emotional difficulties at a climbing gym in Fairfield. I also work at climbing events organized by Gaylord Hospital sports association.

What is your occupation?

I am an artist and work for a small company that makes life-like silicone prosthetics.

What's your favorite pastime?

Rock climbing, both indoor and outdoor. (see picture!)

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

I struggle with social anxiety.

What is your fondest childhood memory?

Roller Skating birthdays at Skate World as a kid.

What brightens your day?

Coming home to my wife and fur family after work. Little things such as accomplishing projects and chores around the house.

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

My favorite passage is Jeremiah 29:11 - *For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."*



ECCT 2024-2025 Prayer Cycle



EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN CONNECTICUT
PARTICIPATING IN GOD'S MISSION

June 1	Parishes: St. John's, Niantic; Zion, North Branford; St. John's, North Haven Additionally: Episcopal Rainbow, TransEpiscopal, Believe Out Loud, LGBTQ+ Episcopalians & those who serve the LGBTQ+ community Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Anglican Church of Korea
June 8	Parishes: Christ Church, Norwalk; St. Andrew's, Northford Additionally: Companions in Mission for Publishing & Communication & those communicating God's Word. For digital ministries, online social networks & communities Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Anglican Church of Melanesia
June 15	Parishes: St. Paul's, Norwalk; All Saints with Christ, Oakville; St. Saviour's, Old Greenwich Additionally: Students of all ages who are graduating Anglican Cycle of Prayer: La Iglesia Anglicana de Mexico
June 22	Parishes: St. Ann's, Old Lyme; Grace, Old Saybrook; Good Shepherd, Orange Additionally: Camp Washington: staff, board, counselors & campers Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Igreja Anglicana de Mocambique e Angola
June 29	Parishes: St. Peter's, Oxford; Christ Church, Oxford; St. John's, Pine Meadow Additionally: Summer chapels in New London, Norfolk & Fenwick; summer & outdoor worship services; Vacation Bible Schools & parishbased summer camp programs Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Church of the Province of Myanmar (Burma)

Treasurer Report

Susan Shultz

	APR	(UNDER)/OVER BUDGET	YTD	(UNDER)/OVER YTD BUDGET
INCOME	\$ 8,350.67	(\$ 18.16)	\$ 40,642.84	\$ 482.52
EXPENSES	\$ 8,262.60	(\$ 3,878.59)	\$ 52,056.69	\$ 3,721.95
NET	\$ 88.07	(\$ 3,860.43)	(\$ 11,413.85)	(\$ 3,239.43)

Notes: We had a large oil bill which we paid in March but had budgeted for April which caused the under budget expense in April. But YTD we have still added \$3,200 to our deficit budget. Hopefully we can gain some ground in the next few months.

Next Issue The deadline for the July issue is June 24th. 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 or email christandtheepiphany@gmail.com.

Worship Schedule 9:00 a.m. (unless otherwise noted)

	June 1	June 8 Pentecost	June 15	June 22	June 29
Service	Eucharist	Eucharist	Morning Prayer	Prayer & Praise	Eucharist
Presider/ Officiant	Rev. Charles Kamano	Rev. Charles Kamano	Evelyn Conant	Audrey Sundwall	Rev. Evelyn Wheeler
Crucifer	George Coulombe	George Coulombe			George Coulombe
Acolyte	Audrey Sundwall	George Coulombe			George Coulombe
Lay Reader	Pat Walters	Brad Conant	Ray Clearwater	Judy Herzman	Terry Osmun
Usher	Barbara Parsons	Pat Walters	Diane Villano	Kathy Dougherty Ken Dougherty	Audrey Sundwall
Zoom Tech	Susan Shultz	Susan Shultz	Susan Shultz	Susan Shultz	Susan Shultz
Lead Counter	Pat Walters	George Coulombe	Susan Shultz	Astrid Swanson	Pat Walters
Asst Counter	Judy Herzman	Barbara Coulombe	Melanie Miller	Ray Clearwater	Evelyn Conant

Clergy, Vestry and Staff

Priest-in-charge	Rev. Charles L. Kamano
Senior Warden	Diane Villano
Junior Warden	Barbara Parsons (& Outreach)
Treasurer	Susan Shultz (& Technology)
Clerk	Kristina Langlan
Vestry Member	Ray Clearwater
Vestry Member	Carol Link-Ude (& Altar Guild; Hospitality & Fund Raising)
Vestry Member	Astrid Swanson
Vestry Member	Pat Walters
Vestry Member	Brad Conant
Music Director	Barbara Coulombe
Parish Administrator	Diane Rowley

ECCT continues to experience a shortage of supply clergy for Sunday services. If you know of anyone who might be interested in serving at C&E, please contact the office at christandtheepiphany@gmail.com.

To connect by computer, enter: <https://tinyurl.com/3kbvnb4>, or click on the link on our webpage: www.ChristandTheEpiphany.org

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.

If you are not receiving the email bulletin, please contact Diane Rowley 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 203-589-1142 or sbshultz@gmail.com.

Christ and The Epiphany Church

39 Park Place
East Haven, CT 06512

Phone: 203-467-2310

Email: christandtheepiphany@gmail.com

Website: www.christandtheepiphany.org

Worship Schedule

Sunday 9:00 a.m. In-Person & Online Zoom Worship
In-person with social distancing and optional masking